

# Mia Mayhem is a Superhero!

By Kara West

## Before Reading

Look at the cover together. Talk about clues that hint that Mia is a superhero.

Discuss the word *mayhem* (no, it's not Mia's last name). Do you know what it means? If not, look it up in the dictionary. Keep the definition in mind as you read page 1 of the story. On page 5, you'll find a good synonym for *mayhem*. (Look at the bottom of the page. It starts with the letter c.)

## While Reading

Mia gets two really big surprises at the beginning of the book! After reading the first two chapters, talk about what happens to Mia. How does she feel about it?

Mia always thought she was a super-klutz. In fact, she has superpowers! The problem is, she doesn't know what they are. What can you infer about Mia's superpowers based on the kinds of things that happen around her? What kinds of superpowers do her parents have?

How would you describe Mia's first day at PITS? Give examples to support your answers.

## After Reading

Talk about your connections to the book. PITS is the perfect program for Mia. Share what the perfect program for you would be. What would you study? What would the classes be called?

It takes Mia a while to come up with her superhero name! She finally settles on Mia Mayhem, based on the chaos she can cause. Think about the effect you have on the people around you. What should your superhero name be?

### Literacy Tip

Chapter titles are supposed to hook the reader (meaning get the reader's attention). Often they give a hint about what's coming without giving away too much. Together, read through the chapter titles in the table of contents. Talk about which chapter titles are the most successful and explain why.

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## Think About It!

There are some very funny names in this book! There's Dr. Sue Perb (as in *superb*, which means *fantastic* or *awesome*) and Professor Stu Pendous (as in *stupendous*, which means *amazing*). What are some of your favorite words? Can you turn them into funny names for superheroes or villains?

## Get Up and Do It!

Your turn! Try out Mia's superhero poses! Turn to pages 116–117. Can you model all four of Mia's poses? While you're at it, try a few of your own!