

gordon korman memorable characters

gordon korman memorable characters have left an indelible mark on young adult and middle-grade literature, captivating readers with their unique personalities, relatable struggles, and memorable arcs. Over the decades, Korman's storytelling prowess has brought to life a diverse array of characters who resonate deeply with fans around the world. From mischievous troublemakers to compassionate heroes, his characters often embody themes of friendship, perseverance, and self-discovery. In this article, we will explore some of the most memorable characters created by Gordon Korman, examining what makes them stand out and why they continue to charm readers of all ages.

Overview of Gordon Korman's Character Creation Philosophy

Before diving into individual characters, it's important to understand Korman's approach to character development. Known for his keen insight into adolescent psychology and his humor-infused storytelling, Korman crafts characters that are authentic and multidimensional. He often writes characters who are flawed but capable of growth, allowing readers to see themselves in these stories.

Korman's characters are often placed in humorous or challenging situations that test their morals, resilience, and ingenuity. His ability to blend comedy with meaningful life lessons makes his characters memorable and relatable.

Notable Characters from Gordon Korman's Works

Below are some of the most memorable characters from Korman's extensive bibliography, each representing different themes, settings, and character archetypes.

1. Merlin (The Juvie Three and related works)

- Overview: Merlin is a clever and resourceful young boy who often finds himself in juvenile detention centers. Despite his tough exterior, Merlin possesses a big heart and a strong moral compass.
- What makes him memorable: Merlin's quick wit and loyalty make him a standout character. His stories often highlight themes of redemption and friendship, showcasing how even those who seem lost can find their way.

2. Vincent (The Hypnotists series)

- Overview: Vincent is a young, talented hypnotist with a keen sense of curiosity and determination. He is brave and unyielding in his quest to uncover the truth.
- What makes him memorable: Vincent's intelligence and courage, combined with his vulnerability, create a compelling protagonist who grows through his adventures.

3. The MacDonald Family (On the Run series)

- Overview: This family of resourceful kids, including siblings like Josh and Abby MacDonald, are constantly on the move, escaping various predicaments.
- What makes them memorable: Their quick thinking, resilience, and sibling bond emphasize themes of family and loyalty, making them relatable and inspiring.

4. Milo (Schooled series)

- Overview: Milo is a bright, witty middle schooler navigating the complexities of adolescence with humor and honesty.
- What makes him memorable: His candid voice and humorous perspective on school life and social issues make Milo a lovable character who readers root for.

5. The Kids from “Ungifted”

- Overview: The group of misfit students, including Donovan Curtis, who are placed in a gifted program by mistake.
- What makes them memorable: Their humorous antics, combined with their genuine efforts to succeed, challenge stereotypes about intelligence and talent.

Common Traits of Korman’s Memorable Characters

Korman’s characters tend to share certain traits that contribute to their lasting impression:

- **Relatability:** They often face problems and emotions familiar to young readers, such as friendship struggles, family issues, or self-doubt.
- **Humor:** Many characters exhibit a sense of humor or find humor in difficult situations, making their stories engaging and entertaining.
- **Growth and Development:** They frequently undergo significant personal growth, learning important life lessons along the way.
- **Resourcefulness:** Characters are often quick thinkers and problem solvers, enabling them to navigate complex situations.
- **Distinct Voice:** Each character has a unique voice and personality, which helps readers connect with them on a deeper level.

Why These Characters Have Endured

The enduring popularity of Korman’s characters can be attributed to several factors:

Authentic Representation of Youth

Korman's characters reflect real-world experiences, capturing the humor, angst, and hopes of adolescents. This authenticity fosters a strong connection with readers.

Universal Themes

Themes such as friendship, family, perseverance, and identity are woven throughout his stories, making the characters' journeys meaningful and relatable.

Humor and Heart

The blend of humor with heartfelt moments makes his characters lovable and memorable. Readers find themselves laughing and crying alongside them.

