

These notes are for:

- Years 7-10
- 13+yrs
- Secondary

Key Learning Areas:

- English
- Science
- Health

Example of:

- Young Adult Fiction
- Print Text
- Science Fiction

Experience of:

- New Zealand
- Maori Culture and Language
- Science and Technology
- Reading & Writing

Values addressed:

- Responsibility
- Doing Your Best
- Heroes
- Challenges

Themes:

- Environment
- Climate Change
- Time Travel
- Codes
- Belonging
- Apocalypse/Survival

*Notes may be downloaded and printed for regular classroom use only.

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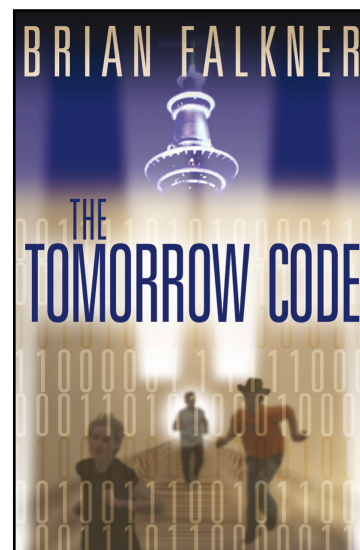
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The Tomorrow Code - Overview

The Tomorrow Code

By: Brian Falkner
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Outline:

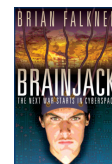
Mysterious, coded messages from the future, fog that destroys everything in its path, baffled scientists, a world on the edge of destruction. Two teenagers must succeed where others have failed and crack the code – or tomorrow is history!

Tane and Rebecca receive a message that looks like a random sequence of 1s and 0s. Slowly it becomes clear – the messages are being sent back in time from the future! But why?

Tane and Rebecca follow the messages' cryptic instructions and begin to suspect the worst – that the very survival of the human race may be at stake! While scientists and the army battle a fog that is marching across New Zealand, the only hope for survival rests with Rebecca and Tane. But, can two teenagers really change the world?

Author Information:

Brian Falkner was born and raised in Auckland. He is the author of several novels for children and young adults including, *The Flea Thing*, *The Real Thing*, *The Super Freak* and *Brainjack*.



These notes were prepared by **Mary van Rossen** BA Hist, Grad Dip Teach, MLIS

How to Use These Notes:

This story works on many levels. The suggested activities are therefore for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

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Guided Reading Activities for *The Tomorrow Code*:**The Tomorrow Code – PROLOGUE**

- Where is the prologue set? (pg 11)
- Who are the characters that we are introduced to throughout the prologue?
- What remains of the scientists do they find? (pg 14)

**BOOK 1: THE CHIMERA PROJECT****Chapter 1: The End**

- What does Joni Mitchell predict the world will be like? (pg 19)
- Who are the characters that we are introduced to in this chapter?
- Find and quote the simile used by Tane to describe the effect of the stars? (pg 20)
- Why can't the guard see them? (pg 22)
- What is exhilaration? (pg 23)
- What do the kids in Tane's story do? (pg 24)
- How do the grad students manage to go back in time in Michael Crichton's *Timeline*? (pg 25)
- What are Tane's strengths at school? (pg 26)
- What are Rebecca's strengths at school?
- What is the question that Tane asked that captured Rebecca's interest and imagination? (pg 27)
- What has happened to make Rebecca's mum sit in front of the T.V all day and night? (pg 28)
- What would they have to transmit through?
- Authors' use a literary device called "foreshadowing". What is the quote that demonstrates this device in action? (pg 29)
- How does Rebecca regard Tane?
- How do you think Tane regards Rebecca? Why?

Chapter 2: Save the Whales, Sunday, September 27

- Rebecca is an environmental activist. What does this mean? (pg 31)
- Which country is she saving the whales from?
- Quote the simile that describes the sound that the protesters made. (pg 35)
- What does *intensifying* mean? (pg 36)
- Where does Rebecca spend time that day? (pg 36/37)
- Brian Falkner uses irony to point out a world environmental issue and the consequences for demonstrating against it. Quote his irony as spoken through Rebecca. (pg 37)

