

ARLO AND THE VORTEX VOYAGE TEACHING NOTES

HOW WELL DID YOU READ?

CHAPTER 1

1. Despite his fears, Arlo wants to do this rock climb because
 - A. He doesn't want to look foolish in front of Kate
 - B. He needs the practice
 - C. He enjoys the spooky feeling of the beach and castle at night
 - D. He sees it as a chance to witness something remarkable

2. Three of these statements are untrue. Which is the one that is true?
 - A. Warren lives in Southcliff with his family
 - B. Warren is one of those who disappeared on the night of the Cataclysm
 - C. Warren was missing for three years before he was found in Tasmania
 - D. Warren has told reporters about his experiences in the Cataclysm

3. The Vortex is
 - A. Very noticeable at all times of day
 - B. Not visible even at night
 - C. Swirling and colourful
 - D. Just visible in dim light if you look at it the right way

4. Arlo is caught in the Vortex because
 - A. His hand has touched the rock wall
 - B. He is being squeezed by the rope
 - C. He rebounds after nearly falling off the cliff
 - D. He tries to stop Kate from being caught

CHAPTER 2

5. They can't go back the way they came because
 - A. They are afraid to try
 - B. The Vortex is no longer working
 - C. The Vortex apparently works in one direction only
 - D. They want to explore their current whereabouts before trying to return

6. They are using the cam to help them to
 - A. Take a picture of their surroundings
 - B. Abseil down the cliff
 - C. Attempt to contact Kate's parents
 - D. Get a closer view of the caravans

7. Arlo feels he couldn't complete his task of reaching the beach. Why?
- A. The ground looks too far down
 - B. The rope is hurting his hands
 - C. He doesn't trust Kate to belay him safely
 - D. He thinks one of the pieces of pro might come adrift

CHAPTER 3

8. Arlo and Kate are sure they cannot be far from home because
- A. The caravans are similar to the ones at home
 - B. The journey didn't take long
 - C. The vegetation is similar to that on most South Coast sand dunes
 - D. Home, dry clothes and bed and breakfast are things they can't live without
9. Their first impressions of the place where they find themselves are that it is
- A. Weird and unfriendly
 - B. Terrifying and disastrous
 - C. Dull and boring
 - D. Lonely and uninhabited
10. Behind the cyclone wire fence is what appears to be
- A. A camp ground
 - B. A storage place for equipment and supplies
 - C. A community centre
 - D. A vegetable garden
11. The 'castle' is labelled F ARTS because
- A. Graffiti artists vandalised it
 - B. The original inscription is broken in two
 - C. The mayor was a practical joker
 - D. Some letters have been worn away

CHAPTER 4

12. Arlo enters the 'castle'
- A. With a key
 - B. By pushing the unlocked door
 - C. By kicking the door in
 - D. By using a plastic card on the lock
13. The large room inside the 'castle' is
- A. Magnificently decorated, like a palace
 - B. Empty and dusty
 - C. Set up as though for a meeting
 - D. Used for storage of supplies

14. Why does Arlo react with panic to the idea of meeting the inhabitants?
- A. He knows they keep savage dogs
 - B. He thinks they must be cannibals
 - C. He knows he may have to speak in public
 - D. He sees a boy watching him

CHAPTER 5

15. How long have the former inhabitants of Southcliff been here?
- A. A year
 - B. Five years
 - C. Fourteen years
 - D. Twenty-five years
16. Vincent says they might be in trouble because
- A. They are not allowed to be in the hall without Committee permission
 - B. He doesn't have permission to take water from the well
 - C. They have to go to school and are late already
 - D. His uncle will not want visitors
17. Why does Vincent know so much about Southcliff?
- A. From old magazines
 - B. His uncle told him
 - C. The townspeople are always talking about their memories of the old days
 - D. The librarian helped him to research
18. Spindrift is governed as a
- A. Part of New South Wales
 - B. Monarchy
 - C. Local Council area
 - D. Republic