Inspirational Growth

Many of Korman's characters demonstrate resilience and the capacity for change, inspiring readers to believe in their own potential.

Impact of Gordon Korman's Characters on Readers

Korman's characters often serve as mirrors and mentors for young readers, helping them navigate their own lives. Their stories encourage self-acceptance, kindness, and perseverance. For example:

- Empathy and Understanding: Characters like Merlin teach readers to see beyond stereotypes and appreciate the complexities of others.
- Problem-Solving Skills: Characters who face challenges head-on inspire readers to develop resilience and resourcefulness.
- Humor as a Tool: Korman's humorous characters show that even difficult situations can be approached with a positive attitude.

Conclusion

Gordon Korman's memorable characters are a testament to his skill as a storyteller who understands young minds. Whether it's the cleverness of Merlin, the bravery of Vincent, or the resilience of the MacDonald family, his characters leave a lasting impression because they embody traits that resonate universally. They inspire, entertain, and teach valuable lessons, ensuring their place in the hearts of readers for generations to come. If you're exploring Korman's works or seeking characters that reflect the complexities and joys of youth, his memorable creations offer a rich tapestry of personalities that continue to engage and inspire.

Frequently Asked Questions

Who are some of Gordon Korman's most memorable characters in his books?

Some of Korman's most memorable characters include Griffin Bing from the 'Swindle' series, Mason and Paige from 'The 39 Clues,' and the humorous protagonist, Rudy, from the 'Macdonald Hall' series.

What qualities make Gordon Korman's characters stand out?

Korman's characters are known for their humor, relatability, and resilience. They often face challenges with wit and teamwork, making them memorable and inspiring for readers.

How does Gordon Korman develop his characters to make them memorable?

Korman develops his characters through detailed personalities, realistic dialogues, and relatable struggles, allowing readers to connect deeply with their journeys and growth.

Which character from Gordon Korman's books is considered the most iconic?

Many consider Griffin Bing from the 'Swindle' series to be iconic due to his resourcefulness and leadership skills, making him a standout character in Korman's work.

Are there common themes in Gordon Korman's memorable characters?

Yes, his characters often embody themes of friendship, perseverance, honesty, and ingenuity, which contribute to their lasting impact on readers.

How do Gordon Korman's characters appeal to different age groups?

Korman creates characters that are humorous, adventurous, and relatable, making his stories appealing to both middle-grade and young adult readers.

What makes Gordon Korman's characters memorable compared to other children's authors?

Korman's characters are memorable because they are multi-dimensional, exhibit genuine growth, and are portrayed with humor and authenticity that resonate with readers.

Additional Resources

Gordon Korman Memorable Characters: An In-Depth Exploration of His Literary Creations

Gordon Korman has established himself as one of the most prolific and beloved authors in the realm of middle-grade and young adult fiction. Renowned for his witty storytelling, sharp humor, and relatable characters, Korman's works are filled with memorable figures who leave lasting impressions on readers. When discussing Gordon Korman memorable characters, it's impossible not to highlight how his characters embody themes of resilience, humor, and authenticity, making his stories resonate across generations. This article offers a comprehensive analysis of some of his most iconic characters, exploring what makes them unforgettable and how they contribute to the enduring appeal of Korman's novels.

The Power of Memorable Characters in Korman's Works

Before diving into specific characters, it's essential to understand what makes Korman's characters stand out. His protagonists and supporting figures are often:

- Relatable and multi-dimensional: They reflect real human struggles, flaws, and growth.
- Humorous and witty: They bring levity and charm, making stories engaging and fun.
- Resourceful and resilient: They face challenges head-on, demonstrating perseverance.
- Unique in voice: Each character's dialogue and personality are distinctly crafted, ensuring they are memorable.

Korman's mastery lies in creating characters that feel like real people, yet exaggerated enough to entertain and inspire. This connection between reader and character is what cements their place in the pantheon of memorable literature.

