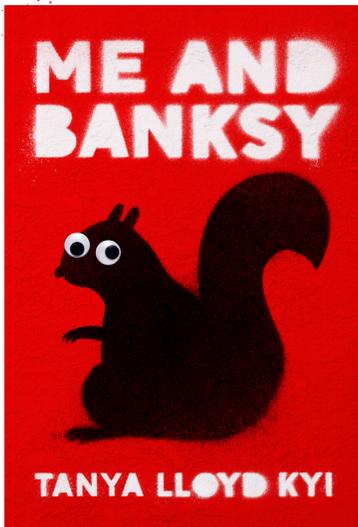


ME AND BANKSY EDUCATORS' GUIDE



ABOUT THE BOOK

A Banksy-style protest against cameras in classrooms brings a group of middle-grade students together. For fans of Rebecca Stead, Susin Nielsen and Gordon Korman.

Dominica's private school is covered in cameras, and someone is hacking into them and posting embarrassing moments for the whole school to see. Like Ana picking her nose. When Dominica quickly changes her shirt from inside out in what she thinks is the privacy of a quiet corner in the library, she's shocked — and embarrassed — to discover a video has captured her and is currently circulating amongst her schoolmates. So mortifying, especially since over the past three years, they've had a half-dozen school talks about social media safety.

Who has access to the school security cameras, and why are they doing this? Dominica and her best friends Holden and Saanvi are determined to find out, and in the process start an art-based student campaign against cameras in the classroom.

Recommended for grades 5 and up.
Lexile Reading Level: 660L

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Tanya Lloyd Kyi worked as a typesetter, graphic designer and photo editor before pursuing writing full-time. She is the author of *Mya's Strategy to Save the World* as well as many non-fiction titles, including *Shadow Warrior*, nominated for the ALA's Amelia Bloomer Project List, and *Eyes and Spies: How You're Tracked and Why You Should Know*, which won the Montaigne Medal Award. She is also the author of middle-grade and YA novels, including *Anywhere but Here*, which was praised by *Kirkus Reviews* as having a main character whose "voice is convincingly filled with a combination of angst and nonchalance," and *The Prince of Pot*, shortlisted for the OLA White Pine Award.

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DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- In Chapter 1, Dominica stops and waves at the security camera as she is leaving the restaurant with her mother and grandmother. Why does she wave? Have you noticed security cameras in any places that you commonly visit? Do the cameras make you feel uncomfortable at all? Why or why not?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- In Chapter 2, Dominica mentions the school ID tags that she and her classmates had been given a few weeks earlier. How does she feel about the tags? What reason was given for the installation of the security cameras in the first place? What are some other ways the school monitors or “keeps track” of the students?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- In Chapter 2, Dominica explains that her mother has a “social media phobia.” What does this mean? Why do you think Dominica’s mom (and a lot of other parents) don’t want their children to use social media sites? What are some examples of social media sites that you know of? Do you use any social media sites regularly?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- In Chapter 3, Dominica references a set of mugs that her friend Saanvi had given to Dominica and Holden. The slogan on the mugs reads, “There’s the family you get and the family you choose.” What does this mean? Who does Dominica consider her “chosen family?” Do you have a “chosen family?”
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- In Chapter 4, Dominica looks up the meaning of the word “subversive.” What does subversive mean? Why is Banksy considered to be subversive?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- After the video of Dominica is posted online, Dominica begins to feel a range of physical and emotional feelings. What are some of the ways she describes the way she is feeling both physically and emotionally (for example, she feels rage, humiliation, physically ill, mad, cringey, shaky, embarrassment, fury)? Can you think of a time you have experienced a physical and emotional reaction to something with such intensity?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

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- In Chapter 6, Dominica writes the proposal for her project about Banksy’s street art. What are the reasons she lists for wanting to study Banksy? Do you think the project that Dominica starts with her friends later on in the story is brave in the same way Dominica considers Banksy’s art to be brave? Dominica also mentions that Banksy “inspires” her. What does it mean to be inspired? Who is somebody that you know or have learned about that inspires you?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

- In Chapter 6, Saanvi thinks that she and Dominica need to tell somebody about the video of Dominica. Why does Saanvi think it is important to tell a trusted adult? And why is Dominica so scared of telling her mother and grandmother if she didn’t do anything wrong? Have you ever been in a situation where you needed to get help from a trusted adult but were nervous to do so? Who are some trusted adults in your life that you could ask for help should you need it?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

- In Chapter 7, Dominica’s mom gives Dominica “mom advice”: “The best thing to do is to avoid getting into a situation you can’t control . . . That means sticking with your friends, making good decisions, and keeping your head clear.” This advice, while well-intentioned, does not really apply to Dominica’s problem. Could Dominica have avoided getting herself into this situation? If so, how? If not, why not?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

- In Chapter 8, Dominica remembers back to when Holden’s mother had described the concept of the panopticon. Given the current situation in Dominica’s school, this description now seems important to Dominica. Why does she choose to write “PANOPTICON” underneath the lens of the hallway camera? How does the concept behind the panopticon connect to what is happening at Dominica’s school?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

