NOVEL STUDIES

THE AREA 51 FILES



FOCUS ON VOCABULARY

- Complete unit
- Includes prereading, during reading, and post reading activities



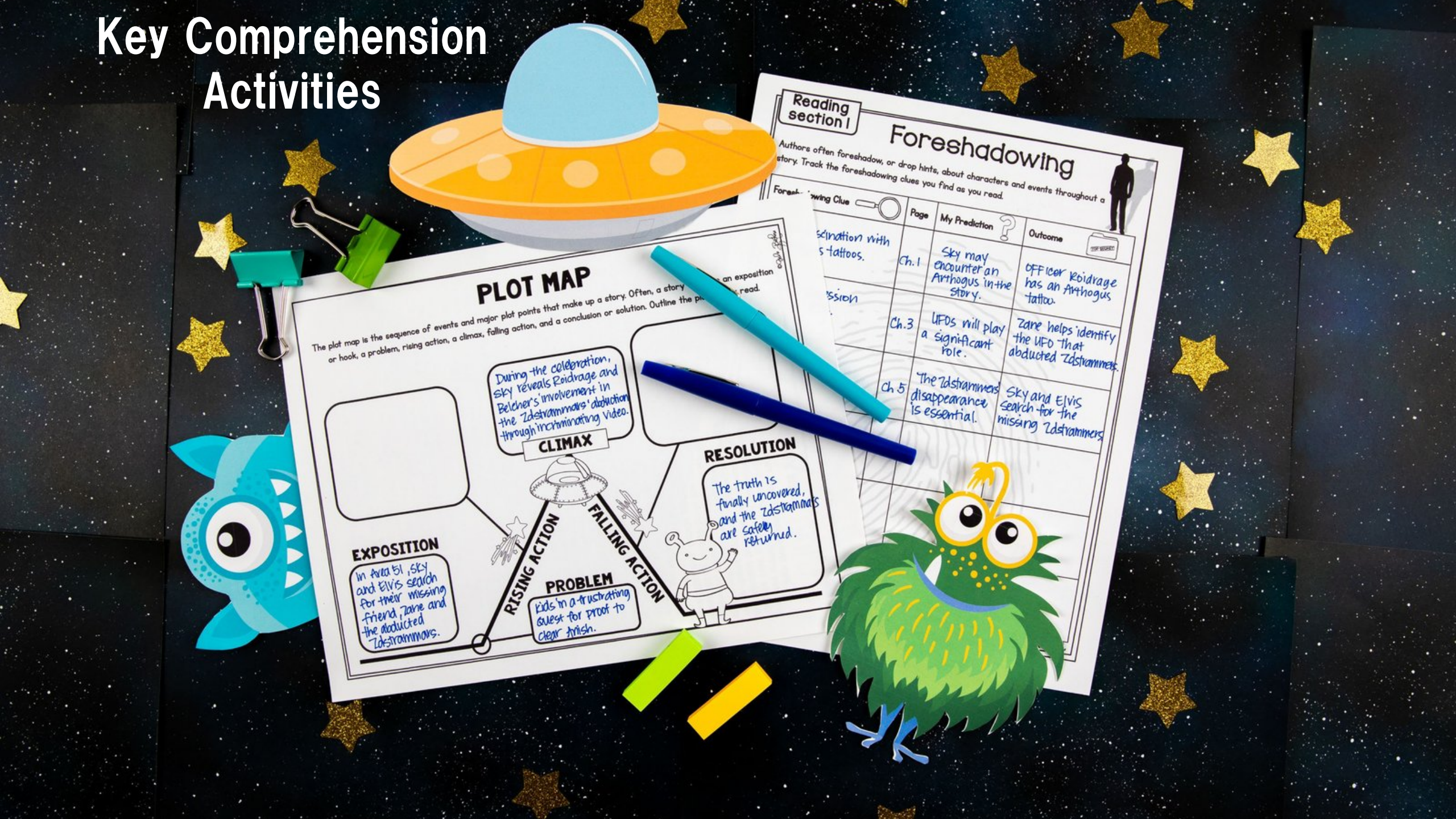
Students engage in the novel by completing their case study and gathering clues as they read.





- Language and vocabulary focus.
- Learn about language in a fun way!
- Supported by The Science of Reading research-based practices.

