

Making Connections

Reading Comprehension Skills and Strategies Book 5

Unit 5 Skill Focus: Cause and Effect

Unit 5 Theme: Endangered Species

Text 1



Text 2



Text 3



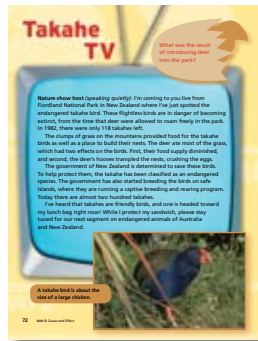
Scaffolding Level:

MODELING

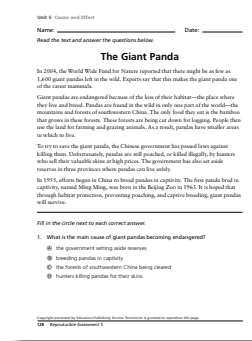
GUIDED

COACHING/INDEPENDENT

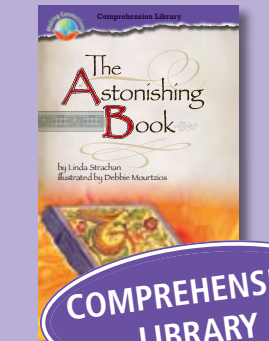
Text 4



Text 5



Text 6

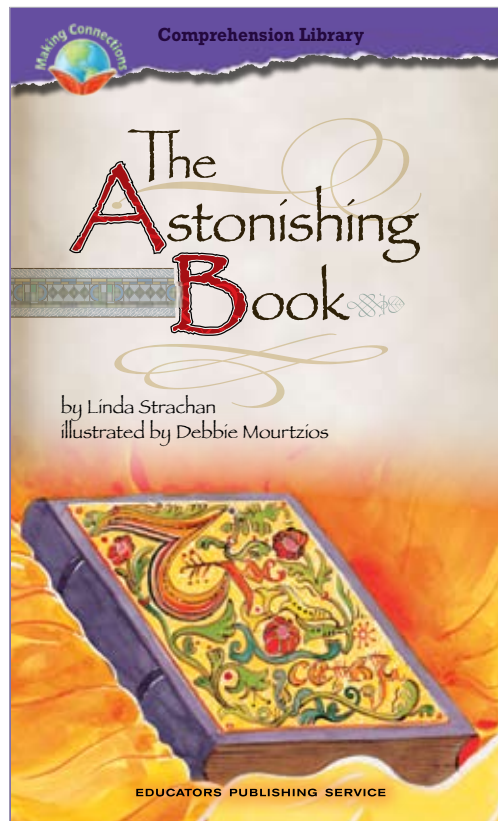


Scaffolding Level:

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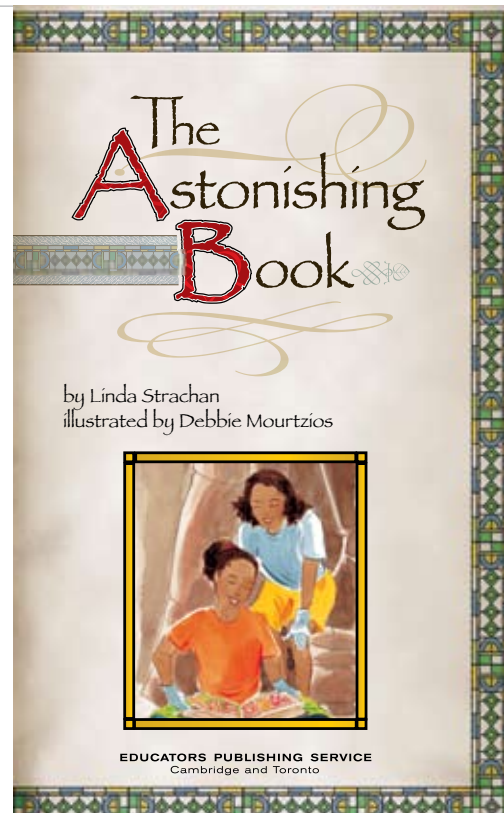
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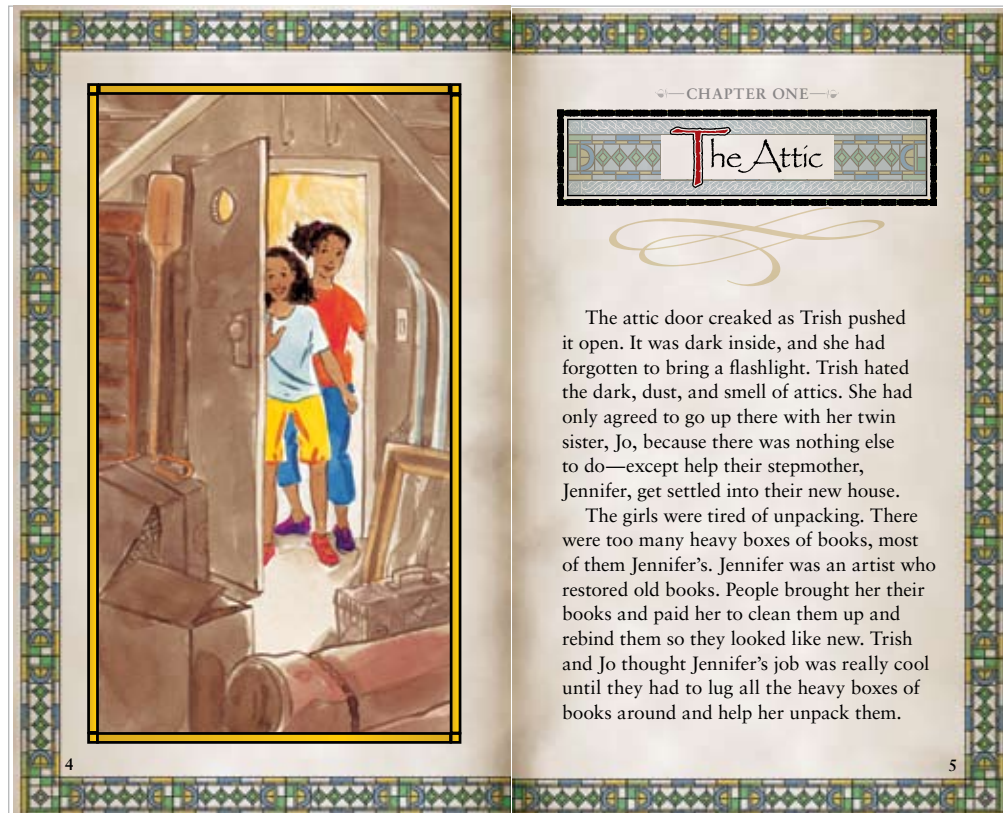
Skill Focus—Cause and Effect

