



Alex Rider: Secret Weapon

Author : Anthony Horowitz

Published by: Walker Books

ISBN: 9781406387476

Synopsis:

Ever since MI6 recognized his potential, Alex Rider has constantly been thrust into the line of danger. From a routine visit to the dentist that turns into a chase through the streets of London, to a school trip with a deadly twist, no day has ever been ordinary for the teenage super-spy.

This collection of seven thrilling adventures features familiar and new assailants from the best-loved world of Alex Rider, and also includes three, brand new and action-packed adventures.

An essential collection of seven short stories, never before published together in book form, including three brand new Alex Rider adventures.

Author Bio

Anthony Horowitz is one of the most prolific and successful writers working in the UK – and is unique for working across so many media. Anthony is a born polymath; juggling writing books, TV series, films, plays and journalism.

Anthony has written over 40 books including the bestselling teen spy series *Alex Rider*, which he adapted into a movie that was released worldwide in 2006.

The *Alex Rider* series is estimated to have sold 19 million copies worldwide.



Curriculum Links

[ACELT1614](#)

[ACELY1816](#)

Discussion Questions

Alex often has gadgets or spy tools that he gets to use in the stories.

Examples:

SPY TOOLS—

Helmet with built in miniature camera

Shoes with built in echo sounders

Exploding Ear Stud

Bulletproof Ski Suit

Infrared Goggles

Which of Alex's spy tools do you like the most? Why?

Gadget Design

Design your own spy gadget

Think of a new Spy Gadget for Alex Rider (or anyone)

It doesn't have to be specifically Spy related, just think of something that would help you in your everyday life.

Design your gadget and then write a persuasive writing piece to present to the class and convince them that your gadget should be produced.

Start with an introduction.

- An introduction lets your audience know what you are presenting about.
- Write a detailed description of your device, explaining how it would work.

Give reasons why your gadget is the have' gadget.

- Give examples of how the gadget will enhance/change the lives of others.
- Give reasons why your gadget is better than other, either from the book/s or from other students.

Finish with a conclusion.

A conclusion sums up your reasons why they should choose your gadget.

Short Stories—Structure

Alex Rider often finds himself in some kind of danger.

How did you find the book/story—suspenseful or predictable?
If suspenseful, how does Horowitz, as a writer, create suspense?
What techniques does he use?
If predictable, how so?

After reading the book, or the first story. Look back on some of the suspenseful scenes, and talk about what make them suspenseful

Falcon's Edge:

When Alex drops into the pipe—

- the fear that he will get stuck
- the obstacle of the fan
- the snake in the pipe

Breaking out of the cell and jumping of the cliff on a horse.
Being chased and shot at.

Write your own short story for Alex Rider

Select an interesting setting e.g. Dense Rainforest, Derelict building, Your school at night

Think about the elements (as discussed) that build the suspense in these Alex Rider scenes and incorporate them into your story.

- Tricks the bad guy
- Gets a good head start
- Reaches a dead end
- Comes across an obstacle
- Create panic—you stumble/fall/get stuck

Use the following guide to help structure your sort story:

Look at the structure of a short story. Each story has:

- **Exposition** - background info that sets describes the situation and establishes the setting
- **Rising Action** - characters face or try to solve a problem
- **Climax** - the story reaches a crucial moment
- **Falling action** - explore the consequence if the climax
- **Resolution** - the story's central problem is solved