

- 1) I will like to discuss the most prominent theme: that there is prejudice against anyone different. Matt, the main character, is looked down on throughout the book for being a clone and not a true human being, although there is *no* way to tell them apart. He was insulted and ignored by everyone but his closest friends. I would also like to discuss Matt as an inspiring character. He is truly determined because of the disrespect he tolerated every day, so he tries exceptionally hard to excel: “[Matt] was in a rage to learn. He would excel, and then everyone would love him and forget he was a clone” (91). Before Matt learns of his to-be fate, he makes sure he is indispensable and respected by doing his best, and ends up very talented as a result.
- 2) Not much of the book is confusing to me except for a few of the Spanish words. Because this book is written about a fictional country, Opium, in between the U.S. and Mexico, the characters speak English and Spanish. The word “eejit” was used commonly throughout the book for the humans or animals with computer chips in their brains so they couldn’t think by themselves. I didn’t realise until I searched the word that it literally meant “idiot” in Spanish. Also, the word “curandera” was a word that I didn’t know; it is a healer that uses herbs.
- 3) I liked this book, and would rate my enjoyment reading this book a nine out of ten. The language used is simple and clear. There is a lot of action, most of it relating to the theme: especially when Matt was being bullied and ignored, and when Matt was running away the country of Opium to avoid being used for body parts. However, I do wonder why such a large portion of the book about Matt’s life in Aztlan is necessary in this book. It does show Matt’s character fighting for his new friends, but he could have hid out in Opium until he felt safe and avoided that extra adventure. I feel that is was unnecessary, and this brings my rating down.
- 4) The most important idea I found from this book was not to judge people based on a prejudice or some bias. Matt was a clone, and he was very biased against in many people’s minds because clones are generally thought of as inferior. Instead, he was a very talented, bright child who believed in justice. Even so, was taunted by Tom whenever they saw each other: “[Tom] punched the air near Matt’s head. practicing-he said-karate exercises. He whispered insults too low for anyone else to hear. ‘You’re a clone,’ he murmured. ‘Know what that is? A kind of *puke*. you were puked up by a cow” (67). However, clones and humans are no different, except for the way they were created. Maria’s mother said declaring clones as inferior was just a way to make body transplants sound humane. ““No one can tell the difference between a clone and a human. That’s because there isn’t any difference. The idea of clones being inferior is a filthy lie” (245), says Matt’s bodyguard to him, and this shows that bias is wrong: even if a person is a clone, it doesn’t mean they have to be an animal, but could be even better than someone “regular.” This idea can be applied to many other biases as well.