How does Trish and Jo's discovery in the attic bring their family together?



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— CHAPTER ONE —

The Attic

The attic door creaked as Trish pushed it open. It was dark inside, and she had forgotten to bring a flashlight. Trish hated the dark, dust, and smell of attics. She had only agreed to go up there with her twin sister, Jo, because there was nothing else to do—except help their stepmother, Jennifer, get settled into their new house.

The girls were tired of unpacking. There were too many heavy boxes of books, most of them Jennifer's. Jennifer was an artist who restored old books. People brought her their books and paid her to clean them up and rebind them so they looked like new. Trish and Jo thought Jennifer's job was really cool until they had to lug all the heavy boxes of books around and help her unpack them.

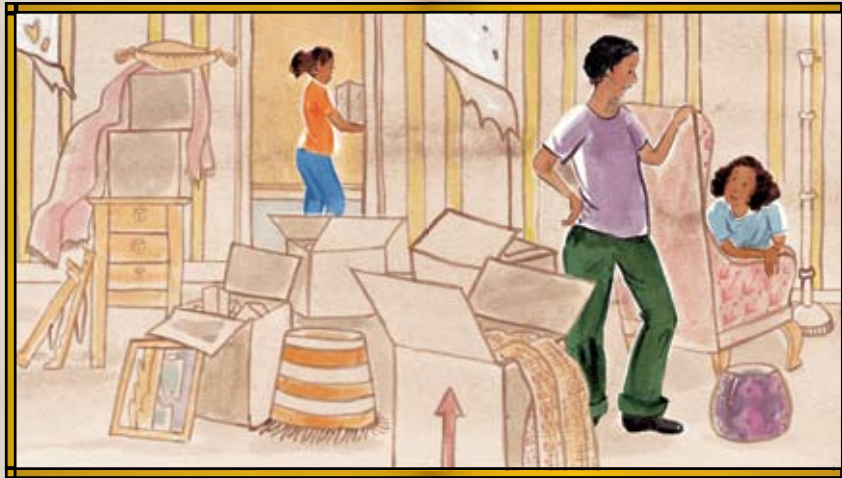
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Earlier in the day, Jennifer had asked if they could help her around the house. She was always trying to be their friend.

“Do you want to help me choose a color to paint the dining room?” Jennifer asked. “I’m going to pick up the book of colors at the store later.”

“Yeah, whatever,” Trish sighed.

It wasn’t that Trish didn’t like Jennifer. She just didn’t know her very well yet. It had only been Trish, Jo, and Dad for such a long time. It was kind of weird to have someone else around. And Jennifer worked from home, which meant she was around a lot.



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The house was really Jennifer’s idea. She had grown up in this town and remembered the house from her childhood. A friend of hers, Maggie Dalton, had lived in the house with her parents and brothers.

When they were girls, Jennifer and Maggie spent hours playing together in the big backyard and under the eaves of the house. Jennifer had fond memories of the house.

The Daltons had moved away a long time ago, and other families had moved in and out over the years. Jennifer always kept her eye on the house to see when it came up for sale. This time, she and Dad had decided to buy it, so here they all were.

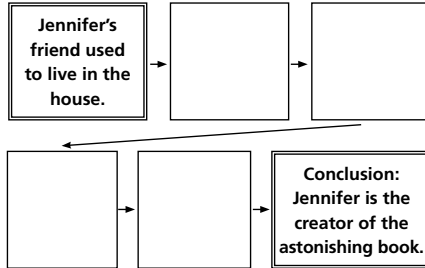
Jennifer and Dad were excited about the new house. However, Trish and Jo were sad about leaving all their friends and worried about making new ones. There were a lot of changes all at once. At least the girls knew they had each other.

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Graphic Organizer and Questions

1. Why do you think the girls want to surprise Dad and Jennifer with their find?
2. Fill in the web with the information gathered by Trish and Jo that leads them to the conclusion that Jennifer is the creator of the astonishing book.



3. Try your hand at making your own illuminated manuscript. Using a sheet of blank paper, draw a decorative border and even small illustrations. Use the design of *The Astonishing Book* as an example. Leave space in the middle of the page for the text—you can include a short story or poem in this space if you like!



Reading Comprehension Skills

- Main Idea
- Compare and Contrast
- Drawing Conclusions/
Predicting Outcomes
- Fact and Opinion
- Cause and Effect
- Figurative Language



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