

# RETRIBUTION: UNLEASHED

## READING GUIDE

### **RETRIBUTION: UNLEASHED**

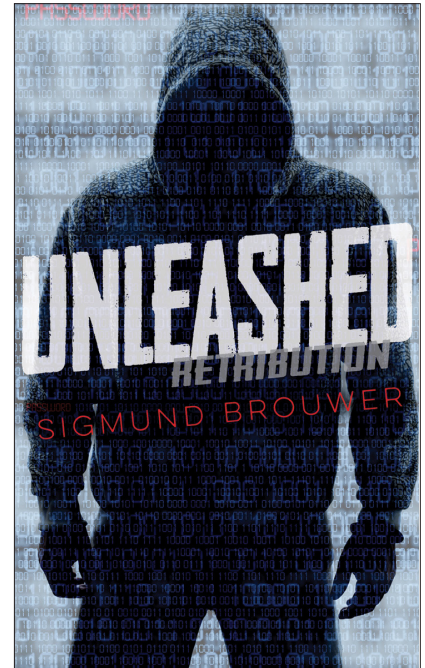
Sigmund Brouwer

Reading Level: 4.8

Fiction Ages 12+

Themes: crime, murder, corruption, police, chess,  
vengeance, boxing, abuse

978-1-4598-0730-3 PB



### **SUMMARY**

*Retribution: Unleashed* is one of three books in a trilogy written with two other authors: Judith Graves (*Retribution: Exposed*) and Natasha Deen (*Retribution: Burned*).

### **RETRIBUTION: UNLEASHED**

Jace was born into a world of material wealth but was never able to appreciate it because of his abusive father. Forced to protect his younger brother, Jace begins to escape by leading a double life. He finds refuge in the world of boxing. When the abuse begins to escalate, Jace decides he has had enough. He is determined to expose his father for the monster that he truly is but he cannot do it alone. Reluctantly, he turns to two girls for help and discovers that he may need to put his trust in others.

### **PRE-READING ACTIVITY**

We have all been witness to people who wield their position of authority over others for their own personal gain. Discuss examples of this from past and recent history. Have the students search newspaper headlines on the web to find examples of this. They can share the news articles and explain the abuses that have occurred and the negative affect it has on society. Students can then write an opinion text on why people often distrust those in roles of authority.



ORCA BOOK PUBLISHERS

www.orcabook.com • 1-800-210-5277

**CONNECTING TO THE WORLD**

In today's world there are a variety of elective surgeries that one can undergo to enhance their physical appearance based on ideals set by society. This is a multi-million dollar industry where doctors get rich by promoting the insecurities of others. However, there are times when this type of surgery is necessary and can be life altering for the person who receives it. Have the students discuss the ethical side of this. Should parents ever have the right to chose this type of surgery for their children?

Have the students research Laron's Syndrome. What causes this? How common is it? What other types of dwarfism are there?

**CONNECTING TO THE TEXT***Characters*

Jace, Jo and Raven come from very different backgrounds yet have certain similarities. Have the students create a Venn Diagram comparing the three characters.

*Plot*

How would the story differ if it was told from Bentley's point of view? Get the students to discuss this and then write several journal entries from Bentley's point of view to illustrate this.

*Conclusion*

Although Jace is confused by the turn of events at the end of the novel, he realizes he is much better off then many others and begins to consider the possibilities that are before him. Have students brainstorm what might happen between the four characters. They can then choose one of the ideas and write the first chapter of a sequel.

**CONNECTING TO STUDENTS: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Although Bentley is a supporting character, he plays a significant role within the group. Explain why his character is necessary to the plot line.
2. Jace has two main interests: boxing and chess. How are these games similar and how are they different? What has he learned from these two games that he applies to his everyday life?
3. In the opening scene in chapter 1, Jace wakes up to find himself in a bathroom strapped to the toilet with duct tape. His first thought was that Raven and Jo were responsible. Why would he suspect them? What does this say about his relationship with them at the beginning of the story?
4. Why is Dr. Winchester so cruel towards Bentley? What does this tell us about his character?
5. In chapter 6, Jace refers to Dr. Winchester as a biological father not a dad. What did he mean by this?



6. Jace has been living a double life: his boxer life at the gym and then his trust fund life at home. What was it about being a boxer that he found so comforting?
7. Jace and Bentley's relationship with their mother is not much better than that of their father. Although she is not verbally or physically abusive her detached attitude makes her just as unlikable. Why do you think she sent the email to her sons regarding information about her husband's illegal activities at the hospital?
8. Both Jace and Bentley have an infinity symbol tattoo. How is this a reflection of their character?

### **AUTHOR'S BIOGRAPHY**

With close to four million books in print, Sigmund Brouwer writes for both children and adults. His novel for grownups, *Thief of Glory*, is the 2015 Christy Book of the Year, and also won the prestigious 2015 Alberta Readers's Choice Award. His previous mystery for young adults, *Deadman's Switch*, won the 2015 Arthur Ellis award for best young adult mystery in Canada, and is also a finalist in the TD Children's Book Awards. For more information, visit [www.sigmundbrouwer.com](http://www.sigmundbrouwer.com).

RETRIBUTION: UNLEASHED

