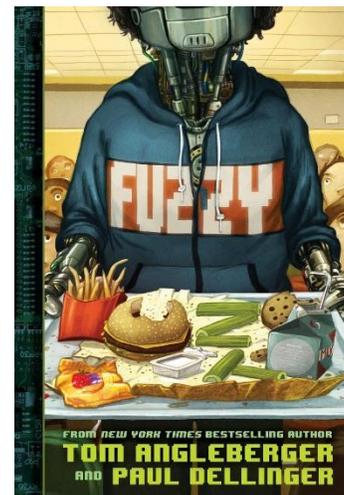# Kids Book Club Kit | Darien Library

Fuzzy by Tom Angleberger and Paul Dellinger

Recommended for grades 4 to 6

Summary: Maxine attends Vanguard One, a futuristic school with a computer for a principal. The school has just launched a Robot Integration Program and welcomed an intelligent robot named Fuzzy as its newest student. Fuzzy needs guidance, and Max is more than happy to help him adjust to middle school madness. Before long, though, their friendship is threatened as strange happenings at the school could cause the Robot Integration Program to shut down. Max and Fuzzy must use their smarts to save themselves from the sinister activities taking place all around them.

Discussion Questions:

1. Fuzzy's name is explained as a reference to "fuzzy logic." What does "fuzzy logic" mean?
2. Fuzzy begins to act more human each day, while remaining a robot. What are some examples of his humanity we see in the story? What are some examples of his robotic side?
3. Name some examples of technology at Vanguard One. How do these technologies have either a positive or negative effect on the students? What technology would you most like to have? Why?
4. Why does Max's mom dislike robots? Do you think we might feel the same way in the future? Why or why not?
5. There are many characters in this book that could be considered antagonistic. Name a few and give examples of how they were antagonistic to either Max or Fuzzy.
6. Why was Barbara a better candidate for the exploration of Mars than Fuzzy?
7. On page 218, Jones says heroes "defy orders and break rules! They use fuzzy logic and take crazy changes." According to this definition, who is the hero of this story? Give some examples of that character's heroism.
8. Why was Max struggling to pass her Constant UpGrade tests despite the studying that she was doing? What was the motivation behind making sure she was DownGrading?
9. Would you want to have Fuzzy as a sidekick or friend in school? Why or why not?
10. Early in the book, Barbara seems to have labeled Max a "bad kid." Is she? Why or why not?
11. Give some examples from the book that show someone is always watching or listening at Vanguard One. Do you think this is a good way to control student behavior? Why or why not?
12. What genre does this book fall under? Give some examples from the story that support your answer.

Further Resources:
Kirkus Review: https://dar.to/3sXnnvN
Hour of Code: https://dar.to/2PrsWVo
NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory: https://dar.to/3npXnb7

Activities

1. Interview your parent/caregiver about what technologies they used when they were in middle school. Compare those technologies with the ones you use now. Considering the differences between the technology you use and what your caregiver used, what do you think technology will be like in the future?
2. Fuzzy had a difficult time maneuvering down the hallways in Vanguard One. With a group, create an obstacle course using materials you can easily access such as chairs, masking tape, other people, etc. How quickly can you each maneuver your way through the course? What obstacles made it most challenging?