Greetings from Witness Protection

Jake Burt

GENRE: Realistic Fiction; Humor; Adventure

BOOK SUMMARY
For Nikki Demere, life has been difficult. Her mother died when she was young; her father is in jail, and she has been in the foster system ever since her grandmother died. Before her grandmother died, she taught Nikki the family trade for lying, pick-pocketing, and stealing. So with skills like that, there are not too many people who want to adopt or even foster Nikki. But her life takes a turn when two FBI agents request her participation in a new program. Now all that Nikki needs to do is to make the world think she is the daughter of a wealthy family with ties to organized crime in the Witness Protection program and keep them alive.

BOOK TALK
Have you ever wanted to switch your family for another one? You know--get a new mother, a new father, maybe even have a little brother. Have you ever wanted to just start fresh? New name, new home, new everything. Well for Nikki, whether she wants it or not, she’s going to get it. Foster homes come and go for Nikki. She never got stuck with a great foster home--a home where the foster family wants to keep her for longer than a few months--only the lucky kids get that. But when two FBI agents come to the Center (her home when the foster families return her), it just might be that she’s the lucky one and she just might stick after all. The catch--she has to pretend to be part of a new family. She has to lie to everyone she meets—and, oh, there are powerful, dangerous men trying to kill her and her new family.

LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES
- **Official Website**: https://us.macmillan.com/books/9781250107114
- **Author**: http://www.jburtbooks.com/
- **Other**: Mr Shu reviews http://mrschureads.blogspot.com/2017/12/greetings-from-witness-protection-by.html
- **TeachingBooks.net through INSPIRE**: www.teachingbooks.net/qlnd3po

MAKERSPACE ACTIVITY
Create a new name like Nikki did in the book. Nikki used CAT for initials and then came up with her new name. Start with initials and then create the three names based on meanings of the names. Go to http://www.momjunction.com/baby-names/#gref and then make a personalized name plate of real or created name https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qIDzxmS2eWU

Try a paper circuit name plate https://www.makerspaces.com/paper-circuits or LED http://www.instructables.com/id/Paper-Circuits-LED-Name-Tag

For another activity, Nikki/ Charlotte was determined to protect her new family. Create a laser tripwire and alarm by following these instructions: https://makezine.com/projects/laser-tripwire-and-alarm-using-snap-circuits/
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. If you were Nikki/Charlotte, how would you begin to build a relationship with your new family? What are some ways you would try to build a relationship with your new mother, new father, and new little brother?

2. Why do you think Nikki keeps writing to her father, but she never really sends them anywhere?

3. A kleptomaniac is a person who has an impulse control disorder to steal. Why do you think that Nikki tends to steal only certain things from certain people? Do you think the items that she steals has any meaning for her as they do for the people from whom she steals?

4. How would you feel if you had to pretend that you were an average B- student? What are some of the things you would have to do to make sure you weren’t “memorable”?

5. It was hard for Nikki/Charlotte to keep all of her secrets—not just her new family’s secrets but her old family’s secrets as well. To what degree would you keep your family secrets safe? Are there some family secrets that should never be secret? Who can you trust with your secrets?

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE

- Mystery/Suspense: Gallagher Girls by Ally Carter
- Mystery/Suspense: Fake ID by Lamar Giles
- Realistic Fiction: Hush by Jacqueline Woodson

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