CHAPTER 6

19. Uncle Stephen is most valuable to the community of Spindrift as an expert in
- A. Farming
 - B. Technology
 - C. Government
 - D. Cookery
20. The 'crime' of Revisionism is
- A. Challenging the law
 - B. Defying the President
 - C. Talking about Southcliff and life there
 - D. Planning to take over the Government

21. When in Spindrift, Warren Mills had been an
- A. Architect
 - B. Explorer
 - C. Overseer
 - D. Industrialist
22. Great-Aunt Norma knows Kate's name because
- A. She was present at Kate's birth
 - B. She knows what her niece planned to call her future daughter
 - C. She chose the name herself
 - D. 'Katharine' is a traditional name in the Thompson family

CHAPTER 7

23. The main thing the First Lady wants to know about was
- A. How Arlo and Kate had come to Spindrift
 - B. How they were all going to get back to Southcliff
 - C. The news of all the members of their Southcliff family
 - D. How her son was getting on in Southcliff
24. The President will suspend the law on Revisionism temporarily because
- A. People will want to ask for news of their families and friends
 - B. The law is now no longer useful
 - C. Arlo and Kate cannot be given citizenship under the present law
 - D. He wants to avoid a rebellion that might put him out of office

CHAPTER 8

25. Why do Arlo and Kate have to wait in the kitchen till the final stage of the meeting?
- A. They have to help prepare the refreshments
 - B. Stephen is sneaking them in without the President's knowledge
 - C. The President wants the meeting to proceed as planned
 - D. This is arranged at Arlo's request, as he doesn't want to make a speech
26. The police 'officers on the beat' are
- A. Bearded men
 - B. Citizens drawn by lot each month
 - C. Teenagers
 - D. Dogs
27. The President stamps out the signs of rebellion in the audience by
- A. Declaring a state of emergency
 - B. Using the threat of the dogs
 - C. Threatening to postpone the distribution of food
 - D. B and C both

CHAPTER 9

28. 'Red Helmet' wears his helmet because
- A. He is ashamed of his scars and wants to cover them
 - B. He thinks it will protect him
 - C. He likes the colour
 - D. It makes him feel important
29. On hearing where Kate and Arlo come from, the people's first reaction is
- A. They don't want to know about it
 - B. They are sorry for the children
 - C. They want to go back to Southcliff
 - D. They are afraid of what the President will say

CHAPTER 10

30. When Kate and Arlo visit the different houses, the attitude of the people they met is
- A. Indifferent and unhelpful
 - B. Fearful and reserved
 - C. Angry and hostile
 - D. Kind and helpful
31. Electricity causes the force of the Vortex to
- A. Remain the same
 - B. Reverse direction
 - C. Expand and strengthen
 - D. Become brighter, but only when switched on

CHAPTER 11

32. Arlo and Kate spend their first morning writing
- A. Notes for their speeches at the barbecue
 - B. An account of their adventure
 - C. A list of the residents of Spindrift and their jobs
 - D. Notes about Southcliff relatives of the Spindrift residents
33. Which of these foods is NOT included in the barbecue?
- A. Bread
 - B. Roasted goat meat
 - C. Potato salad
 - D. Eggs
34. What does Arlo find most surprising about his schoolmates Trent and Kylie?
- A. They are interested in Southcliff though they do not remember it
 - B. They will be getting married at the age of fifteen

- C. They seem so mature for their age
- D. They are both so talkative even though they have only just met Arlo and Kate

35. What is the Spindrift people's main reaction to Kate's speech about Southcliff?
- A. They can't wait to go there
 - B. They think it has changed for the better
 - C. They think they might not be able to manage if they had to go back
 - D. They become depressed because return seems impossible

CHAPTER 12

36. The computers at the school are
- A. Outdated
 - B. Impressive
 - C. Similar to Arlo and Kate's computers back at home
 - D. Equipped with colour monitors
37. The next week's work experience for the schoolchildren will be aimed at
- A. Minimising waste in the community
 - B. Teaching a variety of survival skills
 - C. Earning money
 - D. Keeping them occupied every afternoon

