

## Character Study: Collin Trimble

*A quiet observer with a powerful gift—and the heart of a hero.*

### **Overview**

We first meet **Collin Trimble** as “the headphone-wearing kid” in Mikaela’s English class. He’s quiet, shy, and clearly a bit different from the rest of the students, which makes him a frequent target for bullying. When Mikaela sees how Malcolm treats him, she steps in and invites Collin to join the Drone Legends.

Collin has a rare and extraordinary ability: he can sense the emotions of living things, especially plants and animals. At first, this seems strange—like when he tells Mr. Singh that his fish are too warm because “they told him.” But soon, his gift becomes vital to the team. He uses it to help find Jorge after the shipwreck, to locate a clue in the mountains, and even to calm a giant anaconda threatening the group.

Though Collin struggles with confidence and self-expression, his sensitivity turns out to be one of the team’s greatest strengths. With the support of the Drone Legends, he becomes braver, more open, and a vital part of the group.



### **Reflection & Analysis**

1. On Mikaela’s first day, she meets Collin in English class.
  - A) What are your first impressions of him?
  - B) What are your feelings when Malcolm steals his notebook?
  - C) Discuss the concept of empathy in this scene.
2. Collin is often targeted by Chaos Club.
  - A) What is bullying, and why does it happen?
  - B) Have you ever witnessed bullying or been affected by it?
  - C) What can victims and bystanders do to resist it?

### **Neurodiversity & Unique Strengths**

3. Collin’s sensitivity aligns loosely with traits found on the autism spectrum.

*Research **Temple Grandin**.*

- A) Do you see any similarities between Temple and Collin?
- B) How did Temple Grandin use her unique traits to improve the world?
- C) What does this teach us about how our differences shape how we see the world?
- D) Discuss your unique traits. How might you use them to contribute to your community?

### **Inclusion, Growth & Teamwork**

4. How does the Drone Legends' outreach affect Collin?
5. What does this tell us about the importance of inclusion?
6. Describe Collin's character arc.
7. What are the key moments that reflect his personal growth and motivation?
8. What does Collin bring to the group?
9. Reflect on how diversity—in skills, personalities, and perspectives—can make a team stronger.
10. Collin goes into the mountains alone to find the clue of *Sol Invictus*.
11. Why does he take on this challenge?
12. How does it reflect his growing sense of responsibility and teamwork?

### **Creative Exercise: The Language of Living Things**

Collin has a unique ability to feel what animals and plants are feeling. Imagine the natural world could speak to you—not in words, but through emotions.

*Choose one or more of the following to explore:*

- A) Write a short story or journal entry where a forest, ocean, or wild animal “communicates” with you.
- B) Create a poem expressing what a tree, mountain, or river might feel.
- C) Imagine a world where everyone had Collin's gift. How would that change the way people treat nature—and each other?

### **Reflective Imagination: Your Own Special Sensitivity**

8. Imagine you had a special sensitivity that gave you a unique way to experience the world.
  - A) What would it be?
  - B) How would it help your friends, family, or community?
  - C) How would it change the way you see the world?