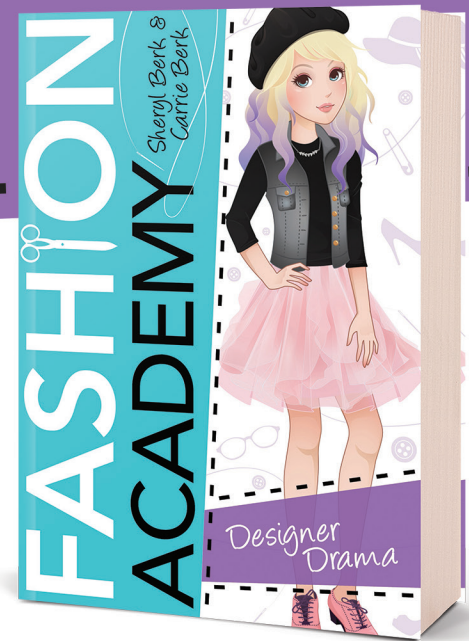


Designer Drama

FASHION ACADEMY Book 2



A Curriculum Guide for Grades 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7

SNAPSHOT SUMMARY:

The latest adventures of Mickey Williams find her and JC winning a trip to the International Student Runway competition in Paris. They submit three outfits based on the works of French Impressionist painters and a superhero costume for their “Ultimate Challenge.” Mickey fails to win the contest for Fashion Academy of Brooklyn but gains a new friend, Jake Lee, and proves to herself that “she belongs on the Paris runway” and will, one day, return to do it.

FULL-LENGTH SUMMARY:

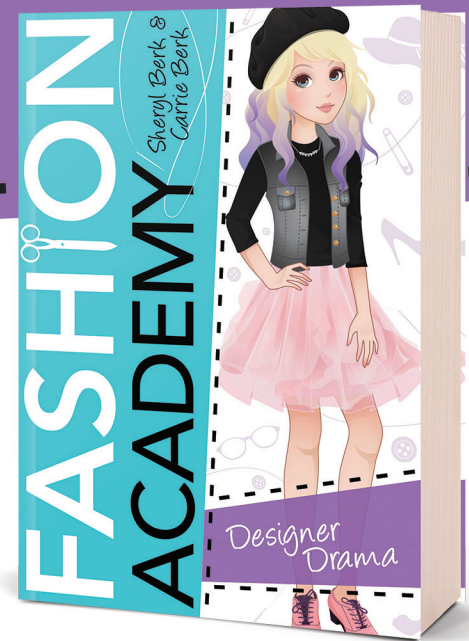
Mickey Williams enters a second semester at FAB and faces new challenges from her Apparel Arts teacher, Chester Kaye. She must design three outfits for the International Students Runway competition to be held during Fashion Week in Paris. She and JC form a team but are taunted by twins Jade and Jake Lee. The designs must be French-themed, so Mickey and JC seek inspiration from the Impressionist painters: Seurat, Renoir, and Gauguin.

During a visit to the Metropolitan Museum of Art, Mickey and JC meet an art teacher named Tony (Gaston Roger) who explains pointillism to them. They are unaware that he is an instructor at FIFI, which is sponsoring the Paris contest, and that he is one of the judges. Mr. Kaye also appears, and the two men argue over a job lost by Chester at the French Institute. Their teacher accuses Tony of sabotage; JC thinks he is a spy—neither of which is true.

Mickey creates a dress of green dots (Seurat), a jacket with broad strokes of color (Renoir), and an evening gown with floor-length shreds of bright hues (Gauguin). She and JC are triumphant, and the trip to Paris is theirs. The two stylists are elated, but Mickey’s mother seems sad. Not only will she miss her daughter, but she always longed to see the City of Lights. Finally, she acquiesces. Jade and Jake also win a slot in the French contest, due to their mother’s influence as a fashion designer.