CHAPTER 13

38. Bob works in the community as a
- A. Blacksmith
 - B. Shearer
 - C. Leather-worker
 - D. Tea-grower
39. Arlo learns some facts of Spindrift history from Bob. Of the following statements, three are incorrect. Which is the only CORRECT one?
- A. The President once served in the army
 - B. They almost starved in the early days
 - C. The President was elected solely because of his popularity
 - D. The President is doing an unsatisfactory job of running the town, rations, etc.
40. Stephen has restructured the garden shed as a
- A. Larger storeroom
 - B. Garden summer-house
 - C. Laboratory
 - D. Secret entrance to a Vortex pathway

CHAPTER 14

41. Arlo puts his letter to Dad in
- A. His pocket
 - B. A book in Stephen's library
 - C. The bottom of his schoolbag
 - D. A hollow tree
42. Kate and Arlo are assigned to work experience cleaning fish. Which of the following statements is INCORRECT?
- A. They gladly accept the assignment
 - B. Mr Parrott thinks it is fair for them to do the job for one week
 - C. The job is essential to the community's survival
 - D. They are assigned to the same job for the second week
43. Arlo and Kate's search for a way home is being watched by
- A. Len
 - B. Mr Parrott
 - C. The police
 - D. The President

CHAPTER 15

44. On Tuesday of the fifth week, Arlo makes, he says, 'a big mistake'. This is
- A. Going rowing with Stephen and Vincent
 - B. Telling Kate about going rowing with Stephen and Vincent
 - C. Wrecking Stephen's boat on the reef during the rowing lesson
 - D. Making Vincent jealous by rowing better than he did
45. When Arlo discovers an unusual formation in the water, Stephen refuses to check it out at the time. Arlo thinks this is because
- A. He wants to do some more experiments first
 - B. He doesn't really believe children's observations
 - C. He is sure it must be a rip
 - D. He has a hangover

CHAPTER 16

47. Why does Arlo think it would be a bad idea to cast anchor near the dark-water area?
- A. It could be a dangerous place to stop
 - B. One of them would have to stop rowing to do it
 - C. If it is the Vortex, it might suck in both anchor and boat
 - D. Even if it is a rip, it might drag them out to sea

48. How do they break the grip of the force that is controlling the direction of their boat?

- A. They run the boat aground on the reef
- B. They row straight out to sea
- C. They row together against the direction of the force
- D. They get out of the boat and drag it back to the beach

49. The people waiting for them in the shed are

- A. Their guardians
- B. A deputation of townspeople
- C. The police
- D. Committee members

CHAPTER 17

50. The crime for which they are being tried is

- A. Boat theft
- B. Running away from the police
- C. Endangering community property
- D. Seeking a Southcliff Link

51. They make a run for it because

- A. They don't recognise this as a legitimate trial
- B. They are cold and wet
- C. They want to defy and discredit the President
- D. They are angry because Gwen won't let them call Stephen

52. They are restrained by means of

- A. Handcuffs
- B. Locking them in the shed
- C. Tying them to a boat
- D. Heavy coats fitted with cords

53. A distraction gives Arlo his opportunity to escape. This distraction is

- A. The collapse of the President
- B. A thunderstorm
- C. Kate attracting an angry response by making a joke
- D. A call for the President on his pager

54. Arlo loses his chance to escape because

- A. Gwen is keeping a watch on the path up the hill
- B. They all follow him before he has time to get away
- C. He sprains his ankle
- D. He takes refuge in the hospital rather than try to go further

55. What is Gwen's plan to find Arlo?
- A. Search the hospital grounds
 - B. Go to Stephen's house and try to force him to hand Arlo over
 - C. Stand at the gate and call on Arlo to give himself up
 - D. Call in the dogs and their handlers