Iconic Gordon Korman Characters: An Overview

Korman's extensive bibliography features a wide array of characters spanning various themes and settings. Here, we'll examine some of the most memorable and influential figures across his works.

1. Mitch Albom in "Son of the Circus" (and related works)

While not a recurring character across multiple books, Mitch Albom's portrayals in Korman's stories exemplify wit and charm. However, since the focus here is on Korman's original characters, let's look at his own creations.

Notable Characters in Gordon Korman's Novels

A. The Swindle Series' Griffin Bing

Griffin Bing, aka "The Man with the Plan," is arguably one of Korman's most beloved characters. He exemplifies ingenuity, leadership, and moral integrity.

- Personality traits:
- Confident yet humble
- Creative problem-solver
- Loyal friend
- Key qualities:
- Resilience in facing adversity
- Willingness to stand up for what's right
- Resourcefulness that often saves the day

Why Griffin Bing is memorable:

His clever schemes and unwavering sense of justice make him a relatable hero for young readers. His humorous narration and genuine kindness foster strong emotional connections.

B. The "On the Run" Series' Brooklyn and Kelsey

In the "On the Run" series, Brooklyn and Kelsey are siblings with contrasting personalities but shared determination.

- Brooklyn:
- Brave, impulsive, and a natural leader
- Has a strong sense of justice
- Kelsey:
- Intelligent, cautious, and strategic
- Acts as the voice of reason

Why they stand out:

Their dynamic chemistry and genuine sibling bond portray realistic family relationships, making their adventures compelling and memorable.

C. The "Island" Series' Jodie

Jodie is a standout character in Korman's "Island" series, notable for her resilience and adaptability.

- Traits:
 - Kind-hearted and empathetic
 - Courageous in the face of danger
 - Impact:
- Her growth from a naive girl to a confident survivor reflects themes of empowerment and friendship, resonating deeply with readers.

Deep Dive into Korman's Most Enduring Characters

1. Griffin Bing ("Swindle" Series)

Character Arc & Significance:

Griffin's journey from a typical boy to a clever hero underscores themes of integrity and ingenuity.

Key Moments:

- The daring heist to recover a rare baseball card

- Standing up against adult villains
- Leading friends through complex schemes

What makes Griffin memorable?

His unflappable confidence combined with his genuine heart makes him both inspiring and relatable. His humorous narration often breaks tense moments, endearing him to readers.

2. Mason and Charlie ("The 39 Clues" Series)

Though not original Korman characters, Mason and Charlie's humorous personalities demonstrate Korman's talent for creating distinctive, memorable secondary characters who add flavor and humor.

3. The "Lindsey" Series' Lindsay

Lindsay's quirky personality, with her unique outlook and humorous perspective, provides comic relief while also illustrating resilience and individuality.

Analyzing What Makes Korman's Characters Memorable

Themes and Traits:

- Humor and Wit: Characters often deliver clever dialogue, making scenes lively.
- Authenticity: Flaws and vulnerabilities make characters believable.
- Growth: Many characters experience significant development, inspiring readers.
- Relatability: Everyday struggles, family dynamics, and friendships mirror readers' lives.
- Courage and Resilience: Characters often face adversity head-on, showcasing perseverance.

Designing Memorable Characters:

Korman employs a few key strategies:

- Giving characters distinctive voices
- Embedding humor into dialogue and narration
- Creating compelling conflicts that reveal character traits
- Allowing characters to evolve through challenges

The Impact of Korman's Memorable Characters on Readers

Korman's characters do more than entertain; they teach valuable lessons about friendship, honesty, perseverance, and self-acceptance. Their relatability encourages empathy and inspires young readers to see themselves as capable of overcoming obstacles.