Key Comprehension Activities



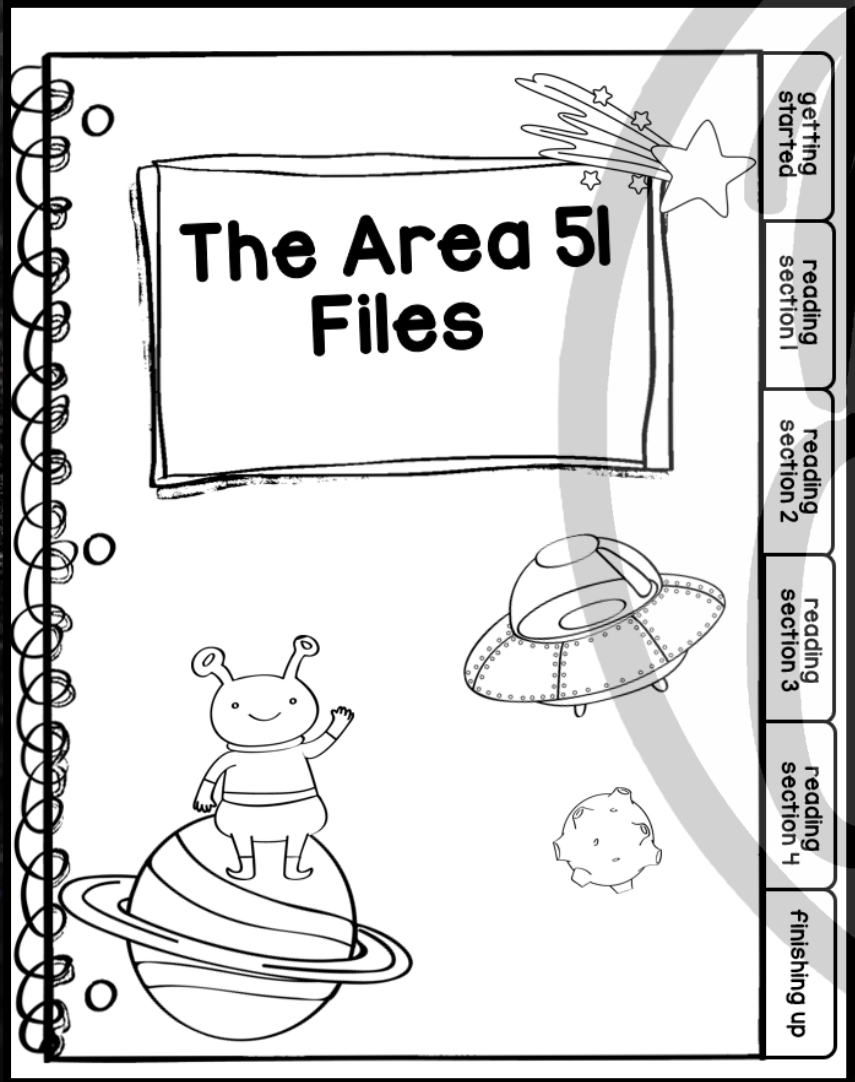


- Book is broken into digestible sections
- Focus on Tier 2 vocabulary instruction
- Quick checks for comprehension

Culminating activities to extend beyond that integrate critical thinking.



Take a Peek Inside



getting started

Getting Started!

Before jumping into the novel, *The Area 51 Files*, you are going to preview the book and make predictions.

1. Build background by reading the nonfiction article "Decoding the Area 51 Mystery."

2. Review the following sheets in your Case File. You will be using these sheets throughout your reading.
   - Genre Study
   - Tone and Mood
   - Playing with Puns
   - Meet the Characters
   - Character Connections
   - Inference Investigation with Dialogue
   - Plot Map
   - Foreshadowing

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Genre Study

The Area 51 Files is science fiction. As you read, fill in elements of the sci-fi genre you find.

Science Fiction: fiction that typically deals with imaginative and futuristic concepts such as advanced science and technology, space exploration, time travel, parallel universes, and extraterrestrial life

Futuristic Setting / Fictional World

Advanced Technology

Aliens

Theme

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Read this article about the Mystery of the Area 51 Files.

Decoding the Area 51 Mystery: A Cosmic Conundrum!

