

# Jake and the Tiger Flight

By Jennifer Taylor

*Jake and the Tiger Flight* is a book by George Weinstein geared for young readers about the transformative power of aviation. Jake Skyler is a twelve-year-old boy with an absorbing interest in video games until something powerful happens that shifts his focus to aviation.

When the reader first meets Jake, he is aimless about his future and unable to pay attention in school. In an effort to get him grounded, his parents decide that he should work during the weekends in the family hardware store near Rome, Georgia.

During a break from working, Jake spies the Tiger Flight Formation Team flying overhead in their distinctive diamond formation. As Jake watches, the lead pilot salutes him. That glimpse into the aviation world prompts Jake to find out more about flying – right away. After work, he races over to the Richard B. Russell Regional Airport and finds the Tiger Flight hangar. Exhilarated, he climbs into one of the planes and pretends to fly, until someone accidentally locks him in the hangar.

After his escape, Jake nervously awaits news from the airport about his incident. When the pilots show up in his father's store and mention what happened, Jake knows what he has to do. After his confession, the pilots decide to let Jake work off the damage he caused from his unauthorized entry into the hangar. The pilot with the call sign Fury says, "You're grounded—in the original sense of the word—and you have a debt to work off."

Jake begins repaying his debt by working for the Tiger Flight team, enjoying the proximity to the tiger-striped planes while desperately yearning to be airborne. He learns that even though his behavior had gotten him close to the action, he isn't able to work with the Young Eagles or even think about getting on a plane.

However, Jake enjoys being near the pilots and their planes. He especially cherishes the ability to care for the aircraft, including washing them. Sunny, one of the pilots mentions that Jake seems to have found his "home away from home."

The book chronicles Jake's airplane adventures as he becomes more emotionally invested in the industry and discovers the purpose that had previously eluded him. Parents and children alike will enjoy Jake's antics and lessons along the way. →



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