Chapter 3: Fatboy and his Moko, Sunday, October 4

- What is the environmental setting for this chapter? (pg 39)
- Who is Fatboy to Tane? (pg 40)
- What is Fatboy's real name?
- What does Fatboy do for a job? (pg 41)
- What is the design of Fatboy's moko?
- Why does Tane start to feel angry about the way Rebecca is looking at Fatboy? (pg 42)
- Falkner uses the character of Tane to tell us what Rebecca looks like. Do you think you would like the way she dresses? Why? (pg 42/43)
- Why does Tane bite his lip? (pg 44)

Chapter 5: Beneath the Bridge

- What is Rebecca researching? (pg 53)
- What is the strange irony? (pg 54)
- Draw an arrow diagram visually depicting where Quantum foam led Rebecca to.
- Where does Fatboy take Rebecca to?
- Quote the metaphor used to describe the colour of Auckland city? (pg 55)
- What is "the blackness of the sea" a metaphor for?

Chapter 6: Swift, Friday, October 16

- What lie has Rebecca made up to get the "Swift" feed? (pg 59/60)
- What form does the raw data take? (pg 61)
- How does Rebecca think that they may be able to detect the quantum foam?
- What are gamma rays? (pg 62)
- What are the Swift and Compton Gamma Ray Observatories recording?
- What does Rebecca think might be hidden in the gamma ray bursts?
- What is the history of Rebecca and Tane's relationship? (pg 64)

Chapter 7: 111000111, Friday, October 16-Saturday, November 7

- Approximately how long does it take for Rebecca's programme to run? (pg 66)
- Would Rebecca's mother be able to repay the bank after the house sale? (pg 67)
- What is different about the organisation of the numbers so that it wasn't just raw data showing a gamma ray burst? (pg 71)
- What language do computers 'talk' in? (pg 72)
- What code does Tane finally realise that the numbers are trying to communicate in? (pg 75)
- What was morse code originally used for when a light was used to transmit the patterns? (pg 76)
- What does Tane finally discover the message was giving them? (pg 81)
- What is the last piece of morse code that Tane recognises? (pg 84)

Chapter 8: Mr Dawson's Tree Museum, Friday, November 13

- What is coming up for Tane and Rebecca at school? (pg 86)
- How old do Tane and Rebecca have to be to purchase a Superball ticket? (pg 87)
- What does *conciliatory* mean? (pg 87)
- What other three pieces of information did Tane find in the message? (pg 94)
- Who are Tane and Rebecca receiving messages from? (pg 95)

Guided Reading Activities for *The Tomorrow Code*:

Chapter 9: Saturday Night, Saturday, November 14

- Slice up a strip of paper and create a Möbius strip. Google Möbius strip to see an example of one. (pg 99)
- What does Rebecca explain about the significance of the Möbius strip and sending messages through time? (pg 100)
- Why does Rebecca think it's like text messaging language? (pg 101)
- What does *chimera* mean in biology? (pg 102)
- What is the scientific discovery of the century that they had just proved? (pg 105)
- Was this a cunning get-rich-quick scheme they had stumbled upon?

Chapter 10: Evensong, Sunday, November 15

- Quote the simile Falkner uses to describe how Tane was feeling trying to keep their secret. (pg 107)
- What is a *geneticist*? (pg 108)
- What does SUB EON TLS turn out to mean?
- What is evensong? (pg 110)
- How does Tane view his brother? (pg 111)

Chapter 11: Trust, Monday, November 16

- Why does Tane try to sound "cool" on the phone? (pg 113)
- What does *absconded* mean?
- Were Tane and Rebecca allowed to leave the school grounds? (pg 114)
- What could have happened if the Tane and Rebecca of the past had been able to communicate with them fourteen months earlier? (pg 115)
- What has Fatboy brought with him? (pg 116)
- What does "so literal" mean?
- What does Tane mean when he thinks "you want a part of everything"? (pg 118)
- Why does Rebecca's smile already make Tane regret the decision to trust Fatboy with all the information? (pg 119)
- Where is the Subeo sales rep? (pg 120)
- What's a rhinovirus? (pg 121) <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rhinovirus>
- Why is it interesting that Tane bought a leather jacket? (pg 122)
- What is the ad that caught Tane's eye? (pg 123) View the following map of West Harbour:
http://maps.google.co.nz/maps?sourceid=navclient&rlz=1T4HPAA_enNZ310NZ310&q=west+harbour+auckland&um=1&ie=UTF-8&split=0&gl=nz&sa=X&oi=geocode_result&resnum=1&ct=title
- The chapter is called "Trust". This title has turned out to be a verbal pun (play on words). Why?

