THE BACK STORY

Storm Hawks is an animated TV series made by Nerd Corps Entertainment in Canada. The show first came out in 2007. The stories have also been turned into graphic novels.

The story is set in a fictional world called the Atmos, a group of mountaintop kingdoms known as terras. The main power source in the Atmos comes from energy-generating crystals. Sky Knights (various groups of warriors, including the Storm Hawks) protect the Atmos against their enemies.

The Storm Hawks are led by one of the best warriors in the Atmos, Aerrow, and each member of his team has special abilities and/or weapons to help them in their defence of the Atmos. They live on a flying ship called the Condor and ride motorcycle-like vehicles that transform into flying machines.

MEDIA LINKS

DVD: The TV shows are available on DVD, produced by Sony Pictures Home Entertainment.
CD: A recording of Storm Hawks: Best Friends Forever is available to accompany the Scholastic Reader.
Internet: For more information visit the official website for the TV show at www.stormhawks.com. The website for the graphic novels is www.stormhawkscomics.com.

SYNOPSIS

The Storm Hawks are a team of teenage warriors whose enemies are the evil Cyclonians. The story opens as the Storm Hawks are searching through the Cyclonians’ rubbish, hoping to find a clue revealing their latest plans. Piper discovers a map, but a strong wind blows it out of her hands. She retrieves the map, but falls from her scooter. A mystery girl, Lark, saves Piper’s life. Piper and Lark share an interest in crystals and become best friends.

The Storm Hawks fly to Terra Tundras, the place shown on the map, and Piper and Lark go to investigate. On Terra Tundras, Piper discovers the Cyclonians are mining for powerful crystals that can make people invisible. She realises that Lark is really the leader of the Cyclonians – Master Cyclonis – in disguise.

When Piper refuses to join the Cyclonians, Master Cyclonis makes her army invisible and orders them to attack the Storm Hawks. At first the Storm Hawks are powerless against the invisible army, but then they come up with the idea of shooting their breakfast of sticky porridge at their attackers. Now the Cyclonians are visible, Aerrow and the other Storm Hawks swiftly defeat them. Meanwhile, Master Cyclonis swears that Piper is not her friend, but Piper is convinced that Master Cyclonis is lonely and that their friendship, however brief, was real. Master Cyclonis attempts to defeat Piper, but when this fails, she disappears, warning Piper that she will be watching her.
People and places

Change the names and make these sentences true.

a) Junko is very clever and knows about crystals. …………………………

b) Stork is the best fighter in the Atmos. …………………………

c) Radarr likes girls but doesn’t understand them! …………………………

d) Lark is Arrow’s best friend. …………………………

e) Master Cyclonis flies the Storm Hawks’ ship. …………………………

f) Arrow’s favourite drink is Yorga Juice. …………………………

g) Piper loves power and hates the Storm Hawks. …………………………

h) Finn is Piper’s new best friend. …………………………

i) The Cyclonians live on their ship, the Condor. …………………………

Pages 6–8

1 Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

   a) The Cyclonians are looking through the Storm Hawks’ rubbish. …………………………

   b) Junko finds some Yorga Juice. …………………………

   c) Finn wants to go back to the Condor. …………………………

   d) Piper finds a book in the Cyclonians’ rubbish. …………………………

   e) The Storm Hawks fly to Terra Tundras without Piper. …………………………

   f) A person takes Piper’s hand in the storm. …………………………

   g) Stork wants to close the windows because of the storm. …………………………

2 Talk to a partner. What do you think? Stork isn’t happy about Piper and her new friend. Why not?

Pages 9–11

1 Answer the questions.

   a) Who looks for Piper after the storm?

       Arrow and Finn look for Piper. …………………………

   b) What does Finn see on one of the terras?

       …………………………

   c) What do Arrow and Finn find?

       …………………………

   d) Who is Arrow talking to on the Condor?

       …………………………

   e) What are Piper and Lark into?

       …………………………

   f) Why does Arrow want to go to Terra Tundras?

       …………………………

2 Talk to a partner. What do you think? Why are the Storm Hawks looking through the Cyclonians’ rubbish? Why do the Storm Hawks go back without Piper? Why is the map important to Piper?