Get ready for a thrilling ride into the world of the unknown, the unexplored, and the downright mysterious. Let's explore one of the most secretive places on Earth - Area 51.

What is Area 51?



First things first, Area 51 is the common name for a highly classified United States Air Force (USAF) facility located within the Nevada Test and Training Range. It's smack dab in the middle of the desert, far from prying eyes, making it a hotspot for rumors and speculation. Now, you might be wondering, "What's so special about a remote military base?" Well, let's just say that this is no ordinary military base.

Aliens and Area 51 - A Mysterious Connection

Area 51 has become synonymous with aliens, unidentified flying objects (UFOs), and secret technology. Why, you ask? Well, the answer lies in its high-security protocols and the air of mystery that surrounds it. The U.S. government did not even acknowledge its existence until 2013!

The stories began in the 1950s when people reported seeing strange objects and lights in the sky near the base. Some believe that these were advanced aircraft being tested by the military, while others are convinced they were proof of extraterrestrial life!

The Roswell Incident

The link between Area 51 and aliens grew stronger with the infamous Roswell incident. In 1947, something crashed near Roswell, New Mexico. Many people believe it was a UFO and that the remains - and perhaps even the alien pilots - were taken to Area 51 for study. Official reports state it was a top-secret military surveillance balloon, but not everyone is convinced.

What's Really Going On There?

So, what's the truth? That's a good question. The real purpose of Area 51, according to the U.S. government, is to test and develop new aircraft and weapons systems. That's certainly important, and it would explain the secrecy.

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However, because of its classified status and the intriguing stories that have sprung up over the years, Area 51 has become a symbol of government secrecy and the focus of many conspiracy theories. For many, the base is a place where "the truth is out there," waiting to be discovered.

A Conclusion? Maybe Not!

Is Area 51 really a hub for studying extraterrestrial life and technology? Or is it simply a high-security military base working on protecting the United States? Only a select few truly know. One thing's for sure, though, Area 51 has sparked our imaginations and led to some fascinating stories, both in real life and fiction!

So, hold onto your detective hats, young investigators. Keep asking questions, keep exploring, and who knows? Maybe someday, you'll find the answers we're all looking for. Until then, keep looking up at the stars and wondering, because that's where the real magic begins!

1. What is Area 51 commonly known as?
   a. A public park
   b. A highly classified United States Air Force facility
   c. A popular tourist spot
   d. A prominent science research center

2. When did the U.S. government acknowledge the existence of Area 51?
   a. In the 1950s
   b. In 2013
   c. In 1947
   d. The government has yet to acknowledge its existence

3. What incident strengthened the connection between aliens and Area 51?
   a. The Nevada Incident
   b. The Roswell Incident
   c. The New Mexico Incident
   d. The Arizona Incident

4. According to the official reports, what crashed near Roswell, New Mexico in 1947?
   a. A UFO
   b. A commercial airplane
   c. A military surveillance balloon
   d. A meteorite

5. Evaluate the evidence provided in the passage. Do you think Area 51 is a hub for studying extraterrestrial life, a high-security military base, or perhaps both? Provide reasons from the text to support your opinion.

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Puns

As you read *The Area 51 Files*, jot down any puns you find. Explain the meaning as well.

Pun	Meaning

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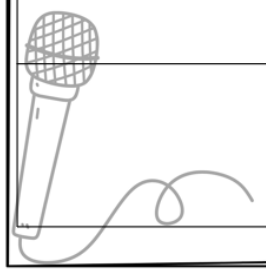


