



# WHO ARE THE SELECT?

**Seven Wonders Book 2: Lost in Babylon** continues the adventures of thirteen-year-old Jack McKinley, an ordinary kid with an extraordinary problem. In a few months, he's going to die, unless he and his team of three other kids—who have the same rare genetic condition—can obtain the cure by finding seven

magical objects called Loculi that are hidden in the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World.

In this book, Jack and his friends (known as the Select) are transported through a magical portal back to the ancient city of Babylon. If the Hanging Gardens of Babylon existed, they are believed to have been located about fifty-three miles from present-day Baghdad and destroyed by an earthquake in about 200 BCE.

## PART 1: THE SELECT

### JACK MCKINLEY

Raised by a series of nannies because his mother died and his father is a globe-trotting entrepreneur, Jack has a knack for finding solutions on his own. He can build crazy contraptions to solve problems that seem impossible to others.

### ALY BLACK

A first-rate hacker who can break into virtually any computer and can program almost any system. She's got a soft heart, worries about her mother, and sometimes just wants to go home.

### CASS WILLIAMS

Possesses a photographic memory and can remember details, directions, faces, and names perfectly. He can devise codes and speak backward. He's also nervous, terrified of heights and animals, and isn't very coordinated.

### MARCO RAMSAY

A natural athlete who can climb sheer cliffs and shoot baskets from half-court. An unfailing optimist, there's nothing he won't try and almost nothing he can't do.

Each member of the Select has very special skills and abilities. What do you think are the most important skills/abilities of each one and why?

Jack \_\_\_\_\_

Aly \_\_\_\_\_

Cass \_\_\_\_\_

Marco \_\_\_\_\_

## PART 2: THE DILEMMA

After a series of hair-raising adventures, the kids find the hidden Loculus in Babylon. But there's a problem: if they remove it (and save themselves), this ancient city, which now exists in a parallel universe, may well be destroyed.

Based on what you know, what decision would each of the four make? Would each member choose to save his/her life *and* save Babylon, or save him/herself at the expense of Babylon?

On the back of this sheet, write several sentences that describe what you think each team member would do.



## PART 3: BACK TO BABYLON

Now do some research to learn about two of the ancient Babylonian kings—Hammurabi and Nebuchadnezzar—and find out what they are remembered for today. Make notes on a separate sheet of paper and be prepared to share what you learned with your class.

**Did You Know?** Because archaeologists have never discovered any evidence of the Hanging Gardens, many scholars have questioned if they ever existed.



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