

Lesson Plan *for*
Marvelous
Middle Grade
Reads

Cosmic Commandos

Written by Christopher Eliopoulos

Dial Books

978-1-101-99447-4 | Trade Paperback

192 pages | \$9.99 | Lexile GN180L

**LESSON FOCUS**

Supporting claims with evidence

OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

The main character in *Cosmic Commandos* makes a strong case for his beliefs. In this lesson, students will have the opportunity to support a claim with multiple pieces of evidence by using several panels from the book *Cosmic Commandos*.

LEARNING TARGETS

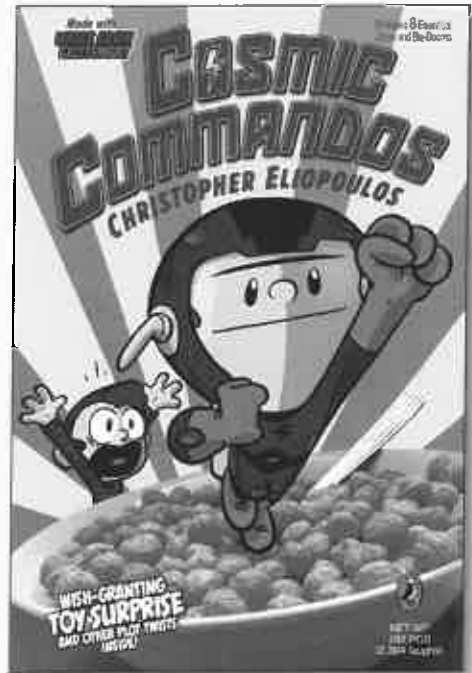
1. Students will be able to determine the claim.
2. Students will identify multiple pieces of evidence that support the claim.

MATERIALS NEEDED

1. *Cosmic Commandos* book pages 6, 7, 8, 40, 41, 42, 43
2. Prove it or Lose it worksheets

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

- Step 1:** Introduce *Cosmic Commandos* by Christopher Eliopoulos.
- Step 2:** Review with students how to write a claim and support that claim with evidence from the text.

**SUMMARY**

In this graphic novel adventure for readers of *Monster Mayhem* and *Roller Girl*, a pair of twin brothers accidentally bring their favorite video game to life — and now they have to find a way to work together to defeat it.

Step 3: There will be three phases for the students:

PHASE 1: State the claim. Students will read pages 6-8, determine the evidence that Jeremy provides and place it in the worksheet. Students can meet with a partner and share their evidence.

The Claim: Jeremy wants a commando rifle: "Mom, can I have a high-powered, laser-blasting, pellet-shooting, cosmic commando rifle?" (Eliopoulos 6)

Jeremy's Evidence:

- "All my friends have one!"
- "It shoots four different kinds of darts, has a tow-line, a grappling hook, and a water squirter!"
- "It's a fake gun!"
- "It can't hurt anyone!"

PHASE 2: Do not state the claim. Students will read pages 40-41, determine what the claim is, provide evidence and place it in the worksheet. Students can meet with a partner and share their evidence.

The Claim: Justin's life is pretty great.

Justin's Evidence:

- "I have my books, old movies, and retro video games."
- "My parents are cool."

PHASE 3: The claim is not directly stated in the text. It must be inferred. Students will read pages 42-43, determine what the claim is, provide evidence and place it in the worksheet. Students can meet with a partner and share their evidence.

The Claim: Justin doesn't like his brother.

Justin's Evidence:

- "He's anti-social."
- "He always tries to get me to do his homework for him..."
- "...thoughtless

PROVE IT OR LOSE IT

Directions: Find the claim. List as many pieces of textual evidence as you can, copying it from the text and using quotations.

Evidence #1:

Evidence #2:

Evidence #3:

Evidence #4:



Penguin Random House Education
1745 Broadway, New York, NY 10019
penguinrandomhouseeducation.com

Queries: K12education@edu.penguinrandomhouse.com