Chapter 12: The Man from Subeo, Thursday, November 26

- What two things "sold" them on the house? (pg 126)
- What does *brusque* mean? (pg 128)
- Who is feeling brusque?
- Who arrived just in time to allow them to write the cheque out for the Nautilus? (pg 130)

Chapter 13: Motukiekie, Friday, November 27

- What is the hyperbole that Falkner uses to describe the plane? (pg 131)
- What do Tane's parents think he is doing? (pg 132)
- Identify and quote the hyperbole re the plane on page 132.
- What was Fred Ladd's favourite saying re the Widgeon? View the following website for this question:
http://www.dnzb.govt.nz/DNZB/alt_essayBody.asp?essayID=5L1
- What year was Fred Ladd appointed an MBE?
- What is meant by "it seemed a stark contrast to the lush verdure of the surrounding islands"? (pg 134)
- What is Rebecca's mother famous for in scientific circles? (pg 136)
- What is a *sabbatical*?
- Who had painted the picture in Professor Green's office?
- What does Professor Green describe the antibodies as? (pg 139)
- What does Professor Green describe the macrophages as?
- What do antibodies do to pathogens?
- What is the simile used to describe the subtlety of Fatboy? (pg 140)
- What does Rebecca think Professor Green is doing? (pg 141)

Chapter 14: Water Works, Saturday, November 28

- What does *illuminate* mean? (pg 143)
- Why couldn't Rebecca get arrested again? (pg 146)
- How are they going to reach Motukiekie?

Chapter 15: Sea of Green, Monday, December 7

- Who is Wee Doddie? (pg 149)
- What does "biting back one's annoyance" mean? (pg 150)
- Why would they have to change the Sofnolime scrubber cartridges regularly? (pg 154)
- What is an important part of their training? (pg 155)
- What does Doddie mean about the Nautilus being a "boot not a shape"? (pg 156)
- Translate what Doddie says in the last line of this chapter.

Chapter 16: The Möbius Trip, Friday, December 11

- What is the Möbius partly named after?
- Where does it seem to take an eternity to reach? (pg 160)
- Where do they spend the night? (pg 163)

Chapter 17: Butt Mop, Saturday, December 12

- What website are they downloading the data from?
- What do they do to avoid the rough weather? (pg 165)
- What sound makes them feel uncomfortable?
- What is Tane worried about? (pg 167)
- What does Butt Mop turn out to be? (pg 170)
- What does the data converted into dots on the bitmap begin to show? (pg 170/171)
- Where do Tane and Rebecca get the information for the chronophone? (pg 172)
- What is Tane really sick of? (pg 174/175)

Guided Reading Activities for *The Tomorrow Code*:

Chapter 18: HMNZS Waikato, Sunday, December 13

- What does “In death, the ship was the foundation of life.” mean? (pg 178)
- Where do they spend their third night at sea? (pg 179)
- What emotions do Tane and Fatboy both share? (pg 179/180)
- What is Rebecca doing in the co-driver’s seat? (pg 182)
- What is the personification used by Falkner to describe the action of the seaweed?
- What looks like the side of a mountain? (pg 183)
- What time do Tane and Rebecca swim toward Motukiekie? (pg 184)

Chapter 19: Laundry Piles

- Why do Tane and Rebecca decide to leave on their masks? (pg 185)
- What is strange about the jeans and the Nikes? (pg 186)
- What is strange about the security gate and the door to the lab? (pg 188)
- Why does all the breath in Tane’s body freeze?
- Why has Tane’s throat closed up? (pg 190)
- What is the metaphor that Falkner has used to describe how well lit the Te Mana is? (pg 191)
- What information does Tane give them? (pg 193)
- How does Rebecca create a diversion?

