

# ***The Nerdy Dozen***

By Jeff Miller

## **Annotation**

When classified U.S. military intelligence is compromised, teenage gamers must save the day. Taken in the middle of the night by the Air Force, Neil Andertol and eleven other gaming whizzes train to fly stealth fighter jets that have top-secret invisibility technology. It turns out that mastering the controls is the easy part. Can Neil face down a bully, a scorned billionaire, and wild ostriches before it's game over?

## **Book Talk**

Neil has been preparing for this mission his whole life-- he just never knew it. As one of the twelve kids in the nation who has mastered a leaked online flight simulator, he must work with both friends and foes to recover a stolen fighter jet. Who could have stolen the plane? And can it even be found if it's invisible? If you love adrenaline-pumping adventure, this slapstick comedy goes beyond the call of duty.

## **Author on the Internet**

- Website: <http://www.jeffmillerbooks.com>
- Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/jeffmillerbooks>
- Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/jeffmillerbooks>
- Instagram: <http://www.instagram.com/jeffmillerbooks>

## **Items to use in a library display**

- gaming controls
- toy fighter jets
- stuffed ostrich

## **Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

- Would you participate in the mission to recover The Chameleon?
- How do video games help you in real-life situations?
- What potential dangers could there have been if the invisibility technology had fallen into the wrong hands?
- How is the conflict between Neil and Trevor similar to the conflict between Harris and Weo?
- Now that Neil has met his gaming friends in real life, how have their relationships changed?

## **First Line of the Book:**

- "The enemy fighter jets surged past Neil Andertol, soaring over desolate, sandy terrain."

## **Non-Fiction Companion Titles**

- *The History of Fighter Planes* by Bill Gunston
- *The History of Video Games* by Joe Funk

## What to Read Next

- *Slacker* by Gordon Korman
- *The Eye of Minds* by James Dashner
- *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card
- *Insignia* by S.J. Kincaid

## Other Books by this Author:

- *The Nerdy Dozen #2: Close Encounters of the Nerd Kind*
- *The Nerdy Dozen #3: 20,000 Nerds Under the Sea*

## Additional Resources

- Music:
  - "Danger Zone" by Kenny Loggins: <https://youtu.be/BxYzjjs6d1s>
  - Classic video game theme songs (Super Mario, Pac Man, etc.): [https://youtu.be/mnipB\\_8Br8U](https://youtu.be/mnipB_8Br8U) & <https://youtu.be/BxYzjjs6d1s>
- Art/craft activity:
  - Make paper airplanes and have a flight contest.
- Lesson ideas:
  - Design your own video game: <http://www.code.org>