

EGMONT
USA

The Clone Chronicles

Popular Clone: The Clone Chronicles #1
Cloneward Bound: The Clone Chronicles #2
by M.E. Castle

Ages: 8-12

Praise *Popular Clone*:

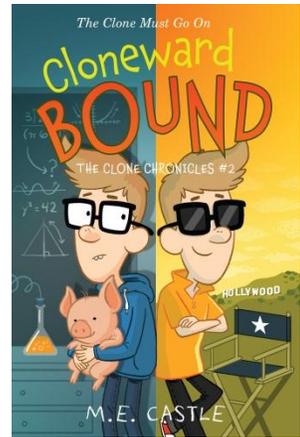
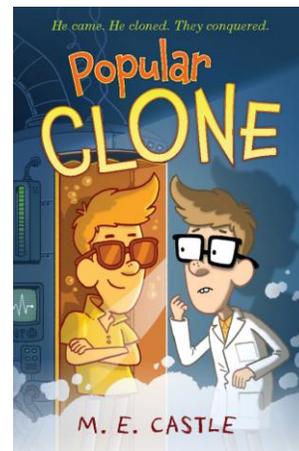
"Castle's debut, the first in a planned series, strikes just the right balance of humor and action and is sure to keep young readers turning the pages. Fisher's struggles to fit in, to relate to girls and to uncover and preserve his true self feel genuine, making him a misfit and unlikely hero worth rooting for."—*Kirkus Reviews*

Praise for *Cloneward Bound*:

"Like a funny James Bond for the middle school set, the close third-person narrative is rife with humor, adventure, gadgetry and even a hint of romance. Fans of the series and new readers alike will eagerly turn the pages."—*Kirkus Reviews*

***Popular Clone* Discussion Questions:**

1. Fisher's best friend is FP, a biologically engineered pig who can fly. If you could have a biologically engineered animal as your best friend, what animal would you choose and what unique ability would you want it to have? Explain your answer.
2. Why does Fisher want to clone himself?
3. Is it possible to clone humans? Do some research on the subject of cloning. What did you learn?
4. What story does Fisher tell Two to convince him to go to school in his place?
5. If you had a clone to go to school for you, what would you spend your free time doing?
6. Why doesn't Fisher's mom want him talking about the Accelerated Growth Hormone (AGH)? What is she afraid will happen?
7. After Two saves the baby ducks, Fisher slinks off "feeling outmatched, unloved, and inches away from disaster." (pg. 119) What is he so upset about?
8. Who is Vic Daring?
9. Fisher has invented a lot of cool and useful gadgets, from his social survivor watch to his spy suit. Using your imagination, come up with an invention of your own. What would your



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invention do and what would it look like?

10. "He'd thought Two was completely sure of himself, that he really knew how to handle things. Apparently, Two had thought the same of him. Were they both right . . . or were they both wrong?" (pg. 192) What do you think? Are they both right or are they both wrong? In what ways are Fisher and Two similar and in what ways are they different?
11. Why does Dr. X want to destroy Ed Woodhouse, owner of the popular Kings of Hollywood restaurant? How does he plan to carry out his scheme?
12. "Fisher had achieved something that the most brilliant and mysterious scientific mind on earth had not been able to do, even with this immense machine of research supporting him. Then a chill went through him. He had used it for just as selfish a purpose as Dr. X would have." (pg. 249) Do you think Fisher is anything like Dr. X? Explain your answer.
13. Who is Gassy Greg and how does he help Fisher and Two escapes from Dr. X?
14. Thanks to Vic Daring, Fisher is able to correctly describe Dr. X's schemes as *nefarious*. Define nefarious. What are some other adjectives Fisher could use to describe Dr. X?
15. In the epilogue, Two sends Fisher a note saying he escaped the TechX blast and is in Hollywood looking for their mother. How do *you* think he escaped?

Cloneward Bound Discussion Questions:

1. Now that Fisher is a local hero, how do the Vikings treat him? How is their bullying similar or different to how they treated him before?
2. When Fisher thought Two was lost in the TechX explosion, he felt "a guilty sense of relief."(pg. 6) Why does he feel guilty?
3. Why doesn't Fisher tell anyone the true identity of Dr. X? What do the other kids at Wompalog Middle School think happened to Mr. Granger?
4. Amanda Cantrell is one of the only kids at Wompalog Middle School who suspects that Fisher is up to something. Why is she suspicious of him?
5. What is Amanda's condition for helping Fisher get Two back to Palo Alto?
6. What are some of the inventions Fisher packs with him on his mission to find Two? What invention would you have packed?
7. GG McGee thinks FP has a marvelous future in show biz but says he needs a flashier stage name. Come up with your own stage name for FP and design a costume to match.
8. On page 111 Amanda says to Fisher, "You got me to agree to help you by telling me the truth. How do you expect to ever earn his trust if you don't do the same for him?" Do you

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think Fisher should tell Two the truth about why he needs to come back to Palo Alto?

9. On page 121, when faced with Two's celebrity status, Fisher begins to question his purpose. Two is not only much better known, beloved, and multitalented, but he also has all of Fisher's smarts and ingenuity. Fisher wonders what purpose he serves. What do you think Fisher's purpose is?
10. After FP disappears, Fisher begins to wonder if he has bad karma. What is karma? Do you think Fisher is being punished for creating Two? Explain your answer.
11. What do Fisher, Two, Dr. Devilish, Kevin Keels, and GG McGee have in common? Why does Dr. X bring them all together?
12. How does Two find out he is Fisher's clone and not his brother? What is his reaction?
13. What is Occam's razor? Why does Three refer to it?
14. Why does Special Agent Syd Mason let Fisher and Two off the hook for using the AGH? If you were the agent on the case, what would you have done?

Popular Clone

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Cloneward Bound

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About the Author:

M.E. Castle is a writer and actor working in the glorious center of the universe, New York City. He graduated from Oberlin College in 2008 with a degree in theater and has written a number of short stories, only a handful of which have ever been seen by an audience wider than his closest friends. Throughout his college years, he was one of the leading writers of the noir detective radio drama *The Dead Hear Footsteps*, to which he also lent his vocal talents. *Popular Clone* is M.E.'s first novel.

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