Chapter 20: Waewaetorea Passage

- What language feature does Falkner use to describe the shock of the landing? (pg 195)
- What has happened to Rebecca in the hatch area? (pg 196)
- What has happened by the time the hatch was empty? (pg 197)
- What does Tane realise Rebecca has done for him? (pg 198)
- Why do they have to go back through the Waewaetorea Passage at night?
- What language feature does Falkner use to describe the shape of the ridge? (pg 199)
- What will happen if they can’t make it to Motukokako in time? (pg 200)
- Why does Tane feel sick? (pg 201)
- What does Fatboy use to keep the Möbius steady in one spot? (pg 202)

BOOK 2: THE LONG WHITE CLOUD

Some Thoughts:

- Place names are often difficult to translate, and the original derivation of Aotearoa is not known for certain. The word can be broken up as: aotea = cloud, and roa = long, (white being added in the translation as it is the most common colour of cloud) and it is accordingly most often glossed as “The land of the long white cloud”. In some traditional stories, Aotearoa was the name of the canoe of the explorer Kupe, and he named the land after it. In another version, Kupe’s daughter was watching the horizon and called “He ao! He ao!” (“A cloud! A cloud!”). The first land sighted was accordingly named Aotea (Cloud), now Great Barrier Island. When a much larger landmass was found beyond Aotea, it was called Aotea-roa (Long Aotea).

Falkner uses a pun when he calls this next part of his book *The Long White Cloud* . . . as you will see . . .

Chapter 1: Bambi, Tuesday, December 15

- What area of New Zealand forest is Gazza in? (pg 209)
- What is unusual about the mist that day?
- What is in the mist?

Chapter 2: New Zealand’s Most Wanted, Friday, December 18

- Where could they have left their fingerprints? (pg 212)
- Where can they get the components for the chronophone? (pg 214)
- Where has the main highway been cordoned off? (pg 216)
- What does the news reporter say it is?
- What does Rebecca fear? (pg 217)

Chapter 3: ‘Tis the Season, Saturday, December 19

- What is the headline on the front page of the newspaper? (pg 220)
- What does Rebecca fear her school friends might do?
- Why does Rebecca throw up? (pg 222)

Chapter 4: Silent Night, Thursday, December 24

- How many people disappear from Whangarei? (pg 225)
- Falkner is using irony when he calls this chapter “Silent Night”. How?

Chapter 5: White Christmas, Friday, December 25

- As Falkner has been ironic in his choice of chapter titles “‘Tis the Season” and “Silent Night”, what do you predict will cause the “White Christmas” in Northland? (pg 227)
- Why is there no fog at Novosibirsk and Burnt Mountain labs? (pg 229)
- What does the fog start to do in front of Crowe, Evans and Manderson? (pg 231)
- What language feature does Falkner use to describe the crashed bulk of the truck? (pg 232)
- Who is in the cab?
- What could the little boy tell them? (pg 234)
- What did Manderson and Crowe realise about the direction the fog was taking? (pg 235)

Chapter 6: On Christmas Day, Friday, December 25

- Falkner has used the language technique of extended metaphor to show that Tane is feeling trapped in his own drama and chaos. Where is this extended metaphor? (pg 238)
- What is significant about the present his father received? (pg 239)
- Why does Tane look the other way when Fatboy gives Rebecca a hug? (pg 241)
- What does Rebecca realise the submarine is really for? (242/243).

Chapter 7: Sanctuary, Tuesday, December 29

- How long does Rebecca think they will be under water for? (pg 245)
- What is built into the transmitter? (pg 246)
- What are they supposed to do with the transmitter? (pg 247)
- Where are the GPS map coordinates taking them to? (pg 248)
- What do they find there? (pg 250)

Guided Reading Activities for *The Tomorrow Code*:

Chapter 8: An Unnatural Disaster

- Who is the speaker on the TV that makes Tane's heart race? (pg 253)
- What happens to the Horouta? (pg 254)
- What happens to the Coastguard vessel sent to find it?
- Who does Southwell work for? (pg 255)
- How much does the fog expand after it has been in Whangarei? (pg 257)
- Where has Crowe set up his line of defence? (pg 259)

Chapter 9: FTBY DNT GO, Thursday, December 31, 9.30 am

- What does Rebecca start to explain to Tane before Fatboy arrives? (pg 261)
- What upset Tane?

