

AN EXTRA-ORDINARY BEGINNING

Reading Activities Information

Introduction

The reading activities are organised by chapter and each have a theme. The themes are:

- Openings
- Characters
- Plot and Structure
- Setting and Atmosphere
- Author's viewpoint and intentions
- Style and Language
- Endings

These themes will be repeated as you work through the book but the activities are all different and are based on reading materials provided by the UK National Association for the Teaching of English (NATE).

Overview

Listed below are the reading activities available for 'An Extra-Ordinary Beginning'.

Guided Reading Resource 1 – Openings

Chapter 1 – Painful Memories: Alexander Almas recalls events from over 10 years ago.

Guided Reading Resource 2 - Characters

Chapter 2 – On the Rooftops of Paris: introduces the two main characters, Eric and Ursula.

Guided Reading Resource 3 – Characters (Empathy)

Chapter 3 – Parents Pet Project: Eric is told by his parents that they are going away for eight months.

Guided Reading Resource 4 – Relate to previous reading experience

Chapter 4 – The Competition Entries: Andrea receives the competition entries and Ursula wins. Ursula is chased by the police after stealing medicine.

Guided Reading Resource 5 – Characters (asking questions)

Chapter 5- Au revoir : Ursula says goodbye to her grandparents

Guided Reading Resource 6 – Setting and Atmosphere (See images)

Chapter 6 – Finding the Treasure: Alexander finds the missing pod but so does Mihai and the OSS.

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Guided Reading Resource 7 – Character (Pass comments)

Chapter 7 – Turbulence: Eric and Ursula travel by plane to Prague and upset the other passengers.

Guided Reading Resource 8 – Style and Language

Chapter 8 – The Meyer's Cellar: Eric traps Ursula in the cellar.

Guided Reading Resource 9 – Plot and Structure (Relate to the social, historical and cultural background)

Chapter 9 – Return to Roswell: Professor Schwarzkopf returns to Roswell with Agent Angel and there are recollections from years ago.

Guided Reading Resource 10 – Author's viewpoint and intentions (Establish a relationship with the writer/narrator)

Chapter 10 – Prague Anglo-International School: Ursula goes to her new school for the first time and finds out about Eric.

Guided Reading Resource 11 – Plot and Structure (Rationalise what is happening)

Chapter 11 – Opening: Professor Schwarzkopf is working back at Roswell. He manages to open the pod.

Guided Reading Resource 12 – Characters (Speculate about characters and events)

Chapter 12 – Christmas Cheer: The Benjamins are invited to Switzerland for some of the Christmas period. They travel by plane for the first time.

Guided Reading Resource 13 – Plot and Structure (Re-interpret)

Chapter 13 – The Race around Champex Lake: Eric and Ursula fight. After the fight, they question whether they are ordinary children.

Guided Reading Resource 14 – Plot and Structure (Reread)

Chapter 14 – Recovery Time: Eric and Ursula fall asleep after their fight and sleep for eighteen hours.

Guided Reading Resource 15 – Plot and Structure (Relate to your own experience and pass judgements)

Chapter 15 – The Than: Eric and Ursula start being friendly towards each other.

Guided Reading Resource 16 – Author's voice and intentions

Chapter 16 – Breaking News: On the news it is reported that the yacht, which Eric's parents were on, has exploded and his parents have been killed.

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Guided Reading Resource 17 – Author’s voice and intentions (Predict what will happen)

Chapter 17 – Reporting Back: The OSS announce that Eric is missing. The chapter is really short.

Guided Reading Resource 18 – Style and Language

Chapter 18 – Return to Saint Denis: The Christmas holiday comes to an abrupt end and the main characters travel back to Saint Denis in Paris.

Guided Reading Resource 19 – Plot and Structure (Middles of books)

Chapter 19 – Back from the Dead: Erica and Ursula go to a post office and end up stopping a robbery.

Guided Reading Resource 20 – Author’s Viewpoint and Intentions

Chapter 20 – Pursued: Eric goes back to school. During a PE lesson, he skips school and is kidnapped.

Guided Reading Resource 21 – Plot and Structure

Chapter 21 – Who are you?: Eric meets Dr. Alexander Johansen for the first time. Dr. Johansen tells Eric who he really is.

Guided Reading Resource 22 – Style and Language

Chapter 22 – Professor Larsen’s Story: Professor Larsen explains how Eric and Ursula were ‘born’.

Guided Reading Resource 23 – Style and Language

Chapter 23 – Explanations: Disc 5 is missing. Eric and Ursula are told they cannot leave the house. Agent Angel wants to find out about Ursula and locate the missing pod.

Guided Reading Resource 24 – Setting and Atmosphere

Chapter 24 – House Arrest: Eric is stuck in the Meyer Villa with Alexander. They plan how they are going to retrieve the pod.

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Guided Reading Resource 25 – Plot and structures (relate to experience)

Chapter 25 – Escape to Pompeii: Ursula, Andrea, Alex and Alexander fly to Pompeii in Captain Hudson's plane. They need to locate the pod and find Disc 5.

Guided Reading Resource 26 – Setting and Atmosphere (Seeing images)

Chapter 26 – Under Observation: The OSS are watching Eric and Ursula but the children manage to lose them.

Guided Reading Resource 27 – Style and Language (Feel involved)

Chapter 27 – The Missing Pod: Ursula find disc 5, but then she, Eric, Andrea and Alexander, are involved in a car chase up Mount Vesuvius.

Guided Reading Resource 28 – Characters (Asking questions)

Chapter 28 – Rendez-vous: Eric and Ursula are chased down Mount Vesuvius as they try to reach the airport. They realise that they can 'beat' the OSS agents.

Guided Reading Resource 29 – Characters (Speculate about characters and events)

Chapter 29 – Victory or defeat? Agent Angel tells Professor Schwarzkopf that he still wants to create Identical Hybrid Beings.

Guided Reading Resource 30 – Plot and Structure (Re-reading)

Chapter 30 – Reunion: Ursula, Eric, Andrea and Alexander get back to the Benjamin's apartment and find disc 5.

Guided Reading Resource 31 – Author's intentions (predicting what may happen)

Chapter 31 – Disc Five: On Disc 5, Professor Larsen tells her three fears. These are: firstly, Aliens are looking for a new home; secondly, an army of Identical Hybrid Beings will be created by the OSS; thirdly, Eric and Ursula will not live beyond 13 or 14 years old.

Guided Reading Resource 32 - Endings

Chapter 32 – Three months later: Kurtz had checked all the data on the discs. She has come to the conclusion that to create Identical Hybrid Beings she will need DNA from either Eric or Ursula.

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An Example

Guided Reading Resource – An Example

Chapter X – Chapter Name: A short summary of the chapter

- Activities to be completed independently

Activities to be completed by a group

Your notes:

This is where students can write notes.

