

## CAPTAIN NOBODY

### SYNOPSIS

Newton Newman (Newt) is the hero of this story. He is a ten-year-old schoolboy. Unlike his football-star brother Chris, Newt and his two friends, Cecil and JJ are always ignored by other kids at the school. One day, his football-star brother, Chris, is knocked into a coma during the biggest football game of the season. To keep Newt's mind off his brother's condition, his two best friends – Cecil and JJ help him to create his Halloween costume: Captain Nobody.

Wearing the outfit, Newt begins to gain more confidence and courage, He feels strong and confident wearing the costume, so he keeps wearing it even after Halloween is over. Soon Newt proves himself to be a hero. Starting from helping Mr. Clay finding his way home, he foils a robbery, saving a planeload of passengers, saving Reggie Ratner – the football player who was wrongly blamed for causing Chris' concussion and to top it all, Newt jolts Chris out of coma, by shouting 'Hit the Showers!' aloud in the hospital.

### CHARACTERS

<b>NEWTON NEWMAN (NEWT)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- A 10-year-old, fourth grader at Appleton Elementary</li><li>- Short, skinny, freckled, quiet</li><li>- Lives in the shadow of elder brother, Chris Newman, whom he loves dearly</li><li>- Quiet, unassuming, ignored by others</li><li>- Creative, talented artist, enjoys drawing superheroes</li><li>- Selfless, loving, responsible, hard-working, disciplined, independent, positive, intelligent,</li><li>- observant, has integrity</li><li>- Fear of heights (ACROPHOBIA)</li><li>- Feels confident, strong, when he is dressed as Captain Nobody.</li><li>- Helpful – makes breakfast for the family every day</li><li>- Heroic – saves Mr. Clay, the Sullivan's, Ferocious the Ferret, Reggie Ratner in his alter ego character, Mr. Nobody</li><li>- Becomes a hero after becoming Captain Nobody.</li><li>- Creative</li><li>- Not given much attention as his brother gets.</li><li>- Starts to become courageous after becoming Captain Nobody since one Halloween night.</li></ul>
<b>CECIL BUTTERWORTH</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Newt's classmate and one of Newt's two best friends</li><li>- Shorter than Newt, has a loud voice</li><li>- Also ignored by the other kids at school</li><li>- Outspoken, impulsive, innovative and always bursting with ideas, witty</li><li>- positive; encourages and motivates his friends</li><li>- dreams of becoming a drummer</li></ul>
<b>JUANITA JOSEPHINA GONZALES {JJ}</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Newt's classmate and one of Newt's two best friends</li><li>- Is 'invisible' to the other kids at school but she does not let it bother her</li><li>- Tallest girl in the fourth grade</li><li>- Positive, creative, careful, sharp, intelligent, thoughtful, sensitive, observant, outspoken</li><li>- A voracious reader, has amazing vocabulary and grammar, able to read when she was three</li><li>- Helps to create Newt's Halloween costume</li></ul>
<b>CHRIS NEWMAN {CHRIS}</b>	<p>Newt's older brother in Fillmore High School An American Football star in his school Ferrets of Fillmore High School Tall, athletic, agile</p>

	<p>Brotherly, loving, kind, shares a close bond with Newt  Disciplined, determined, performs well under pressure, has a sense of humour.  Scored the winning touchdown in the Big Game  Knocked unconscious into a come during the Big Game</p>
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### Minor Characters

Mom and dad	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newt's parents are always busy with their works.</li> <li>- Responsible parents as they always take turns to look after Chris at the hospital.</li> <li>- They apologise to Newt as he is not given enough attention as compared to his brother.</li> </ul>
Reggie Ratner	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The defensive back of the Charges who is blamed for the Big Tackle incident.</li> <li>- Stubborn – he does not listen to Captain Nobody's advice when they are on the water tower and as a result, he lands on Captain Nobody and breaks his ankle and ribs.</li> <li>- Befriends Newt because they share the secret of his intention to vandalise the water tower.</li> </ul>
Mr. Clay	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The locksmith who is suffering from Alzheimer's.</li> <li>- He gets lost and is out of medicine and is helped by Captain Nobody to find his way back home.</li> <li>- He cuts the special gold key with a purple ribbon in a velvet box for Captain Nobody as a token of appreciation.</li> </ul>
Mr. and Mrs. Sullivan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The jewellery store owner who are rescued by Captain Nobody's presence in a robbery attempt.</li> <li>- Award a pair of diamond solitaire earrings to JJ for her part in stopping the robbery.</li> </ul>
Mrs. Young	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newt's class teacher.</li> <li>- She is very patient at handling her students.</li> <li>- She is caring as she brings the issue of Captain Nobody to the principal's office.</li> </ul>
Darryl Peeps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chris' teammate who actually clashes his helmet and causes Chris to fall into coma.</li> <li>- Supportive as he takes the initiative to do a tour to show support for Chris after the Big Tackle incident.</li> </ul>
Ferocious the Ferret	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Fillmore's team ambassador</li> <li>- Almost costs Captain Nobody's own life as he has to stop the traffic just to get it back to the cage.</li> </ul>