Conclusion: Celebrating the Legacy of Gordon Korman's Characters

In the landscape of children's and young adult literature, Gordon Korman's characters stand out for their authenticity, humor, and resilience. From Griffin Bing's clever schemes to Brooklyn and Kelsey's daring adventures, these characters have become fixtures in the hearts of countless

readers. Their memorable qualities not only make Korman's stories enjoyable but also serve as powerful models of courage, wit, and kindness.

As we continue to explore Korman's extensive body of work, it's clear that his characters' enduring appeal lies in their genuine human qualities—flaws, strengths, humor, and heart—that resonate long after the last page is turned. Whether you're a longtime fan or new to his stories, the memorable characters crafted by Gordon Korman remain timeless symbols of youthful ingenuity and resilience.

Gordon Korman Memorable Characters

gordon korman memorable characters: Dear Canada: An Ocean Apart Gillian Chan, 2012-09-01 With over 400,000 books already in print, the Dear Canada series has fast become the book series for children. Each fictional diary invites readers into the world of a girl living through a particular period in Canada's past. Gillian Chan's latest addition illustrates the effect the Chinese Head Tax has on one young girl and her family. Mei-ling and her father are struggling to pay the head tax that will allow her mother and brother, who are still living in China, to come to Canada. They must have that money before the impending Exclusion Act bars any more Chinese from immigrating. What will happen if they can't come up with enough in time to reunite their family?

gordon korman memorable characters: Haunted Canada 11: Frightening True Tales Joel A. Sutherland, 2022-07-04 The eleventh book in the bestselling series of hauntingly true Canadian stories — more chilling than ever! In this terrifying collection of haunted stories, author Joel A. Sutherland has put together even more chilling ghost stories from all across our spooky land, including: - A hateful house torments a new bride in Victoria, British Columbia. - The chime of an old clock makes a grim prediction for a family in Fredericton, New Brunswick. - The sound of mysterious footsteps signals the presence of spirits at a fire hall in Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Moody black-and-white illustrations and photographs enhance the hauntingly eerie read. With its first volume published in 2002, the Haunted Canada series is now an award winning series with over 500,000 copies in print. Kids can't get enough of these spooky tales that allow them to learn about the eeriest corners of our country. Joel A. Sutherland is quickly becoming Canada's answer to R.L. Stine. — QUILL & QUIRE

gordon korman memorable characters: Countdown to Danger: Deadly Heist Jack Heath, 2017-07-01 30 dangerous paths. 30 minutes to escape. YOU choose the path to survive! You are hanging out with your friend Kyle who makes a quick stop at the bank . . . only to find yourselves plunged into the middle of a high-stakes heist. But is it money that the robbers — Miss Scarlet, Mr. Sharp, Mr. Signet and Silver Tooth — are after? Or is there a larger, more sinister plot behind their takeover of the bank? And what do nanotechnology and a silver ninja have to do with anything? The latest installment of this choose-your-own-adventure series cranks up the adrenaline as you make split-second decisions and try to save the world! Choose wrong and risk being nibbled by nanobots, chopped by a helicopter or stomped by an artificial rhino. Or do you swing to freedom Tarzan-style, escape through a festering sewer, or partner with a clone of yourself and live to choose another day? YOU DECIDE!

gordon korman memorable characters: Dear Canada: Days of Toil and Tears Sarah Ellis, 2012-09-01 An eleven-year-old orphan is reconnected to her mother's family, but her courage and strength are tested as she is put to work in a textile mill. Flora is a young, imaginative girl who has dreamt of having a family to call her own since her parents died from pleurisy when she was three. She dreams of family dinners. She dreams of friends. But mostly she dreams of leaving the orphanage. As the diary begins, Flora is still in an orphanage in Kingston, but her Auntie Janet has just married, and she and her husband James send for Flora to come and live with them in Almonte,

