

Discussion Guide for *Rex* by Cody B. Stewart, Adam Rocke, and Mark Rogers



When eleven-year-old TJ finds a weird looking egg in the Florida Everglades after a tropical storm rips through, naturally he takes it home for identification. It could be the egg of a mutant duck or something, which would be awesome. Problem is, the egg doesn't look like it came from a mallard, even a mutated one—it's too big and heavy and...strange. So he hides it away in his closet and continues on with his life as usual, doing his best to ignore the creepy men constantly banging at his front door and the significant rise in military helicopter sightings in his typically quiet neighbourhood.

Then one day he comes home from school and it's as though a cyclone has gone through his bedroom. Suddenly, TJ knows he's dealing with something a little more interesting—and a little more deadly—than a duck.

Rex

AUTHORS: Cody B. Stewart, Adam Rocke, and Mark Rogers

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TYPE OF ACTIVITY: Individual work and class discussion

LEVEL: Grades 5 and 6

SUBJECT: English

CATEGORY: Science Fiction, Adventure



Start the discussion off with the these questions:

1. What do you think about this cover? What do you like or not like? Explain your answer.
2. What does the cover tell you about the story itself?
3. Does the cover draw in your attention? Does it make you want to read the book? Explain why or why not.

Now discuss what students think about the book and dinosaurs:

1. What is your first memory of dinosaurs?
2. Has your love of dinosaurs grown over the years? Or has it stayed the same?
3. Which dinosaur is your favourite? If you don't like dinosaurs, explain why.
4. If you were in the same situation as TJ, how would you hide a dinosaur from your parent(s)? Explain your answer.
5. How would you take care of your pet dinosaur?



Name:

Date:

Who are your favourite characters in *Rex*?

1. _____

3. _____

2. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Why is Rex important to TJ? What is the reason why he protects Rex so fiercely?

What do you like about the relationship between TJ and Rex?

Do you have a friend like Sam? If so, does she remind you of your friend?



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Name:

Date:



Would you handle school bullies the same way as TJ and Sam have dealt with them?

What are your thoughts of Osborne as the antagonist?

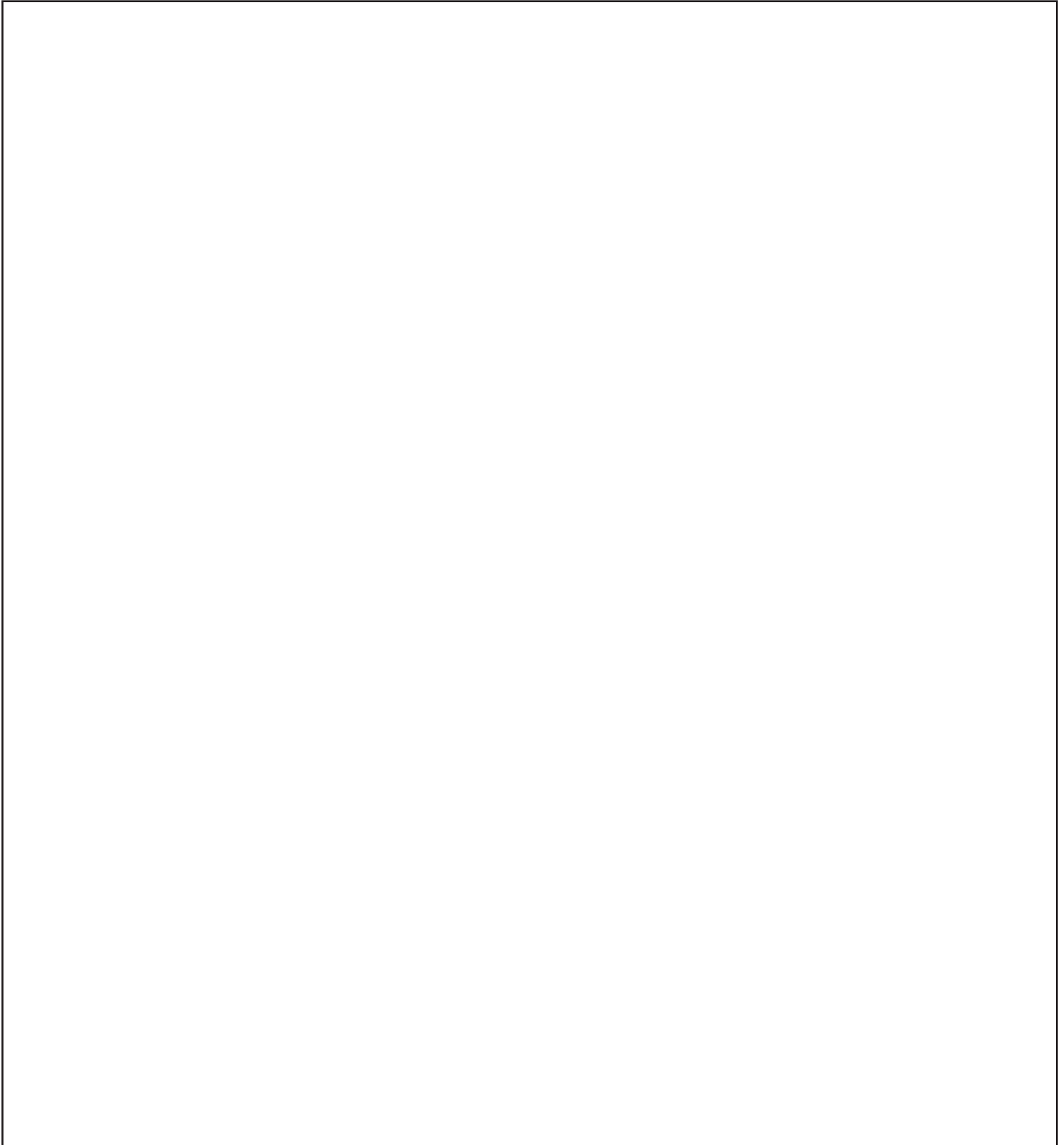
Has your opinion changed after you first met Horne? Do you like him now? Explain your answer.

With everything that has happened to TJ, Rex, and his mom, do you think they'll live peacefully in Africa? Do you think they, particularly Rex, will adapt well?

Name:

Date:

Draw your own dinosaur and be as creative as you want!

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a child to draw a dinosaur. The box occupies the majority of the page below the drawing instruction.

REX

TJ's Ultimate Guide to Caring for your T-Rex (or any other prehistoric pet)

ALWAYS

Feed your T-Rex wholesome foods like fresh meat, chicken (leave the feathers on), fish (scales and all), and veggies (don't even wash 'em).

Supervise your T-Rex at all times. Leaving it alone, especially in your bedroom, can have dire consequences.



Train your T-Rex to go to the bathroom outside. No explanation required.

Keep your T-Rex on a leash when going for walks. Of course, you better make sure you're strong enough to hold onto that leash.



NEVER

Feed your T-Rex anything non-nutritious like frisbees, socks, bicycles, and annoying teachers. These things will really screw up his digestion and, trust me, you don't want that!



Use your T-Rex as a science project. When smarty-pants kids ask questions your T-Rex doesn't approve of, look out!

Use your T-Rex to fight the local bully. Things will get messy.

Tell creepy government agents that you have a pet T-Rex.



REX, by Cody B. Stewart, Adam Rocke, and Mark Rogers. Eating bookstore patrons since October 5th, 2016.

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