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Mickey works on perfecting her designs day and night until it is time to leave. Her mother, thanks to Mr. Kaye, joins the entourage as a makeup artist. At the competition, they are given an “Ultimate Challenge” to create a fashion hero outfit. She and JC argue for the first time in their partnership, criticizing each other’s ideas. Eventually, they reconcile and promise to be friends forever. Together, they design a blue column gown that has a red, white, and blue cape and a flowing train.

At the gala, Jade becomes ill with hives, and Jake, terrified without his sister, bravely presents their collection, which is met with great applause. He wins the Runway competition and receives a trophy. Mickey is awarded a medal for colorful designs. Mr. Kaye beams with pride over FAB’s victories. Jake and Mickey discover a new respect and admiration for each other, and the latter vows to return to Paris one day to prove her ability as a collection creator.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

1. Why did Mr. Kaye resent the interaction between Mickey and Tony? Would you have reacted the same way?
2. Why did JC criticize Mickey’s design for the Ultimate Challenge?
3. Why was Mickey’s mother so sad about her trip? How do you think Aunt Olive would react, and why?
4. Was it fair for Jade and Jake to compete? Give your reasons.
5. Why did Mr. Kaye think that Gaston Roger was not a fair judge? Were his ideas true?
6. Have you ever been on a plane? Talk about your trip.
7. Why did the French audience react in a lukewarm manner to Mickey’s designs?
8. What did Mickey learn from her adventures in Paris? Explain.
9. How would you feel if you replaced Jake and presented the collection?
10. Compare and contrast books one, two, and three.

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NEW VOCABULARY

Using clues found in the text, write your definitions of these words and phrases:

1. Shoulder dusters
2. Life got in the way
3. Options
4. Cohesion
5. Embody
6. Accessories
7. Semiprecious
8. Stifle a yawn
9. Go it alone
10. Macramé
11. A wolf in sheep's clothing
12. Impressionist
13. Macaroons
14. Joie de vivre
15. Escargot
16. Authentic
17. Modernism
18. Plaque
19. Eating your words
20. Pointillism
21. Gallery
22. Bicker
23. Swatch
24. Avant-garde
25. Steam coming out of his ears
26. He's all bark, no bite

ACTIVITIES

1. In teams of five, design and present a brochure to advertise Paris and its sights. Illustrate with drawings or photos. **(Art, Social Studies, Math, Writing, Research)**

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2. Research famous Impressionist painters and sculptors. Select one for a PowerPoint presentation to share with the class. **(Art, Social Studies, Computer)**
3. Visit the Impressionist gallery at a museum (e.g., The Met in New York City). Compare and contrast two artists. **(Writing, Social Studies, Art, Discussion)**
4. Design three outfits that are themed around French architecture, artists, and food. **(Art, Math, Research, Science, Social Studies)**
5. Make a picture dictionary of French vocabulary found in the story. Illustrate and define. **(Art, Social Studies, Math, Language Arts)**
6. Compare and contrast Mickey and Jake. Use a Venn diagram. **(Language Arts, Textual Clues)**
7. Illustrate medals for the winners of the International Runway competition. **(Art, Research)**
8. Construct a diorama depicting the runway. Add some models. **(Art, Science, Math, Social Studies)**
9. Draw a map showing the route from New York to Paris. Provide a legend showing the scale of inches to miles. **(Social Studies, Math, Art)**
10. As a class, draw a mural showing the designs of Jade and Jake, Mickey and JC, Gabriel, and South. **(Art, Math, Retelling Story)**
11. Design a fashion hero costume for your "Ultimate Challenge." **(Art, Math)**
12. Keep a diary of Mickey's adventures in Paris. Illustrate. **(Art, Language Arts)**
13. Set up a menu for a French dinner. Illustrate. **(Research, Social Studies, Art)**
14. Create a cover for the book depicting a main scene of the story. Discuss with a partner. **(Art, Retelling Story, Exchange of Ideas)**