

Daniel Rhodes: Character Profile

Basic Information:

- **Full Name:** Daniel Jacob Rhodes
- **Nickname:** Daniel, Dan, or Danny Boy
- **Age:** 14
- **Gender:** Male
- **Occupation:** Middle school student

General Physical Description (can vary)

- **Height:** 5' – 5'10"
- **Hair:** Brown or Dirty Blond
- **Eyes:** Any
- **Distinguishing Features:** Often wears a locket that belonged to his late mother.

Personality:

- **Strengths:** Intelligent, introspective, empathetic, values integrity.
- **Weaknesses:** Introverted, harbors pent-up anger, distrusting of strangers.
- **Values:** Peace, honesty, family, privacy.
- **Fears:** Violence, betrayal, becoming like the people he distrusts.
- **Motivations:** Deep-rooted belief in pacifism, fueled further by the loss of his mother and the desire for a more peaceful world.

Background:

- **Family:** Father (Isaiah), late mother. Only child.
- **Education:** Enrolled in a local middle school, highly intelligent but struggles with social aspects.
- **Hobbies:** Sketching, writing in his journal, reading, listening to music that reminds him of his mother.

Arc:

- **Beginning:** Already strained relationship with his father, naïve about the realities of the world but wants to understand it better.
- **Middle:** Starts to see the cracks in his worldview, becomes disillusioned and questions everything, especially his father's actions.
- **End:** Tries to protect his father despite their strained relationship and is killed by Jude, illustrating the tragic cost of his pacifism.

Relationships:

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- **Isaiah (Father):** Isaiah's background is a scholarly individual who immerses himself in intellectual pursuits. Isaiah, more accustomed to the world of books and theories, finds it difficult to address the immediate emotional needs of his son, especially following the death of Daniel's mother.

Daniel views his father as someone wise yet emotionally unavailable. While he admires Isaiah's intelligence and shares some of his interests in the academic world, he is also frustrated by Isaiah's aloofness and emotional distance. The loss of his mother exacerbates these feelings, as Daniel feels a void in emotional support that his father can't adequately fill.

Isaiah's naiveté about the dangers of the real world causes additional strain. Daniel, influenced by his late mother's teachings and his own innate sensitivity, feels uneasy and sometimes anxious about their lack of preparedness for the challenging times they live in. This manifests in Daniel taking on a more cautionary role, trying to compensate for his father's blind spots when it comes to practical matters of safety and survival. Daniel's pacifism forms an ethical framework that fills the void where Isaiah's more pragmatic considerations fall short, a point of both convergence and divergence in their viewpoints.

The complexity of their relationship is flavored by a mix of silent admiration, latent resentment, and a desperate yearning for mutual understanding. Daniel harbors a wish that his father could be more emotionally present, more attuned to the dangerous undercurrents of their society, and more of a guide in a world that seems to be unraveling. Isaiah, for his part, is full of unspoken love and admiration for his son's qualities but lacks the emotional vocabulary to express it, given his scholarly disposition and his own internalized grief over the loss of Anna.

Both find their own ways of dealing with Anna's absence. Isaiah dives deeper into his academic world, searching for meaning or escape through his work, while Daniel finds solace in remembering his mother's teachings, focusing on being a pacifist as a form of tribute to her memory and a way to make sense of a world that increasingly feels senseless. Their shared loss is the silent, omnipresent third party in all their interactions, shaping their behavior in ways they might not fully realize.

So, while they may have trouble connecting on an emotional level, both feel a sense of loyalty and familial duty toward each other. And as external events force them to confront their internal struggles, the deficiencies and strengths of their relationship come sharply into focus.

While Daniel still has underlying love for his father, he wrestles with trust issues, especially as Isaiah's secrets come to light.

- **Anna (Mother):** Daniel had an incredibly close and nurturing relationship with his mother, Anna. She was the emotional cornerstone of their family, someone who always

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provided a safe and understanding environment for Daniel to grow up in. Soft-spoken but profoundly wise, Anna was the one who taught Daniel the value of compassion, kindness, and pacifism. From an early age, she introduced him to various forms of literature, music, and art, instilling a deep sense of empathy and emotional intelligence in him.

Anna was also his confidante, the person he could talk to when things were difficult, especially as tensions began to mount between him and his father, Isaiah. While Isaiah was more pragmatic and focused on his work, it was Anna who taught Daniel to see the good in people, to question things, and to aspire for peace even when surrounded by chaos.

Her sudden death left a void in Daniel's life that he never truly recovered from. While Isaiah was devastated, it was Daniel who felt the loss most acutely since Anna had been the family's emotional nucleus. Her death strained Daniel's relationship with his father even further, especially since Isaiah buried himself deeper in his work and couldn't provide the emotional support that Anna once did. The principles and values that Anna instilled in Daniel became the guiding light of his young life, even more so after her death.

