

Jurassic Park

John Hammond has recreated the world of dinosaurs on a remote island. These dinosaurs are not models – they are the real thing! He keeps them behind electric fences. He invites Dr Alan Grant to come and see them. John Hammond sends his grandchildren, Tim and Lex, and Dr Grant on a tour of the island in electric cars. Dr Grant and Ian are in one car, and Tim, Lex and Gennaro are in another. Suddenly the power fails, just as they are outside the Tyrannosaurus paddock!

'Did you feel that?' Tim asked. At first Lex didn't know what he was talking about.

But then she felt it, too. The car was shaking.

There were loud quaking sounds and it seemed as though the earth was moving – like something was taking giant footsteps.

Gennaro's eyes widened in fear. The sound got louder. The vibrations felt stronger. Whatever it was was coming closer. And then they all saw it. Tyrannosaurus rex. It was gripping the fence. Gennaro stared in horror. Oh no, he thought. The dinosaur should have felt an electric shock. The power must be out in the fences, too! But would it break through?

The T-rex swung its mighty head. Tim gasped. Its boxy head was bigger than Tim's whole body. And its body was bigger than a bus. The dinosaur waved its short, silly-looking arms in the air. Then it clawed the fence. The Tyrannosaurus was tearing it down!

All at once Gennaro bolted out of the car. He didn't say a word. He just ran, leaving Tim and Lex all alone. Lex began to scream. But Gennaro didn't stop. He raced towards a small building a short distance down the road. Moments later, he reached it and ran inside. But the building wasn't finished yet. Gennaro couldn't lock the wooden door behind him.

'What's he doing?' Ian asked Alan. They hadn't noticed the Tyrannosaurus yet.

Then they saw the fence come down. The Tyrannosaurus was free! It stood on the park road, eyeing the two cars.

'Don't move,' Alan whispered to Ian. 'It can't see us if we don't move.'

The T-rex bent down. It peered through the car window at Ian. Ian

froze. He couldn't have moved if he'd wanted to.

Suddenly the first car lit up like a beacon. Lex had turned on a

flashlight. The dinosaur raised its head. It was drawn to the light.

'I'm sorry, sorry,' Lex mumbled to Tim as the T-rex

thudded closer. It lifted its head high. Tim and Lex could see

it through the sunroof.

Roar! The dinosaur opened its mouth wide, then roared again. It was so loud, the car windows rattled.

Then the T-rex struck.

The dinosaur lifted its powerful leg. Smash! It kicked the car. Windows shattered, and the car tilted on its side. The dinosaur lowered its head and butted the car off the road.

Inside, Tim and Lex tumbled about as the car rolled over. Now it was upside down. Tim twisted around to look out the window. They were right by the cliff.

The T-rex towered over the car. It put one leg on the frame and tore at the undercarriage of the car with its jaws. Biting at anything it could get a hold of, it ripped the rear axle free, tossed it aside, and bit a tyre. Lex and Tim were trapped. And the dinosaur was about to push them over the cliff!

Jurassic Park, adapted by Gaël Herrman from the novel by Michael Crichton

Understanding the extract

- 1 What has John Hammond done?
- 2 Where are the characters at the beginning of the extract?
- 3 Why could the T-rex grip the fence?
- 4 What does Gennaro do when he sees the T-rex?
- 5 Why does Alan say, 'Don't move'?

Understanding the words

6 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the extract.

- | | | |
|-----------|--------------|-----------------|
| a quaking | b vibrations | c bolted |
| d beacon | e butted | f undercarriage |