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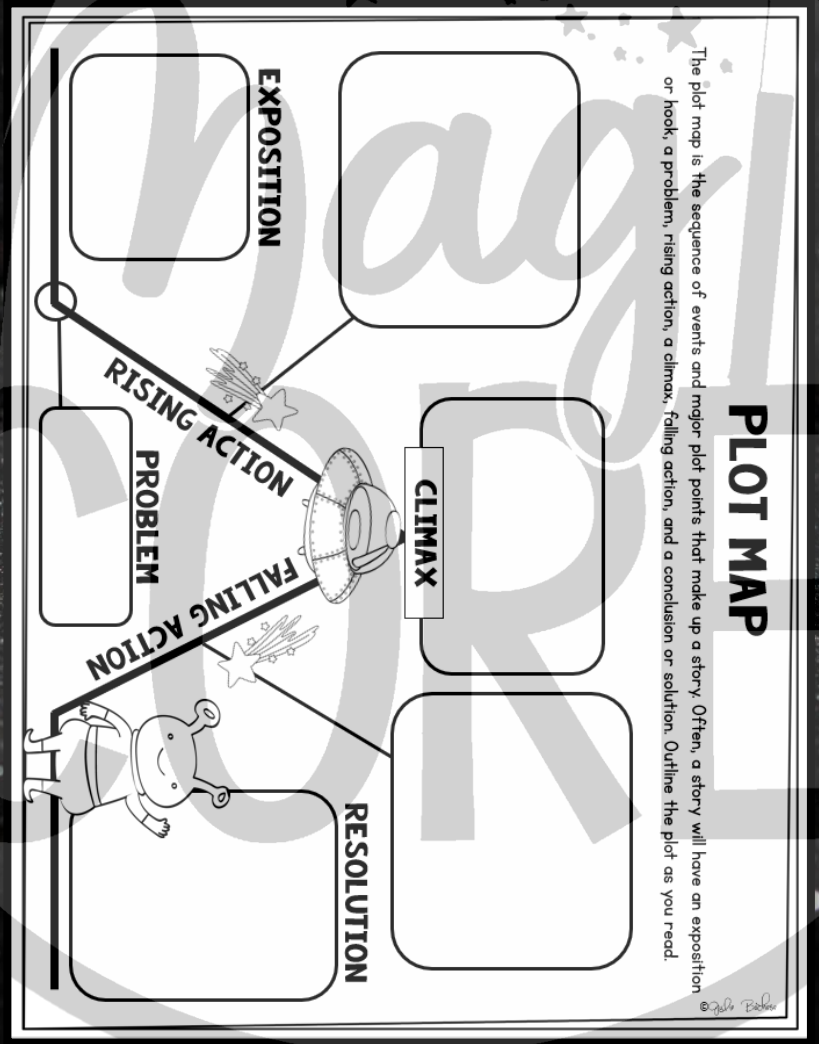
Tone and Mood

As you read *The Area 51 Files*, pay close attention to the author's tone. How does the tone impact the mood?

Text excerpt	Tone this conveys	How this impacts mood



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The plot map is the sequence of events and major plot points that make up a story. Often, a story will have an exposition or hook, a problem, rising action, a climax, falling action, and a conclusion or solution. Outline the plot as you read.

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Reading section I

Foreshadowing

Authors often foreshadow, or drop hints, about characters and events throughout a story. Track the foreshadowing clues you find as you read.

Foreshadowing Clue	Page	My Prediction	Outcome

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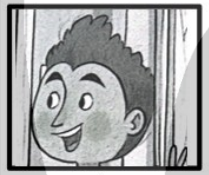
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Name: _____ Date: _____

Character Chronicles

As you read *The Area 51 Files* by Julie Buxbaum, pay close attention to each character. What hints does their name give about them? Make notes about the character's personality, actions, or any other important details.


Sky Patel-Baum


Elvis


Spike


Pickles

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Reading section 1

Dialogue Inference Investigative Journal

Paying attention to the dialogue between characters can provide clues about their thoughts, feelings, and motivations.

"Um, what happens in Area 51 stays in Area 51?" -Sky

"You can just call me Uncle Anish." -Uncle Anish

For Sky, her use of "Um" and uncertainty in repeating the rule suggests that she is still trying to grasp the situation and understand the significance of Area 51. This indicates that Sky may be feeling a bit overwhelmed or confused about her new environment and her role as Uncle Anish's guardian. On the other hand, Uncle Anish's response shows us he wants to establish a more personal connection with Sky.

Through this dialogue, I can infer that Sky is adjusting to her new role as Uncle Anish's ward and that Uncle Anish is making an effort to establish a bond with her.

Meet the Characters


Sky Patel-Baum


Uncle Anish


Elvis


Spike


Pickles


Zane


Agent Belcher


Agent Fartz


Officer Roidrage


Director Spalding


Agent Goodman

Officer Roidrage

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section I

Reading Section I

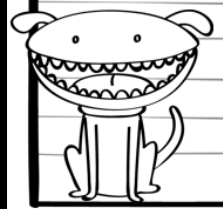
Before you begin reading, complete the vocabulary cards activity.
Then it's time to start reading *The Area 51 Files*.

