Chasing the Falconers

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Book Eval by Mrs. Kyle’s Class

 Aiden and Meg Falconer are the main characters in Chasing the Falconers. Aiden is 15 years old and a rule follower. Aiden is not a risk taker. He likes to play it safe. Aiden is a thinker. He thinks about what he and Meg need to do before doing it. Aiden has a picture-perfect mind and he’s smart. He remembers the photo and where a beach house was from 9 years before. Aiden is using information from his Dad’s mystery books to help them on the run. Aiden has shaved his hair and dyed it black so he doesn’t look like all the pictures on TV. Meg is Aiden’s 11-year-old sister. She has cut her long hair short like a boy and bleached it blond. She is opposite of Aiden because she takes risks. She stood up to Miguel, a juvenile delinquent bad guy. Meg is impulsive, she acts before she thinks. She covered Miguel’s eyes (the other fugitive from Sunnydale, an actual criminal) while he was driving even though it could have caused an accident. She also quickly ate her ham sandwich without thinking to save a portion for later. Meg likes to argue with Aiden and give him a hard time. Aiden and Meg’s parents are in prison for treason. Aiden and Meg believe their parents are innocent and are out to prove it.

 The setting starts out with our characters at Sunnydale Farm in the middle of a cornfield in Nebraska. There is nothing but miles of flat cornfields as far as the eye could see. Sunnydale isn’t a true farm, but a juvenile detention center. Aiden and Meg escape during a fire and are now on the run. They travel from Nebraska to Chicago as stow aways on a train. They help Miguel steal a Tahoe and drive to Ohio where they are stealing gas from a van at a gas station. Aiden and Meg want to go to Vermont to look for evidence that will free their parents. Aiden, Meg and Miguel get to Miguel’s brother’s house in New Jersey, only to be turned away. They drive the Tahoe to Vermont, where the kids almost get caught at a hotel. They find the old summer lake house this is on the shores of Lake Champlain. They find the picture of Uncle Frank, they guy that could have clues that would prove their parent’s innocence, only to meet a bald assassin. After Miguel is shot, Aiden and Meg steal an ATV and are hiding out in an old abandoned barn somewhere in Vermont.

 The dialogue that helps me understand Meg is: Shaken and terrified, Meg glared right back into the teeth of his rage. “I’ll crash the two of us, don’t think I won’t! *I’m not leaving my brother!”* This is evidence that back up my ideas that Meg is a risk taker. She stands up to Miguel, a kid charged with manslaughter. It also lets me know how much she cares for her brother and her family. She cares more about her brother than her own life. She will not be bullied by anyone.

 At the beginning of the story Meg and Aiden are in a juvenile detention center because their parents are in prison for treason and none of their relatives want them at their house. Sunnydale is a horrible place full of criminal kids and Aiden and Meg do not belong there. Aiden accidentally starts a fire and they both escape. Their goal is to get as far away as possible, but then Aiden remembers a summer cottage in Vermont that may hold clues that will prove the innocence of their parents.

 In the middle of the story Meg and Aiden team up with Miguel to escape the authorities. They hop on a freight train that takes them to Chicago. They escape the police there and steal a car. They get as far as Ohio before needing to fill up with gas. Aiden siphons gas from a van, but gets caught by the owner of the van. Aiden gets away and the kids take the Tahoe to New Jersey. Miguel joins the Falconers on their trip to Vermont when Miguel’s brother turns him away. Then kids finally make it to the lake house in Colchester, Vermont after narrowly escape getting caught in a hotel in Vermont.

 At the end of the story the kids are in the lake house where they find the photo of Frank Lindenhaur, the CIA agent that their parents were working for. They are hoping the picture will help find Frank and clear their parents’ names. While they are at the house, a bald assassin tries to kill them. Miguel gets shot in the shoulder and Aiden saves him by knocking out the bald guy with a mounted Muskie fish. Miguel is taken to the hospital, while Aiden and Meg escape on an ATV. They are hiding out in an old abandoned barn.

 The theme of Chasing the Falconers is – believe in your instincts and work together to accomplish your goal. Aiden and Meg believed that their parents are innocent. When they escape Sunnydale, they made a goal to go to Vermont to get clues to prove their parents are innocent. By working together with Miguel, the kids made it to Vermont. They kids are going to continue to work together to prove their parents’ innocence.

 My unfamiliar word is treason. Treason is an act against their country to sell secrets to the enemy. I found the definition by reading on. This is what the book said - Now the Department of Homeland Security accused the two criminologists of aiding the enemies of their country. The crime was treason.

 Chasing the Falconers is written in third person because the narrator is telling the story. The narrator uses the character’s names and words like they, he and she instead of I, me, and we. An example from the book – Without their CIA handler, the Falconers had no way to defend themselves.