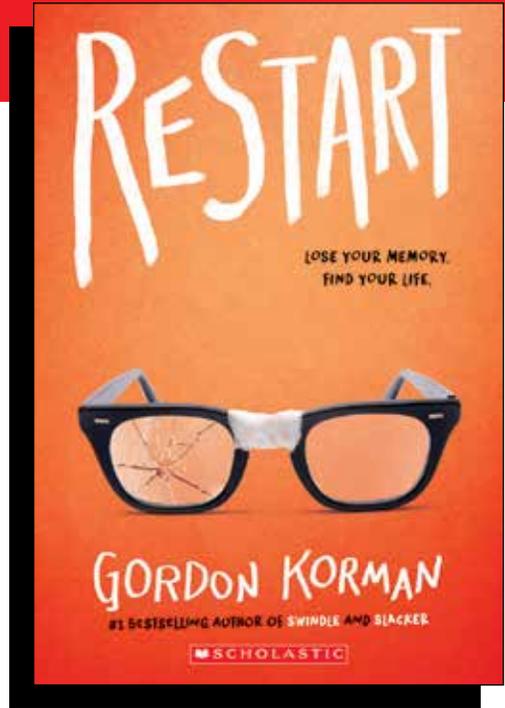


Booktalk!

Restart Script

For this Book Talk you will need

- 5 actors (Chase, Brendan, Shoshanna, Joel, Aaron)
- Chase: jeans, t-shirt, running shoes
- Shoshanna: pants, top, short boots
- Brendan: jeans, short-sleeved shirt with collar, running shoes, video camera
- Joel: jeans, sweater, running shoes
- Aaron: jeans, t-shirt, running shoes
- Additional props: copy of *Restart*



(Scene opens with Chase standing at centre stage, with the 4 other characters behind him in a semi-circle)

Chase: I remember falling.. At least I think I do. Or maybe that's just because I know I fell. The grass is far away – until it isn't anymore. Somebody screams... *(pausing)* Wait – it's me. I brace for impact, but it never comes. Instead, everything just stops. The sun goes out. The world around me disappears. I'm being shut down like a machine. Does this mean I'm dead?

Brendan: *(holding up video camera as if he's filming something in the distance)* This is the land of the carnivores, where lesser animals fear to tread... But where's their leader? *(panning slightly to the left or right)* The apex predator? Could that be him paying for a pack of Fig Newtons at the cash register? Yes, it is – the king of beasts, Footballus herois [pronounced hero-iss], his thunderous footsteps striking terror in the hearts of all creatures great and small. Watch him make his majestic way to... *(cutting off abruptly and looking around the imaginary cafeteria, then raising the camera to continue filming)* But wait – mighty Footballus has changed direction. For reasons known only to his supreme mightiness, he's coming... *(breaking off & lowering the camera)* Wait. He's coming here! Why is Chase Ambrose coming anywhere near lowly me? Does he know that I'm making fun of him and his goons in a YouTube video? If so, I'm dead – no ifs, ands or buts...

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Booktalk!

- Shoshanna:** I'm worried about my twin brother, Joel. I always worry about him... But if the thought of Chase Ambrose falling off his roof onto his head doesn't bring a smile to Joel's lips, then something is seriously wrong... *(pausing then looking angry)* Chase Ambrose – Alpha Rat as my brother and I call him – and his two disgusting friends hounded my poor brother out of town. Chase, Aaron and Bear made Joel's life so miserable that my parents had no choice but to find him a school in another town...
- Joel:** I hated going to that boarding school... What I hated most about it was the reason I had to go there... *(pausing)* It wasn't that school's fault that I was forced out of my own home by three morons. Or that even though everyone knew those three were juvenile delinquents, I was the one who had to suffer. Well, I'm back... *(pausing)* And now I'm supposed to believe that Alpha Rat is a good guy because he fell on his head? *(mimicking his sister's voice while quoting her)* "Wait till you see him at school on Monday. You won't believe how different he is," Shoshanna told me. I tell her I don't care...and she gets that I'm nervous... *(pausing)* Obviously I'm nervous. There's something about being bullied that you could never explain to someone who hasn't had it happen to them. It's worse than the sum of the rotten things that are done to you...
- Aaron:** How can a person be so different just because he fell on his head? And even if every single memory is erased from your head – wiped clean like my phone when I dropped it in the toilet – you should still be the same person, right? *(pausing)* Chase just isn't. That's not the kid Bear and I grew up with, played sports with, broke all the rules with, since we were in second grade. You can see it in his eyes. He looks at us like he barely knows us; we're like new people he just met for the first time. I get that his memory is erased. But is our whole friendship erased, too? Right now, it's like we've got zero in common with the guy...
- Chase:** I get that the old Chase was aggressive with people around him. But now I'm starting to wonder if that person is still inside me, emerging from the darkness, bit by bit along with my memory... As weird as it is to lose my past, the more that comes back, the less I recognize myself...
- (Everyone stepping forward so that they're standing alongside Chase)*
- Chase:** This is my chance to get a fresh, new start – a restart. Read my whole story *(holding up copy of Restart)* – it's at your Scholastic Book Fair.