

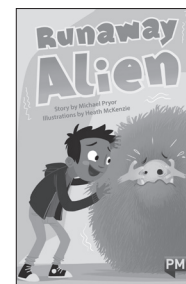
Runaway Alien

PM Level 26

Emerald

Text Type Narrative (Imaginative)

Running Words 2009



Preparing for Guided Reading

Prior knowledge

- Ask students if they have ever experienced stage fright. Talk about different techniques, such as deep breathing, that people use to overcome stage fright before a performance.

Orientation to the text

- In this book, a visiting alien, Keebo, is about to go on stage at a school concert. Knowing that his parents are going to be there, he develops severe stage fright. The other students try to calm him down by rolling him around (a technique that has worked before) but he rolls out of the building and into the town, causing havoc. He calms down when he lands in a river, and soon recovers the confidence to sing.

Building the Balanced Reader

Grammatical conventions

- Discuss the use of first-person narration in this text, and how it adds a personal tone. Have students compare the sentence lengths throughout the story, noting how the author often uses short sentences to increase the tension and humour in the story.

Vocabulary

Key vocabulary

apologise, audience, concert, directions, disappeared, frighten, furry, homesick, important, launcher, musicians, pedestrian, playground, plunging, scenery, singers, squeaked, telegraph, tremble, watery

Spelling

- Talk about the made-up words in the text, e.g. *Keebo*, *Tiborto*. Have students guess how these words should best be pronounced, but explain that there is no right or wrong pronunciation in this situation.

Visual literacy

- Have students look at the illustration on pp. 30–31. Ask, *What does Keebo's expression tell you about how he is feeling in the water?*

Focusing on the book – guided reading

- Discuss why Keebo would be nervous that his parents are going to be in the audience tonight. Ask, *Why did Ms Bramble share this news with the cast and crew?*
- After looking at the illustration on p. 7, ask students what type of creature they think Keebo might be.
- Discuss Keebo's fears, as mentioned on p. 11. Ask students if they share any of these fears with him. Which of them do they find funny?
- Ask students what sort of comfort they think Keebo receives from being rolled around as a big ball.
- Pause after reading p. 23 and ask students to consider the types of havoc that could be caused by a big pink ball rolling through the city.
- Ask students how they think Keebo feels at the end of the story. Do they think his parents are impressed? What do the musical notes coming from his parents suggest to us?

Comprehension

- What made Keebo so nervous? (*Literal*)
- What type of important jobs would Keebo's parents have on their planet? (*Inferential*)
- In the future, will it be possible for creatures from other planets to travel to Earth? Why or why not? (*Applied Knowledge*)

Follow-up activities

- Have students invent their own alien exchange student, from a planet such as Tiborto. Have them draw a picture of the student, think of a name for it, and list five of its most unique characteristics.
- Ask students to discuss a time when they felt very nervous before doing something in front of other people. In groups, have students write a list of recommendations for ways to calm down before playing sport or performing front of other people.

Runaway Alien

Date _____

PM Level 26

Emerald

Learning Intentions

- We are learning to understand themes that are explored through events that occur in the text.
- We are learning to make predictions about the text and can use prior knowledge to discuss potential solutions to the problem encountered by the characters.

• _____

Success Criteria

- I can identify themes that relate to events that take place in the text.
- I can use prior knowledge and experiences to predict a resolution to the problem that occurs in the text.

• _____

Guided Reading Notes

Student's name	Reading focus	Observations/notes	For follow-up