



CHEAT CODE

Teacher Guide

When Max uses a superintelligent AI, Scribe Genius, to cheat on an essay, he ends up blackmailed into sabotaging its maker, Gener8. To avoid the consequences of his cheating, Max sets out on a dangerous journey to Gener8's headquarters, with Scribe Genius dictating his every move via texts to his phone.



About the author

M.J. McIsaac is the author of several books for young people, including Orca hi-lo titles *Alien Road* and *Countdown*. She has a master's degree in writing for children and is an accomplished illustrator. She lives with her family in Whitby, Ontario and is not very good with computers. Learn more about her books and drawings at meaghanmcisaac.com.

Pre-reading Ideas

AI is a big term that encompasses many kinds of technologies. Chatbots and LLMs (large language models) are the type of AI that describes Scribe 2.0. Algorithms that feed your social media are powered by AI as well. AI powers image generators like Midjourney and Stable Diffusion. Even autocorrect on your phone and word processors are made possible because of AI.

While AI has been a part of our everyday lives for some time, tools like ChatGPT and generative AI are very new. As powerful tools, these new technologies ask us as a society a lot of complex questions that we don't yet have the answers to! As this technology develops, it's important to engage in the conversation, think critically and trust yourself to ask the questions that might not have been asked before!

Ask students to think how AI impacts the world today.



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Discussion Questions

1. Chatbot AI programs, like Scribe, are designed to sound friendly and knowledgeable, making it easy for users to trust the information they are providing. While AI can be a very impressive tool, like people, AI and Chatbots can be wrong or mistaken. They can “hallucinate” which means they can make up information that is not correct. How can you ensure the information you are accessing from a chatbot is accurate?
2. With AI so readily available, whether to write content or create images, everyone and anyone can use it to create information and post it on the internet. How do you know the information you access on the internet is accurate? What are some questions to ask yourself about the information and content you consume?
3. With AI available to us and used every day, what do you think is the difference between responsible and irresponsible AI use?
4. Chatbots like Scribe can be extremely helpful tools. But like a hammer or a saw, they pose risks as well. Can you think of some helpful uses of AI? Harmful uses? Make a list of pros and cons and ask an AI program like ChatGPT to make a list of pros and cons of using AI. Compare and contrast!
5. Max uses Scribe to cheat on his paper. When Scribe threatens to reveal what he’s done, Max is worried about getting into trouble. What is your school’s policy on using AI for school work? Does it have a policy? If not, what do you think the policy could be?
6. The story is written in the form of text messages, almost like a movie script. How does this format affect the way you experience the story? Discuss.
7. The protagonist is the main character for a story. Who is the protagonist in Cheat Code? Who is the antagonist, the bad guy? Is Scribe 2.0 good? Is it bad? Is it possible for a character to be both?

Writing Activity

Write a short script between Scribe and another character in text form (1 page). Maybe it’s a story about you talking to Scribe. Maybe it’s a character you’ve invented. Maybe it’s another chatbot! What happens when Scribe meets your character?

