



UNSTOPPABLE

TEACHING GUIDE TO
Unstoppable Book Two: Breakaway
BY
Jeff Hirsch

**CCSS
READY!**



ABOUT THE BOOK As a member of the most powerful family in history, thirteen-year-old Dan Cahill has been shot at, kidnapped, and even thrown into a pit with a deadly snake. He's survived it all due to luck, smarts, and his older sister, Amy, who always sticks by his side.

Now, Dan and Amy are facing their greatest threat yet—an enemy who has found a way to use the source of the Cahill family power against them. To stop him, Dan and Amy set out on a desperate mission that will take them from one of the world's hottest regions all the way to the frozen blast of the Arctic Circle. But with the enemy closing in, Dan finds himself facing one terror he never imagined—being betrayed by his own sister.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR Jeff Hirsch graduated from the University of California, San Diego, with an MFA in dramatic writing, and is the *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Eleventh Plague* and *Magisterium*. He lives in a highly secure Cahill command center in Beacon, New York, with his wife. Visit him online at jeff-hirsch.com.

Developing Common Core Thinking Skills with The 39 Clues

Use this curriculum guide to integrate Common Core standards with Webb's Depth of Knowledge to provide students with a high level of rigor to deepen their understanding of this book.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.1

Refer to details and examples in a text when explaining what the text says explicitly and when drawing inferences from the text.

1. While thinking about her friends, Amy reflects, "It was amazing that they could seem so normal after all they had been through" (p. 13). Give specific examples from the text (or previous books) that support or contradict this thinking.
2. Atticus tells Dan that he can do anything he wants because it's a perk to be one of the richest thirteen-year-olds on the planet. Do you think Dan can do anything he wants? What can't he do? What can he do? After analyzing the evidence, is it a perk?
3. Dr. Rosenbloom says, "The Cahills don't care about anybody but themselves and their stupid games, and they never have!" (p. 42). If Dr. Rosenbloom were in his children's position, do you think he would help the Cahills? What inferences about his character lead you to this conclusion?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.2

Determine a theme of a story, drama, or poem from details in the text; summarize the text.

1. Determine a theme of this story other than Good vs. Evil. What evidence from the text conveys this theme?
2. Create a movie trailer-type voiceover for *Breakaway* that you might use to promote the book.

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CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.3

Describe in depth a character, setting, or event in a story or drama, drawing on specific details in the text (e.g., a character's thoughts, words, or actions).

1. "The world was a symphony and Pierce was a conductor." Interpret this phrase and explain how it is used to describe J. Rutherford Pierce.
2. Vanished empires—great cities that became lost in time—are the focus of the Cahill clan in *Breakaway*. Use the following comparison matrix to find similarities and differences between these empires. What questions or categories might you include along the top row to make additional comparisons between empires?

	Geographical location	Why did the Cahills need to go there?	What happened to this empire?
Troy			
Carthage			
Atlantis			

3. Cara was shocked when she realized Galt's abilities weren't natural. What discovery led her to this conclusion? How might her actions change her relationship with her father?
4. Dan tells Amy that he plans to leave the Cahill business after this threat to their family is over. Amy doesn't think the threats will ever be over. Identify future threats to Dan and Amy, then come up with a strategy that could bring peace to the Cahill family.
5. In The 39 Clues series, the setting of each book serves as a dramatic backdrop and impacts the outcome of the story. How do the settings in *Breakaway* create obstacles and add to the rising action of the plot?
6. Neither Dan nor Atticus has a mother. What else do these two characters have in common? How do these similarities influence their friendship?
7. The character of Nellie Gomez has changed dramatically through the course of this series. She has taken on many roles, from au pair to an undercover agent posing as a scientist. Predict what Nellie will be like in ten years. Will she ever become a chef? What evidence from the text supports your prediction?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.4.6

Compare and contrast the point of view from which different stories are narrated, including the difference between first- and third-person narrations.

1. How does Dan's point of view differ from Amy's as they both think about their future?
2. Each chapter in *Breakaway* is told from the perspective of a different character. Pick a character and determine how the story would change if it were told from only that character's point of view.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.1

Conduct short research projects that build knowledge through investigation of different aspects of a topic.

1. Silphium was used as a seasoning and as medicine in ancient times. What modern day plants do we use as a seasoning and medicine? Could they become extinct?
2. Research the Svalbard Global Seed Vault and write down five new facts you've learned about the vault. Share the facts you've learned either in a small group or with the entire class.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.4.2

Compare and contrast the treatment of similar themes and topics (e.g., opposition of good and evil) and patterns of events (e.g., the quest) in stories, myths, and traditional literature from different cultures.

1. The joint themes of talent and success are interwoven throughout the series. The Madrigals don't have a specific enhanced talent like the other branches of the family. How are they successful even without having a talent? Can you name other books or stories where the protagonist lacked "talent" but was still successful?