

Grades 4-5

Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum, “I am Mary Leaky/ I am Alexander Hamilton”

Inspired by the best-selling kids book series, Ordinary People Change the World, by New York Times bestselling author Brad Meltzer and illustrator Christopher Eliopoulos, XAVIER RIDDLE AND THE SECRET MUSEUM follows the adventures of Xavier, Yadina and Brad as they tackle everyday problems by doing something extraordinary: traveling back in time to learn from real-life inspirational figures like Marie Curie, Harriet Tubman and Jackie Robinson when they were kids. Each adventure will help young viewers make the connection between the skills that made these historical figures heroes and those same qualities within themselves, helping them discover that they, too, can change the world.

In this episode Mary Leakey helps Xavier develop a strategy for a difficult scavenger hunt – slow down and look around. Yadina is really nervous about going to school. Alexander Hamilton helps her realize that new adventures can be exciting.

After watching this episode, choose from the following questions and/or tasks to extend your learning

Question Box 1

- Cite evidence from the video that demonstrates features/characteristics of the historical figures.
- What did you learn after watching this program?
- What is the program’s purpose? How do you know?
- What are the key details in this program?
- What is the central message in this program? Explain?

Mary Leakey:

- What is a paleoanthropologist?
- What discovery is she known for? What is the location of her discovery?
- What other discoveries did she make?
- What is the importance of her discoveries?
- What does Mary Leakey mean when she says curiosity compelled her?”
- What lesson did you learn from Mary Leakey?

Alexander Hamilton:

- What is Yadina’s problem?
- How does Alexander Hamilton feel about starting school?
- Where is Alexander Hamilton going to school? How is he going to get there?
- Why does he decide to stay in this new place?
- How does he contribute to the start of a brand-new country?
- What is his new role?
- Describe the responsibilities of this new job.

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- What is the lesson that Yadina learns from Alexander Hamilton?

Question Box 2

- How would you have responded to a situation from the video differently than the historical figures?
- What was one section of the text(video) that stood out for you and why?
- What was your favorite program and why?
- What was most challenging or least interesting about this program?
- What about the show stood out to you?
- How would you feel starting fresh in a new place, with new people, doing new things?
- What kind of adventure is life taking you on?
- How does curiosity help with new adventures?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Create a storyboard of the show.
- Research more about Mary Leaky. What did you learn?
- Research more about Alexander Hamilton. What did you find?
- If the scavenger hunt spans a distance of 800 feet, and the clues are spaced equally distant from each other, how many clues would be needed if they were placed 100 feet apart? If there are 16 clues, how many feet apart should each one be placed?
- Compare and contrast Alexander Hamilton and Mary Leaky. Tell what attributes made both successful.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Describe a time in your life when the approach to slow down and look around would have been helpful to you?
- How will you work to ensure that you take the time to slow down and look around in the future?
- What's a time that you were nervous about a new adventure? How did it turn out? Was it worth getting nervous about?
- How will you work to ensure that you take the time remember that new adventures can be exciting, rather than getting nervous?

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- Watch: [Become a Paleoanthropologist](#)
Tell whether or not this is a job you'd be interested in and why.