Ontario. Once she arrives at her aunt's, Flora begins work in the Almonte Mill, even though she is underage — typical for many children of the era. She works from dawn to dusk, near huge and noisy machines, and she sees the effects of the mill on workers who have lost an arm or their hearing. Still, this life is better than going back to the orphanage. But when Uncle James loses several fingers at the weaving machine and can't work anymore, money is really tight, and it's up to Flora and her aunt to find a way out of the predicament. Through all her trials, Flora writes down her feelings in a journal, one she addresses to Dear Papa and Mama, because it makes her feel close to the parents she lost when she was young. *Days of Toil and Tears* includes historical background giving readers the social context of young mill workers, and a map of the textile industry of Canada, as well as fascinating photographs from this era.

gordon korman memorable characters: Dear Canada: A Christmas to Remember Karleen Bradford, Sarah Ellis, Julie Lawson, Carol Matas, Maxine Trottier, Perry Nodelman, Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch, Jean Little, 2012-09-01 A wonderful seasonal anthology for Dear Canada readers, both old and new! A real treat for fans of this series, and all lovers of historical fiction! Eleven stories that each revisit a favourite character from books in the Dear Canada series are included in this special collection. These are completely original tales that stand alone as heartwarming Christmas stories, but also serve as a lovely next chapter to their original books. Each story is written by one of Canada's top award-winning writers for children, including Jean Little, Sarah Ellis, Maxine Trottier, Carol Matas and more. This collection is a lovely companion to *A Season of Miracles*, and will be treasured year after year at holiday time!

gordon korman memorable characters: Stopping the Shots Schultz Nicholson Lorna, 2024-10-01 Is there room in a family for two hockey stars? In this companion book to *Taking the Ice*, goalie Mike Krieger (aka Tree) takes centre stage. Although Mike is known to be calm and collected, his home life is more difficult than it seems. His younger brother, Eric, is a hockey hotshot, already playing on the top U13 team. And their parents are so focused on Eric's game that Mike's success in net is barely noticed — except by his older brother, Liam, who was born with Down syndrome and is Mike's biggest fan. Mike's parents dismiss a suggestion that he could be good enough to attend a top goalie camp, and while Mike is used to living in Eric's shadow, the tension between the two brothers increases when Mike is asked to play goal for Eric's team. When an accident threatens Eric's hockey career, and money troubles threaten his parents' farm, Mike worries he might also have to give up the sport he loves. He decides to risk his reputation — and more — for the new goalie pads he desperately needs. But when the truth comes out, can Mike find a way to make things right?

gordon korman memorable characters: The Almost Epic Squad: Super Sketchy Lesley Livingston, 2019-06-25 In this hilarious, new series, four ordinary kids are about to learn that they are on deck. . . to save the world! If you could have any superpower, what would you choose? What about being able to turn yourself into what you draw? But what if drawing is not exactly what you're best at? Daisy Kildare is starting over at a new school. Sometimes she wishes she could be anywhere else. But when she uses a certain pencil, Daisy finds she becomes whatever she draws. She just needs to harness that power. If only her drawing skills were a little more accurate . . . Meanwhile, it turns out there are forces both good and evil who have had their eyes on Daisy and three other special kids since their exposure at birth to a mysterious element called reidium. When Daisy finds herself drawn into an epic battle on land, sea and sky, she must use all her wits and artistic talents to fight the evil mastermind The Boss and her conniving minion, Dr. Bafflegab. Readers will be riveted to this high-adventure, howlingly funny story that never misses a beat. The other books in this multi-author series are written by Kevin Sylvester (*Mucus Mayhem*), Ted Staunton (*What Blows Up*), and Richard Scrimger (*Irresistible* - available Fall 2019).

gordon korman memorable characters: I Am Canada: Storm the Fortress Maxine Trottier, 2013-02-01 A young sailor is caught up in the naval siege of Quebec leading up to the battle on the Plains of Abraham. Fourteen-year-old William Jenkins is working at a printing house when he comes to the attention of navigator and naval officer James Cook. William signs up to serve with Cook on the warship HMS Pembroke, part of Britain's fleet setting out to take the French stronghold of

