Character Study: Thomas Grant

Thomas begins as Malcolm's loyal sidekick, but his journey reveals something much deeper.

🔍 Overview

When we first meet *Thomas Grant*, he's Malcolm's enforcer and co-conspirator. He seems like an unredeemable and relentless bully. But Thomas begins to change after a surprising encounter with Mikaela at lunch—when she teaches him a lesson in respect—and even more so when she later reaches out to offer him friendship.

Thomas makes a bold choice to stand up to Malcolm, rescues Collin from danger, and ultimately becomes a heroic figure in Good Harbor. By the end of the story, he earns his place as a true *Drone Legend*.

💬 Reflection & Analysis

1. What is your impression of Thomas early in the story?

2. At what point does the author reveal that Thomas realizes Malcolm's manipulation?

3. The Legends realized they judged Thomas before knowing all the information about him.

    A) As a reader, did you do the same?

    B) Did your opinion of him begin to change when you realized his situation at home?

4. How does Mikaela's outreach to Thomas affect him?

5. What does this say about empathy?

6. Thomas transforms from Malcolm's bully to a heroic figure.

    A) How did the actions of Mikaela, Jorge, Kendall, and Collin contribute to that?

    B) Do you think their outreach and understanding make a difference in Thomas's life?

🌟 Theme Focus: Empathy & Redemption.

7. Discuss the themes of empathy and redemption.

    A) How does Thomas show signs of redemption in the story?

    B) Why is it hard to believe someone can change?

    C) Do you think Thomas fully redeems himself by the end of the story? Why?

    D) What does this story suggest about how empathy and redemption are connected.

Discuss an experience you've had witnessing, receiving or giving empathy.

🔁 Character Arc and Foreshadowing

8. Thomas' character develops significantly in this story. This is referred to as a *Character Arc.*

    A) How does he grow or change through his experience?

    B) What motivates his change?

9. Foreshadowing is a literary tool in which the author gives hints as to things to come.

    A) Did the author foreshadow that there might be more to Thomas than being Malcolm's henchman?

    B) What was the first hint you noticed?

✍️ Writing Exercise: Thomas's Journal

Imagine that Thomas kept a journal or diary. Choose a place in the story and write an entry from Thomas's perspective.
Consider what challenges he may be experiencing. What emotions would he be feeling?

📈 Visualization Exercise: Story Timeline

Draw a straight line across a piece of paper representing the timeline of the story. The left end is the beginning, the right end is the end. Arrange the following plot points in the order they happen in the story, using the corresponding letter:

    A) Thomas rescues Collin from the fire

    B) Thomas helps Malcolm hijack Kendall's drone

    C) Thomas's father tells him he's proud of him

    D) Thomas teases Collin at school

    E) Mikaela offers Thomas friendship

    F) Thomas becomes a member of Drone Legends

🧭 Extension Activity: Your Character Arc

Draw your own timeline and reflect on your personal character arc.
What moments have been most important in the development of who you are? If you were writing yourself as a character in a story, what characteristics would you like to have?