

# The chrysalids: uncle axle character sketch



**ASSIGN  
BUSTER**

In the novel *The Chrysalids*, Axel Storm—David Storm's Uncle—is described as "a cripple." (24). They live in Waknuk, Labrador; a community with very unique and bizarre laws and religions. As you read through chapters 1-8 you see his traits prevail. You also learn that David sees his Uncle as a friend and a role model rather than just a relative. "...because he was Uncle Axel and my best friend among the grown-ups." (30) You also get the sense that David almost feels as if his Uncle is the only supportive, understanding, logical, and open-minded member in his family.

Axel shows that he is very trustworthy when David first realizes that he might be a deviation and goes to speak to him. "I want you to promise me that you will never, never tell any one else what you have just told me - never" (30) David chose to tell his Uncle about his telepathy over anyone else because he knows that anyone else but his Uncle would charge him for blasphemy and turn him in, even his own father—who is the town's priest. In this community, you can be charged just for knowing about a deviation and reporting it, which gives Axel no other reason to keep it a secret. The reader could see Axel as logical and adventurous when he spoke to David about the Blacklands and his adventures travelling the sea. He voyages to places people would describe as "a weird, evil land" (59) He knew everything from "how to reach the rest of the world" (58) to what people from different places looked like. Axel also saw "corn growing higher than small trees... fungus colonies that you'd take at first sight for big white boulders" (59) and communities where "they all have white hair and pink eyes. (62) He explains to David that there are places that "you'll find Deviations who think they're normal." (62) and "where they do have a sense of sin, they've got it mixed

up. " (62) Axel has seen the world and decides to share his knowledge with David because he's thinking about running away. Axel is very supportive and open-minded about David's gift when David tells him about it. Charging him for blasphemy or telling anyone else doesn't even come to his mind; he didn't even seem shocked. Despite that his Nephew is a Deviation, Axel is very supportive and he's the only one —other than the others who are telepathic—that knows of David's gift. Axel makes sure that no one else will ever find out. Axel is a hard-working and "useful all-around man" (22) He sailed the seas until "he was on a voyage that left him a cripple. " (22) Despite his life-long injury, he still works on his brother-in-law's farm. Open-minded, logical, adventurous, and trustworthy, Axel Storm has all of the appropriate traits to get David and his group of gifted friends out of Waknuk alive. H