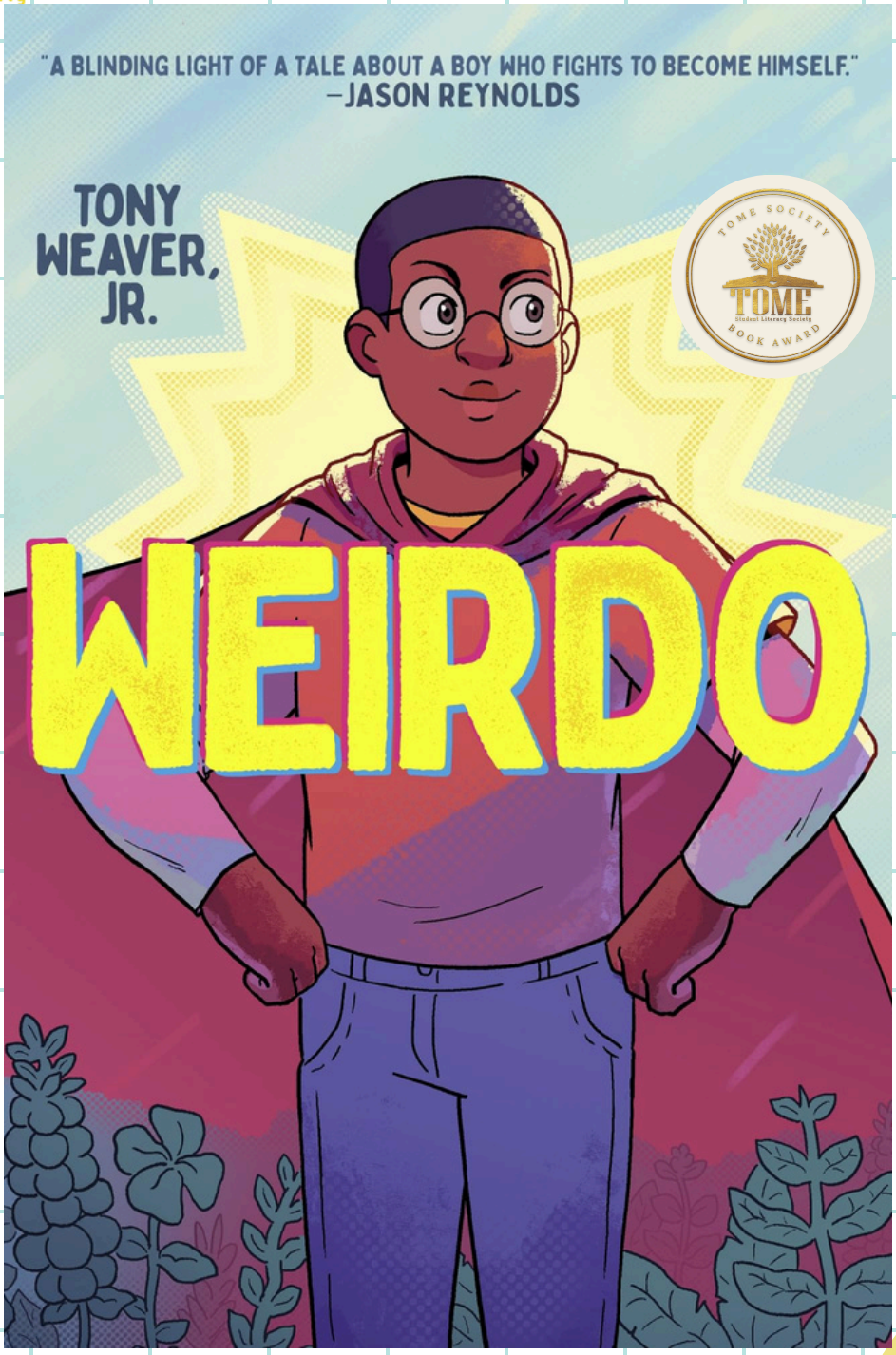
DISCUSSION GUIDE

Weirdo
Tony Weaver



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WEIRDO DISCUSSION GUIDE

PRE-READING QUESTIONS

1. Looking at the cover, what do you think the title Weirdo might be about? What is your definition of the word, weirdo?
2. This book is written as a graphic novel. Do you think the printed format will help you understand the point of view of Tony in the story or detract?
3. The book Weirdo takes place in several middle schools. What are some similar books you have read where the story revolves around middle school? What do you think are some common issues for middle school students?

POST-READING QUESTIONS

1. At the beginning of the book, being called a weirdo hurts Tony's feelings. By the end, the word takes on a different meaning. How did Tony transform this word into something positive?
2. Each character in the book is introduced with a unique everyday "super power". Why do you think the author chose real-life-personality traits as super powers? If you had to name your own everyday superpower, what would it be?
3. In the book, Tony uses the metaphor of a garden and how he sees himself. He talks about the many different parts of a garden and the seeds that have been planted. What different parts exist in your garden and what seeds are you planting?
4. Tony's grandmother had a saying she used in life, "keep on keeping on." Why do you think she used that phrase? Would that be a good phrase for you to remember? Why?
5. Throughout chapter three, moments, panels, and characters are shown in varying shades of color. Why do you think the illustrators did this? What does the shift in colors tell you about Tony's mental state?
6. Tony relies heavily on his grades for his self-worth, believing that is what makes him a good person. Why is relying purely on performance or external achievements dangerous for your mental health?

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POST-READING QUESTIONS

7. When Tony feels isolated, he turns to comic books, anime, and video games for comfort. How can fictional heroes help us in our own real-life struggles? Is there a particular story, show, or game that has helped you through a tough time?
8. What positive aspects of social media does this book show? What negative aspects? How does Tony's relationship with social media change?
9. How does Tony change? How does his perspective of other people change and what caused these changes? How do the different characters in this story help him?
10. What roles do the various adults play in Tony's life? Are they helpful or hurtful? How does therapy help Tony? When do you think someone should seek help from a therapist or other trusted adult?

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POST-READING ACTIVITIES

1. Write a poem from the perspective of one of the characters in the book. Follow the guidelines to enter your poem into the Tome Society Poem competition.
2. Digitally create a Like-Try-Why Social Media Graphic using this book and two others. Follow the guidelines to enter your poem into the Tome Society Like Try Why competition.
3. Try your hand at writing a graphic novel! Use some of the resources at https://comicsclubblog.wordpress.com/comics-worksheets/ or https://www.storyboardthat.com/create/worksheet-graphic-novel. You could make an autobiographical graphic novel like Weirdo, or come up with your own story.

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