

THE FLIGHT TO LUNA

Note: The transactional processes suggested in CISCE curriculum are highlighted in grey.

Learning Outcomes

- To analyse how the narrator's sense of responsibility plays a major role
- To identify with the courage and expertise of the main character
- To imagine a new world with scientific developments
- To interpret a story with a twist
- To appreciate the imagination of the author
- To identify the elements of science fiction

Pre-reading



This section focuses on *assessment for learning* as it tells the reader that the text that follows is about space technology and space exploration.

Class discussion

Generate a discussion with students based on the Pre-reading exercise given in the Reader. After the discussion encourage each student to make a sketch to express their ideas.

READING

Students analyse the situation and characters, and relate to situations

Read the text in parts. Pause to discuss / check comprehension.

- *Toby Workman stared out... suspended from space flying.*

Ask students:

How does the narrator begin the story? (He begins it by introducing the main character and the setting.) What is unusual with a setting from science fiction? (The setting is unfamiliar since it is an imaginative account and not a real-time situation. The scene is a view from a space station, looking down at the earth which is miles away.) Why do high-school students come here?

Tell students that the plot develops through the episodes.

Ask students:

What was Toby's first big job? What went wrong? What would make it possible for

Toby to be suspended from space travel? How is the situation typical of science fiction? (The Place constructs are different from those in real life. Further, the narrator is piloting a sightseeing rocket for vacationers from Earth, in space.) What purpose does this introduction serve in the story? (It engages the attention of the reader by its unusual situation. It introduces the setting, the main character and his unusual predicament)

- *Now, over the wall speaker... of the best space surgeons.*

Why was the announcement that was made, important? Why did Toby respond to the announcement? (He was the only licensed pilot available and there was the fear that any delay in time would cause the contagious fever to escalate into an epidemic. Sourcing other pilots would take time.) What do we get to know about Toby? (He wanted to help in a dire situation.)

Why did Toby prepare himself for unpleasantness?

(Ans: Toby prepared himself for unpleasantness because he knew that Dr Shepard would scold or criticise him for the accident in the past and for flying the rocket now.)

Why did Dr Shepard call Toby incompetent? How do the readers get to know that Toby was very young? (Dr Shepard said, "A person your age has no business flying rockets in the first place. It's a job for older men with mature judgment!") How can we relate to the main character? (Free response)

Who is the third character introduced? What is the purpose of introducing this character? (To show that at least one person believed in the abilities of Toby) Would her confidence in Toby's skills prevent the authorities from revoking his license to fly? How would her belief make a difference to Toby? (He realised that at least one person believed him.) What information do we get about Deb? What kind of person is she?

- *On the last leg of the journey ... of them made Toby sit up.*

What was the announcement made on his radio set? What was Toby's reaction to it? Despite this bad news, why did Toby push himself to complete the trip? (He felt responsible for his passengers)

Why wasn't the message a surprise?

(Ans: The message wasn't a surprise because Toby had already unofficially been accused of carelessness. He was almost expecting to hear this.)

Here, Toby is acting responsibly / proudly / angrily.

(Ans: responsibly)

What made Toby shocked while trying to land? 'Two cases of jet braking failure!' What does this

statement indicate to the reader? (That Toby was really not at fault and that there was a snag in the spaceship) 'But he might never live to bear the disgrace of this one.' Does this statement heighten the suspense in the story? (Yes, it takes place in a strange galaxy with a sense of urgency. It seems to appear that all on board would lose their lives. It also prepares the reader for what might happen in the final episode.) How can we relate to the main character? (By sharing in his bewilderment as he careens/travels through space, and his fear when he realises that the jets are jammed)

- *His fumbling hand found the lift stick... surrounded by people.*

What was a close call? Describe the episode. Why was the rocket likened to a 'frightened bird'? What is your reaction? Why did Toby feel 'as if his head would be snapped off his neck'? What method did he use to pull the jet chambers out of jamming? How did he know that the jets were working freely after that? Was his landing on the moon smooth? Why? (The jets were no longer jammed and he was actually a good pilot.) Why were the Shepards bruised and shaken?

Why were the pilot and the passengers feeling so unwell?

(Ans: The pilot and the passengers were feeling so unwell because the rocket had gone through some very fast and violent movements when Toby had changed its course and purged the jet chambers.)

- *"I've been in the space service a long time... when he had been ready to give up?*

What was the 'reversal of fortune'? What did Dr Shepard acknowledge? Whose compliment was the most appreciated? Why? (Deby's lone faith in Toby had kept him going in that dark moment when he had been ready to give up.) How does the final episode provide an anticlimax to the story? (By a reversal of fate) What could be the underlying message in this episode? (Faith in a person can work wonders. Never give up on anyone.)

