



Adrift

Stage 5

Unit Focus: Science Fiction

Text Focus: Narrative





Today We Are Learning To...



identify new words when you read and discuss their meaning in context



explain and justify using evidence from the text



retrieve simple facts

Before reading...

This story mentions the 'growing climate catastrophe'.

What do you think this means?



Before reading...

Listen to this description and then use it to draw a picture. What can you see in your head?

Adrift amongst the stars, in the outer reaches of the galaxy, a small ship floated towards its final destination. The SS Brigand had set out from Earth a thousand years earlier. There was a single occupant. Doctor Gwen Bigby had volunteered for the mission as soon as she'd heard about it. There was nothing left for her on Earth by that point. The growing climate catastrophe had made sure of that.

Task 1: Read 'Adrift' as a class

After reading, discuss:

- What did you like/dislike about this story?
- Was there anything confusing or puzzling?
- Did this story remind you of any other stories, films or TV shows you know?

Challenge:

Answer the 5 Vocabulary Focus Questions

Task 1: Read 'Adrift' as a class

Read this extract from the text. Think carefully about what Gwen might be thinking and feeling!

A sound alerted her to the fact that something was moving nearby. A vine was creeping towards her. It snaked along the floor more quickly than she could run. The thick stems were easily as thick as her arm and covered in sharp barbs. She turned back towards the ship but she was too slow.



Task 2: Vocabulary Check

Complete this table to show your understanding of these words

| Word | Have you heard the word before? | What do you think it means? | Use in a sentence of your own |
|-------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| destination | | | |
| occupant | | | |
| catastrophe | | | |



Task 2: Quick-fire retrieval

Write the answers to these!

- 1) Dr Gwen Bigby was forced to take this mission. True or false?
- 2) Where is Gwen travelling to?
- 3) What is the purpose of Gwen's mission?
- 4) What happens to Gwen at the end of the story?



Task 2: Quick-fire retrieval ANSWERS

Check to see if your answers are correct

- 1) Dr Gwen Bigby was forced to take this mission. True or false? **False**
- 2) Where is Gwen travelling to? **Andula**
- 3) What is the purpose of Gwen's mission? **Assess Andula's suitability for supporting life**
- 4) What happens to Gwen at the end of the story? **She steps out into a forest and is dragged away by a vine**



Task 4: Vocabulary Synonyms

Travel to the distant planet of Andula and assess its suitability for supporting life.

What does the word *assess* mean in this sentence?

Tick **one**.

| | Tick one |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| evaluate | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| determination | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| exam | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| judgement | <input type="checkbox"/> |



Task 4: Vocabulary Synonyms

She wandered over to the panoramic window...

What does the word *panoramic* mean in this sentence?

Tick **one**.

| | Tick one |
|----------|----------|
| parcel | |
| narrow | |
| sweeping | ✓ |
| glass | |



Task 4: Vocabulary Synonyms

Dr Bigby threw the coffee away and braced herself for impact.

What does the word *braced* mean in this sentence?

Tick **one**.

| | Tick one |
|----------|----------|
| carry | |
| steadied | ✓ |
| scaffold | |
| groaned | |



Task 5: True or false?

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is true or false.

| STATEMENT | TRUE | FALSE |
|---|------|-------|
| Earth is habitable. | | ✓ |
| Doctor Gwen Bigby volunteered for the mission. | ✓ | |
| The most important device on the vessel for Gwen is the coffee machine. | ✓ | |
| Doctor Gwen Bigby lands in a barren desert at the end of the story. | | ✓ |



Task 6: Inference

Using information from the text, tick one box in each row to show whether each statement is a fact or an opinion.

| STATEMENT | FACT | OPINION |
|--|------|---------|
| Doctor Gwen Bigby is a brave, determined woman. | | ✓ |
| In the story, Earth has been destroyed by a climate catastrophe. | ✓ | |
| The name of Gwen's ship is the SS Brigand. | ✓ | |



Task 7: Justify ideas

How does the setting develop the atmosphere of tension?

Refer to your favourite words and phrases from the story to support your ideas.





You have reached the end of the lesson!

Summarise this story in one word and explain your word choice.

Re-tell the story from Gwen's point of view in six sentences, considering her thoughts and feelings.

Extra: Create a storyboard to show the main events in the story.

