I Hunt Killers
By: Barry Lyga

Book Talk:

“Jazz spent a chunk of the day fantasizing about ways to kill his grandmother, plotting them and planning them in the most excruciating, gruesome detail his imagination would allow. It turned out his imagination allowed quite a bit. He spent the rest of the day convincing himself—over and over—not to do it.”
— Barry Lyga, *I Hunt Killers*

Many of us spend our childhood idolizing our parents—in our young eyes, our moms and dads could do no wrong. Our parents played the most important role in shaping the people we are today, right? Well, what if your dad was one of the most prolific serial killers in the history of the United States? What if you were forced to spend your early years as his protégé? So begins the story of Jasper “Jazz” Dent.

Since his father was arrested, convicted, and started serving multiple life sentences for his horrific crimes, Jazz has attempted to rise above his upbringing and carve out a normal life with his grandmother and two closest friends: Connie and Howie. Always haunted by his gruesome past, Jazz is both surprised and intrigued when a mutilated body shows up in field near his quite town. While the police seem to think that this body is the result of a random act of violence, Jazz senses that it is just the first sign of a serial killer on loose in his city. Soon another body is discovered and Jazz begins to see something that is utterly terrifying: the new killer is copying his father’s crimes down to the smallest detail. As the body count rises, Jazz is confident that he can use his knowledge of the intimate details of his father’s crimes to help the police catch the copy-cat killer but can they catch the killer before everyone Jazz loves is put in mortal danger?

Do you love a fast-paced mystery? Are you interested in psychology? If so, be sure to check out *I Hunt Killers* by Barry Lyga—you won’t be able to put it down!

Discussion Question:
Regarding the development of truly evil individuals (serial killers), do you believe that nature or nurture plays a more important role? In other words, is one born evil or is evil a learned trait/behavior?

*I Hunt Killers* is the first book in a planned trilogy. How would you like to see Jazz’s story develop in the coming two books?

Link to the Official Book Trailer:
http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0wwRp7Ou53E
Non-Fiction Book Tie-In:
**Please note that while the following books have older publication dates, the titles are still in print and are fairly popular in high school media collections. The books are included because of their very strong correlation to the themes in I Hunt Killers.**


**de Becker, Gavin. The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals the Protect Us From Violence, Little Brown. 1997**

Brown, Pat. The Profiler: My Life Hunting Serial Killers and Psychopaths. Voice. 2010