Post-reading

Class discussion

"I guess I misjudged you young people. It seems you can handle ships with the best of them!"

To what extent can young people be trusted with important assignments? Discuss.

GRAMMAR

Direct and indirect object

Recap subject and predicate and proceed to the target concept.

Direct object

Write the following sentences on the board:

1. *Rajath prepared the presentation.*

Rajath prepared the presentation. (What did Rajath prepare? presentation—direct object; verb—prepared.)

Sonal invited Rekha to the party. (Whom did she invite? Rekha—direct object; verb—invited)

Help students identify the direct and indirect objects. You may use the following clues:

- Find the subject. (what / who is it about?)
- Identify the verb.
- Identify the direct object. (who / what is receiving the action?)
- Identify the indirect object. (For whom is/was the action performed?)
- Check if the direct object and indirect object are nouns/pronouns.

Indirect Object

Explain: An indirect object can be identified by asking the question 'to whom', 'for whom', 'for what' There must be a direct object for an indirect object to be placed in a sentence. In other words **an indirect object cannot exist without a direct object.**

Examples: *They sent him a letter.* (him—indirect object; verb—sent. (To whom did they send a letter?))

He bought his son a football. (his son—indirect object; verb—bought. (For whom did he buy a football?))

Activity

Ask students to work with their partner and pick out three sentences from the story and identify the direct object and indirect object in them.

LISTENING

Post-listening – report

Tell students that they will be listening to a report from ISRO and will have to do the task after listening to the track. Tell them that they can take notes while listening.

Let students read the given questions.

Play the audio track and let students do the task. You may play it once again depending on the capability of the class.

Review their answers.



SPEAKING

Engaging in conversation

This task can be used for *assessment as learning*. Students learn from each other, as pairs get into a conversation, on the given topics, and communicate effectively.

Brainstorm with the class some examples of some conversational phrases. (Emphasise on the importance of politeness while speaking to someone) Elicit phrases relating to exchanging greetings, politely enquiring, exchanging ideas, ending conversation and expressing gratitude. Use the phrases given in the Reader to guide students.

Let students role-play the situations given. To add variety, you may give them different situations. Monitor the activity.



WRITING

Notice

This task can be used for *assessment as learning*. It focuses on *linguistic intelligence* and students exhibit their *creativity* by designing a notice to communicate effectively.

What is a notice?

A notice is a short piece of writing. It is used to make an announcement of some event. Generally notices are pinned to the notice board or pasted on special boards.

How do I write a notice?

- Follow a few simple rules while writing a notice for lost objects:
- Write in a clear formal style.
- Do not forget to write the heading.
- Write the date, time and place where you lost it.
- Include a suitable description with the necessary details.
- Write whom to contact, the place and the time.
- You may include a picture if required.
- Have it written within a box.

Put students in groups of three and tell them to do the exercise given in the Reader.

STUDENTS' BOOK ANSWER KEY

The Flight to Luna

Pre-Reading

Free response

Comprehension

A. 1. T 2. T 3. F 4. F 5. T 6. DNS 7. F 8. DNS

- B. 1. a. A space station 5,000 miles away from Earth.
b. Toby was in the space station because he was training to be a space pilot. Many high-school students went there every summer to build up a flying record, to help them become proper rocket pilots one day.
c. Deb, Dr Shepard's daughter, was also a trainee—a nurse trainee.
2. a. Toby was going to try and fly a rocket to Luna with Dr Shepard and Deb in it.
b. Toby wanted to fly the rocket because there had been a sudden outbreak of contagious fever at Luna. Toby was the only licensed pilot in the space station at that moment. The express bringing other pilots from Mars would not have come in for a long time. A delay could have let the fever grow into an epidemic. Dr Shepard and Deb were going to take medicines to Luna.
c. Toby had a reason for not flying a rocket to Luna. The previous week, he had been piloting a sightseeing rocket and it had had an accident—the ship had bumped into the hangar, injuring several people. Nothing wrong was discovered with the rockets, and Toby was unofficially accused of carelessness while further investigation was being carried out.
3. a. Dr Shepard said this to Toby when he found that Toby was the pilot of the rocket in which he and his daughter were flying to Luna. He knew that Toby had been involved in an accident and he was of the opinion that a person as young as Toby should not fly a rocket anyway.
b. Yes, the speaker, Dr Shepard, changed his mind later. The jets of their rocket had been jammed and the rocket was not losing speed. It would have crashed on Luna if Toby had not kept his cool and worked efficiently to purge the jet chambers and make them work freely again. The three of them—Dr Shepard, Toby and Deb—could reach Luna safely because of how well Toby handled the rocket. That was when Dr Shepard changed his mind.
4. a. Dr Shepard and his daughter Deb.
b. Just before this, Toby had been shocked to realise that the rocket was not losing enough speed. The jets were jammed. If the problem was not solved, then he and the Shepards, with their knowledge and medicines, might not have survived the crash.
c. After Toby remembered his passengers, he realised that he must move the rocket away from the ground to which it was headed at such a dangerous speed. So he headed the spacecraft's nose upward again. When the rocket had lifted high enough, he began 'purging' the jet chambers—giving the tubes a sudden full thrust, followed by a few moments of total inactivity. At last, he sensed that the jets were working freely. Then, he headed the ship for a landing.
5. a. Deb Shepard is being referred to here.
b. The term 'wordless compliment' refers to Deb's praise and admiration of Toby, which she expressed on her face and in the way she looked at him, without saying anything.

