# REMBRANDT COLLEGE - V3

# English book report

1. **Basics about the book:**

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| **Title:** | THE NEW KID |
| **Author:** | Nicholas Pine |
| **Publisher:** | Mammoth |
| **Edition**  (date of first edition): | 1995 (1st ed. on July 1, 1994) |
| **Number of pages:** | 197 (I got the teacher’s permission to read it) |

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| **Title**  **Explanation :** | Explain the title of the book.  What does it refer to? | In the beginning, Nan (the main character) is a new kid in school. So first, I thought the title was a reference to her.  But later in the book, Sam (the other main character) also goes to that school: now he is the new kid.  I think the title refers to Sam or a bit to both main characters, since they were both the new kid. |
| **Genre:** | - love story  - thriller  - biography  - psychological novel  - fairy tale  - science fiction  - detective novel  - novel of education  - . . . . . . . . . . . . | Fantasy-thriller |
| **Location:** | Sometimes it is **important** to know where it all happens in order to understand the story.   1. **Where** is the story set?   **Where** does it all happen?   1. Is it **important** to this story? 2. If so, **why** is this important to this story?   **Explain with examples from your book.** | 1. Washington 2. I don’t think so, the story could have taken place anywhere. But the exact places (school, bridge, …) were important details. 3. The details were important to be able to follow the story and make it more scary. I can’t really give literal examples from the book to explain this, because you need to read a big part to understand it. For example: when they say ‘the bridge’, you know exactly what bridge they mean. You know what happened there and it gives you a feeling that something is going to happen there, again. |

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| **Time :** | 1. **When** is the story set? 2. It is **important** to know in which period the story is set to understand what happens in the book? 3. If so, **why** is this important to the story?   **Explain with examples from your book.**   1. Is the story told in chronological order or are there flashbacks or big intervals in the story ?   **Explain with examples from your book**. | 1. I think in the time it’s written, so in 1994. But it isn’t told or made clear anywhere in the book. 2. No 3. – 4. Yes, the story is told in chronological order. There is only one big flashback, a flashback to their childhood. The beginning of the flashback: *“They were children. Sam was five, Nan was three. It was like she could see her past through Sam’s eyes. The brutal memories began to unfold in her mind. There was fighting, lots of yelling and screaming between her parents. She saw her real mother for the first time, a beautiful young woman who looked a lot like Nan did now. But then her father was there, a hateful devil with murder in his eyes.”* |

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| **Give a short description of the main character(s) (his/her looks, what he/she does, feels & wants)** | **Nan Easterly**   * Looks: wholesome; hazel eyes, short brown hair with a natural wave and streaks of auburn, tall, slender, graceful body figure like a dancer, smooth face, high cheekbones, thin nose * Does gymnasium as a sophomore. * Lives in Pitney Docks, on Taylor street. * She’s adopted, because her father is in jail for killing her mother. * She has inherited psychic abilities that come up when they’re needed. * Doesn’t think she’s attractive * Wouldn’t be possessive with a boyfriend. * Brave, well-behaved, smart; good grades. * She wants to be on the good side and doesn’t want to kill someone.   **Sam Harper**   * Looks: tall, broad-shouldered, hulking, handsome face, brown eyes, always if possible in a long leather jacket * Has amnesia in the beginning * His real surname isn’t Harper, it was just given to him. * Has inherited psychic abilities * He wants to do what’s good and cares a lot about Nan, his sister. He will do anything to protect her and do what she wants. |
| **Give a short description of the secondary character(s) (his/her looks, what he/she does, feels & wants)** | **Debbie Stark**   * Lives in Prescott Estates, Port City * Nan’s (best) friend, is often late   **Jimmy Chambers**   * Looks: cute; sandy hair and bangs, soft brown eyes, pearly smile, tanned forehead * Preppy type, popular, plays football * Likes Nan from the moment he saw her, when he still had a girlfriend.   **Ginger**   * Looks: flashy; golden-blond hair, golden-blue eyes * Very jealous and possessive with a boyfriend * Popular * She doesn’t like Nan because Ginger is jealous at her.   **Walter**   * Looks: SHADY; very tall, broad shoulders, thick arms (muscles), thick beard, flecked hazel eyes, behind bushy eyebrows, dense head of (grey) hair * He is Nan’s and Sam’s father * Has psychic abilities * Killed his wife, who he loved, because she was weak. * Has bad intentions, is drawn to the bad. * Cares about family but weakness is a no-go. |

**2. Give a short outline (plot) of the story in your own words.**

* Use no more than **15 steps** in which you outline the plot. **Number each step**.
* Make sure that someone who has not read the book, knows exactly what the book is about.
* Make sure you use the names of the characters and/or places to avoid confusion.

