

## Digging Up the Past

by Rebecca Green

### Summary

Jade is searching through her basement for something to sell at the school fair. She discovers things from her past as she finds old photographs of her grandfather while he was working as a paleontologist.

### Features of the Text

- Narrative text with dialogue
- Emotive and descriptive language
- Similes
- Realistic fiction

### Purpose

*Digging Up the Past* can be used for the following purposes:

- using visualizing to make meaning;
- exploring descriptive language.

### Following Up

The students can:

- use the blackline master on page 43 to explore synonyms and antonyms for words in the story
- write a postcard from Jade's grandfather to his family, describing a fossil discovery he has made on one of his field trips
- write the report that went with the photo of Jade in the newspaper.

### Guided Reading Summary

#### Introducing the text

Ask the students to look at the cover and title of the book.

- *What do you think the girl is doing?*
- *What might this book be about?*

#### Reading and discussing the text

Ask the students to read pages 2 and 3, then quickly sketch something the author has described. Discuss the ways that authors help their readers to imagine scenes.

- *How does visualizing help you to understand the text better?*

Tell the students to work in pairs as they read through the rest of the text. One partner can read two pages aloud while the other sketches something the author has described. The students switch roles for the next two pages. Alternatively, ask the students to jot down examples of descriptive language as they read the text.

- *What are some examples of descriptive language in the text?*
- *Why is descriptive language important in fiction?*
- *How does descriptive language help you to form visual images?*

Check that the students have followed the story and that their sketches or lists of descriptive language helped them to understand it.