c. Toby appreciated Deb's wordless compliment the most because he remembered that it was Deb who had believed in him when everyone else, including her father, had thought that Toby was responsible for the earlier accident and was not fit to fly rockets.

- C.** 1. *Sample answer:* If Deb's character was absent from the story, then most of the major events would still have taken place, but perhaps Toby's experience would have been quite different. Firstly, while flying the rocket to Luna, if Deb had not been there, Toby would not have cheered up, especially since Dr Shepard's and Cameron's words had made him very unhappy. This might even have affected his determination to go on trying to land safely. He may have given up his struggle and the rocket could have crashed. As the last line of the text says, 'Who could say but that her lone faith had kept him going in that dark moment when he had been ready to give up?' After they landed safely on the moon, everyone was praising and congratulating Toby and he also got to know that he was cleared of the earlier accident. However, it was Deb's wordless compliment that mattered the most to him, as she had been a true friend in his dark hour. If she had not been there, Toby may have felt less happy even when everything turned out well.
2. a. ii. nervous and hopeless about the future.
b. ii. anxious to fly them as there is no other pilot and this is urgent.
c. i. Toby should not be flying the rocket.
d. i. Deb says she believes the accident was not his fault.
e. i. The jets in the rocket are jammed and the rocket cannot lose speed.
f. i. Everyone praises and congratulates him for being a skilful and competent pilot.
3. The details which make this text a science fiction story—which are not yet possible in real life and have to be imagined—are: a fully manned and working space station 5,000 miles away from Earth, where young people like Toby and Deb could go to train as pilots or nurses; sightseeing rocket for vacationers from Earth; the possibility of living in Luna (the moon) (the text says there was an outbreak of fever on Luna, there were also other people on Luna, like Commander Jameson); an express bringing other pilots from Mars; and a space surgeon (Dr Shepard).

Grammar

- A.** 1. direct object: fruits; indirect object: the residents of the old-age home
2. direct object: an e-card; indirect object: her father
3. direct object: the Best Performer trophy; indirect object: Cathy
4. direct object: eating cornflakes; indirect object: breakfast
5. direct object: a mango sapling; indirect object: his sister
6. direct object: a pair of boxing gloves; indirect object: him
7. direct object: greeting cards; indirect object: all my friends

B. *Sample answers:*

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. this chocolate wrapper; my personal collection | 2. this letter; the telephone office |
| 3. the crow; seeds and grains | 4. his scooter; one of his co-workers |
| 5. her teacher; a book of poetry | 6. singing; local competition |

Vocabulary

- | | | |
|------------------|------------------|---------------|
| 1. of service to | 2. boils down to | 3. about to |
| 4. close to | 5. happen to | 6. live up to |
| 7. able to | 8. Contrary to | 9. made to |

Listening

Listening text:

The Indian Space Research Organisation or ISRO is organising a young scientists' programme for school children. The programme, which is named Yuva Vigyani Karyakram, or Yuvika in short, will teach students about space applications, space science and space technology. It aims to make young learners more interested in science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Yuvika will take place in five ISRO centres. The programme will be held for two weeks in the month of May and will include speeches by famous scientists, visits to laboratories as well as practical experiments. Participants will visit the Satish Dhawan Space Centre in Sriharikota during the programme. Each state and Union Territory will be participating in Yuvika. Applications are invited from students of class 9, and they can apply online via the ISRO website. ISRO will select 150 students from across the country to participate in Yuvika. Candidates will be chosen on the basis of academic result as well as other achievements, details of which can be found on the ISRO website. Students from rural areas may be given priority during the selection procedure.