## THEMES

Family Love	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newt loves his family members although sometimes he does not get the attention he deserves. He makes breakfast for them every day.</li> <li>- Newt, together with Mom and Dad, would attend and give support in every game that Chris is Playing</li> <li>- Mom and Dad are willing waiting for Chris to wake up from his coma</li> <li>- Chris loves his brother as they would share jokes when they meet each other</li> <li>- Newt always wakes his brother up when he oversleeps.</li> <li>- He is proud of Chris's success.</li> <li>- He is worried about Chris when Chris is hospitalised. He is eager to be with Chris at the hospital</li> <li>- Chris shows his love to his brother by letting him lead the Victory Parade</li> </ul>
Determination in one's life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Chris and his teammates shows high level of determination to win the Big Game although their opponents are leading at crucial part of the game</li> <li>- Newt is determined to stop the traffic on the highways despite the dangerous situation he is facing so that he could get Ferocious the Ferret back into its cage</li> <li>- Cecil is determined to get the big bass drum that is thrown away even he has to seek the help of Captain Nobody</li> <li>- JJ shows her determination to correct other people's mistakes by stepping into Sullivan's store and talks to the owners</li> </ul>
Helping those in need	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Newt would remind Mom about important events and help his mother to find her misplaced belongings</li> <li>- Captain Nobody helps Mr. Clay to find his way back home after getting lost at the Dumpster</li> <li>- Captain Nobody talks to the Sullivan couple after JJ asks for his favour and it turns out he saves the sore owners' lives from an armed robbery</li> </ul>
Dealing with identity crisis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although the creation of Captain Nobody was unintentional, Newt gained much confidence and courage when he was in the costume</li> <li>- Mrs.Young, the class teacher, showed great concern for Newt and brought up the matter to the principal, who was later joined by the school counsellor and nurse</li> <li>- Newt reasoned out with his concerned Dad, who came home and talked to him, after the school had informed Dad about Captain Nobody</li> <li>- When Newt was finally recognized and got the attention he deserved from the local community including his family, he reverted to becoming Newton Newman once again</li> </ul>
Optimism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Although he was just 10-year-old kid, Newt was full of optimism</li> <li>- After knowing that Chris only had 6 days to wake up, he was still confident that one day his brother would recover from coma</li> <li>- Cecil felt that they going to have a joyful Halloween celebration after coming out with the idea of creating their own costumes</li> </ul>
Self-discovery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As a boy who is small and scrawny in size, Newton is often ignored by his parents and schoolmates.</li> <li>- When Newton uses Captain Nobody costume for the first time, he feels that he is somebody new, somebody he himself has not met yet.</li> <li>- Newton feels strong and confident when wearing the Captain Nobody costume.</li> <li>- He is able to overcome his fear of heights when he helps Cecil to bring down a discarded drum from a huge dumpster. He helps Mr Clay finds</li> </ul>

	<p>his way home, foils a robbery at a jewellery store, save a ferret and averts a plane tragedy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Slowly, Newton begins to uncover his hidden capabilities and transforms into a hero who stands up for all quiet kids and children that people tend to forget about.</li> <li>- Eventually Newton manages to climb up the tallest structure in Appleton and save Reggie Partner, without assuming the identity of Captain Nobody</li> </ul>
Responsibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- As a 10 year old boy, Newton takes the responsibility of making breakfast for his family</li> <li>- Newton would open Chris's bedroom door and shout, "Hot the showers!" whenever Chris oversleeps.</li> <li>- He risks his life and tries to rescue Ferocious.</li> <li>- When Reggie Ratner is on the roof of the Appleton water tower, and people think that he is committing suicide.</li> <li>- He decides to climb up the water tower to convince Reggie to change his mind.</li> </ul>

## MORAL VALUES

### 1. We must respect, support and protect our beloved ones

- In this novel, this value is portrayed by Newton, though he is only ten years old.
- He is sensitive towards his parents' feelings.
- We also see this value in Chris. Even though he is busy and tired practicing for his football games, he always seem to have time to help Newton with his homework or play a quick game with him.
- Mr Newman speaks carefully to Newton about his costume and acknowledges Captain Nobody.

### 2. We must always help those who are in need

- Mrs Young, Newton's teacher, discusses his situation with the Principal, Mr Toomey. She does not get angry with Newton.
- This value is also portrayed by Newton, who tries to cheer his mother up after seeing his mother's eyes in tears.
- Newton is also compassionate towards Mr Clay. He realises that man is lost and confused and makes sure he gets home safely.
- We must be helpful to others regardless whether they are our family, friends or strangers.
- Newton helps Cecil bring down his dream bass drum
- JJ and Cecil also portray this value when they help Newton with his Halloween costume

### 3. We should not rely on a costume to feel confident of ourselves.

- We must not underestimate our abilities.
- It is important to feel good about ourselves.
- This value is portrayed by Newton. When he wears the Captain Nobody costume, he feels strong and confident.
- However, when he climbs up the water tower to save Reggie, instead of losing confidence and descending the ladder, Newton continues his climb and manages to help Reggie get down from the tower. This shows his courage and capabilities to others.

### 4. We should not be envious of the success of others.

- This value is portrayed by Newton, who feels happy about his brother's success.
- Chris, on the other hand, acknowledges that Newton is the real hero of Appleton.
- Mr and Mrs Sullivan acknowledge their saviour who saved their lives during the robbery.

## 5. **We must be optimistic in life**

- We must face problems or challenges in life with hope and courage.
- Newton does not feel sorry for himself and does not resent or blame people, even when he is neglected at home. He accepts the fact that his classmates and teachers ignore him in school and that not many know that he is Chris Newman's brother.
- When his brother is knocked down into a coma during the Big Game, he fills his mind with positive thoughts that Chris will be alright.
- When his mother forgets to dry the laundry, Newton wears his Captain Nobody costume to school, though he knows his friends or teachers might laugh at him.
- Although Newton, Cecil and JJ are ignored in school, they respond positively to this situation.
- Chris and his teammates shows optimism in winning the Big Game although at times the opponent is leading

## 6. **We must be brave.**

- Newt has acrophobia. At first, he hesitated to climb the Dumpster to get the bass drum. But when disguised as Captain Nobody, he felt more confident.
- He managed to help Cecil.