

DEAD MAX COMIX

THE ROCKING DEAD

Discussion Guide

By Dana Sullivan



1. Dead Max receives many notes from students asking him for advice. Why would the students seek advice from a comic strip character? Do you think they know it would really be Derrick giving the advice?
2. Have you ever asked anyone for advice? Why did you choose that particular person to ask? Was his or her advice helpful?
3. Has anyone ever asked *you* for advice? How did that make you feel? What did you think about when giving the advice?
4. In what ways would it be different to get advice from a kid than from a grown-up? What can a fellow kid offer that a grown-up can't, and vice-versa?
5. Max's advice for solving every problem is to "get a dog." Do you think that's good advice? How can a dog, or any kind of pet, help people?
6. How does Derrick feel at first about joining the girls' band? Why do you think he feels that way?
7. Why do you think Derrick and Doug are so afraid to tell Chaz that they no longer want him in their band? Do you think it would be better for them to be honest with him, or to make up an excuse?
8. At Derrick's suggestion, the band changes its name to "Sister Maximus." Do you think that's a good name for the band? Why or why not?
9. Why do you think Derrick decides to get a new dog? Does it surprise you when he adopts Bennie?
10. What do you think the overall message of the book is? What did you learn from reading it?



Book Details

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1-63440-858-5

Softcover ISBN: 978-1-63440-859-2

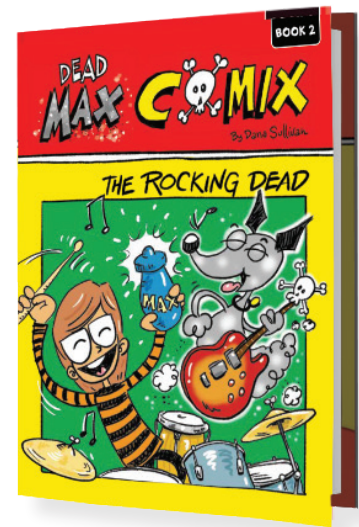
E-book ISBN: 978-1-63440-860-8

BISAC: JUV008000, JUV008110, JUV008050

64 pages, Levels GRL: X 4,335 words

About Book 2

7th grader Derrick's "Dead Max Comix" are such a hit in the school paper that he and Max start an advice column. Derrick and Doug should have asked for advice before they started a band without inviting Kim and Keisha to join. To get even, Kim challenges the guys to come up with awesome costumes for Comic-Con and enter the upcoming Battle of the Bands. Will the Battle of the Bands mean the end of Derrick and Kim? More importantly, can a mysterious, mystic iguana help (dead) Max with his (live) cat problem, once and for all?



About the series

Middle school can be survival of the "fitting-in" at best. In Dead Max Comix, Derrick discovers that his secrets aren't as scary as he thought, and that he's not much different than other kids. Dead Max Comix is a light-hearted touch at accepting yourself and not letting something as trivial as your dog getting killed by a car or your parents divorcing get in the way of finding your own way.

—"I don't read books about dead dogs. But Dana Sullivan's Dead Max series is the exception to that rule. Max has the perfect blend of humor, heart and snark, everything you'd want in a dead dog."

—Dori Hillestad Butler, Edgar Award-winning, best-selling author of *The King and Kayla* series, *The Haunted Library* series, and many more!

About the Author-Illustrator

Dana Sullivan grew up in Southern California drawing on every piece of paper he could find. He kept at it until someone finally published his books. He's written and illustrated dozens. He even teaches picture book and graphic novel classes. Dana now lives near Seattle. You can see more of his work at www.danasullivan.com.