Answers: 1. b 2. b 3. b 4. a 5. a 6. b

Writing

Free response

Spelling

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1. travelling | 2. aluminium | 3. epicentre |
| 4. instil | 5. jewellery | 6. manoeuvre |

Life Skills

Free response

ANSWER KEY TO WORKSHEET 11

- A.**
1. direct object: a red dress; indirect object: her cousin
 2. direct object: ice cream; indirect object: the guests
 3. direct object: a piece of fish; indirect object: her kittens
 4. direct object: the piano; indirect object: his music class
 5. direct object: a woollen scarf; indirect object: Meher
 6. direct object: a box of chocolates; indirect object: the birthday party

B. *Sample answers:*

1. I need a sunny spot for the potted plants.
2. The doctor gave Ammi two medicines.
3. Anamika gifted a blue sari to Nisha.
4. My brother brought Grandma a new pair of glasses.

- C. 1. SCIENCE FICTION 2. EPIC 3. TRAVELOGUE
 4. LEGEND 5. GHOST STORY 6. AUTOBIOGRAPHY

- D. 1. a. alarmed; made to feel extremely anxious/worried
 b. very anxious/worried
 c. act of coming into a place by force to take control of it
2. a. People were panicking because a radio broadcast announced that Martians had landed in a place in New Jersey. The alarmed people called the police; some left their houses; some spotted a large figure through the mist.
 b. The radio broadcast had actually been an audio play based on the science fiction novel *The War of the Worlds*. It was directed by Orson Welles.
 c. The audio play had used the 'breaking news' format that American audiences were used to, especially for war-time reports. It also referred to real people and places and used sound effects to sound more convincing. Many people had missed the introduction to the broadcast because they had been listening to a popular programme on another network.
3. *Sample answer:* Orson Welles presented a science fiction story as breaking news so cleverly that it sounded like a real news story. That is why many people were terrified. Even when they learned the truth, they felt angry with Welles—they thought he had tricked them—and would not forgive him.
4. *Free response*

QUESTION BANK

The Flight to Luna

A. Answer in brief.

How is the situation typical of science fiction?

Ans: The place constructs are different from those in real life. The narrator is seen piloting a sightseeing rocket for vacationers from Earth, in space.

B. Answer in detail.

Why might Toby be suspended from operating as a pilot in space travel?

Ans: A week earlier, Toby had been piloting a sightseeing rocket for vacationers from Earth which was his first big job. While they were coming into dock on the space station, the brakes jammed, and the ship bumped into the hangar, injuring several people. It was discovered that nothing was wrong with the rocket, and so Toby was unofficially accused of carelessness. If the investigation team found no mechanical defect, Toby would be suspended from space flying.

C. Choose the correct answer.

'Her wordless compliment was the most appreciated of them all.' What is the underlying message in this statement?

- a. Complimenting others makes a difference in a person's life.
 b. Faith in a person can build up that person's confidence.
 c. Silent compliments are more valuable than compliments that are voiced out.

Ans: b

D. Read the lines and answer the questions.

'But he might never live to bear the disgrace of this one.' (The Flight to Luna)

- a. Who was the speaker, and where was he?
- b. What was the disgrace?
- c. Does this statement heighten the suspense in the story?

Ans: a. The speaker was Toby and in a strange galaxy, taking Dr Shepard and his daughter Deby to Luna to give medicines in a sudden outbreak of contagious fever.

b. The disgrace was that Toby was unofficially accused of carelessness and his license to fly would be revoked if the investigation team found that the space ship had no flaw.

c. Yes, it heightens the suspense. It seems to appear that all on board would lose their lives.

E. Answer in brief. (Think and answer)

What is unusual with a setting from science fiction?

Ans: The setting is unfamiliar since it is an imaginative account and not a real-time situation. The scene is a view from a space station, looking down at the earth which is miles away.

F. Answer in detail. (Think and answer)

Why did Toby respond to the announcement over the wall speaker of his room? What do we get to know about Toby?

Ans: Toby was the only licensed pilot available and there was the fear that any delay in time would cause the contagious fever to escalate into an epidemic. Sourcing other pilots would take time so Toby decided to respond to the call for a pilot in an emergency, even though there was a fear that his license to fly would be revoked anytime soon. We get to know that Toby wanted to help in a dire situation.