



SKY WATCHERS

VICKI C. HAYES



MEET THE



DEZ

Age: 12

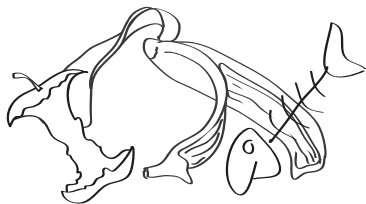
Family: has two younger sisters

Career Goal: become a zoologist

Secret Wish: to clean up the swamps
and garbage on the ground

Best Quality: bravery

CHARACTERS



JAX

Age: 12

Proudest Moment: voted best hair in school

Wants to Be: more confident

Secret Wish: become an actor and star in action movies with Kath

Best Quality: being a good friend

1 **WATCHING**

The year was 3050. Dez was enjoying seventh grade. He had just gotten a new sky bike too. No other model was more advanced. His bike could fly in the air faster than any other. That speed would help Dez as a sky watcher.



Dez's best friend Jax flew up next to him.
"Wow! Your bike is awesome!"

"Thanks!" Dez grinned. "Wait until you see how fast it goes. I'm ready to zoom at any time."

"I know you are!" Jax looked around.
"But I don't see any spinners yet."



Dez and Jax flew their bikes slowly for now. This helped them see spinners. These small discs rotated quickly. Their metal teeth grabbed students' belongings. Spinners would pop up through the trees.



The two boys were waiting to zoom their bikes. Zooming helped them catch the spinners.

“Yeah, I don’t see any either.” Dez looked down at the trees. “But I know they’ll come soon. I’m glad we were picked as watchers.”

“Me too. All of our training paid off. I know that’s why we were chosen.” Jax waved at a student. “Many weren’t.”

“Right. I just wish we could stop the ground gangs.” Dez shook his head. “What their spinners do is wrong.”



Jax looked at his friend. “How would anyone stop ground gangs?”

“Someone could clean the ground. Get rid of all the trash and muck. Gangs love that stuff. But what if they like clean air *more*? They’ve never tried it. Maybe gangs could be found and stopped faster too. There would be no trash for them to hide in.”

Jax turned up his nose. “But nobody wants to clean the ground. I know I don’t.”



Students flew by. They stayed on the sky path. It led to school. Dez and Jax watched them pass.



“Hey!” Dez called to a girl. Then he pointed to her bike. “Your pack clip is loose. It’s about to fall. You should tighten it.”

“Oh, thanks, Dez!” She reached down and secured the clip.

“Good eye,” Jax said to Dez. “Bike packs are what gangs want most. Packs give gangs what they can’t get on the ground. Devices, free money, sky lunches.”

Dez looked at the trees’ leaves. Some started shaking.

“Jax,” he said. “I think we’re about to get some action.”

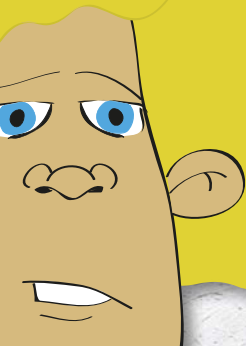
“Really?” Jax looked in the same direction. “Oh yeah, I think I see what you do.”

Just then, a spinner shot into the sky.



SKY WATCHERS

Dez is great at taking
down spinners. I'm glad
we're a team.



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