1. When Nan was 3 and Sam 5, their father, Walter, killed their mother. Sam told the police what happened and Walter went to jail. Nan was too young to remember. She got adopted by the Easterly’s.
2. Nan and Sam’s parents had psychic powers: they could see things from the present or the future and know things about someone with or without a touch. Nan and Sam had inherited these powers, only Nan’s were stronger than Sam’s. They didn’t know about it.
3. When Sam was older, Walter broke out of prison. He came for Sam to kill him out of revenge for sending him to prison. They got in a fight which caused Sam to have amnesia.
4. Sam was drawn to the bridge in Port City by his psychic power. Nan had just moved and had her first day at a new school and the same thing happened to her.
5. When Sam arrived at the bridge, he acted weird so people called the police.
6. Nan was driven to the bridge by Jimmy, who was interested in her. When she arrived there, she felt a special connection between her and Sam. They got caught by the police and Sam was sent to some kind of prison, “Rockland County Juvenile Detention Centre”. Nan was set free. She knew someone was trying to kill Sam.
7. Nan got in a relationship with Jimmy and she had a lot of psychic visions and dreams. Like Ginger, Jimmy’s ex who hated her, getting killed.
8. A week and a half later, Sam had gotten in a strict group home and he could go to school. He and Nan met again. But during the lessons, Walter killed Ginger so that Sam would be framed for it. Sam and Nan found her body and were taken to the police station again.
9. At the police station, Nan told about her psychic powers. Afterward, they wanted her to prove it and she got in a trance. She woke up at home, where her mother told her to stay away from Sam. But Nan knew the person trying to kill Sam was her dad. She felt Sam waiting for her at the bridge.
10. Once Nan had arrived at the bridge, she felt her father's presence. Sam had gotten his memory back and he let Nan see what happened with their parents.
11. Walter tried to get Nan to get on his side, but she didn’t cooperate. He tried to kill Sam and Nan threw him in the river. She thought he was dead.
12. Sam and Nan saw with their power that their father was climbing out of the river. They had to kill him or flight, so they flighted. They went to the school for money, but when they were separated Walter got there too.
13. Nan knew that they had to fight Walter to get happy in the future. Again, her father tried to convince her to be on his side and go with him. Sam came and Walter threatened to kill Nan with a knife. Nan knew someone was going to get killed with the knife. Sam and Walter started fighting.
14. When Walter had weakened Sam, he came for Nan. Sam was able to slow him down and Nan killed him with the knife. Sam had pulled the fire alarm, so the emergency cars arrived. They ended up in the police station once again.
15. Sam and Nan had told the police their story. Tests proved that they were indeed brother and sister. Nan had lost her powers again and Sam moved in with the Easterly’s. Everything was going to be fine.

**3.** In the text *The Seven Stories*, in your textbook on p. 76, you read that a Creative Writing teacher, Mrs Post says “that all plots are a variation of one or more of seven basic themes: **overcoming the monster, rags to riches, the quest, voyage and return, comedy, tragedy,** and **rebirth**.”

* Which two of these themes apply to your book?
* Explain this with the information taken from your book. You may have to think of them figuratively. For examples, see *The Seven Stories* about the “overcoming the monster” (government who initiated the Hunger Games, line 36-41) and “rebirth” (defeat and survival, line 63-68).
* Use **at least 50 words** for each of your choices!

1. Overcoming the Monster: in this story, Walter is the monster. He tries to take his revenge in different ways: trying to frame them, kill them, and getting Nan to help him. Sam and Nan face him. He nearly kills them, but they manage to kill him instead. They have overcome the monster.
2. Rebirth: I think Sam experiences a rebirth when he gets his memories back. I searched up the source given in the book ([There Are Only Seven Stories in the World | Len Wilson](https://lenwilson.us/seven-stories/)). It says *rebirth is like a tragedy but where the hero realizes his error before it’s too late*. I think the tragedy is that they know something bad will happen, but they don’t know anything about it. This lack of information makes it hard for them to understand what’s happening. But just in time, Sam gets his memory back. They can fight their father with knowledge of what’s happened.

**THE END**