

That's It!

Title	Genre	Summary	Aspects of theme explored
The Lighthouse of Alexandria	Report	In 1994, scientists found some amazing ruins in the ocean. Could they be the remains of the Pharos lighthouse – one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • underwater exploration • using technology in exploration
A Real Hero	Narrative	Ben and Daniel make an interesting discovery about their grandad's artificial leg.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • family history • personal discoveries
By Accident	Explanation	This article is about accidental discoveries that have proved useful in our everyday lives.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • accidental discoveries • discoveries that are of everyday use
Coyote Discovers Fire	Myth	A story of how Coyote discovered fire to help keep his friends warm in winter.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • mythical explanations • stories from other cultures
Pluto - the Mysterious Dwarf Planet	Report	In 1930, a young astronomer in Arizona discovered a new planet in our solar system. Or did he?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • astronomy • scientific discovery

Suggestions for using That's It!

Guided reading

See the following lesson plans.

Theme studies

This book could be used as part of a theme study on discovery and to compare purposeful and accidental discovery.

- Introduce the theme and look at the contents page with the students. Discuss the range of genres. Ask the students to read the item summaries and discuss the way each piece relates to the main theme. The students could choose one of the items to begin the theme study.
- Use the whole book or items from it in your content-area teaching.
- Use the narrative 'A Real Hero' to explore making discoveries about a family's past.
- Use the Find Out More section as a springboard for further independent research.

Text comparisons

Using the explanation 'By Accident' and the report 'Pluto - the Mysterious Dwarf Planet' will allow the students to compare different aspects of discovery (accidental and planned) and to compare the features of these two genres.

Shared reading

Pages 16 to 19 of 'By Accident' are suitable to enlarge for shared reading.

Independent reading

The report 'The Lighthouse of Alexandria' can be used for independent reading for pleasure or as an introduction to looking at discoveries that tell us important things about the past.

The Lighthouse of Alexandria

The Pharos Lighthouse of Alexandria was one of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World. This report describes it and explains what happened to it.

Features of the text

- Report
- Maps
- Photographs, illustrations, diagrams
- Labels and captions

Purpose

'The Lighthouse of Alexandria' can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- interpreting information from maps and tables;
- identifying the features of a report;
- forming and supporting opinions.

Introducing the text

Select one or more of these discussion starters:

- *Have you ever heard of the Seven Wonders of the Ancient World? Why would we call something a 'wonder'?*
- *What is meant by 'the Ancient World'? How would it be different from the modern world?*
- *What can maps tell us? Why might a report include maps?*

Reading and discussing the text

Use some of the following suggestions to guide the students through the text:

- *Read page two. Why is the map included?*
- *Look at the map on page three. What does it show you?*
- *Is there any new information in the fact file on page five? Why did the author include it?*
- *Why do you think that people might want to rebuild the lighthouse?*

Following up

The students can:

- construct a model of the lighthouse and explain it to the class
- research and write about another of the ancient wonders
- write an explanation of how the lighthouse was destroyed.

A Real Hero

Grandad has just died. When Ben and Daniel help Mum to clean his house, they make a discovery about Grandad's past.

Features of the text

- Realistic narrative
- Dialogue
- Past tense

Purpose

'A Real Hero' can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- identifying the speaker in a dialogue;
- making personal connections with the text;
- making inferences;
- using evidence from the text to support opinions.

Introducing the text

Select one or more of these discussion starters:

- *Who do you consider to be a real hero? What qualities do they have?*
- *How do you know when a new person has started speaking in a narrative? Why do authors use direct speech?*
- *What are the features of realistic fiction?*

Reading and discussing the text

Use some of the following suggestions to guide the students through the text:

- *Read page nine. What do you think the problem will be in this story? Why?*
- *Who is speaking in the text on page nine? How do we know this?*
- *Read to the end of the story. Why was Grandad a hero?*
- *Why do you think this is a realistic piece of fiction?*

Following up

The students can:

- rewrite this story as a play
- identify and write about heroes who exist in their everyday life
- choose a similar personal experience and write a realistic narrative
- rewrite the ending, starting on page 13.

By Accident

This article explores how several great discoveries were invented by chance.

Features of the text

- Explanation
- Cause and effect

Purpose

'By Accident' can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- identifying the features of a genre;
- identifying the author's purpose;
- making inferences;
- making personal connections with the text.

Introducing the text

Select one or more of these discussion starters:

- *Do you think any good can ever come from an accident?*
- *Do you think things can be discovered by accident?*
- *What are some of the things that have happened to you by accident?*
- *What great inventors or discoveries would you like to learn about?*

Reading and discussing the text

Use some of the following suggestions to guide the students through the text:

- *Read the first section after the introduction. How did this discovery happen by accident?*
- *Why did Daguerre continue testing?*
- *Read the 'Penicillin' section. How is this section similar to a narrative? How is it different?*
- *Who do you think would be interested in reading this article? What do you think the author's purpose is?*

Following up

The students can:

- reread the text and make a chart identifying each accident
- write about a time when they have found something out by accident
- research an interesting invention.

Coyote Discovers Fire

This Native American myth explains how Coyote brings fire to his friends so that they can stay warm during the cold winter months.

Features of the text

- Narrative myth
- Explanation of a natural event
- Setting, problem, climax, resolution, conclusion
- Animals with human characteristics
- Story with a message

Purpose

'Coyote Discovers Fire' can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- making inferences and predictions about events and characters;
- identifying the features of a myth;
- identifying the author's purpose;
- reading aloud with expression;
- using the text as a model for writing.

Introducing the text

Select one or more of these discussion starters:

- *What do you know about myths? Can you give me any examples?*
- *What is an explanation? What things do we find hard to explain?*
- *How could we explain the reasons for an animal's physical features?*

Reading and discussing the text

Use some of the following suggestions to guide the students through the text:

Explain that a myth is a form of narrative because it tells a story.

- *How is this myth similar to other narratives? What are some of the differences?*
- *What is the purpose of this myth? Does it have more than one purpose? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.*
- *What does this myth tell us about Coyote's character?*

Following up

The students can:

- make a chart to show the similarities and differences between myths and other narratives
- read other myths and compare their features
- write a myth to explain a natural event.

Pluto - the Mysterious Dwarf Planet

This report describes how Clyde Tombaugh discovered Pluto and includes some interesting facts about Pluto and the other planets in our solar system.

Features of the text

- Report
- Text organisers, such as a fact file
- Sequence markers
- Specialised vocabulary

Purpose

'Pluto – the Mysterious Dwarf Planet' can be used to introduce and reinforce the following skills:

- interpreting information from diagrams and tables;
- identifying the sequence of events;
- using descriptive, factual and precise language;
- using the text as a model for writing.

Introducing the text

Select one or more of these discussion starters:

- *What do astronomers study?*
- *What are some of the ways that information can be presented in a report?*
- *Why would you use a table, diagram or a photograph in a report?*

Reading and discussing the text

Use some of the following suggestions to guide the students through the text:

- *Read to the end of page twenty-six. What do you expect to read about next?*
- *Read to the end of page twenty-nine. How has the author helped us to follow the sequence of events?*
- *Look at page thirty. How has the author made it easier for you to understand all the facts? Why has he compared Pluto's orbit to a stretched rubber band?*
- *Why is the fact file on page thirty-one included? What does it tell you?*

Following up

The students can:

- research other planets and use a table to compare them with Earth
- write a job description for an astronomer, outlining the qualities and skills that are needed.

