

Finding a Way

Whitney Jackson was partially sighted, but she was still the best navigator Vincent had ever worked with. As he drove the car, she used her Global Positioning System, or GPS, to give him directions. She would speak the name of their destination into the receiver, and after a couple of seconds, the receiver would respond with the most direct route.

"Turn left on Pine Street!" Whitney shouted.

"We're almost there!" Vincent jerked the steering wheel, and the car squealed around the corner.



A base word is a word to which other word parts may be added to form new words. Look at the word "directions." What is the base word in "directions"?

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# DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

## UNIT 07: Finding a Way

He and Whitney were Precinct 8's leading teen detectives. They were hot on the trail of Doctor Dismal, an evil professor who was threatening to take over Canyon City. They had to race to city hall, where he had just been spotted.

The car's video screen crackled. Doctor Dismal's grinning face appeared.

"Why the big hurry?" he asked. His high-pitched voice squawked like a sick saxophone.

"You know you can't stop me!" He held up a glass that contained some kind of fluid.

"Once everyone drinks my secret formula, they will do exactly what I tell them."

He brayed like a donkey, laughing in their faces.

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Vincent looked at Whitney.

"How can he get the entire city to drink his formula?"

Whitney gasped.

"What if he pours his formula into the city's water supply?"

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Many stories, especially comic strip stories, feature villains who are completely evil. Are characters like this believable? What makes characters like this fun to read about?

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What is the base word for contained? Can you form two other words from the same base word?

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A simile is a comparison of two unlike things that uses the words "like" or "as." What simile do you see in this paragraph? What two things are being compared?

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# DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

## UNIT 07: Finding a Way

"There's no way you can get there ahead of me," Dismal sang.

"Not with Suzette right behind you!"

Vincent hit the brakes.

"Suzette?"

Suddenly, the two teens felt a massive WHUMP. The car lifted into the air and crashed back to the ground. The force knocked Vincent and Whitney around in the front seat like two crash-test dummies.

Vincent helped Whitney out of the wrecked car and glanced up. A huge mechanical bird with metal claws like knives was circling above, turning back toward them. The bird swooped with a piercing cry. Vincent tugged Whitney to the ground. The claws ripped through the top of the car.



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The story uses sound words like the word "whump" in this paragraph. How do words like these add to the fun of the story? What other sound words might the author have used?

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Most nouns are made plural by adding an -s or -e-s at the end. However, singular nouns that have a long vowel sound and end in f or f-e are made plural by changing the f to v and adding "s" or "e s". The word "knives" is an example.

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# DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

## UNIT 07: Finding a Way

"We're never going to get to the water works now," moaned Vincent.

"Don't be so sure," Whitney replied.

"I still have the GPS receiver." She pulled out the receiver.

"Water works," she said clearly.

"Shortcut." The receiver made a noise like dead leaves rustling in the wind.

"Is it broken?" Vincent asked.

"The buildings here are blocking the satellite signal, so I can't get any reception. My GPS receiver needs signals from space."

Vincent looked around frantically. He saw an open playground about 50 yards to his left. He grabbed Whitney by the arm.

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They sprinted and ducked into a metal jungle gym. Suzette clattered against the metals bars and hit the ground hard. One of its claws got caught in the bars.

Whitney opened a metal panel on the huge, struggling bird. She adjusted a few wires and smiled.

"Now let's go save some lives."

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Look at the word "leaves." It's the plural of the word "leaf." In words like "leaf" that have a long vowel sound followed by f or f-e, you change the f to v before you add s or e-s to form the plural.

