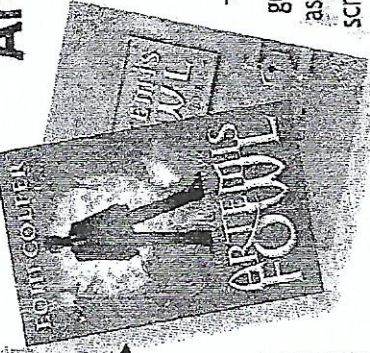


Artemis Fowl: the anti-hero



A criminal genius or a genius criminal?

Artemis Fowl is the hero of a series of novels written by the Irish author Eoin Colfer. Artemis is a child criminal as well as a mastermind.

The **main character**, Artemis Fowl is a 12-year-old boy who has got blue eyes and dark hair just like his father. His skin is as white as a vampire because he spends a lot of time in front of a computer screen. He is very skilful, very clever at all he does. Like most children, he is a bit difficult, but his tastes are strange: he loves caviar but does not like lollipops¹, he prefers elegant clothes unlike other young boys who enjoy wearing jeans and T-shirts.

The **child prodigy** is extremely intelligent. He thinks he has a greater intellect than all other humans because nobody uses a computer better than him. He has already beaten the European chess champion in an online tournament. He has created more than twenty seven inventions. But he can be very dangerous with his computer.

The **Machiavellian teenager** is expressionless: he wants to mask his emotions. He is anti-social with sarcastic humour. While surfing on the net, he discovers the existence of an underground world² of fairies³ and gnomes⁴ and he decides to steal their gold. He is rather ruthless, showing no compassion for these creatures. But human technology is not as advanced as theirs and he has to spend his days in front of his computer to create new programmes to exploit his enemies. Although he is immoral, he wants to be good, so he may be an anti-hero.

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