

## **A Rover's Story** by Jasmine Warga

### **9. A Rover's Story** by Jasmine Warga

A unique and deeply moving middle grade novel about the journey of a fictional Mars rover.

Meet Resilience, a Mars rover determined to live up to his name.

Res was built to explore Mars. He was not built to have human emotions. But as he learns new things from the NASA scientists who assemble him, he begins to develop humanlike feelings. Maybe there's a problem with his programming.

Human emotions or not, launch day comes, and Res blasts off to Mars, accompanied by a friendly drone helicopter named Fly. But Res quickly discovers that Mars is a dangerous place filled with dust storms and giant cliffs. As he navigates Mars's difficult landscape, Res is tested in ways that go beyond space exploration.

As millions of people back on Earth follow his progress, will Res have the determination, courage, and resilience to succeed and survive?

**Discussion, revision & competition-like questions for this book are below.**

**Reading Rivalry Is Not a test!**

Note the Reading Rivalry questions are tools used to discuss the book(s) and topics the students read.

**The intent of RR is to foster a love of reading, introduce the students to books they may not otherwise choose, provide opportunities to work as a team and have fun!**

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- 1. What do the humans call the white hazmat suits they wear, and what does hazmat mean?**  
Bunny Suits. Hazmat means Hazardous Materials.
- 2. Who writes the code that gives directions to Res?**  
Rania, the scientist who writes the clearest code.
- 3. Who calls Res his "Buddy"?**  
Xander, the scientist who talks to Res, also writes code.
- 4. Who writes letters in her journal to Res?**  
Sophie/Sophia (Rania's Daughter).
- 5. How does the rover get his name "Resilience", and what name did Sofia suggest for the rover?**  
A naming contest was held and a sixth grader, Cadence, in Ohio suggested the name "Resilience." Sofia suggested the name "Spicy Sparkle Dragon Blast."
- 6. What do the hazmats / scientists call the landing stage of the mission?**  
The "Seven Minutes of Terror."
- 7. According to Rania's Phone, what is Rania's mother worried about?**  
Rania is spending too much time at work and not with enough time with her family.
- 8. According to Journey, how were the rovers built to be different from humans and what is strange about Res?**  
Rovers were made to be logical and make good decisions since they do not have human emotions. Res has feelings.
- 9. How many miles will Res need to travel to get to Mars?**  
Three hundred million miles.
- 10. What do Res and Fly (his drone) think they need to find on Mars to ensure they will be brought home to Earth?**  
A fossil. (Then the scientists will get the \$4 billion funding to bring them back).
- 11. Why do humans want the rovers to find a fossil on Mars?**  
It will prove life once existed on Mars.
- 12. Why doesn't Journey go to Mars with Res?**  
Journey is a test bed rover/backup for Res.

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**13. How long does it take for Res's spacecraft to reach mars?**

7 months.

**14. What does Res say when he sees Mars for the first time?**

Wow.

**15. What song does Res teach his drone, Fly?**

Twinkle Twinkle Little Star.

**16. What are the names of Mars's two moons?**

Deimos and Phobos.

**17. What does the satellite, Guardian, call Fly when they first meet?**

A helicopter.

**18. What is the name of Mars' tallest mountain?**

Olympus Mons.

**19. How much longer are days on Mars than on Earth?**

41 minutes longer.

**20. Where do Res and fly land on mars when they arrive?**

The Jezero Crater.

**21. What is Res and Fly's mission on Mars?**

To collect samples, take photos of the environment and bring Courage (the old rover) back online.

**22. What is the new phrase that Res creates for himself on mars?**

Zappedty Zip

**23. What substance is Res hoping to find in his rock/soil samples?**

Salt.

**24. How does Res solve the problem of his wheels being stuck while he is roving?**

He moves to the side instead of forward or backwards (Guardian had suggested it to him).

**25. What causes fly to crash?**

A dust devil/ dust storm.

**26. What does Res do when the command center orders him not to retrieve Fly after Fly crashes? What happens to Fly in the end?**

He overrides the order and gets Fly back anyway. In the end Fly is left behind on Mars.

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### **27. Does Res ever meet anyone from the science lab again?**

Yes. Xander leads tours at the museum where Res and Journey stay at the end. Rania and Sophie visit the museum.

### **Discussion questions**

1. What is your favorite thing about the book?
2. Would you like to work for Nasa?
3. Would you like to travel to space?
4. Did you ever build / invent something?
5. What do you think the strange whistling sound Res recorded on Mars was?
6. Do you keep a journal, or would you like to write a journal?