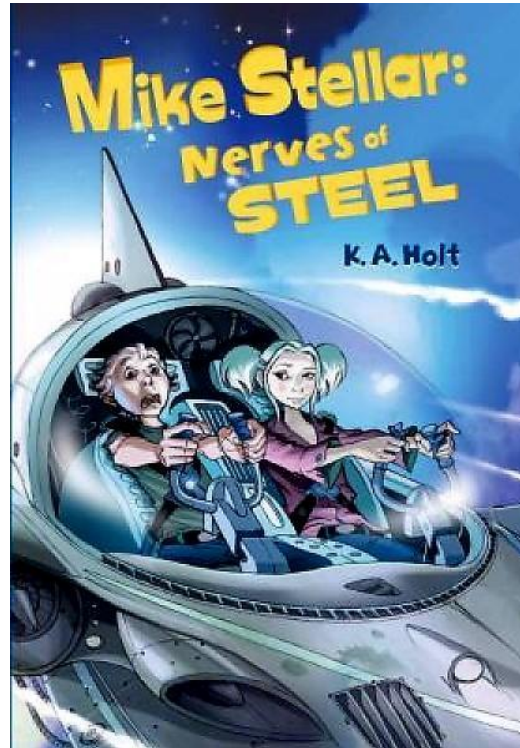


**Mike Stellar: Nerves of Steel by K. A. Holt (Random House 2009)**

*Mike is suspicious when his family joins an expedition to Mars at the last minute, and his fears are confirmed when all of the adults on the colonizing mission, including his parents, begin to act strangely.*



**Discussion Questions:**

1. In his report at the beginning of the book, Mike describes the process of terraforming. Can you tell us what this is?
2. On P. 8 Mick passes a hologram flag that shines day and night. He says it gives him the creeps. Why do you think it does?
3. At the beginning we learn that this book is set in 2174 or 160 years in the future. How is it different than the world we live in? Were there any futuristic gadgets that you really liked? ( Grassshrinker, vizator, drivedropper stores the electric car under the house, readers that are eyeglasses, peapod (telephone), con-bracelet.)
4. What things about Mike's world are similar to yours?
5. Why is Mike immediately suspicious of Shugabert? At one point why does he think his parents are sabotaging the ship?
6. P221 When Larc is revealed as a state of the art Liberation and Rescue Cyborg – how did you feel? After Larc is dissembled why does he miss her?
7. Why did Auora sabotage the first flight on the Spirit? (P.255)
8. The author says she likes to put real facts into her fiction books. So Mike's teacher Mrs. Halebopp is named after a comet. The great comet of 1997 was named after the astronomer Hale Bopp. The two major spaceships in the book are named after real ships sent to (or roving on) Mars. Spirit – in orbit around Mars, Sojourner – Mars Station. Did you find any other facts?
9. Why do you think the book is called *Mike Stellar: Nerves of Steel*?

Caroline Ward,  
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