Grades 3–7

HOLIDAY HOUSE BOOK CLUB GUIDE

Table Titans Club
Sneak Attack

by **Scott Kurtz**

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection

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ABOUT THE BOOK

Ready your armor, sword, and sleeping bag—the Table Titans are headed to summer camp! Come along for the adventure in this graphic novel series about a middle school Dungeons & Dragons club from Eisner and Harvey award-winning cartoonist Scott Kurtz.

Table Titans Club members Val, Kate, Alan, Andrew, and Darius are psyched to spend the summer at Camp Owl Care. At this live-action roleplay paradise, the gang will work together to overcome challenges, unravel riddles, and safely swashbuckle their foes. Nothing the Table Titans can't handle together!

. . . Or not? The club arrives and learns that they've been randomly sorted into houses for the camp LARP quest. They must compete against their fellow Titans for reward and renown!

As the camp-wide feud heats up, it seems like the Titans will have to make a choice: sacrifice their houses' standings, or say goodbye to their tight-knit friendship. Will the Table Titans Club survive the summer?

Set in the same universe as the Eisner Award-winning webcomic *PvP*, Scott Kurtz's artwork blends zany, fantastical visuals with slice-of-life humor. For fans of fantasy and coming of age stories alike, Table Titans Club perfectly captures the heart of tween friendships.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- The first two pages of the book introduce the five members of The Table Titans Club. Which member is new to the club? Note the characteristics of each club member. Then, point out scenes or events in the book that best reveal specific traits of these characters.

- Describe Camp Owlcare. How is this camp different from the one Val's mother attended as a kid? How does Mrs. Winters embarrass Val when she delivers Val and Kate to camp? Why is Kate so hesitant about attending camp? Discuss why Kate tells Val that she's not a Table Titan any longer.

- What is Alan's view of the camp? In what way is he more mature than the other Titans? Explain his relationship with Kate. How does their relationship affect others in the club? Debate whether Darius is right when he suggests the Titans "ignore the problem and hope it goes away" (p. 17).

- Discuss the character of Brendan. What is his attitude toward Camp Owlcare and the challenges it offers? Brendan is a proud Timber Scout. What do Timber Scouts have in common with role-playing games?

- Explain what Brendan means by, "What a tragedy. The bonds of friendship dissolved in an acid pit of avarice" (p. 84). To what relationship is he referencing? Discuss how he would solve this "tragedy."

- Describe the Camp Director, Cole Richards. Why does he call himself "Noble King"? (p. 21). He promises quests of the Mind, Body, and Spirit. To which category does each quest belong? Discuss whether Noble King's promise is accomplished by the end of the novel.

- The campers are divided into three houses: Wiseheart, Shadowblade, and Starwind. Describe each "House," and discuss how they approach the various quests. What are their strengths and weaknesses?

- How do the quests require good teamwork? What is the relationship between teamwork and good sportsmanship? Name the characters who aren't good team players. Cite specific scenes to support your thoughts.

- Describe the Minotaur Labyrinth. Why does Brennan want out of this specific challenge? How does his "House" respond to this request?

- Shadowblade House earns a boon and can use it or save it at the beginning of the maze quest. What is a boon? Why do they elect to save it for a future quest? At what point do they realize this was a wrong decision?

- Discuss the right-hand rule of the maze quest. How does it work? How does Kate earn the "super genius" label of this quest? What is Alan's response when she wins the quest for her group?

- Who is Robbie? Which of the characters believe his scary stories? Explain why he poses as a troll in the woods. How does his role-playing affect the campers and counselors. Debate whether or not the search for the troll is a good way to end camp. What is Brendan's role in capturing the troll?

- At the end of camp, Val invites Brendan to become an official member of the Table Titans Club. What is his reaction? What specific talent does he bring to the club?

- Which character changes the most by the end of camp? Cite specific evidence to support your thoughts.

- Discuss how the artwork illustrates excitement, surprise, fear, anger, and determination.

- Jade, the counselor, says goodbye to the Titans and states, "You guys certainly kept things. . . interesting" (p. 205). Debate whether or not Jade and the other camp personnel will really miss the Table Titans. What one word might these adults use to describe the titans?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

Don't Miss Book One!

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Photo Credit: Scott Kurtz

Scott Kurtz is the Eisner and Harvey Award-winning cartoonist who helped pioneer webcomics with his daily feature, *PvP*. He is also the author of the middle grade graphic novel *Table Titans Club*, which was a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection and received a starred review from *Booklist*. Scott can be found in the Pacific Northwest, where he occasionally leaves his studio to enjoy the dog park or visit his family.