

Grades: 4-5

Xavier Riddle and the Secret Museum,
“I am Mark Twain / I am Abigail Adams”

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 the first segment, Xavier is afraid he will be unable to perform his comedy show after he hurts his arm, but Mark Twain shows him that laughter can make hard things easier. Later, Abigail Adams helps Yadina realize that a missing color will not ruin her painting.

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

Question Box 1

- Identify specific details in the TV Show that focus on the author’s purpose.
- What is this program “saying”? Cite evidence to support your analysis.
- Provide at least two quotes of evidence that support the main claims or reasons.
- What is the central idea (main claim) of the text? Is there a quote from the TV show that represents the author’s central idea?
- Choose 2-3 unfamiliar words for the program and define them.

Mark Twain:

- [Click here](#) to read more about Mark Twain
- What’s the problem Xavier is trying to solve?
- How does Xavier think Mark Twain can help him solve his problem?
- What is Mark Twain known for?

Abigail Adams:

- [Click here](#) to read more about Abigail Adams
- What is Yadina trying to solve?
- What does she learn from Abigail Adams?
- What is Abigail Adams famous for? How does this make her a hero?

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Question Box 2

- How do you feel about this program? What parts of it do you particularly like?
- How much did you know about the subject before the show started?
- How do you feel about this TV show?
- What parts of it do you particularly like? Dislike? Why?
- What did/do you enjoy about this program?
- What is the one thing you particularly want people to notice when they watch this TV program?
- Now that it's over, what are my first thoughts about this overall project? Are they mostly positive or negative?
- How does laughter make things easier?

Box 3 (Tasks)

- Create a storyboard of the show.
- Research more about Mark Twain What did you learn?
- Research more about Abigail Adams. What did you find?
- Xavier's comedy show contained 3 jokes about food, 2 jokes about his dog and 5 jokes about bugs. What fraction of the jokes were about living things?
- If each joke took 3 minutes to tell, how long was the comedy show?
- Read more about [Mark Twain](#), then select 2-3 activities provided on the website page to complete.

Box 4 (Enrichment)

- Describe a time when laughter has made a hard thing easier?
- Why is it important that we can laugh at ourselves?
- What lesson was Abigail trying to teach Yadina about? Describe a time in your life when that lesson would have been applicable to you.
- Visit [Abigail Adams Facts for Kids](#), scroll to the bottom of the page and preview the coins of Abigail Adam. Make your own coin of Mark Twain and Abigail Adams to represent their attributes and what others can learn from each of them.

Box 5 (Extend/Real-Life)

- [Become an Author!](#)