Miles Morales
Jason Reynolds

GENRE: Action/Adventure or Fantasy - Superheroes

BOOK SUMMARY
Sixteen year old Miles Morales is from the Brooklyn projects; but under the surface, he’s not your normal teenager. Yes--he is in and out of trouble in school, has trouble talking to girls, and even rebels against his parents; but he is also Spider-Man which means he fights crime on the streets, slings a mean web, and can go into “camo” mode to hide. His troubles are mounting as Miles struggles with being biracial, his family’s past, and a mean school administrator who also has secrets. Miles must decide to continue his superhero ways or walk away from the crime fighting life into something else.

BOOK TALK
Award winning author Jason Reynolds spins a new web in the Spider-Man saga with Miles Morales. Miles has the same Spidey senses and web slinging abilities that you are familiar with. However, this superhero is struggling with his racial identity, a crush on a classmate, and his role as a crime fighter, not to mention his recurring dreams about a white cat. It’s when his troubled past collides with the trouble he’s facing with school administration that Miles must make a decision. Will he walk away from the crime fighting life and be a normal teenager, or will he accept the fact that “with great power, comes great responsibility.”

LINKS TO HELPFUL WEBSITES
● Official Book Trailer: https://youtu.be/XpEqN8yDW8s
● Author: https://www.jasonwritesbooks.com/
● Other: https://youtu.be/BjHHrSbThGE Jason Reynolds discussing Miles Morales at a bookstore event
● TeachingBooks.net through INSPIRE: www.teachingbooks.net/ql3fkbn

MAKERSPACE ACTIVITY
Makerspace - Create spiderwebs
* with yarn - https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Spider-Web
* webshooter with popsicle sticks - https://youtu.be/rETLbz9LhTQ

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS
1. In what instances does race play an important role in the story?
2. What are some examples of characters doing something wrong for the right reasons?
3. Compare and contrast your relationship with your parents and/or friends with Miles’ relationship with his parents and/or friends.

IF YOU ENJOYED THIS BOOK, YOU MIGHT ALSO LIKE
● Action: Black Panther: The Young Prince by Ronald L. Smith
● Action: Batman: Nightwalker by Marie Lu (DC Icons Series)
● Action: Ms. Marvel 1: No Normal by G. Willow Wilson (Graphic Novel Series)

Resource page created: 2019-20 YOUNG HOOSIER BOOK AWARD committee member:
Shawn Humphrey, Teacher Librarian, Riverside Junior High, Fishers, Indiana