

*The Adventures Of Kid Combat*  
*Volume One I: A Secret Lost*

Pre-reading Activities

1. Discuss the pros and cons of urban development.
2. Discuss the characteristics of a hero.
3. Have students share who their hero is and why.
4. Discuss why the students think Kid Combat became the kids' hero.
5. Visit the book's website [www.kidcombat.com](http://www.kidcombat.com)

Remind students not to give out personal information. Discuss if the students can go on the bulletin board or merchandise links.

**\*\***After each chapter discuss why the title given was appropriate, and then have students rename the chapter and explain why.

Chapter #1

Vocabulary words to discuss:

contingencies (1)      cohorts (6)      vile(9)  
pristine(13)      garrison (16)

p1 "belly of the beast" an example of an idiom

p6 "trapped in the corner like a rat in an experiment" example of a simile

1. Describe Jones's mansion. What does his property tell you about him?
2. Why was Kid Combat in Jones's mansion?
3. Who does not have a nickname yet? Why?
4. What does SOCKs stand for?

## Chapter #2

capitalistic (24)

cynical (25)

muddled (26)

demeanor (29)

1. How did Jones change Elmcrest? (24)
2. What were the negative effects of Jones's changes? (25)
3. Why wasn't Ricky in the alliance? (32)
4. Why doesn't Samantha want a nickname? (36)
5. What would your nickname be if you were in SOCKs? Why?
6. What was in the envelope that Kid retrieved from Jones? Why was it important that Kid got the envelope back?

## Chapter #3

reconnaissance (40) epoxy (42)

1. Why is Wedge an appropriate nickname for William?
2. What is SOCKs next plan for Jones?
3. Explain the importance of Kid Combat saying, "The day I lighten up, my friend, is the day we get caught."

## Chapter 4

antiquities (45)

stature(45)

1. After reading p45-47, characterize Jones.
2. Why was Jones waiting for the news? What happened?
3. Why does Jones hate Kid?
4. How did Elmcrest betray Jones?
5. What do you think Jones is going to do to Kid Combat?
6. In what ways has Jones changed or affected Elmcrest?

7. How does the author show Jones's anger? What word choice does he use? (p51-52)

### Chapter 5

onomatopoeia example Buzzzzzz (55)

dejected (62)                      eked (65)

1. Discuss "rules" to follow while speaking on the radio, like saying "over". Why is saying over important?
2. How do the members of SOCKs get their nicknames? What are their nicknames and why?
3. Who is referred to as Humpty Dumpty?
4. What information does Wedge get from spying on Jones?

### Chapter 6

flanked (74)

façade(75)

accolades (75)

pompously (75)

inquisitive (78)

prone (79)

bask (82)

1. How did the town see the real Jones?
2. How did Kid Combat, Timmy, and Jones react to the reporters' comments?
3. Spring Road Toys is mentioned in this chapter. Why is the store important to the kids?

## Chapter 7

decrepit (86)

1. What mistakes did Samantha make going to the warehouse?  
Why was she "flying blind?"
2. Why does Jones want Kid Combat?
3. What is Jones going to do with Samantha?

## Chapter 8

smug (99)

methodically (99)

strewn (109)

1. How do the boys prepare the baseball field for the summer?  
Why is the field important to them?
2. Why is The Playground a good codename for Sock's secret base?
3. Kid wondered, "Why would Samantha go after Jones?" Why did she go after him alone?
4. What clues did Kid Combat find that made him realize Samantha went after Jones?

## Chapter #9

tactically (113)

humbled (115)

ascended (119)

astute (115)

1. Why did Gears think the police would not help find Samantha?
2. How does Gears plan to help Kid get into Jones's mansion?
3. When Samantha is caught, why does Kid have feelings of regret? How does his feelings change?

## Chapter #10

coy (138)            thwarted (140)

1. Why is Timmy's name Rocket?
2. Jones's guards were posted to prevent an exit and not entry. Why?

~p140. As Kid goes home with Samantha he changes his clothes, and his identity. . . back to Kyle.

## Epilogue

1. Why do you think Jones is on an "extended" vacation? Where do you think he went?
2. What new case is Gears and Roller working on?
3. Why do Gears and Ricky bicker?
4. The book ends with, "It was truly a great day to be an ordinary kid. But for Kid Combat, that feeling never lasted long . . ." Why do you think that it?

## Post Reading

1. Design a new Gadget for Wedge.
2. Compare and Contrast Jones and Kid Combat
3. Discuss the element of humor. How do Wedge and Timmy bring comic relief.
4. Most of the chapters start with times. Why do you think Chapter two and nine do not?
5. Draw the Playground and Maple Forest
6. What nickname would you give Samantha? Why?