

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.

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.

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?*