

## **Character Study: Mikaela Kadono**

*Mikaela is a curious 13 year old who becomes the leader of Drone Legends.*

### **Overview**

THE RISE OF THE LEGENDS begins as Mikaela moves to a new house, new city, and new school. She meets her neighbor George, who invites her to join "Drone Legends", the after-school aviation club. There, she meets Kendall, and together with George, they encounter a mysterious AI drone named "Gimbal".

In the attic of her new house, Mikaela discovers a hidden journal that warns of a wicked plot to take over the world. She and her friends work to solve the riddles inside the journal. Mikaela forms a team—eventually even including their former bully, Thomas—and leads them into the secret tunnel system beneath Good Harbor.



### **Reflection & Analysis**

1. What are some things that cause Mikaela to feel nervous or unsure about moving?
  - A) Are there any that you can relate to?
2. How does Mikaela respond to her new situation?
3. What choices does she make that show who she is?
4. The author uses clues to show Mikaela's traits and potential (this is called *characterization*).
  - A) What are some of these clues?
  - B) What do they tell you about her?
5. Challenges like moving or starting over can help us grow.
  - A) How can tough experiences help someone develop useful skills or character traits?
  - B) Think about your own life: have you faced a challenge that helped shape who you are today?

### **Mikaela's Growth**

6. Discuss Mikaela's Character Arc.
  - A) How does she grow or change through the events of the story?
7. Mikaela becomes the leader of Drone Legends.
  - A) Why do you think the group chooses her instead of one of the other characters?
  - B) What qualities are important in a leader?
8. Make a list of traits you think good leaders should have.
9. Mikaela shows empathy when she reaches out to Thomas.
  - A) How can empathy be a powerful part of leadership?
10. Leadership is often described as "carrying a weight."

- A) What do you think that means?
- B) Can you find a moment in the story when Mikaela feels the “weight” of being the leader?

### **Growth Through Traits + Experience**

People—and characters—grow because of both who they are and what they go through.

👉 Create two lists about Mikaela Kadono:

- A) Character Traits – What personal qualities help her become a better leader?
- B) Key Experiences – What important moments or lessons help shape her leadership?

👉 After your lists, write 2–3 sentences explaining how her traits and experiences work together to make her stronger by the end of the story.

### **Extension Activities**

#### **Discussion Exercise**

11. Mikaela is curious about her Japanese heritage on her father’s side. Over the generations, her family has become more distant from their culture.

- A) Have a conversation with your family about your own heritage.
- B) Are there cultural traditions, meals, or languages that are still part of your family’s life?
- C) Is there anything new you'd like to learn about your roots?

#### **Writing Exercise**

12. Think of a challenging time in your life—maybe when you were nervous about something new, like moving to a new place or starting at a different school.

- A) What were your feelings at the time?
- B) How did those feelings change as you adjusted?
- C) What helped you “rise to the occasion”?