

# The Tower

by Bernard Beckett

## Summary

Ren and Zaila have tried to reach the tower many times. This time, they're determined to make it. Many obstacles lie ahead, including guards, underground tunnels, and a Jet Ski patrol. It's a dangerous journey – with a surprising ending.

## Features of the Text

- Action-packed plot
- Dialogue
- Sequence of events
- Third-person narrative
- Futuristic setting and illustrations
- Surprise ending

## Purpose

*The Tower* can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- exploring narrative structure;
- making inferences;
- identifying the sequence of events.

## Guided Reading Summary

### Introducing the text

Look at the cover of the book with the students. Discuss where and when they think the story might be set.

- *What do you think the characters are trying to do?*
- *How do you think they're feeling?*

Discuss the dialogue in the story and the use of short sentences to convey tension and suspense.

### Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5.

- *What are Ren and Zaila trying to do?*
- *How do you know that they've tried to do this before?*
- *Why do you think time is so important to them?*

The students can now read to the end of page 9. When they have finished, discuss the unexpected events that occurred and the decisions that the characters made.

- *Will Ren and Zaila make it to the tower? What might happen to them if they don't?*

Ask the students to read the rest of the story.

- *Was the ending different from what you expected?*
- *What might have happened if Ren and Zaila had made different decisions?*

## Following Up

The students can:

- use the copy master on page 49 to chart the sequence of events in the story
- draw a map to show the route Ren and Zaila took in their attempt to reach the tower
- rewrite the ending of the story to describe what might happen if the characters chose the tunnel instead of the ladder.