

Build a Hidden World

A proposed reading and story-design visit with Mark Crowley

Austin-area libraries, middle schools, homeschool groups and book clubs · Ages 10–14 · 30 minutes

Sardis McCoy and the Stolen Years is a forthcoming illustrated adventure about a thirteen-year-old who enters a hidden Atlantis to find the father he has never met. This session uses a short opening excerpt and selected illustrations to explore curiosity, friendship, worldbuilding and character choices.

Proposed session

0–3 minutes: Meet Sardis and the question that starts an adventure.

3–8 minutes: A spoiler-free reading from “Missed the Bus.”

8–15 minutes: Examine two illustrations. Discuss what the image reveals and what the writing adds.

15–22 minutes: Design an imaginary Agon on paper: one obstacle, one rule and a way to succeed through observation rather than strength.

22–28 minutes: Questions about characters, writing, illustrations and revision.

28–30 minutes: A closing revision challenge and optional resources for adults.

What to arrange

No prior reading or purchase is required. The host provides its usual adult supervision and paper/pencils. A screen is helpful, but printed images can substitute. Participants may write, draw, discuss or pass. Dates, fees, group size, access needs and any future book sales are agreed with the host before a booking is confirmed. There is no student email collection.

Request a conversation

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This is a proposed program, not a confirmed event. The book is not yet available to buy.