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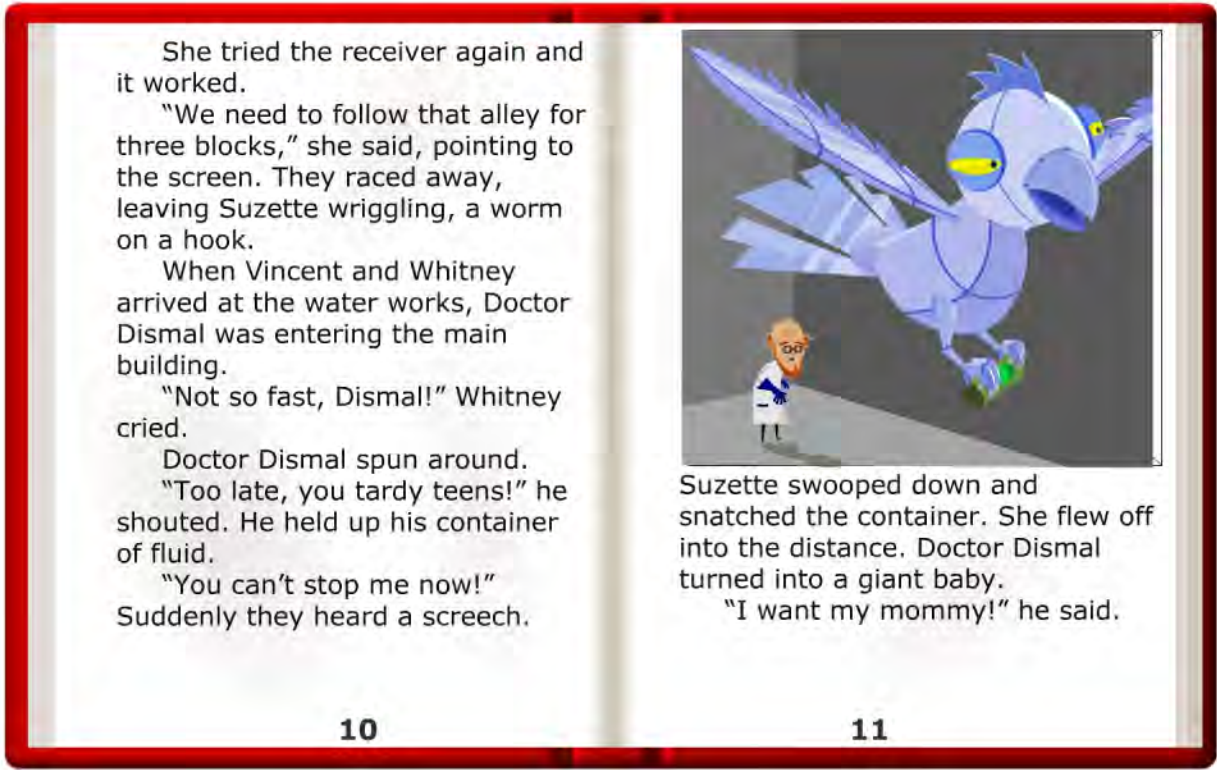
Think about what has happened so far in the story. In two sentences, describe what has happened.

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A metaphor is a comparison between two unlike things that suggests that one thing IS the other thing. What metaphor do you see in this paragraph? What two unlike things are being compared?

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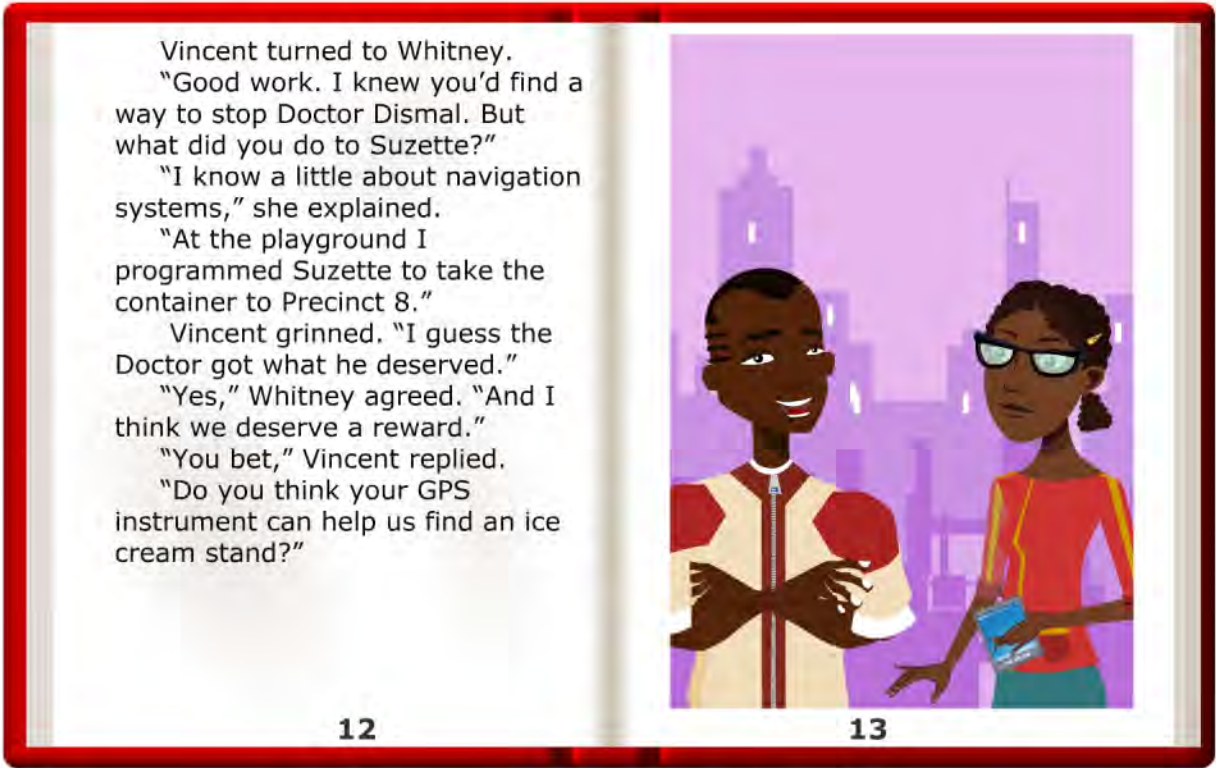
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UNIT 07: Finding a Way



Summarize the story. Use the answers to these questions to create your summary: What did the main characters want? How did they try to get it? Did they get it?

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