Pages 12–16

1 Who says these things?

   a) ‘Cool!’ …………………………

   b) ‘Radarr, what’s wrong with you?’ …………………………

   c) ‘You’re my best friend.’ …………………………

   d) ‘Now they can’t see you!’ …………………………

   e) ‘I don’t have many friends.’ …………………………

   f) ‘Where’s Radarr?’ …………………………

   g) ‘That’s strange!’ …………………………

2 Piper has many different crystals in her room. Answer the questions about them?

   a) What colour are boomers?

       …………………………

   b) What colour is the floater?

       …………………………

   c) What can Piper’s new crystal do?

       …………………………

   d) What do you think blazers can do?

       …………………………

Pages 17–21

1 Put the sentences in the correct order.

   a) The Condor arrives at Terra Tundras.

       1

   b) Piper sees something by her foot.

       2

   c) Piper sees the Cyclonians.

       3

   d) Piper knows Lark is a Cyclonian.

       4

   e) Arrow wants to go and see Terra Tundras.

       5

   f) Lark and Piper fly down to Terra Tundras.

       6
Look at these sentences from the story. Put the words in the right order.

2. a) Yorga Juice / My / fly! / can
   My Yorga Juice can fly!

   b) something! / telling / He's / us
   Something! telling He's us

   c) because / invisible / Radarr / Larkl / is / of
   Because invisible Radarr Larkl is of

   d) with / Storm Hawks / or / dead! / are / Work / the / me
   With Storm Hawks or dead! are Work the me

   e) the / — forever! / with / I'm / Storm Hawks
   The — forever! with I'm Storm Hawks

3. Talk to a partner. What do you think? Why does Master Cyclonis want to work with Piper?

Pages 22–25

1. Circle the correct words in italics.

   a) Aerrow / Finn flies out of the Condor.
   Aerrow flies out of the Condor.

   b) Piper and Master Cyclonis fight on the Condor / Terra Tundras.
   Piper and Master Cyclonis fight on the Condor Terra Tundras.

   c) Oblivion crystals don't work on friends / Storm Hawks.
   Oblivion crystals don't work on friends Storm Hawks.

   d) Master Cyclonis is watching Piper / Radarr.
   Master Cyclonis is watching Piper Radarr.

   e) Finn / Stork wants to do Piper's hair.
   Finn Stork wants to do Piper's hair.

2. Complete the sentences with these words.

   angry funny great invisible powerful sad true

   a) Aerrow can't see the Cyclonians because they are ……………….
   Aerrow can't see the Cyclonians because they are invisible.

   b) Finn has a ……………… idea!
   Finn has a funny idea!

   c) Master Cyclonis is ……………… with Piper.
   Master Cyclonis is invisible with Piper.

   d) Piper knows the ……………… story about Master Cyclonis.
   Piper knows the true story about Master Cyclonis.

   e) The Oblivion crystal is very ……………….
   The Oblivion crystal is very powerful.

   f) After the fight with Master Cyclonis, Piper is ……………….
   After the fight with Master Cyclonis, Piper is invisible.

   g) Piper thinks Finn is ……………….
   Piper thinks Finn is funny.

3. Talk to a partner. What do you think? Why does Finn say 'I don't understand girls!'? What things don't you understand about girls or boys? Write a list!

FINAL TASKS

1. Speaking. You are one of these characters: Piper, Lark / Master Cyclonis, Aerrow, Finn. Tell a partner what happens to you in the story. Example: Piper: I am looking through the Cyclonians' rubbish with Finn and Aerrow. A storm is coming. I find a map …

2. Writing. Work with a partner. Imagine you have three powerful crystals. What are their names? What power(s) does each crystal have? What happens when you use them?

3. Write a new Storm Hawks story. Work in small groups and think about the following questions: Where does the story happen? Who are the main character(s) in the story? What is the problem for the Storm Hawks? How do the Storm Hawks win in the end?

4. Writing. Imagine you have a new best friend! Describe your new friend. What is he / she into? What do you like about this person?
MEET THE STORM HAWKS! (pages 26–7)

Create a new character
Divide the class into small groups. Ask each group to invent a new teenage warrior to join the Storm Hawks. They should think about:
- personality and appearance
- vehicles, weapons, special talents
- a name
Each group can then present their ideas to the rest of the class. The class votes for the best new character.

Design a flying machine
Ask students to work in pairs to design a new flying machine for one of the Storm Hawks. The students discuss their ideas then write a description of their flying machine. They design a poster advertising this flying machine.

