**Restart**

*Gordon Korman*

**GENRE:** Realistic Fiction  
**LEXILE:** 730

**RELEVANT WEBSITES:**  
[Gordon Korman’s Website](#)  
[Good Reads](#)  
[Scholastic Book Trailer](#)  
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**BOOK SUMMARY:** When a fall from a roof wipes out Chase Ambrose’s memory, he has to restart his life. Upon returning to school, Chase is puzzled by the differences in the way that others treat him. Some are happy to see him while others steer clear of him. Can Chase figure out who he was before? More importantly, does he want to be who he was before?

**BOOKTALK:** Chase Ambrose is a football star with a lot of friends. He holds the title of King of Hiawassee Middle School. Unfortunately, he is also the school’s biggest bully. In fact, a student had to transfer schools to escape Chase’s wrath. Chase doesn’t remember the fall that caused his amnesia or the reason he was on the roof to begin with. Chase does remember the basics like talking and walking, but he cannot remember his parents or his friends. His return to school brings more confusion as the students react to him in very different ways. Some hail him as a hero while others act afraid. Even more confusing is the fact that he is serving a community service obligation with his friends without having any recollection of what he did to earn the punishment. His old friends, while unkind to others, are ready to welcome him back; but Chase is unsure if he likes the person he was before the accident. Journey with Chase as he embarks on the rare opportunity to restart his life. Which path will he choose: the old, mean Chase or the new kinder, gentler Chase? Will he use this restart as a gift? Can people really change?

**DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**
1. Shoshanna Weber’s brother transferred to another school largely because he was Chase’s number one victim. After the accident, Chase actually smiles at Shoshanna upon seeing her. How would you feel if you were Shoshanna?
2. What do you think of Chase’s friends Aaron and Bear?
3. After the accident, what changes do we see in Chase?
4. What are the differences and similarities between Chase and Mr. Solway?
5. Do you believe Chase has really changed? Do you think he can ever truly escape his reputation as a cruel bully?

**IF YOU ENJOYED THIS, YOU MIGHT ALSO ENJOY:**
1. *Swindle* by Gordon Korman  
2. *Wonder* by R.J. Palacio  
3. *Real Friends* by Shannon Hale

**ACTIVITY SHEET CREATED BY:** Kara Taylor/Corp Media Specialist/Covington