

Character Study: Malcolm Avar

A brilliant, conflicted rival destined to become more than just an antagonist.

Overview

Malcolm Avar is first introduced as a gifted but bitter antagonist to the Drone Legends. A former member of the club, he was expelled by Mr. Singh after breaking its rules and abusing his talents. In response, Malcolm creates **Chaos Club**, manipulating students like Thomas and Slick to carry out his schemes against the Legends.

Malcolm's intelligence is undeniable—he is a skilled hacker, engineer, and drone pilot, rivaling the Legends themselves. But behind every calculated attack is something deeper: a growing resentment, not only toward his former friends but also toward his father, whose coldness and control have shaped much of Malcolm's worldview.

As the story unfolds, Malcolm's thirst for revenge and control darkens, pushing him toward dangerous decisions. In the epilogue, readers learn the chilling truth: *Alexander Mantis is none other than Malcolm Avar*, flung forward in time by the very plan he set in motion—becoming the architect of the events that threaten the future of humanity.



Reflection & Analysis

1. Consider how Malcolm is first introduced.
 - A) What were your first impressions of him?
 - B) Does he seem like more than just a typical bully? Why or why not?
2. What are Malcolm's greatest strengths? How do his intelligence and technical skills set him apart from other characters?
3. Discuss what you think motivates Malcolm - revenge, power, acceptance, or something else? Explain your thinking.
4. Objectifying someone means treating them as a thing or a means to an end. Malcolm often does this, especially in how he uses his team. Find examples from the story that show how Malcolm objectifies people.
5. How does Malcolm's relationship with his father affect his choices? Does it help explain why he treats people the way he does?

Literary Focus: The Antagonist

6. What is the role of conflict in a stories?
 - A) How does it help characters to grow, change or discover who they are?
 - B) How does Malcolm specifically help Mikaela and the team grow stronger?
7. Think about other stories you've read, movies you've watched or historical figures you've learned about. What are some examples of villains or antagonists whose past helped explain who they became?
8. Think of your favorite stories - books, movies or TV shows.
 - A) Make a list of the antagonists in each story along with their defining traits.
 - B) What patterns do you notice about strong antagonists?

Ethics & Empathy

9. Is Malcolm just a villain, or is he also a victim? Discuss how isolation, rejection, and family pressure may have shaped him.
10. How can fear and insecurity influence someone to seek power. Do you think that Malcolm is motivated by either? Use evidence from the story to support your answer.
11. Do you think someone like Malcolm can be redeemed?
 - A) What would he have to do to earn redemption?
 - B) What would society (or the Legends) have to do to make redemption possible?
12. What if Mikaela had reached out to Malcolm the way she did Thomas? Do you think that could have changed Malcolm's path? Why or why not?

Reflection Exercise

"It's our choices, Harry, that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities."
- J.K. Rowling, *Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*

Stories often show us how small choices can grow into big consequences. Think about Malcolm's journey - from expelled student to the arch-criminal, Alexander Mantis.

- A) How can small resentments, if left unchecked, grow into something more serious?
- B) How does this help you reflect on your own life - your friendship, rivalries, or even everyday challenges?