BOYS OR GIRLS: WHO ARE THE BEST FRIENDS? (page 28)

Interview
Divide the class into small groups. Ideally, each group should have a mixture of boys and girls. The students interview each other about whether they think boys or girls make the best friends. They then write a magazine article summarising their findings.

Brainstorm
Ask students to work in pairs to write down as many examples as they can of boy-girl friendships in films, TV programmes, comic books or novels. They should focus on platonic friendships rather than romantic relationships. Give a time limit then ask the students to share their best examples with the class.

ARE YOU A TRUE FRIEND? (page 29)

Discussion
In pairs, ask the students to write a list of three qualities that make a true friend. Write their best suggestions on the board. In small groups, students rank the qualities that make a true friend in order of importance. Give them a time limit, then compare answers with the class as a whole.

A good friend
Students write a description of a good friend of theirs. Ask them to write about the qualities that make that person a friend.

DVD/CD FOLLOW-UP

Scriptwriters (DVD)
Choose a short scene and show it to the class twice without the sound. Students imagine what the characters are saying and write a possible script in groups. Now watch the scene a third time. Students use their script to ‘dub’ the scene. Finally play the sequence with the sound so they can compare their ideas with the original. This comparison is only for fun – the scripts are not meant to be identical. More confident students can act out their scripts in front of the class.

Observation (DVD or CD)
Choose a scene from the DVD or CD. Watch or listen to the scene with your students twice. In pairs, the students watch very carefully, noting down details about the action, the characters, any objects, etc. Students write ten questions using their notes to help them. They then ask their questions to another pair. They watch or listen to the scene a third time to check answers.

Reviewing (DVD or book)
Students write a short review of the reader or the episode on DVD, commenting on the action, characters and storyline. They give the episode a star-rating.

ANSWER KEY

Self-Study Activities (pages 30–2)

1. a) map  b) storm  c) fly  d) rubbish  e) forever  f) crystal
2. a) Piper  b) Finn  c) Master Cyclonis  d) the Atmos
3. The correct order is: d, b, e, a, f, c, g.
4. a) Piper – the map  b) Aerrow – Finn  c) Lark – Terra Tundras
d) Aerrow – Terra Tundras
5. a) stranger  b) strange  c) best  d) invisible  e) powerful
f) dangerous  g) strong  h) Something
7. a) F. Radar doesn’t like Lark.  b) T  c) T  d) T
  e) F. Lark doesn’t have many friends.
f) F. Lark and Piper fly down to Terra Tundras.  g) T
8. a) Finn  b) Radarr  c) Piper  d) Lark  e) Master Cyclonis
f) Aerrow
11. a) iv  b) vi  c) ii  d) iii  e) i  f) v
12. a) Fight – Master Cyclonis  b) Something – Stork  c) true – Piper
d) Storm Hawks – Piper  e) hair – Finn  f) understand – Finn

Resource Sheet Activities

People and places
b) Aerrow  c) Finn  d) Radarr is Aerrow’s best friend.  e) Stork
f) Junko’s  g) Master Cyclonis  h) Lark is Piper’s new best friend.
i) The Storm Hawks

Pages 6–8
b) T  c) T  d) F. Piper finds a map in the Cyclonians’ rubbish.
e) F. The Storm Hawks fly to the Condor without Piper.
f) T  g) F. Stork wants to close the doors because of the storm.

Pages 9–11
1 b) He sees a light.  c) They find Piper’s helicopters.
d) Piper is talking to Lark.  e) They’re into crystals.
f) Because the Cyclonians are doing something there.

Pages 12–16
1 b) Aerrow  c) Piper  d) Lark  e) Radarr  f) Aerrow  g) Piper
2 a) green  b) blue  c) It can stop the power of a crystal.
d) Open answer.

Pages 17–21
1. The correct order is: a, e, f, c, b, d.
2 b) He’s telling us something!
c) Radarr is invisible because of Lark!
d) Work with me or the Storm Hawks are dead!
e) I’m with the Storm Hawks – forever!

Pages 22–25
1 b) Terra Tundras  c) friends  d) Piper  e) Finn
2 b) great  c) angry  d) true  e) powerful  f) sad  g) funny

Vocabulary Builder
1 2. boring > dangerous  3. car > map  4. father > stranger
  5. teenager > storm  6. teachers > fighters
2 2. ship 3. crystal 4. strong 5. fight 6. strange
3 2. fly 3. rubbish 4. forever 5. powerful

Casual language
1. into  2. guys 3. guys 4. into