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Starbounders

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Book Review

Starbounders

Author

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Reviewer

Rebecca Lambert

Rating

Dependable

Level

Intermediate

Pages

320

Year

2013

ISBN

9780062120229

Publisher

HarperCollins

Zachary Night comes from a long line of Starbounders, the protectors and peacekeepers of the galaxy. His parents take him to a secret base called Indigo 8, where Starbounders are trained to fight rebel aliens, move in zero gravity, and pilot spaceships. However, after only a few weeks Zachary's training is put to the test. His ship gets hijacked by intergalactic criminals who were mistakenly transported onto their ship instead of the asteroid prison. Zachary and his friends escape and call for help. But when one of their rescuers tries to kill them, they are forced to travel from planet to planet, trying to discover the true villains. As they discover a traitor and a plot to destroy Earth, it's up to Zachary and his friends to warn the other Starbounders before it's too late.

Starbounders is a middle-grade science fiction novel with some fun plot twists. The alien planets the kids travel to are interesting and unique. The technology, spacecraft, and weapons used by the Starbounders are explained well, as they deviate from science fiction norms. However, the characters were a bit bland. Some characters have enjoyable personalities, but other character development seemed either nonexistent or heavy-handed. The pace of the book was also bit too slow, with most of the excitement culminating in the last half of the book. Even with these imperfections, the excellently executed plot twists and unique science fiction elements make this a fun read for any kid who loves the genre.

*Contains mild violence.