Quebec. William soon learns that the world of a British sailor is a harsh one, especially when the ship lays siege to the fortress and is attacked by French fire ships - burning wrecks sent downstream to set the British warships on fire. On one raid, William is captured by the French allies, the Abenaki, and taken into Quebec itself, which is under constant bombardment from British cannons. With the siege strangling Quebec's lifelines, William finds a way outside the fortress walls just in time to join the British soldiers landing their boats and preparing to face the French on the Plains of Abraham. A dramatic story of the Seven Years' War, culminating in the siege and battle that claimed Canada for Britain.

gordon korman memorable characters: Iggy Included Kerbel Deborah, 2024-05-07 A girl, a dog and a summer they won't forget. Twelve-year-old Paige Coopersmith and her family have won a house in an essay-writing contest. Excited to leave their cramped apartment and move to a sprawling property in rural Ontario, they're more than a little surprised to find the house is old and in need of major repairs. They're even more shocked to discover that Iggy — the old dog who lives there — comes with the house. Apparently it was all in the fine print! Due to financial stress, and with nowhere else to go, the family stays. Paige, who is scared of the large, unkempt Newfoundland dog, does her best to stay out of her way, while her parents deal with an unusual list of instructions from the previous owner. But girl and beast soon form a special bond, when Paige, a hesitant reader, practises her reading out loud and discovers that Iggy loves to be read to. Little does Paige know Iggy is even more special than she realizes. In fact, someone else has their eye on her, and when Iggy goes missing, it's Paige who must solve the mysteries of this unusual house and find her now beloved dog.

gordon korman memorable characters: A Bucket of Stars Suri Rosen, 2023-10-03 A story of two kids trying to save the world they know and heal the families they have. It's the summer of 2003 and thirteen-year-old amateur astronomer Noah Cooper has just moved to Queensport, a small town with a vast sky full of stars. There he meets Tara Dhillon, a lonely girl and aspiring filmmaker. When the two team up to produce an astronomy movie and enter a film contest, they discover a secret plan to turn their rural hamlet into a huge subdivision. Noah and Tara must use their unique skills to identify the culprits who plan on paving over the historic county — and try to save the infinite beauty of the stars. As if that's not enough to have at stake, Noah needs to win the prize money to buy a new telescope for his unemployed father — an ex-astronomer who's almost given up on the stars, as well as life on earth. Touching on themes of activism, environmental anxiety and mental health, A Bucket of Stars will have readers cheering for Noah, a boy whose head is in the stars, and Tara, a girl who lives in a world of digital images — and their special bond that just might mend the world around them.

gordon korman memorable characters: Nish: North and South Isabelle Picard, 2023-09-05 The first book in Isabelle Picard's bestselling coming-of-age series about Innu twins, Leon and Eloise. In this acclaimed book, readers meet thirteen-year-old twins Leon and Eloise who live in Matimekush, an Innu community in Northern Quebec. While Leon spends all his free time playing hockey, and wondering how he can prove he has the talent to make it big in a place with no competition, Eloise works on a school project that opens her mind to the history of her people — their victories and their battles lost. But when their father gets sick and needs treatment almost 1000 km from home, and someone from their village mysteriously disappears, the twins learn lessons about the fragility of humanity and the dangers of the land they call home.

gordon korman memorable characters: Nish: North Stars Picard Isabelle, 2025-09-01 Lights. Cameras. Hockey! The school year is finally over and Eloise and Leon are back in Matimekush for the summer. But this school break will not be like any other, thanks to a hockey movie being filmed in the community! Is it possible that Leon will be in the movie? Will Eloise, who is interested in directing, participate in the project? Summer will be busy with twists and turns of all kinds for Leon, Eloise and their friends. It's the summer of possibilities!

gordon korman memorable characters: A Storm Unleashed Matas Carol, 2025-09-01 A gripping tale about a girl and her dog set in Berlin, Germany, during the lead up to World War Two.