Daniel frequently found himself daydreaming about the simple but profound moments he had shared with his mother: the quiet mornings spent reading together, the gentle hum of her lullabies, and the warmth of her hugs. Those memories kept him grounded but also became a source of inner conflict when life demanded pragmatic and sometimes morally ambiguous choices.

His mother's teachings were the backdrop against which Daniel viewed the world, and her loss was the lens through which he came to understand pain, sorrow, and the complexities of human emotion. This deep-rooted connection with Anna, even posthumously, defined Daniel's character and drove his actions throughout his life, eventually leading him to make the ultimate sacrifice for the values that his mother had taught him.

- **Jude:** Antagonistic relationship. Represents a lot of what Daniel fears and despises. Their relationship ends tragically, with Jude killing Daniel.
- **Evan (Friend):** One of the few people Daniel truly trusts. Daniel and Evan share a strong friendship rooted in their shared experiences and outlook on life. Being the same age, they've known each other since they were little. Their friendship is one of the few sources of emotional stability and support for Daniel, particularly after the loss of his mother.

Evan is aware of Daniel's pacifist beliefs and respects them, even though he doesn't fully share the same outlook. Evan is more pragmatic and street-smart, qualities that Daniel

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appreciates as they navigate their increasingly complex and dangerous world. In turn, Evan admires Daniel's strong ethical stance, viewing it as a form of bravery and commitment that he respects, even if he can't fully understand it.

Given the absence of emotional support at home for Daniel, Evan plays a vital role as confidant. Daniel feels comfortable discussing subjects with Evan that he can't with his father, like his pent-up anger over his mother's death or his frustrations with Isaiah's emotional unavailability. Evan serves as a sounding board for Daniel's complex feelings about his dad and his mother's absence, offering the kind of immediate, emotional feedback that Isaiah can't.

In moments of crisis, like the pro-Mandate 1318 rally they stumble upon, Evan instinctively looks out for Daniel's safety, aware that Daniel's beliefs and the fact his is not chipped could put him in jeopardy. Evan feels a sense of protective responsibility for Daniel, especially given that he knows how emotionally vulnerable Daniel has been since losing his mother.

However, this friendship also contains points of tension. Evan, being more practical, sometimes becomes frustrated with Daniel's pacifist beliefs, seeing them as a potential liability. Similarly, Daniel occasionally feels that Evan doesn't fully understand the depth of his convictions. These tensions are not deal-breakers but would serve as obstacles they both need to navigate to maintain their close friendship.

The friendship with Evan thus serves as an important counterbalance for Daniel, giving him a form of emotional sustenance that he doesn't get from his relationship with his father. This makes Evan an invaluable part of Daniel's life, someone who sees him for who he is and not just as the son of Isaiah.

Important Decisions and Actions:

1. **Disobeying Isaiah:** Leaves the house when told not to, which is both an act of teenage rebellion and an opening into a world much grimmer than he anticipated.
2. **Attending the Rally:** The moment when his worldview begins to crack. Realizes that the world isn't the peaceful place he'd hoped it would be.
3. **Confronting Isaiah:** Though he doesn't get the answers he seeks, the act of confronting his father about the night's events shows his coming of age and loss of innocence.
4. **Final Moments:** Tries to protect his father from Jude despite his pacifist views and pays the ultimate price. This is both a moment of bravery and tragedy.

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Evan's dark secret could be that he is an informant for the authorities enforcing Mandate 1318, the very organization Daniel and his family are trying to avoid. Raised in a household that fully supports the mandate, Evan has been feeding information to the authorities about those who are non-compliant, including activities in the local community and school.

This secret role puts Evan in an increasingly precarious moral dilemma, particularly as it becomes clear that Daniel and his father Isaiah are directly at odds with the mandate. Initially, Evan justified his actions as a form of loyalty to his family's beliefs and the greater "good" as defined by society. However, as he witnesses the growing harshness and ethical compromises of the mandate, he begins to question his involvement.

The revelation of this secret would be devastating for Daniel, who has already lost so much and trusted Evan implicitly. Discovering Evan's betrayal would not only endanger his and his father's safety but would also break his trust in one of the few people he felt he could rely on. It would be a violation of their friendship and a catalyst for Daniel to question his pacifist beliefs, as well as his ability to trust anyone at all.

For Evan, the act of betrayal—once it comes to light—forces him to confront the immorality of his actions and make a difficult choice. Does he continue down the path set by his family and the authorities he's been aiding, or does he take a stand, potentially risking everything to make amends?

The revelation of Evan's secret serves as a pivotal moment in both characters' arcs, forcing them to confront uncomfortable truths about themselves, each other, and the world they live in.