

The Navigators

by Bernard Beckett

Summary

When Beeby and Jenna try out the controls on their starship, they are confronted by the most feared sight in the galaxy. They need to think quickly to navigate their way to safety.

Features of the Text

- Science fiction vocabulary and conventions
- Futuristic story written in the past tense
- Narrative text with action and dialogue
- Orientation, problem, climax, resolution

Purpose

The Navigators can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- exploring the structure of a narrative;
- examining the language that builds tension in a narrative.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Discuss the children on the cover. Ask the students to predict what the characters are seeing and feeling.

Tell the students that you want them to identify the orientation (setting the scene), the problem, the climax (the high point), and the resolution (solution to the problem) as they read the story.

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 4.

- *What are the main details in the opening of this story?*
- *What are Jenna and Beeby planning?*

Ask the students to read to the end of page 9 and to identify sentences that show a buildup of tension.

- *What is the main problem the characters are facing?*
- *Which sentences show that Beeby is feeling tense?*

Ask the students to finish reading the story. Discuss the resolution (going through the wormhole), the new problem (ending up in another galaxy), and the final plan (returning through the wormhole).

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 37 to write a sequel to the story
- draw a labeled diagram of a starship
- draw a map of a galaxy with solar systems, asteroids, wormholes, and other imaginary features
- use the conventions of dialogue to write a conversation in which Beeby and Jenna tell their parents what happened.