

EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

# SCHOOL TRIP

By *New York Times* bestselling author

JERRY CRAFT

Companion to the  
Newbery Medal Winner

NEW KID

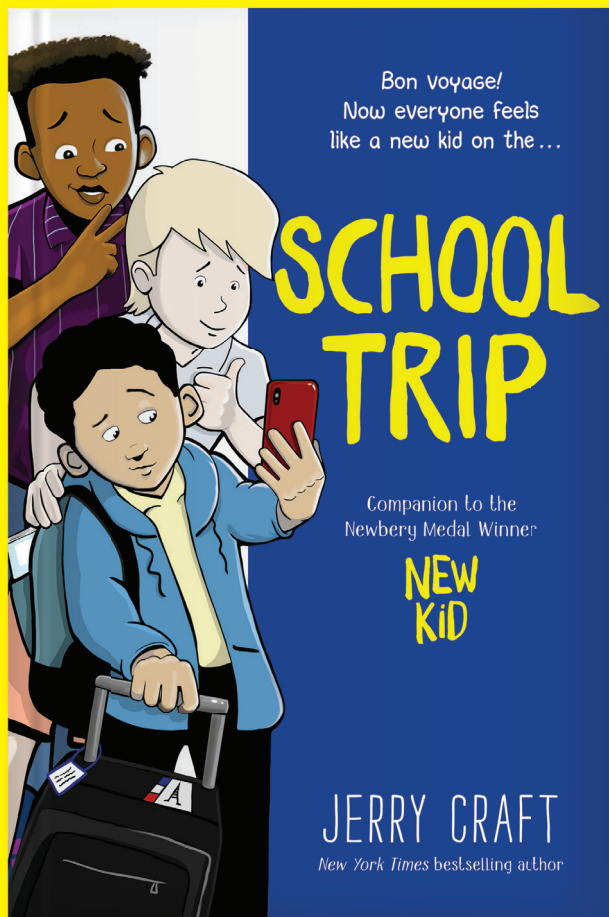


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HARPER  
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HARPER  
ALLEY



## ABOUT THE BOOK

Jordan, Drew, Liam, and the rest of your favorite characters from Riverdale Academy Day School are finally heading out on their long-awaited school trip to Paris. As an aspiring artist himself, Jordan can't wait to see all the amazing art in the famous city of lights.

When their trusted faculty guides are replaced at the last minute, the school trip takes an unexpected—and hilarious—turn. But trying to find their way around a foreign city ends up being almost as tricky as navigating the same friendships, fears, and differences that they struggle with at home.

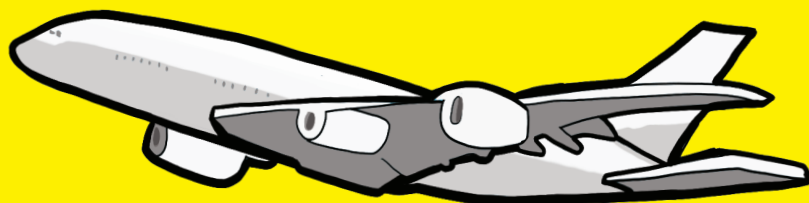
Will Jordan and his friends embrace being exposed to a new language, unfamiliar food, and a different culture? Or will they all end up feeling like the “new kid”?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

**Jerry Craft** is the author-illustrator of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling graphic novel *New Kid* and its companion book, *Class Act*. *New Kid* was the first book in history to win the Newbery Medal, the Coretta Scott King Author Award, and the Kirkus Prize for Young Readers' Literature. In his latest book, *School Trip*, Jerry hopes to share his love of travel in order to inspire kids and their families to see the world and embrace new cultures. He received his BFA from the School of Visual Arts and now lives in Florida.