After losing her mother as a young girl, twelve-year-old Mia is living in Berlin with her veterinarian father and beloved German shepherd, Max. Mia tries to focus on her hobbies, her studies and her trips to her grandparents' farm where she cares for the animals she loves. But it's 1935, and life has changed radically for Mia and her Jewish father over the last two years. Antisemitism is now official state policy. At school, Mia is vilified and treated cruelly by her teachers and fellow students. Outside of school, she witnesses violence against her friends and family. And then suddenly a girl from the Nazi Youth tries to take Max. From that moment on, life becomes more and more dangerous for Mia and her father — who is now being forced to help the Nazis train Hitler's army of dogs. Mia and her best friend, Frieda, must come up with a plan to navigate this new reality. But could it cost Mia more than she realizes?

gordon korman memorable characters: A Year in the Life of a Total and Complete Genius Stacey Matson, 2014-09-01 Gordon Korman meets Word Nerd in this totally (and completely) genius debut! Arthur Bean, soon-to-be a rich and famous author, has set two goals for himself: to win the school writing contest and to win the heart of his secret crush, Kennedy. But his life has had some major twists and turns lately, and the recent loss of his mother definitely complicates things. Arthur is in turns outrageous, defiant, and unintentionally hilarious as we peek over his shoulder at his reading journals, notes from his long-suffering teachers, his offbeat articles for the school newspaper — even the emails he sends to writing partner Kennedy. *A Year in the Life of a Total and Complete Genius* is a fresh and funny story about a boy whose bad luck can't dampen his spirit — or his love of writing.

gordon korman memorable characters: Simon Sort of Says Bow Erin, 2023-02-07 A Newbery Honor Book written by Erin Bow, winner of the Governor General's and TD Children's Literature Awards. Ask Simon O'Keeffe why his family moved to tiny Grin And Bear It, Nebraska, and he'll tell you they were driven out of Omaha by alpacas. In Simon's version of the story, a blessing of the animals went sideways, his dad got fired from his church job, and the whole family moved to the National Quiet Zone, where the internet and cell phones are banned so astronomers can scan the sky for signs of alien life. But there's another story too — a story about a locked classroom, an active shooter, and a media cycle that refuses to let Simon go, even years later. To everyone who knows what happened, Simon is either a miracle or a sob story. But Simon just wants to be Simon: a twelve-year-old in high tops and a Minecraft hoodie. Moving to the last town in America where no one can Google you is a chance for Simon to start fresh. To rewrite the narrative. And with the help of two new friends, a puppy, and a giant radio telescope, he's determined to say something new.

gordon korman memorable characters: Is There a Boy Like Me? Carter Kern, 2024-10-01 A powerful novel that challenges the limitations and pressures placed on boys today. London feels stuck. His school friends think he's this confident kid who likes video games and will kick your butt if you get on his bad side. His high-achieving parents think he's a genius coder and are pushing him to pursue that as a future career. None of this is true. London feels anxiety in crowds, and what he really wants to do is be by himself and read books. Not knowing what else to do, London starts an anonymous online comic called *Is There a Boy Like Me*, where he expresses his true feelings and explores what his life would be like if he could just be who he wanted to be. When the comic goes viral, it starts a global conversation about what being a boy really means, with London directly in the middle of it all.

gordon korman memorable characters: How to Be a Goldfish Jane Baird Warren, 2022-10-01 Some family secrets feel too big to share... When her teacher assigns a family tree project for parents' day, Lizzie knows it won't be long until Scotch Gully's gossips start up again. Most folks in her conservative town are used to the fact that she's the only kid with an unmarried mom, but when Lizzie's family tree research uncovers a shocking secret about her grandmother, Lizzie knows that certain townsfolk will start their back-fence talk about her family once more. She turns to Harry — who's been like a grandfather to her — for help and advice, but Harry has problems of his own. Someone has arrived at his farm claiming to own it, and is forcing Harry out. Now Lizzie must face losing Harry and the place that's been her second home. Lizzie finds a surprising ally in David, the

