



Orientation

Ensure that you have read about using the plan in the Program Guide.

Book summary

Read the following summary to the student.

Jaxon, Kaz, and Tenza are on their way back to base after searching for the wreckage of spacecraft Alpha. When they hear a mysterious voice and decide to investigate, they discover something that endangers them all ...

Introduction

Foster interest and activate the student's background knowledge. Be concise – focus on motivating and involving the student. Encourage prediction by using the text and illustrations on the cover of the book. Discuss new vocabulary and remind the student to use the glossary (when applicable). Also remind the student to ask him/herself questions before, during and after the reading.

Discuss how the function of the blurb is to build suspense and make the reader want to find out what happens. Ask the student what the mysterious voice might be, how the characters might all be endangered, and what the girl on the cover could be scared of. Ask the student how they feel about reading the book.

Discuss the features of science fiction, such as an imaginary setting, unusual characters, and scientific or technological innovations. Find examples of these features in the blurb, the title, and the cover illustration. Encourage the student to look for science fiction features as they read the book.

Conferencing

Check how well the student reads

When you are conferencing, the student reads all or part of the book to you. Then:

- praise, pause, and prompt appropriately;
- check for accuracy (by counting mistakes) and fluency;
- check for understanding by using one or more of the following methods:
 - asking the comprehension questions provided and any others that seem necessary;
 - asking the student to retell the story in their own words;
 - asking questions about and discussing aspects of the story, such as the theme, plot, main ideas, sequence and characters;
 - encouraging the student to confirm the predictions they made during the orientation.

Decide what the student does next

Next recommend that the student:

- practices some more on the same book, with or without the audio;
- completes one of the activities provided that is related to the book;
- practices with another book from the same level; or
- is assessed for promotion to the next level.

Comprehension questions

1. Where and when does the story take place?
2. Who was Zifox and what had happened to him?
3. What is the story's climax?
4. What are some interesting words, phrases, or sentences in the story?
5. If you were a cadet, would you have stayed on the island to explore or returned to base as instructed? Why?

Answers to the Comprehension questions

1. On an island on a planet other than Earth, some time in the future.
2. Zifox was the navigator on Alpha. After Alpha sank in the lake, he swam onto an island and was transformed into a spider.
3. When Kaz began to transform.
4. Answers will vary but may include: "sank a notch," "communication chips," "thin and quivering like the sound of an insect," and "the heat settled on them like clammy hands."
5. Answers will vary.

Supporting English Language Learners

The following are suggestions for optional lessons to take with your English language learners. See the overview chart in the Program Guide for a summary of the text features of this book.

Purpose

Understanding technical vocabulary

Introduce the concept and practice

Glossaries play an important role in comprehension because the meaning of technical vocabulary is often not found by using contextual clues.

After the student has read the book, together identify technical vocabulary in the text. Write a list of the words, leaving enough space for the student to write a definition or draw a diagram for each word. Technical vocabulary may include hover mode, cadets, survival rations, intercom, Mission, base, microphone, control stick, demerit points, craft, hull, communication chip, hovercraft, protein bar, emergency pack, transformed, and re-forming. Create a glossary with the student by completing a definition for each word. The glossary can be kept with the book for other students to use when they read it.





Name: Date:

Introduction: Jaxon, Kaz, and Tenza are on their way back to base after searching for the wreckage of spacecraft Alpha. When they hear a mysterious voice and decide to investigate, they discover something that endangers them all ...

Errors
M S

Jaxon jerked his head up. “Did you hear that?”

“_____ what?” Kaz asked. “I _____ hear anything.” “Listen!” Jaxon _____. “There’s a voice.”

Tenza _____ the small hovercraft to _____ mode, and the engine _____ sank a notch. “There _____ is again!” The three _____ listened intently through the _____ chips clipped to their _____. “Is someone there?” a _____ voice whispered. “Do you _____ it now?” Jaxon peered _____ toward the lake. “It’s _____ from that island. Maybe _____ a survivor from the Alpha.”

_____ Alpha had been _____ in the area six _____ earlier. There had been _____ trace of survivors, but _____ was a chance that _____ wreckage from the craft _____ washed up on the _____. The cadets had been _____ to search the uncharted _____ to see if they could find any clues about what had happened.

Accuracy Chart (Exact word replacement only)

Words Entered	Score	Level
More than 11 correct		Independent
10 or 11 correct		Instructional
Fewer than 10 correct		Frustration

Errors

M = Meaning (makes sense) ____ **S** = Syntax (sounds right) ____

Heard Seen Unseen

Comments:





Jaxon, Tenza, and Kaz were sent to search an uncharted lake to see if they could find what had happened to the spacecraft Alpha. Jaxon heard a voice and thought it might belong to a survivor from the Alpha. Kaz said, “Nobody could last for six months on survival rations. Let’s head back.”