Photo by Hollis King



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

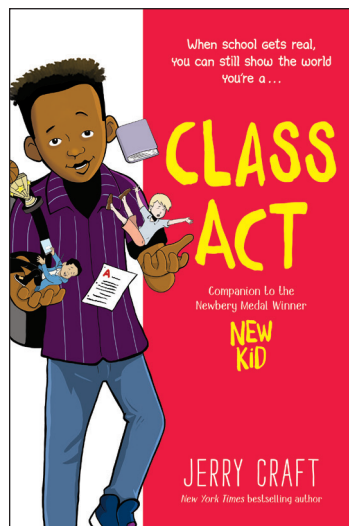
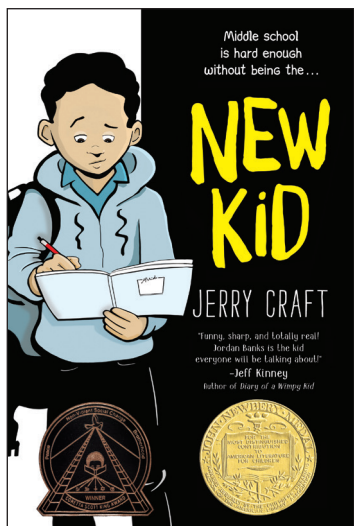
1. *School Trip* begins with Jordan deciding if he wants to go to the art school of his dreams or stay at Riverdale Academy Day School with his friends. Why do you think this is such a tough decision for him? What advice would you give to Jordan? Have you ever had to make a tough decision like this?
2. When Jordan finds out that he has been selected to go on the trip to Paris, he is both excited and nervous. What are his reasons for each of these feelings? How do some of his classmates feel? How would you feel?
3. Jordan's family is very important to him. Compare Jordan's family with those of his friends Liam, Drew, and Maury. How are they the same? How are they different? How do each of the kids feel about their family members and surroundings? Which relationships are most like any that you have?
4. When the class checks into the hotel in Paris, Jordan is concerned that Ramon may end up having to share a room with Andy. Why is he worried? What do you think would happen if they shared a room? Are you glad that Jordan took Ramon's place? Do you think that Andy is a bully, or that he just doesn't realize that some of the things he does or says are hurtful?
5. How does Ashley feel about her best friend, Ruby, choosing not to go with her to Paris? Do you think that Ruby should have gone so they could be together? Or that she should have gone to Yellowstone, which is where she really wanted to go? Do you think that Ashley really likes Alexandra and Samira in the beginning of the trip, or do you think she only wants to hang out with them to make Ruby jealous?
6. Maury and Ramon both play big roles in *School Trip*. What are some difficulties that Ramon has faced at school? What are ways that Maury wants to help Ramon, and why? How do you feel about the conversation that Drew and Maury have about why they were never friends? (pp. 167–169) Have you ever become friends with someone who you didn't think you would like when you first met them?
7. Part of Jordan's personality is that he notices little details about everything. What are some of the differences that he notices between how we live in the United States and how people live in France? What parts of French life and culture especially appeal to him? What parts don't? What are some highlights of the trip and how do those experiences bring the group closer together? Which of the sights that Jordan and his friends saw would you most like to see?
8. Andy doesn't understand why it's funny when Samira teases her friends, but when he does, "it's mean." (p. 123) Discuss Samira's explanation to Andy and "Samira's Guide to Insulting People" (pp. 124–125). Do you agree with Samira's observations and tips, such as "Never tease someone about things they can't change."? (p. 125) Have you ever teased someone and then found out later that you hurt their feelings? If so, how did it make you feel?





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9. Jordan is sad when he thinks that his friends from around his neighborhood don't have the same dreams and goals that his friends from school have. Why does he feel that way? Do you think he's right? If so, why? Why does he say, "How do you give someone a dream when they don't know that they're allowed to dream?" (p. 131) Why does he give Kirk a Euro and have him promise to go to Paris someday? (pp. 227–228) Do you think Kirk will go?
10. One of the most interesting parts of the trip to Paris is the different types of food. Some of the kids try new things, while others (like Andy) stick to the same things they eat back home. Which type of person are you? What is the most unfamiliar food that you have ever tried? Are you glad you did?
11. Why does Miss Brickner, the librarian, start to buy different types of books for the library? Why is it hard for her to buy them? Discuss what types of books you wish you saw more of in your own library?
12. In addition to Miss Brickner, how does the school, including individual teachers, change in good ways? Give specific examples and explain what brought about each change. To what extent did students help change the school and teachers? Which students were most influential?
13. Jerry Craft, the author-illustrator of *New Kid*, *Class Act*, and *School Trip*, says that he loves to put Easter eggs in his graphic novels. What do you think that term means? Did you find any of these Easter eggs in *School Trip*?



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