



▶ A plot is what happens in a story. It's a series of events that lead to the solution of a problem presented in the beginning of the story. What is the plot of this story?

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▶ Look at the sentences that are highlighted to help you find out what the author is telling us about the beginning of the plot. As you continue reading, look for more sentences that add to the plot.

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▶ Here's a question for you that can help you understand the story better. Why does Mr. Michaels have to tell Nadja where to sit?

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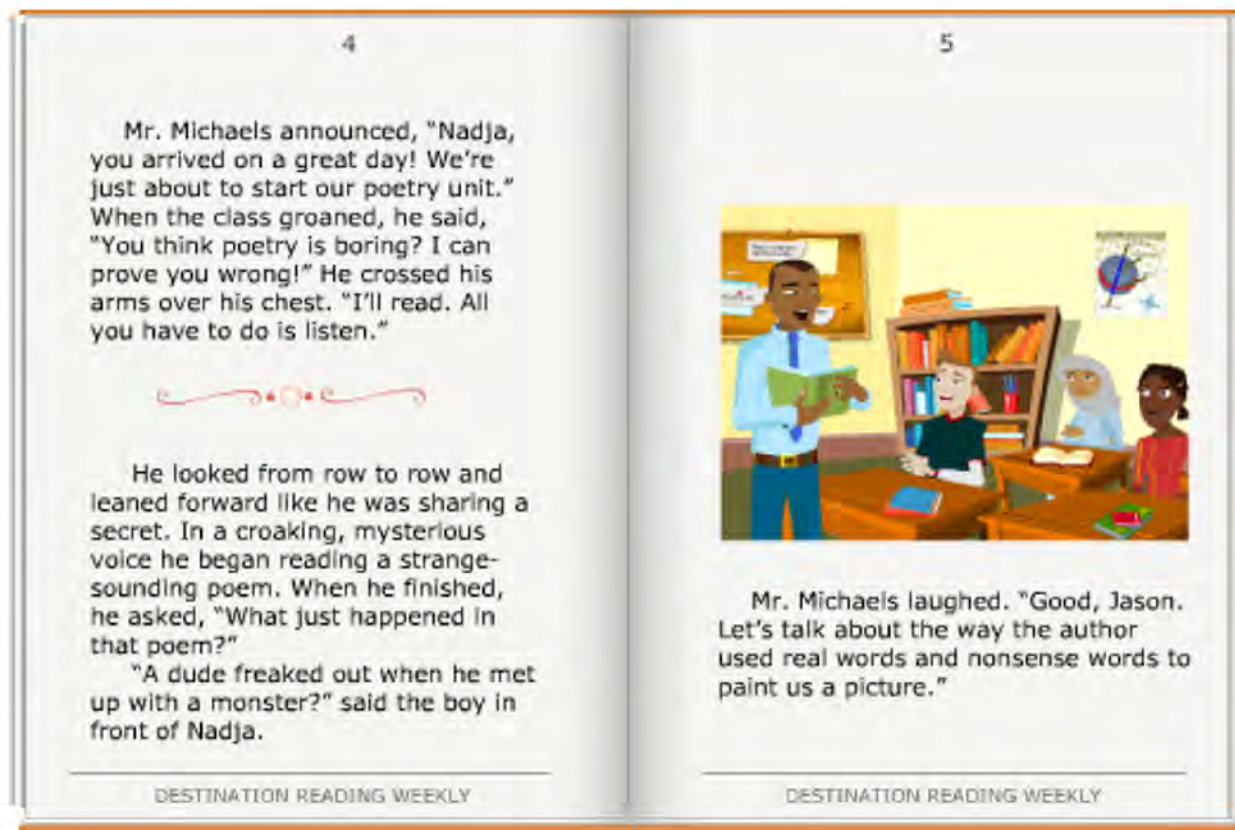
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## DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

### UNIT 01: I Will Be Stronger Than the Fear in My Heart



You might not know what "freaked out" means here, but you do know what a monster is. Monster is a clue! What would you do if you met up with a monster? You might lose control of yourself and feel very scared. What do you think "freaked out" means?

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Idioms are words that have hidden meanings. If you try to read the words just as they appear, they won't make sense. You have to read the whole sentence to understand what the idiom means. What do you think "paint us a picture" means in the highlighted sentence here? Did the author really use a paintbrush and a canvas?