Read these chapters:

1. **Chapter One:** What Happens in Area 51 Stays in Area 51
2. **Chapter Two:** Not a Tree in Sight
3. **Chapter Three:** Rule Number 4: Do not Leave the House
4. **Chapter Four:** Something Weird Going on Around Here
5. **Chapter Five:** Code 61154, on the Double

After reading the chapters of section one, complete each activity below.

1. Vocabulary Cloze Activity
2. Fill out your Case File for this section.
3. Complete the Quick Check.



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Reading section I

Vocabulary Cloze

Read the following paragraph. Fill in the blank with the vocabulary words from the text.

- ❑ Guardian (2)
- ❑ Salute (2)
- ❑ Inciting (7)
- ❑ Expedition (8)
- ❑ Aerial (9)
- ❑ Phenomena (9)
- ❑ Classified (15)
- ❑ Debriefed (25)
- ❑ Affirmative (30)
- ❑ Ominous (31)

Secrets of Area 51

In the world of Area 51, everything is highly _____. Sky, a curious girl, arrives at the mysterious base to live with her new _____, Uncle Anish. She is intrigued by the _____ rumors surrounding Area 51, where _____ and unidentified objects are studied in secret. Uncle Anish, in his military uniform, teaches Sky to _____ as a sign of respect. He explains that their purpose is to protect the secrets and maintain peace within the base. Sky is yet to be _____ about the hidden truths of this place. As she explores further, she becomes part of an unexpected _____ to unravel the mysteries of Area 51. The encounter with an _____ event triggers her curiosity, and Sky realizes that her life has taken an extraordinary turn in this enigmatic realm. With a resolute nod, she embraces her new reality, ready to face the challenges with an _____ spirit.

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Reading section I

Quick Check

After reading chapters 1-5, take this quiz to demonstrate your comprehension.

1. Who is Sky's new guardian in *The Area 51 Files*?
   a. Grandma
   b. Spike
   c. Uncle Anish
   d. Elvis

2. What is the official title of Uncle Anish?
   a. Deputy Head of the Federal Bureau of Alien Investigations (FBAI)
   b. Chief Scientist of Area 51
   c. Commander of the Alien Research Division
   d. Head of Extraterrestrial Studies

3. What is the main responsibility of the Federal Bureau of Alien Investigations (FBAI)?
   a. Keeping Area 51 classified
   b. Studying Break Throughs
   c. Investigating UFO sightings
   d. Analyzing alien technology

4. What is the "fun fact" number four mentioned in the Area 51 handbook?
   a. Break Throughs fart out of their ears
   b. All information about Area 51 is classified
   c. Members of Area 51 cannot leave the base
   d. Area 51 follows "no waste" principles

5. Who does Sky encounter through the blinds in the front windows?
   a. An alien
   b. A dog
   c. Uncle Anish
   d. Grandma

6. What does the yellow T-shirt that the boy wears depict?
   a. A picture of Sky's mom
   b. The Area 51 logo
   c. Sky's grandmother eating an ice cream cone
   d. A hammerhead shark with legs

7. What does Elvis reveal about himself?
   a. He is an undercover agent
   b. He can shape-shift based on who is looking at him
   c. He is an expert in extraterrestrial languages
   d. He is the leader of the Break Throughs

8. What rule does Sky break when she runs out of the front door?
   a. Rule number 1: No waste
   b. Rule number 2: No leaving the base
   c. Rule number 3: No contact with outsiders
   d. Rule number 4: No running in the house

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Take a Peek Inside



Culminating Activities

Select one of these activities to wrap up your novel study. You can also have students select their own culminating activity to complete.

1 Design a New Alien Species

Use your imagination to draw a new alien species that could live in Area 51. Describe the alien's appearance, characteristics, and special abilities.

2 Story Sequel or Alternative Ending

Write your own sequel to the story, imagining what happens to the characters after the events of the book. You can also create an alternative ending that diverges from the actual book's conclusion.

3 Newspaper Article

In the book, there are significant events and discoveries. Write a newspaper article reporting on an event. Providing details, quotes, and illustrations.

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