Chapter 10: Candid Camera, Thursday, December 31, 10.45 am

- How long does Rebecca calculate their supplies at Rangitoto Cave will last? (pg 267)
- Where do they get the photos of Fatboy, Tane and Rebecca? (pg 270)
- Had Tane read the message? (pg 271)

Chapter 11: Zeta, Thursday, December 31, 12.50 pm

- What do you think the fancy new hotel in the seaside town of Orewa is called? (pg 273)
- Why do you think Falkner left this name out of his book?
- What nationality had the troopers at the house been? (pg 274)
- Why does Tane relax in front of Crowe? (pg 276)
- Where is the sub? (pg 278)
- What does Stony Crowe think the bioterrorists have created? (pg 279 and 282)
- What are forming in the mist inside the tank? (pg 280)
- Do the fog and jellyfish attack Zeta? (pg 286)
- What does Rebecca say they are genetically splicing together into a chimera? (pg 288)

Chapter 12: Xena, Thursday, December 31, 1.45 pm

- What does Tane do to disturb the tank? (pg 292)
- What does *visceral* mean? (pg 293) You may need to look up a word that is very close to it.
- What forms in the tank until it runs out of fog?
- What do the human hair and nail clippings do? (pg 295)
- Did they evacuate Warkworth in time? (pg 296)
- Where are the SAS and NZ Army units based? (pg 297)
- How does Fatboy face the soldiers and their weapons? (pg 299)
- Where is the fog? (pg 300)

Chapter 13: Shapes in the Mist, Thursday, December 31, 3.05 pm

- What could Tane, Rebecca and Fatboy put on? (pg 301)
- What do Rebecca and Tane finally realise about DNT GO MST? (pg 304)
- What happens to Evans? (pg 305)
- What happens when they tried to block the mist with foam? (pg 307)
- What does Tane suddenly say and realise? (pg 308)
- What sound do the shapes in the fog make? (pg 309)
- Where has the new command centre been set up? (pg 311)
- What seems to be happening to the jellyfish that have been beaten up? (pg 312)
- How is Rebecca able to save them from the shapes advancing in the mist? (pg 313)
- How can they hear each other under water?

Chapter 14: Epiphany, Thursday, December 31, 3.15 pm

- What is an epiphany?
- What is the question that stirred Tane's memory about shape recognition? (pg 320)
- What does Tane see as he is winched to safety? (pg 322)
- What are the jellyfish? (pg 324)

Chapter 15: Immunity, Thursday, December 31, 5.30 pm

- What does Rebecca think the snowmen are if the jellyfish are antibodies? (pg 325)
- What is the North Harbour Sports Stadium being used for?
- Why does Crowe not want to believe they are antibodies and macrophages? (pg 326/328)
- What does *pensive* mean? (pg 327)
- What does Rebecca think has been locked in our genes all this time? (pg 328)
- Does she think that Professor Green brought about the antibodies? (pg 329)
- How does Southwell describe the behaviour and function of antibodies?
- Why won't Crowe listen to Rebecca's explanation of what they are fighting against? (pg 330)

Chapter 16: Before the Storm, 7.00 pm

- What is the comparison that Falkner uses to describe how the traffic jam looks on the motorway? (pg 332)
- What does Rebecca say the macrophage would have done at the beginning? (pg 333)
- How does she describe the population of Whangarei? (pg 334)
- What is the advice that Mandy gives them? (pg 336)

Chapter 17: Kaitiakitanga 7.40 pm

- Where have Tane and Fatboy's parents gone? (pg 339)
- What conflicting views and ideas are in Rebecca's mind? (pg 341)
- What don't Tane's parents even seem to notice? (pg 343)
- How does Rebecca describe the human race to the Maori elder? (pg 347)
- What does *Kaitiakitanga* mean? (pg 348)
- What is the difference between the Pakeha view of land and the Maori view of land?
- What does the elder explain to Rebecca about greed and stupidity? (pg 349)
- Does the elder really believe that Tane had forgotten his whakapapa? (pg 350)

Chapter 18: New Year's Eve, 9.05 pm

- What time does the mist start to reach Albany? (pg 351)
- What is the name of the aircraft carrier that has sailed to aid New Zealand? (pg 352)
- What does the code suggest as a way to get rid of the macrophages? (pg 355/356)
- What does Fatboy direct Rebecca to do? (pg 357)
- Who does Rebecca leave behind? (pg 360)

Guided Reading Activities for *Tomorrow Code*:

Chapter 19: The Battle for Auckland, 10.20 pm

- What does Tane realise after kissing Rebecca and working things out? (pg 362)
- What language feature is “the avalanche of abandoned cars”? (pg 363)
- What is a funeral pyre? (pg 364)
- What would happen if the defence line from Mairangi Bay to West Harbour was breached? (pg 366)
- What does Rebecca suggest to Mandy? (pg 367)
- Why is the last section of the climb going to be the hardest for Tane and Fatboy to handle? (pg 370)

Chapter 20: Line of Fire, 11.30 pm

- Where do all the crop dusters come from? (pg 372)
- What are they loaded with? (pg 373)
- What is the simile used by Falkner to describe the shape of Devonport? (pg 374)
- What does *sanctuary* mean? (pg 376)
- What is the problem that they haven’t counted on at the top of the Sky Tower? (pg 377)
- Do they manage to attach and calibrate the chronophone?

Chapter 21: Fateful Lightning, Friday, January 1, 12.05 am

- How can Mandy tell that they are on the edge of the mist? (pg 381)
- What are they using for weapons instead of guns and rockets? (pg 382)
- What does *palpable* mean? (pg 382)
- Why do you suppose Crowe’s “cells” were “afraid” of the creeping mist?
- Why do you think people sing hymns and battle songs? (pg 383)
- Does the salt water affect the jellyfish and snowmen?

Chapter 22: Silence in the Mist, 12.30am

- What happens at Mairangi Bay? (pg 389)
- What happens to *Te Mana* and *Te Kaha*? (pg 390)
- Where can Ramirez see the fog chewing its way across?
- What language feature is “and chewing its way”?
- What does it mean by “the fog, omnipresent in her rear-view mirror”? (pg 391)
- What surprises Rebecca?
- What are the four white slug-like creatures absorbing and digesting? (pg 392)
- Who is finally silent in the mist? (pg 394)

Chapter 23: Into the Mist, 1.15 am

- What do Tane and Fatboy realise when they reach the observation deck of the Sky Tower on the way down? (pg 395)
- What does Tane realise about Fatboy? (pg 397)
- Tane reached out for Fatboy’s hand, but what does Fatboy do?
- Who is shooting at Xena and Rebecca? (pg 398)
- What is the antibody jellyfish doing to Rebecca as she runs along the jetty? (pg 400)
- Where is the macrophage standing?
- What does Xena do?

Chapter 24: The God from the Machine, 1.25 am

- Where is the hyperbole on page 403? There are two examples.
- Where are they trying to get to with the fire engine? (pg 404)
- What do they wrap around their bodies? (pg 405)
- Why is the mist much thinner in the car park? (pg 408)
- Why don’t the macrophages attack them as they crawl?
- What is spread out across Quay Street blocking their entrance to the wharves? (pg 413)
- What is inside the truck beside Tane?
- Why does Ramirez’s parachute, harness and flight suit float to the ground empty? (pg 415)
- Why is Ramirez’s jet called “Deus Ex Machina” and how does this relate to the jet saving Tane? (pg 416) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Deus_ex_machina
- What happens to Fatboy?

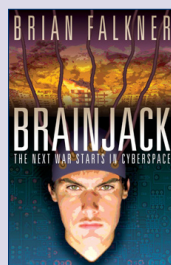
Chapter 25: The Dream

- What does Tane remember about Fatboy? (pg 419)
- What does he manage to do?

Chapter 26: Te Kenehi Tuarua, Monday, January 4

- Was it the end of the world? (pg 421)
- What is Rebecca’s good news? (pg 422)
- What is the life that Tane has now? (pg 424)
- What is significant about their position in regards to the fish in the ocean cave?
- What is a *patu pounamu* and where does it come from?
- What does Tane suggest they do to stop it from happening?
- What do you think their chances are of stopping the Chimera Project and the end of humankind?
- What does *Te Kenehi Tuarua* mean, and why is this the chapter name?

If you enjoyed ***The Tomorrow Code***, you will love ***Brainjack***!



It would take a very special person to crack the computer systems of the White House. An expert. A genius. A devil. All of the above, some would say. Someone like Sam Wilson, brilliant teenage computer hacker. But Sam’s obsession is about to lead him into a dangerous world. A world of espionage and intrigue; of cybercrime and imminent war. A world where logging on to your computer could mean the difference between life and death.

Teachers’ Resources for *Brainjack* available from www.walkerbooks.com.au/Teachers