

HOW TO STEAL THE FUTURE

CHRISTOPHER EDGE

READING GUIDE FOR TEACHERS & LIBRARIANS

Suitable for UKS2 & KS3 / Ages 10+

THEMES:

- ✓ Science Fact and Fiction
- ✓ Technology
- ✓ Greek Mythology
- ✓ Human Connection
- ✓ Hope and the Future

HOW TO STEAL THE FUTURE by Chris Edge is an exciting blend of science fiction, mystery and mythology. Drew enters a maze in search of his sister, Evie, but as the story unfolds, readers begin to realise that the maze holds secrets far greater than they first imagined.

This pack is designed to support discussion, creativity and thoughtful reflection. The activities can be used during reading or after finishing the novel and are suitable for classrooms, libraries, book clubs and reading groups.

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BEFORE READING

Before you begin reading, complete these quick challenges.

Challenge 1: What's at the Centre?

The story begins with a maze.

What do you think might be waiting at the centre?

Choose one:

- A monster
- A secret
- A missing person
- A machine
- A memory
- Something else

Write down your prediction and explain your choice in one sentence.

Keep your answer safe and revisit it when you finish the novel.

Challenge 2: Future Decisions

Move to a corner of the room to show whether you agree or disagree with each statement.

- Technology will solve most future problems.
- Memories are more important than facts.
- Scientists should be allowed to explore the human mind.
- The future can be changed.
- A computer can help doctors understand how the brain works.
- Technology can save a life.

Be prepared to explain your thinking. Remember, there are no right or wrong answers.

Keep these themes in mind as you read **HOW TO STEAL THE FUTURE**.



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DURING READING

The Clue Board

Encouraging inference, prediction and retrieval skills.

This story is full of clues. Some clues seem important straight away. Others only make sense later. As you read, record anything that feels strange, surprising or significant.

CLUE	WHAT DO I THINK IT MEANS NOW?	REVISIT LATER

Every few chapters, return to your clues.

- Has your idea changed?
- Does the clue connect to another clue?
- Does it tell you something new about the maze?
- What does it lead you to believe about the maze?

When you finish the novel, review your entire clue board.

Which clue gave away the truth first?



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AFTER READING

Part 1: Discussion

The Reveal

The maze turns out to be far more than readers first imagine.

Discuss:

- When did you first realise something unusual was happening?
- Which clue seems most obvious now?
- Which clue misled you?
- Did the ending change your understanding of earlier events?
- Was the twist surprising, fair, or both?

What Drew Learns

Throughout the novel, Drew is trying to find his way through the maze.

After the reveal, discuss:

- Was Drew really searching for a place, or for himself?
- What helps him remember who he is?
- Are memories what make us who we are?
- If someone lost all their memories, would they still be the same person?

The Power of Connection

At first, Drew believes he is trying to rescue Evie. By the end, the story looks very different.

Discuss:

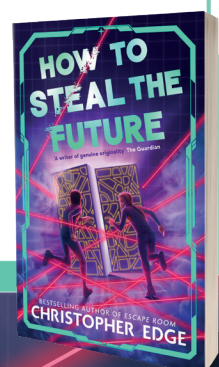
- Why is Evie so important to Drew?
- How does she help him find his way?
- Why do relationships matter more than technology in the story?
- What is the novel saying about family?

Science, Technology and Humanity

The story imagines technology that can enter and explore the human mind.

Discuss:

- What benefits could technology like this bring?
- What dangers might it create?
- Should some parts of a person's mind remain private?
- Can technology help someone without fully understanding them?
- Where should scientists draw the line?



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What Is the Minotaur?

In the original myth, the Minotaur is the monster at the centre of the labyrinth. In this story, who or what acts as the Minotaur?

Possible answers might include:

- a character
- a fear
- a memory
- a machine
- an idea

Use evidence from the novel to support your thinking.

Looking Back

Now that you know the truth, choose one scene from earlier in the novel.

Explain:

- What you thought it meant when you first read it.
- What it means after the reveal.
- Why Christopher Edge included it.



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Part 2: Creative Activities

Activity 1: Myth Mapper

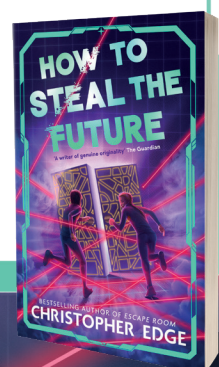
Christopher Edge doesn't simply retell the myth of Theseus and the Minotaur. He borrows ideas, characters and symbols and transforms them.

Complete the chart:

GREEK MYTH	NOVEL CONNECTION	EVIDENCE
Theseus		
Ariadne		
Minotaur		
Daedalus		
Labyrinth		
Golden Thread		

Then discuss:

- Which mythological character has changed the most?
- Which mythological idea is most important to the story?
- Why might the author have chosen the myth of the Labyrinth?



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Activity 2: Design Like Daedalus

Daedalus was the legendary inventor who designed the Labyrinth. Imagine you have been hired as Daedalus's apprentice.

Your task is to design a new maze fortress.

Requirements:

- At least three defences
- A hidden route
- One trap
- One escape route
- A secret at the centre

Label your design and explain how each feature would protect the maze and why.

Activity 3: A Message from Evie

For much of the story, readers believe Drew is searching for Evie. Later, we discover that Evie has been trying to reach him all along.

Write from Evie's point of view.

Choose one format:

- diary entry
- letter
- voice message
- Think about:
- her hopes
- her fears
- her memories
- what she most wants Drew to understand

Try to capture Evie's voice and emotions.

Activity 4: Science Behind the Story

Research one real technology that:

- helps people communicate,
- studies the brain,
- supports memory,
- or assists people with neurological conditions.

Then present:

- What might become possible in the future using this technology?



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Activity 5: The Golden Thread

Draw a thread across a page.

Add the people, memories, places and experiences that help guide you through life.

At the end write:

- What helps me find my way?

Choose the most important item on your thread and explain why.

FINAL REFLECTIONS

Complete these final reflections when you have finished reading.

- The biggest surprise in the book was...
- The clue I should have noticed was...
- The most important relationship in the story was...
- The novel made me think differently about...
- Drew's story might help someone in the real world because...
- One question I am still thinking about is...
- If I could ask Christopher Edge one question it would be...

