***The Eighth Day***

**Grades 6-8**

By Dianne K. Salerni

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### Annotation

* In this riveting fantasy adventure that VOYA called "absolutely necessary for middle grades," thirteen-year-old Jax Aubrey discovers a secret Eighth Day with roots tracing back to Arthurian legend. Fans of Percy Jackson will devour this first book in a new series that combines exciting magic and pulse-pounding suspense.

**Book Talk**

* Jax Aubrey’s world has been turned upside down. Newly orphaned, he gets whisked away from his aunt by Riley Pendare, his flighty eighteen-year-old guardian designated in his father’s will. Things get even more confusing when he wakes up the day after his thirteenth birthday to a world deserted of people. He thinks he’s just experienced the apocalypse, but the next day everything is normal again. Riley fills him in: he has just experienced the eighth day, an extra day of the week between Wednesday and Thursday. Some people like Jax and Riley experience all eight days, Others, like the mysterious girl next door, Evangeline, only live on the eighth day. Jax is excited by the prospect of extra time at first, but he soon discovers that there are dark forces at work in the Eighth day dating back to Arthurian legends, and he may not be able to stop a real apocalypse without sacrificing his friends.

### Author on the Internet

* Author’s Website: <http://diannesalerni.com/>
* Author’s Blog: <http://diannesalerni.com/blog/>
* Author’s Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/DianneKSalerni>
* Author’s Twitter Handle: <https://twitter.com/diannesalerni>

### Realia/Display Items

* Dagger (needs to be rubber for school safety)

### Food

* Chapter 1, Page 3. Hot dogs, Frozen pizza - Jax tries to keep the fridge stocked, but Riley and his friends always seem to empty it.
* Chapter 1, Page 5. Eggs. Jax buys eggs every week for his neighbor, and the mysteriously disappear Thursday morning.

**Book Charm**

* Clock <http://www.fitnessfinders.net/Clock-p/181-clock.htm>



**Background Knowledge**

* Historical/Literary background knowledge – King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table [http://www.amazon.com/Arthur-Knights-Round-Puffin-Classics/dp/0141321016/ref=sr\_1\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1425154316&sr=1-1&keywords=king+arthur+and+the+knights+of+the+round+table](http://www.amazon.com/Arthur-Knights-Round-Puffin-Classics/dp/0141321016/ref%3Dsr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1425154316&sr=1-1&keywords=king+arthur+and+the+knights+of+the+round+table)

**Book Club Discussion Questions**

* What would you do if you suddenly discovered that you had an extra day every week?
* How did your perception of Riley change over the course of the book?
* Do you think it’s fair for one group of people to be trapped in the 8th day?

**Non-Fiction Companion Titles**

* *King Arthur and His Knights of the Round Table,* 1130 Lexile

**What to Read Next**

* *Project X-Calibur* Pace, Greg
* *The Iron Trial* Black, Holly and Cassandra Clare Lexile 830
* *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur’s Court* Twain, Mark. Lexile 1080

**Additional resources**

* *The Eighth Day* Teacher’s Guide with Common Core connections: <http://diannesalerni.com/pdf/EighthDayTeachingGuide.pdf>
* *The Eighth Day* Reader’s Theatre script from Scholastic: <http://www.scholastic.ca/bookfairs/images/2015_Spring/scripts/theeightday_script.pdf>
* Interview with the author: <http://secretelecartilor.blogspot.com/2014/07/interview-with-dianne-k-salerni-author.html>
* Interview with the author: <http://middlegrademafioso.blogspot.com/2014/02/marvelous-middle-grade-monday-eighth.html>
* Interview with the author: <http://mybrainonbooks.blogspot.com/2014/02/part-one-of-my-interview-with-dianne.html>