

Miles Morales: Issue 1

Saladin Ahmed and Javier Garrón took over the Miles series in 2019. Like the *Into the Spider-Verse* film, Ahmed and Garrón tried to bring more nuance and depth to Miles's character. While they were met with some resistance, Ahmed and Garrón tried to emphasize aspects of Miles's Latino identity, which was absent from past stories. They also wanted to show how current issues in the States would impact how an Afro-Latino young man would find his place as a son, friend, and superhero. While you read these issues, answer the following questions.

Part 1: Research Author's Perspective & Biases

1. Research the creators. What were the formats and topics of their previous work? How could their personal experiences impact their work on Miles?

Part 2: Understand Plot & Themes

2. How does Miles originally respond to his journal assignment?
3. What are Miles's three powers?
4. Miles's family has a lot of secrets.
 - a. What is his dad's secret?
 - b. What is his uncle's secret?
 - c. What is his mom's job?
5. Who is Ganke Lee and why is he important to Miles Morales?
6. How does Miles know Eduardo?
7. What is Eduardo's backstory?
8. Miles claims "I've never been more confused about my responsibility." Why is he confused?
9. Miles makes a comment that the burglars are creepy. What are the two things he notices about them that are unsettling?
10. What is Rhino doing when Miles encounters him? Hint: he comes right out and tells Miles why he was following the burglars.
11. When Miles takes off the mask of a burglar, what does he discover?

Part 3: Understanding Comic Terminology and Structure

12. How many panels are on page 4 of the story?
13. How many splash pages are in issue 1?
14. What is revealed on the first splash page? Why is this moment important?
15. What is the most common color of gutters in this issue?
16. What is revealed on the last splash page? For the sense of storytelling, why is it important to end an issue this way?

Part 4: Analyze Issue & Representation

17. This comic starts with Miles Morales in class getting a journal assignment.
 - a. What is the purpose of a journal?
 - b. Why are journals associated with adolescents?
18. How does the idea of a journal relate to the internal conflict of Spider-Man?
19. Most Americans know the origin story of Peter Parker's Spider-Man and Miles Morales's origin as Spider-Man is similar.
 - a. How do the creators cleverly transition into his origin?
 - b. How does the additive nature of the art impact the pacing and structure of the comic?
 - c. What do the images add to his journal writing monologue?
20. This comic rewrites Miles's dad's backstory. Research his father's backstory before answering this question.
 - a. What backstory/history of Miles's dad do we learn about?
 - b. How does this depiction combat the stereotypes of Black men that are shown in the original run?
 - c. Why is it important to combat stereotypes by rewriting back stories?
21. Look at the minor/background characters' hair styles.
 - a. What do you notice about them?
 - b. How do these visual choices challenge stereotypes and empower Black readers?