

## Parental Guide – unSPARKed main series Books 5-8

### 5. Wild Life

### 6. A Right Rex Rodeo

### 7. FEAR

### 8. A Different Kind of Camouflage

**Themes:** Dinosaurs, Faith, Loyalty to friends and family, Grief, Power of the Sacraments, Crime/Thriller/Mystery, city life vs. rural life. Theology of the Body (Purity/Chastity) is presented positively throughout the series.

**Educational Value:** Appropriate for students studying Dinosaurs, Catholicism/Christianity, Agriculture, Survival Skills, Rural/Urban culture.

**Positive Messages:** We should help and care for others, we should be loyal to our family and friends, we should pull together in difficult times and persevere through difficulties. Chastity before marriage.

**Spiritual Messages:** We should have faith in God's protective help and trust that he has a plan for us. We should not let circumstances and environment prevent us from being reverent and fulfilling our religious duties. Thinking we control our lives is an illusion and we should entrust ourselves to God.

**Positive Role Models:** Darryl (17) is a positive role model because she is brave and looks out for her younger brother and is determined to save their dad. She is committed to chastity before marriage.

Harry (14) is a positive role model because he tries to do the right thing and be responsible despite being the youngest.

Joshua (19) is a positive role model because he's brave and ready to help strangers in need however inconvenient or dangerous it is for him. He also loves and understands animals, including predators. He is committed to chastity before marriage.

**Violence/Gore:** Occasional, predominantly animal attacks. Blood is occasionally mentioned and occasionally some descriptions of wounds, but nothing very gory.

**Sexuality:** In WILD LIFE Father Benedict discreetly cautions Darryl about getting into a physical relationship with Joshua. Darryl is offended at the suggestion she would do such a thing. Father Benedict makes it clear that he trusts her.

In A RIGHT REX RODEO several hunters tell Darryl and Josh that they should get married because they assume that the two of them are in a relationship although they are not. The Elders accept Joshua's word that they are not.

In A DIFFERENT KIND OF CAMOUFLAGE Harry recalls asking Joshua about pornography. Joshua tells him how his father and his uncle dealt with this when he got curious about that sort of thing and Harry ends the conversation convinced that pornography is bad and demeaning to women and determined not to have anything to do with it. Later in the book, some boys offer him 'pictures' and he finds the courage to refuse them and say why he thinks it's wrong. There are no explicit descriptions and it is all very discreetly handled.

**Language:** None.

**Drinking, Drugs & Smoking:** In A Right Rex Rodeo references are made to hunters drinking at the Midwinter Fair. In the same book it is implied that a bad guy might be growing some kind of illegal drug.

#### **WHAT PARENTS NEED TO KNOW**

This is an exciting, fast-paced short fiction series that delves gently into some deeper themes like loss, family loyalty, the sacraments, chastity, etc. Suitable for teens and some tweens, but parental guidance for tweens due to some scary dino action and more mature themes.

#### **Rating Scale: Light-Moderate**

Scale:

Light- For all readers.

Moderate - Story includes subject matter for teens 13 plus

Advanced - Although not graphic in description, the subject matter is recommended for teens older than 15.