

Character Study: Kendall Fontenot

Kendall is a tech-savvy dreamer with her eyes set on space.

Overview

Kendall Fontenot is introduced at Mikaela's first *Drone Legends* meeting. She's an incredibly talented drone pilot with a big dream: becoming an astronaut. Her inspiration comes from her great-grandfather, who was a Tuskegee Airman — one of the first Black American military pilots.

Kendall is known for her energy, optimism, and futuristic thinking. She wears custom-built, high-tech glasses that can access the internet, control drones, and even calculate direction and distance.

But Kendall isn't fearless. During their journey beneath Good Harbor, she must face her biggest fears — rats and bats. Even in those moments, she steps up when her friends need her most, using her skills to save the day.

Reflection & Analysis

1. When Mikaela meets Kendall for the first time, what impression do you get of her personality?
2. What can you infer from the way Kendall is described?
- Think about her appearance, actions, and the way she interacts with others.

Legacy & Inspiration

3. Kendall's great-grandfather was a Tuskegee Airman.

👉 Research who the Tuskegee Airmen were.

- A) What challenges did they face?
 - B) Why was their service so important in American history?
4. Why do you think Kendall is inspired by her great-grandfather?
 5. How might his story impact her dreams?
 6. Research and write a short description of each of the following:
 - A) Willa Brown (first African American woman to earn a commercial pilot license in the U.S.)
 - B) Guion Bluford (first African American astronaut in space)
 - C) Hidden Figures (the group of Black female mathematicians at NASA)



Identity, Assumptions & Ambition

7. Kendall wants to be an astronaut.

- A) What kinds of hurdles might she face on her journey?
- B) How is the world different now compared to when her great-grandfather was her age?
- C) Have you ever felt like someone made assumptions about what you could or couldn't do?
- D) How did you respond to that experience?

STEM

8. What did you learn about Kendall's background and outlook from the visit to her home?

- A) What does her home tell you about her family?

9. How does Kendall use her STEM knowledge to help the Drone Legends solve the mystery of the journal?

10. When Mr. Singh teaches the Legends to navigate using a chart and compass, Kendall uses her smart glasses instead.

- A) Discuss how technology can be both an advantage and a disadvantage.
- B) Why might it still be helpful to know "old-fashioned" ways to solve problems?

Writing Exercise: Kendall's Mars Mission Log

Kendall wants to go to Mars. Imagine she is the commander of the first mission. Write one or more log entries from her journey.

You might include:

- What kinds of challenges she faces in space
- What it feels like to explore a new world
- What she thinks about when she looks back at Earth
- What she says as she takes the first step onto Martian soil