new owner's son. Together, their sleuthing uncovers the keys to saving Harry and his farm, but sharing the secrets she and David have uncovered will put Lizzie's complicated family on centre stage. Told in the alternating voices of Lizzie and David, *How to Be a Goldfish* is a compelling, heartfelt, humorous read about acceptance and understanding, and will provide a gentle introduction to discussions about alternative families, homosexuality, feminism, forced adoptions and social justice

gordon korman memorable characters: In My Enemy's House Carol Matas, 2013-02-01 I survived. Protected by the Nazis that killed my family. Could I ever forgive myself? Award-winning novelist Carol Matas brings readers into the heart of Nazi Germany with the harrowing story of Marisa, a Polish Jew whose blond hair and blue eyes make it easy for her to pass as a Christian. With the Nazis ready to herd the remaining Jews of her town into a ghetto, and with her family either scattered or dead, Marisa takes the papers of a Polish girl and goes to Germany in a desperate attempt to survive as a Polish worker. Marisa finds work as a servant for the Reymanns, a German family that treats her with respect. But she must never forget that Herr Reymann is a high-ranking Nazi. Marisa is hiding in plain sight in her enemy's house. This unflinching account of Marisa's dilemma as a Jew living a lie in order to survive will give readers a new perspective on the nature of good and evil, even as it touches their hearts.

gordon korman memorable characters: The Superteacher Project Gordon Korman, 2023-02-07 It's *The Unteachables* meets *I, Robot* in another funny middle school tale from Gordon Korman! It's the start of a new school year and Oliver is looking forward to a seventh-grade year full of spitballs, jokes and pranks with his friend Nathan. And their new homeroom teacher, Mr. Aidact, looks like a prime target. He's an odd duck — with a weird, stilted vocabulary, an unusual way of looking at things, and a strangely old student teacher constantly in tow. He also has a seemingly superhuman ability to detect and defuse almost every one of Oliver's schemes. But that's not all of it. Mr. Aidact seems to be teaching pretty much every subject. He's willing to take over jobs no other teacher will, like supervising detention and coaching the field hockey team. Oliver and Nathan are determined to find out what is up with this guy. What they uncover is out of this world! Mr. Aidact is, in fact, superhuman — he's an android, a secret project of the Department of Education. And when the secret leaks out, the school and the PTA are in an uproar, and calls for his deactivation are loud and clear. Can Oliver and his friends turn this plan around and save the teacher they've grown to love and appreciate?

gordon korman memorable characters: Autumn Bird and the Runaway Melanie Florence, Richard Scrimger, 2022-07-04 Two kids from different worlds form an unexpected friendship. Cody's home life is a messy, too-often terrifying story of neglect and abuse. Cody himself is a smart kid, a survivor with a wicked sense of humour that helps him see past his circumstances and begin to try to get himself out. Autumn is, quite literally, on the other side of the tracks from him. Her home life is loving and secure, and she is in with the popular girls at school, even if she has a secret life as a glasses-wearing, self-professed comic book nerd at home. And even if the pressure to fit in at school requires hours of time spent making herself look perfect. Returning home from a movie one evening, Autumn comes across Cody, face down in the laneway behind her house. All Cody knows is that he can't take another beating from his father like the one he just narrowly escaped. He can't go home, but he doesn't have anywhere else to go either. Autumn won't turn her back on him, even if they never really were friends at school. She agrees to let him hide out in her dad's art studio at night. Over the next couple of days of Autumn sneaking Cody food and bandages, his story comes out. And so does hers. Told in alternating narratives, *Autumn Bird and the Runaway* is a breathtaking collaboration by two of Canada's finest writers of books for young readers. Infused with themes of identity, belonging and compassion, it's a story that reminds us that we are all more than our circumstances, and we are all more connected than we think

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