

The Oil Feud

by Mandy Hager

Summary

In this futuristic story, Miguel and his mother visit Miguel's grandfather. Miguel explores his grandfather's home and finds some ancient machines. He also discovers the reason behind his mother's and grandfather's strained relationship.

Features of the Text

- Narrative text that includes orientation, problem, climax, and resolution
- Futuristic fiction
- Use of vivid descriptive language including personification
- First-person narrative

Purpose

The Oil Feud can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- making inferences and predictions;
- using visualization to make meaning;
- exploring figurative language, including personification.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Read aloud the first two paragraphs on page 2, asking the students to picture the setting and the characters as they listen. Discuss one of the following questions, depending on your purpose:

- *What did you imagine? What helped you to imagine that?*
- *What have you learned about the time and place of the story?*
- *What can you infer about this family?*
- *What do you think might happen?*

Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read to the end of page 5, visualizing the scene and the events.

- *If you were Miguel, how would you be feeling?*
- *What words evoked the strongest connections or images?*

Discuss the students' reactions and the effect of the descriptive language.

Ask the students to predict how the problem might be resolved. The students can read to the end of the story, pausing to discuss their predictions with a partner.

When the students finish reading, discuss how the author helped them to visualize the setting and the characters' feelings.

Explain that the author has brought specific scenes to life by using a variety of senses. Discuss how the students can use visualization as a strategy to help make sense of a text and explore their reactions to it.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 67 to identify and explain the figurative language in the text
- write a letter from Miguel to one of his friends describing his visit
- write the conversation that Miguel's mom and his grandfather might have had on the porch.