

Path of the Thunderbird Character Descriptions

Nate



Loves maps and wants to be a cartographer. Feels he is a decent navigator because he knows how to read maps.

- *Nate, you see yourself as a navigator...*
- *The Captain seeks counsel from others to ensure the safety of his crew and the success of their quest.*
- *The Captain leads the explorers on a brave hunt and chronicles the group's discoveries in his sacred book.*

Kira



Nate's cousin and the science genius of the family. She is especially interested in birds, specifically the California condor which their grandfather, an ornithologist, researched.

- *The Scientist realizes her mission extends beyond the preservation of the Thunderbird to include all creatures who may benefit from her knowledge*

Oz Foreman



Real name is Oscar, but he hates it. Started calling himself Oz after reading the *Wizard of Oz*. Obsessed with watching an Australian outdoor survivalist named Wildman on television. Oz lives in Chicago near Nate. He always wears a Chicago Cubs ballcap. He loves ice cream

- *The Australian Survivalist aims projectiles at her, rescuing her from a harrowing fate on the cliffs.*
- *The Survivalist proves that his understanding of the skills passed down from his Master is powerful when used in the wilds.*

Hope



Kira's friend. She is part of the Ha-va-su-pai tribe who lives in the Grand Canyon. She grew up in Supai in the canyon where she lived with her family. She tested into a special school in California when she was nine and moved in with Kira's family. Their dads were friends in college. Hope is afraid of snakes.

- *The Naturalist shares wisdom and her clan's traditions to strengthen the bonds of this family of explorers.*
- *The Naturalist from the southern reaches of the galaxy, coaxes the creature away from the temptations of the human world.*



- Gran** Gran's not like other grandparents. She's crazy enough to take four twelve-year olds on a trip to the Grand Canyon. She runs marathons and her hobby is rock climbing, so she created a training program for us to help us get ready for our trip
- Kelly Bartlett** Wildlife biologist who works for the Grand Canyon. She knows both Gran and Gramps. Gramps sent her an envelope containing all of the clues.
- Mike Strunk** Photographer with white beard.

Vocabulary Words

Cartographer—a person who draws or produces maps

Navigator—a person who directs the route or course of a ship, aircraft, or other form of transportation, especially by using instruments and maps.

Captain—the person in command of a ship or a leader of people

Ornithologist—a person who studies or is an expert on birds

Naturalist—an expert in or student of natural history.
(synonyms: natural historian · life scientist · wildlife expert)

Survivalist—one who practices outdoor survival skills as a sport or hobby.