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- In Chapter 9, Dominica thinks about the idea of friendship in relation to Banksy. She guesses that “Banksy must be a good sort of friend.” Why does she think this? How does this connect to Dominica’s friendships in the story? What qualities do you most value in a friend?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- In Chapter 12, Saanvi compares the situation at the school to living in a “surveillance state.” What does surveillance state mean? Why does Saanvi make the comparison with the Mitch?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- In Chapter 13, Ms. Sutton makes a statement for the students to discuss: “Artists have a responsibility to speak about political issues.” Do you agree or disagree? Explain your thinking. How does this connect to Dominica and her friends’ decision to create the installation at the end of the book?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- In Chapter 15, Dominica confronts George about spying on her. Why did George feel the need to spy?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- Once Dominica and her friends have revealed the installation, one of the reporters at the reception asks the principal, “Do you consider this vandalism?” What is the definition of vandalism? Would the installation that Dominica and her friends created qualify as vandalism? Why or why not?
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.4
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1
- Throughout the story, different characters have embarrassing videos posted of themselves online: Dominica, Ana, Miranda and Marcus. Each of the characters reacts in a different way. How do they react? Is there a correct way to act in such a situation? Explain your thinking.
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.5
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

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- When the security cameras were first introduced at the Mitch, Holden and his mother were vocally opposed to them. How did Dominica’s opinion of the use of security cameras at the school change over the course of the text?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Imitating vs. stealing

The book opens with:

The bad artists imitate, the great artists steal.

— ~~PABLO PICASSO~~

— ~~BANKSY~~

—DOMINICA RIVERS

What do you think this saying means with respect to the differences between imitating and stealing? If stealing here is meant to be more about finding inspiration in another’s art (for example, as Dominica said she found Banksy’s art to be “inspiring”), think of an artist you find inspiring. The artist could be a visual artist, musician, actor, writer, poet or any other type of artist that you enjoy. Explain to a partner what it is about your selected artist’s work that inspires you. Using one of the selected artist’s pieces of art as inspiration (for example, a painting, song, movie, poem, etc.), create your own piece of art.

The type of art you create does not need to be the same form as the type of art the artist you selected makes. For example, if you enjoy a particular musician’s art, you may wish to use a song as inspiration for a painting. Or if there is an author you really enjoy, then you might want to write lyrics to a song based on a favorite story of theirs. The idea is to pick a piece of art and let it inspire you to create something of your own!

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

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Inspiring figures

Dominica was assigned a project to research somebody who inspired her. She chose Banksy, somebody who challenges society's ethics and challenges the way Dominica looks at the world. Banksy's action through art inspires Dominica and her friends to take action at their school. There are many inspiring figures in the world today (artists, scientists, researchers, etc.,) that can spur us to act for change. Select an inspiring young figure to research and write about. Some examples include:

- Greta Thunberg
- Melati and Isabel Wijsen
- Kelvin Doe
- Emma Gonzalez
- Jaylen Arnold
- Malala Yousafzai

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.7

Security breeds success

The motto of Dominica's school translates to "Security Breeds Success." The principal explains that the school prides itself ". . . on creating a safe, nurturing environment in which our students can explore their talents." Does the motto prove to be true for Dominica and her friends' experiences at the school?

Most people would argue that feeling secure is an important part of students succeeding at school. What were some of the measures put into place at Dominica's school in the name of keeping students safe? What are some of the advantages and disadvantages of using these measures?

Think about what kinds of things make you feel the most secure at your school. In small groups, talk about what your school does already to make you feel safe: for example, having teachers who you can talk to about a problem, or maybe even there being security cameras in your school. Then write 2-3 paragraphs that explain what you think is most important for your school to have to make you feel secure.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

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Social media safety

Navigating the world of social media can be challenging, which is likely why Dominica's mom won't let Dominica be involved until she turns 16. There are certain things that people who choose to use social media can do to help themselves and their peers stay safe. In partners, brainstorm a list of 5-10 things people can do when using social media to help keep themselves and their peers safe. This may include rules about what you post online about yourself and others, the types of things you share and who you share them with, what to do if you witness somebody being bullied online, and how to ensure that your privacy is respected. Then share your ideas with the class.

Imagine you have been asked to write a social media handbook for somebody who is entirely new to the social media world. What kinds of things do you think somebody new to social media should consider? And what are some hard and fast rules to always obey when engaging on social media?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1

Graffiti as art

Banksy's art is clever and makes an impact. But some may argue that any graffiti (defined as writing or drawing on public property) is just vandalism. Research some of the more famous street artists (such as Banksy, Shepard Fairey, Saber, Lady Pink) to see examples of their work. What do you think? Is their work art, vandalism or both? Write a short expository essay (3-4 paragraphs) that answers the question, Is graffiti art?

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.7

CONNECTIONS TO COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

Reading

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.1 Cite textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.3 Describe how a particular story's or drama's plot unfolds in a series of episodes as well as how the characters respond or change as the plot moves toward a resolution.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.4 Determine the meaning of words and phrases as they are used in a text, including figurative and connotative meanings; analyze the impact of a specific word choice on meaning and tone.

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- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RL.6.5 Analyze how a particular sentence, chapter, scene or stanza fits into the overall structure of a text and contributes to the development of the theme, setting or plot.

Writing

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.2 Write informative/explanatory texts to examine a topic and convey ideas, concepts and information through the selection, organization and analysis of relevant content.
- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.W.6.7 Conduct short research projects to answer a question, drawing on several sources and refocusing the inquiry when appropriate.

Speaking and Listening

- CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.SL.6.1 Engage effectively in a range of collaborative discussions (one-on-one, in groups and teacher-led) with diverse partners on grade 6 topics, texts, and issues, building on others' ideas and expressing their own clearly.

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