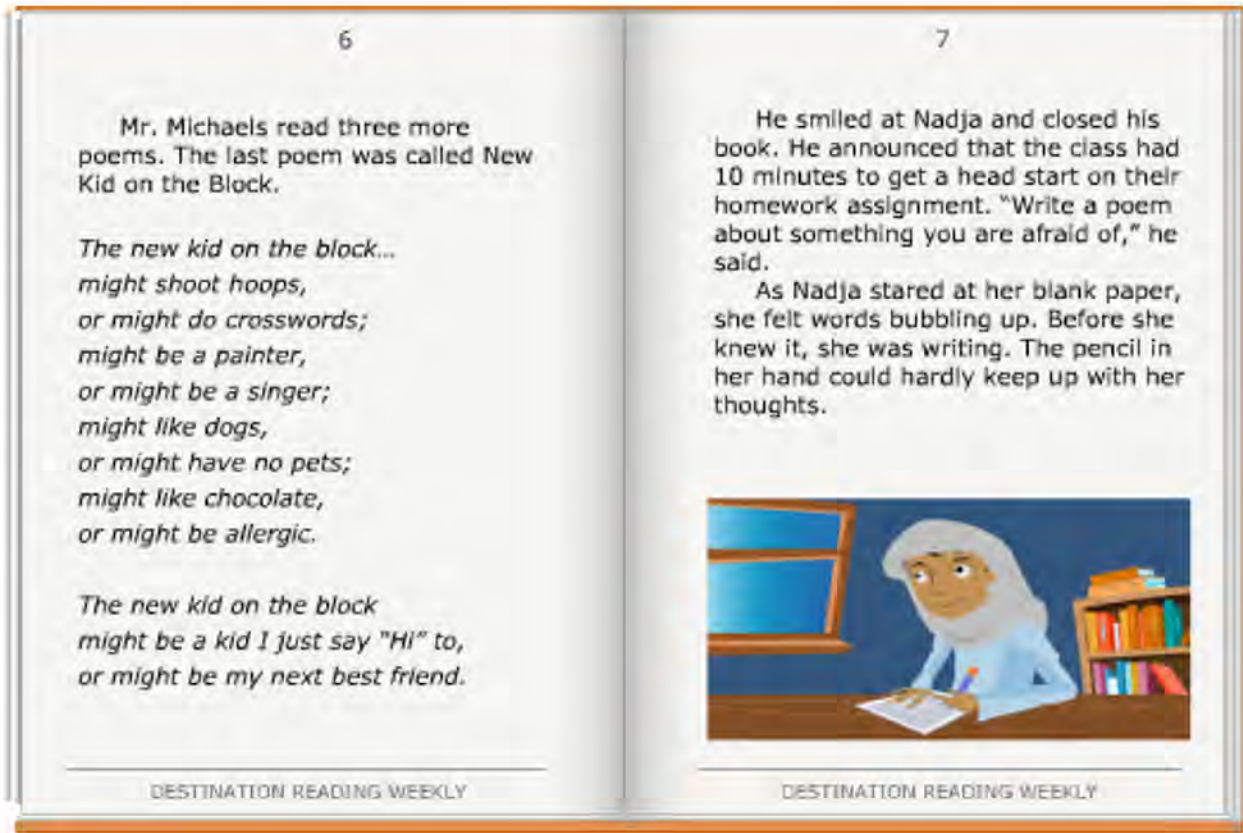
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DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

UNIT 01: I Will Be Stronger Than the Fear in My Heart



Have you ever changed schools and been “the new kid on the block?” What can other students do to make a new student feel welcome?

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What question could you ask yourself here that might help you understand Nadja better? What do you think Nadja is thinking about as Mr. Michaels reads “New Kid on the Block?”

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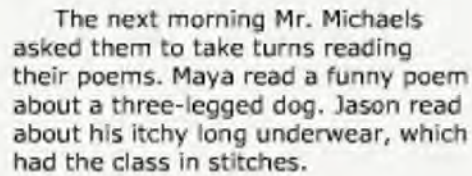
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## UNIT 01: I Will Be Stronger Than the Fear in My Heart



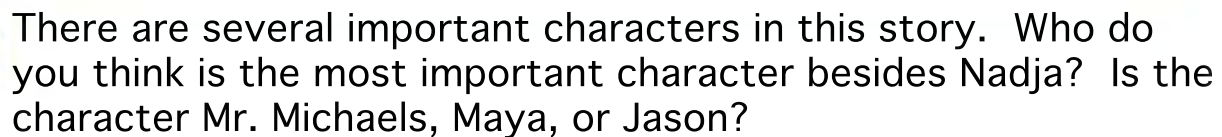
DESTINATION READING WEEKLY

When Mr. Michaels called on Nadja, she opened her notebook to the seventh page of the writing she had done the previous night. She read:

### Driving Away

*The city rises up behind us.  
No doorways giving shelter,  
No schoolyards embracing crowds of  
kids.  
Only orange sun bathing tall buildings.  
The city pulls me like a magnet pulling  
metal,  
but our new life pulls harder.  
We drive away, memories already  
washing, fading.  
I will be stronger than the fear in my  
heart.*

DESTINATION READING WEEKLY

[illegible]