Exploring further

7 How does the author create a feeling of fear in the first three paragraphs?

8 What impression do you get of Gennaro?

9 How do you know that Dr Alan Grant knows something about dinosaurs?

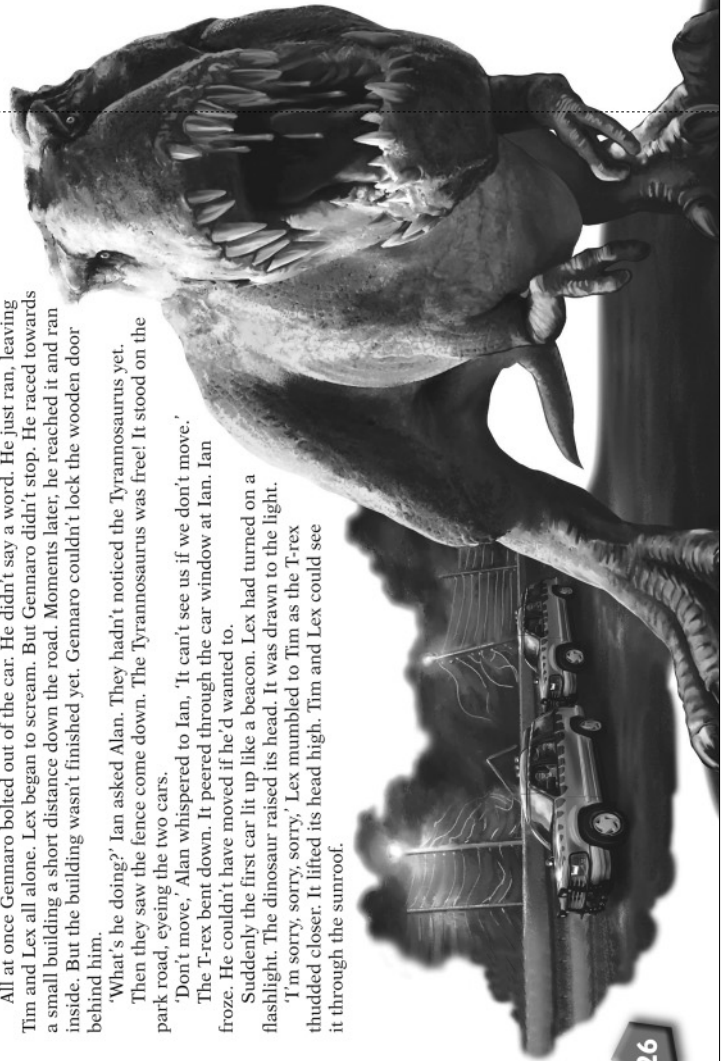
10 Why do you think Lex turned on the flashlight?

Extra

Imagine you are Tim or Lex. Rewrite the extract from your point of view.

Remember!

- You don't know what Alan and Ian are doing.
- You only know what is happening in your car and what you can see through the windows.
- Include your thoughts and feelings as you tell the story.



WRITE

Before reading

- Discuss what pupils understand by the term 'Jurassic'.
- Elicit/explain that this is the name given to a time when dinosaurs roamed the earth.
- Have pupils seen the film *Jurassic Park*? If so, what did they think of it?

Reading

- Explain to the pupils that they are going to read an extract from a book called *Jurassic Park* on which the film was based.
- The extract can be read to the class by the teacher, by individuals in the class or individually.

Questions

Pupils answer the questions individually, drawing on what they have learnt from previous class work (*Teach*) and group work (*Talk*) about 'monsters' in fiction.

Round-up

- Discuss the three monsters that the pupils have read about.
- Are they all frightening?
- Which of the stories would they like to read? Why?

ICT

Answer guidance

Understanding the extract

- 1 He has 'recreated the world of dinosaurs on a remote island'.
- 2 They are touring the island 'in electric cars'.
- 3 The power to the electric fence was not working.
- 4 Gennaro 'bolted out of the car' / 'raced towards a small building ... and ran inside'.
- 5 He explains that 'it can't see us if we don't move.'

Understanding the words

- 6 **a** *quaking*: shuddering;
- b** *vibrations*: small backwards and forwards movements;
- c** *bolted*: ran quickly (escaping);
- d** *beacon*: a bright light to show where something is;
- e** *butted*: hit with the head;
- f** *undercarriage*: bottom part of a car.

Exploring further

- 7 Answers suggesting that in the first three paragraphs we are made aware of noise and movement but the dinosaur does

not appear. The writer builds up the tension as we are waiting to find out what is making the 'quaking sounds' and causing the 'vibrations'.

8 Answers suggesting he is only worried about his own safety. He selfishly leaves the others to their fate. Also, he must be quite stupid if he thinks a 'small building' will protect him from a T-rex!

9 Answers based on the evidence: 'It can't see us if we don't move.'

10 Answers suggesting she was frightened in the dark with the creature outside and that it is a natural thing to want light when you are afraid. Perhaps she thought it might scare the dinosaur off.

Extra

Individual answers.