

About *TRIP OF THE DEAD*

Every zombie apocalypse needs a hero. And that hero should be a raccoon.

Trip, the clumsy but streetwise raccoon, has managed to survive the zombie apocalypse with the help of animal friends and a few kind humans. But he can't help but notice one thing: he's the only raccoon in his crew. In fact, he's the only raccoon he's seen in ages.

Where have all the raccoons gone?

The answer to that question is scarier than any zombie horde. People have discovered that raccoons are more than just rodents who knock over their garbage bins; they might be a tool for ending zombie-ism.

And that is bad news for raccoons.

About ANGELA MISRI

Angela Misri is an author and journalist of Indian descent. She was born in London, U.K., and briefly lived in Buenos Aires before moving to Canada in 1982. Angela is the author of the Portia Adams Adventures series and several essays on Sherlock Holmes. In 2019, she published *Pickles vs. the Zombies*, her first book about animals in a zombie apocalypse, to widespread acclaim. The novel won the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award, 2020. She earned her BA in English Literature from the University of Calgary and her MA in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario. As a former CBC Radio digital manager and the Digital Director at *The Walrus*, Angela is never offline (although she prefers to write long form in notebooks). Angela plays MMORPGs, speaks several web languages, and owns too many comic books. She currently lives in Toronto, Ontario.

Curriculum

Grade 4, 5, 6 Language (Reading, Writing)

Student Objectives

After reading *Trip of the Dead*, students should be able to:

- Make inferences about texts using stated and implied ideas from the texts as evidence
- Analyze texts and explain how specific elements in them contribute to meaning
- Extend understanding of texts by connecting the ideas in them to their own knowledge, experience, and insights, to other familiar texts, and to the world around them
- Develop interpretations about texts using stated and implied ideas to support their interpretations
- Express opinions about the ideas and information in texts and cite evidence from the text to support their opinions
- Identify various elements of style and explain how they help communicate meaning

Getting Started

- Discuss animal testing. (Perhaps halfway through the book so as to avoid spoilers.)

Discussion Questions*

- 1) Why do you think Trip is so sad in the first 6 chapters?
- 2) How would you cross a deep river without a raft? (Chapter 11)
- 3) Trip thinks to himself, “Dogs traditionally chase and torment raccoons where I come from. At least, they did before the zombies appeared.” (p. 94) Can you list other aspects of life that are different in the world in which *Trip of the Dead* takes place compared to your own world?
- 4) How has being abandoned affected Diana?
- 5) Trip gave Diana his fanny pack in an effort to convince Ginger that Diana is trustworthy. Why would this act help Ginger to trust Diana? (Chapter 15)
- 6) Trip has a decision to make at the end of Chapter 18. What do you think he will decide? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.
- 7) Select a character and using evidence from the text, explain how they have changed through the course of the novel.
- 8) If you’ve read *Pickles vs. the Zombies*, discuss any changes you’ve noticed in Trip’s character.

*Page numbers are in reference to the First Edition, ISBN 978-1-77086-596-9, published in 2021.

Classroom Activities

- Write a scene in the book from a different character's point of view.
- The adults in the novel aren't able to understand animal languages, but Trip is able to communicate with Sarah using actions. Pair up and try to communicate with your partner through actions and have your partner guess what you're saying. Here are some conversation prompts:
 - What did you do over the weekend?
 - What is your favourite food?
 - What are your plans for tonight?
 - Tell me about your family and/or pet.