

## LOMA - A MacIver Kids Adventure

### Teacher's Guide

*Recommended for Grades 5-8*

#### Overview

“Loma-A MacIver Kids Adventure” provides rich opportunities for cross-curricular learning while exploring themes of family, identity, diversity, and belonging through a science fiction lens.

#### Core Learning Objectives

Students will:

- Analyze complex character relationships and development
- Explore themes of identity, belonging, and family \* Discuss cultural diversity and inclusion
- Examine disability representation in literature
- Practice critical thinking and prediction skills
- Develop empathy and understanding for different perspectives

#### Content Warning

Teachers should be aware that the book includes:

- Mild peril/suspense
  - References to parental death/abandonment
  - Discussion of foster care/adoption
  - Some emotional intensity
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## Pre-Reading Activities

### 1. Building Background Knowledge

- **Family Structures Discussion**
  - Create a mind map of different types of families
  - Discuss what makes a family
  - Introduce basic foster care/adoption concepts

### 2. Science Fiction Elements

- **Genre Exploration**
  - Brainstorm characteristics of science fiction
  - Discuss favorite sci-fi stories
  - Create Venn diagrams comparing reality and science fiction

### 3. Cultural Connections

- **Global Awareness**
    - Locate India and Scotland on a map
    - Introduce basic cultural elements from both countries
    - Discuss the role of storytelling in different cultures
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## Chapter-by-Chapter Teaching Guide

### Chapters 1-2: Introduction

**Focus:** Introduction to characters and setting

**Activities:**

- Create character profiles
- Draw the MacIver house/neighborhood
- Start a prediction journal

**Discussion Questions:**

- Why might the aliens choose the MacIvers?
- How do the different children adapt to their new family?
- What makes Fritter special to Allen?

### Chapters 3-4: Mystery Development

**Focus:** Mystery development and character relationships

**Activities:**

- Create a map of the woods
- Write journal entries from different perspectives
- Chart each child's mysterious encounter

**Writing Prompt:** > "Write about a time when you saw something you couldn't explain."

### Chapters 5-6: Trust & Teamwork

**Focus:** Trust and teamwork

**Activities:**

- Design Allen's new wheelchair
- Role-play family discussions
- Create a timeline of events

**STEM Connection:** > Explore adaptive technology and accessibility concepts

### Chapters 7-8: Cultural Identity

**Focus:** Cultural identity and choices

**Activities:**

- Analyze Amar's grandfather's stories
- Create comparison charts for different characters' choices
- Write alternative scenarios

### Chapters 9-10: Crisis

**Focus:** Crisis and resolution

**Activities:**

- Create newspaper reports about the events
- Design "wanted" posters for the Loma
- Write diary entries from Antonia's perspective

## Chapters 11-12: Conclusion

**Focus:** Conclusion and themes

**Activities:**

- Write epilogue stories
  - Create book trailers
  - Design book covers
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### Cross-Curricular Connections

#### Science

- Solar system study
- Simple machines (wheelchair design)
- Energy concepts
- Basic biology (virus/antibodies)

#### Social Studies

- Immigration
- Cultural traditions
- Family structures
- Community helpers

#### Language Arts

- Narrative writing
- Character analysis
- Figurative language
- Point of view
- Folklore and storytelling

#### Math

- Measurement (wheelchair design)
- Distance calculations
- Time problems
- Basic geometry

## Art

- Character sketches
  - Setting illustrations
  - Comic strip scenes
  - Book cover design
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## Assessment Ideas

### Formative Assessment

- Character journals
- Chapter summaries
- Prediction charts
- Discussion participation
- Quick writes

### Summative Assessment

#### Options include:

1. **Creative Projects**
    - Design a new alien species
    - Create a diorama of key scenes
    - Write a sequel chapter
  2. **Analytical Projects**
    - Compare/contrast essay on characters
    - Theme analysis paper
    - Plot structure examination
  3. **Multimedia Projects**
    - Book trailer
    - Podcast episode
    - Digital story map
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## Differentiation Strategies

### For Advanced Learners

- Independent research projects
- Complex theme analysis
- Creative writing extensions
- Leadership roles in group work

### For Struggling Readers

- Chapter summaries
- Character cards
- Graphic organizers
- Audio support
- Visual aids

### ESL/ELL Support

- Vocabulary previews
  - Visual aids
  - Partner reading
  - Native language support
  - Modified assignments
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## Resources & Materials

### Required Resources

- World maps
- Art supplies
- Journal notebooks
- Science materials
- Computer access

### Additional Resources

- Cultural reference materials
  - Science fiction examples
  - Adoption/foster care information
  - Disability awareness materials
  - Related reading suggestions
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## Parent/Guardian Connection

- Reading response journals
  - Family interview projects
  - Cultural sharing opportunities
  - Book club discussions
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 **Sensitive Topics Guide**

Provide guidance for discussing:

- Foster care/adoption
- Family separation
- Disability
- Cultural differences
- Loss and grief

*Note: Remember to adapt this guide based on your specific classroom needs and student population.*