The search craft’s intercom crackled. “Control to Mission Alpha. Your search time is complete. Return to base.” “If somebody’s down there,” said Tenza, “then we need to find them.” She set the craft down on a clearing in the island’s thick undergrowth.

She opened the door. “Let’s get out of here!” said Kaz. “Surely if anybody were here, they’d have shown themselves already.” As she spoke, the voice came again. It sounded like an insect, and it was chanting something. “I know that rhyme,” Jaxon exclaimed.

“It’s Little Miss Muffet. People sang it to children long ago.” The voice from Mission Control again ordered the cadets to return to base. Kaz started scrambling back toward the hovercraft, but the insect voice wavered out again. “Please, don’t go without me!” Kaz looked around and screamed.

Then she screamed again, pointing at a huge spider dangling above her. Jaxon lunged toward it and held the spider in his hand. “I’m Zifox,” the spider said. “That was the name of the Alpha’s navigator,” Jaxon exclaimed. “I transformed,” said the spider. “Everything transforms on this island.”

Kaz screamed as she realised her arm was blackening with hair, and her fingers were disappearing. The cadets lurched toward the hovercraft. Tenza gave the craft full power. Soon, Kaz felt her hand coming back. The spider was changing, too. “Thank you,” Zifox said, in a more human-like voice.





Name: Date:

Words can be found in these directions:



The letter in each square can only be used in one word.

r	e	m	e	m	b	e	r	e	d	p	l	a	n	e	t
p	e	i	s	o	m	e	w	h	e	r	e	u	h	f	s
e	m	a	m	s	o	m	e	t	h	i	n	g	o	o	p
r	e	c	n	m	t	o	w	a	r	d	h	n	v	l	i
s	r	o	e	y	e	c	a	y	o	f	a	o	e	l	d
o	g	m	a	n	t	d	o	r	o	o	v	b	r	o	e
n	e	m	s	r	g	h	i	m	o	u	e	o	c	w	r
s	n	u	i	e	e	i	i	a	p	u	v	d	r	e	v
e	c	n	w	e	t	a	n	n	t	l	n	y	a	d	o
a	y	i	t	h	e	i	r	e	g	e	e	d	f	f	i
r	s	c	s	c	h	e	d	u	l	e	l	t	t	o	c
c	p	a	s	t	o	p	p	i	n	g	s	y	e	r	e
h	o	t	d	i	s	a	p	p	e	a	r	i	n	g	v
s	k	i	h	e	a	r	d	h	a	p	p	e	n	e	d
e	e	o	b	e	l	i	e	v	e	i	n	s	e	c	t
e	r	n	e	n	t	i	r	e	p	e	o	p	l	e	r

Words to find:

- | | | | | |
|---------------|------------|-------------|------------|----------|
| anything | engine | immediately | remembered | spoke |
| area | entire | insect | schedule | stopping |
| around | followed | nobody | search | their |
| believe | for | of | see | toward |
| communication | happened | people | set | voice |
| complete | have | person | something | we |
| disappearing | heard | planet | somewhere | you |
| emergency | hovercraft | | spider | |

Use the letters that are left to make the word that tells who the cadets found on the island.





- ★ Spin the numbered spinner.
- ★ The highest number starts.
- ★ You need to spin the exact number to move onto the END square.

START
 You are searching an uncharted lake to find out what happened to the spacecraft Alpha.

1

2 You hear a voice. Spin again. If you spin an even number, go on to 6.

3

19

20

21

22

4

18 Jaxon holds a spider that says its name is Zifox. Go forward 3 spaces.

END
 You give the craft full power, and Kaz transforms back. The spider changes too, and it thanks you for coming back in a voice that's more like a human voice.

23 The spider tells you it transformed from a navigator to a spider. Miss a turn.

5 Your search time is complete. Name 2 numbers. If you spin one of them, go back to 1.

17

30

24

6

16

29

25 The spider tells you everything transforms on this island. Go back to 21.

7

15

28

27 Kaz's arms are stretching and growing black hair. Go back 3 spaces.

26

8 You set the craft down on a tiny clearing in the island's undergrowth. Go on to 11.

14 You must return to base immediately, but the insect voice pleads, "Don't go without me." Miss a turn.

13

12

11

10 You hear the voice again. It quivers like the sound of an insect. Spin again. Go forward that number.

9





Name: Date:

Use the Venn diagram to compare Kaz and Tenza. List their differences in the outer sections of the circles and their similarities where the two circles intersect.

Kaz

Tenza

worried about getting demerit points for not following orders

concerned about leaving someone on the planet

cadets conducting a search for spacecraft Alpha

Write on the back of this page if you need more space.



Reread the book to find the information. Think about what Kaz and Tenza do, what they think, and what they look like.