CHAPTER 18

56. How does Arlo react to Gwen's plan?
- A. He gives himself up
 - B. B He sneaks out the back way
 - C. He prepares to wait – till morning if necessary
 - D. He climbs a tree
57. Why do Arlo and Kate let their captors take them to 'a safe place'?
- A. Because they are afraid of the consequences of defying the Committee
 - B. Because the only alternative they have been offered is worse
 - C. Because they think it is right that they should wait for the President to recover
 - D. Because the First Lady puts it so nicely that it is difficult to refuse
58. Why doesn't Arlo yell for help?
- A. Because he knows Gwen will hit him if he does
 - B. Because at the only time when there is anyone to hear, he is gagged
 - C. Because it is late at night, and no-one will come
 - D. Because his allergies have make his throat too swollen to be able to call out loudly

CHAPTER 19

59. He is shut up in a
- A. Tower
 - B. Garage
 - C. Basement
 - D. Closet
60. How does he communicate with Kate?
- A. Slamming on the wall
 - B. Calling through the window
 - C. Attaching a note to Rudolph's collar
 - D. Tapping out letters of the alphabet

CHAPTER 20

61. What piece of information given to him By Mr Parrott upsets Arlo the most?
- A. Stephen's boat was found drifting
 - B. He has nothing to read but Biggles books

- C. The President has had a 'heart attack'
- D. The Committee will be most disturbed if they find out what Arlo really thinks about the President's 'heart attack'

62. For how long are Kate and Arlo left alone and unattended?

- A. One day
- B. Two days
- C. Three days
- D. Four days

63. What finally convinces Arlo that they must try to escape?

- A. They have been left alone for too long
- B. There is no news of the President's recovery
- C. The First Lady seems to be losing interest in caring for their needs
- D. The reading matter he has been given suggests a long imprisonment

CHAPTER 21

64. What is the first step in their escape strategy?

- A. Create a communicating link between the cells
- B. Check both ceilings for weak spots
- C. Try to light a fire
- D. Sharpen the spoons to make tools

65. What is the most worrying indication that they have been completely abandoned, probably for some time?

- A. No food or water
- B. The silence of the house
- C. The continuing absence of the President
- D. The absence of Rudolph

66. When they find the weak point, it is in

- A. The wall of Kate's cell
- B. The wall of Arlo's cell
- C. One of the ceilings
- D. The window bars

CHAPTER 22

67. Kate knows how to climb a chimney because

- A. She has read about it in climbing magazines
- B. She once climbed up a chimney to clean out the soot
- C. She knows how chimneys are built, so she can work it out
- D. She has had practice in the type of rock cleft called a 'chimney'

68. Arlo's greatest difficulty in climbing the chimney is
- A. Painful fingertips
 - B. Inexperience
 - C. Panic
 - D. The techniques he's learned don't seem to be working

CHAPTER 23

69. Now they have to find another weak point to break out of the house. Why is this not successful?
- A. They have no suitable tools
 - B. They have to be quiet so as not to wake the neighbours
 - C. They still have a high fence to get over
 - D. Rudolph arrives and interrupts them
70. Which of these statements is NOT true?
- A. The First Lady is not prepared to agree to plan the children's murder
 - B. The President is more ill today than he was yesterday
 - C. Arlo and Kate's 'trial' is still being planned for later
 - D. Gwen is a hard and ruthless person
71. They have almost reached freedom. Then 'time ran out'. What happens to prevent them?
- A. The window locks stick on the final turn
 - B. The First Lady discovers their presence
 - C. The President wakes up
 - D. Rudolph breaks through the weakened door

CHAPTER 24

72. The townspeople, through their spokesman, Bob, blame the Committee for what has happened. What is their **chief** complaint?
- A. That the trial was held secretly
 - B. That no-one was informed that the children were alive and safe
 - C. That the children missed meals
 - D. That the children's 'offence' was understandable and not important
73. The President's authority is challenged. What, to him, is the most important issue if he loses his position?
- A. He is letting down the memory of his father
 - B. The people are ungrateful for all his efforts on their behalf
 - C. All his work to put rules and laws in place will now be for nothing
 - D. He will have to leave his house

74. The President holds his position – for now. How does he do it?
- A. By making a powerful speech
 - B. By making some concessions to the wishes of the people
 - C. By taking advantage of the silence following the First Lady's threat to the women
 - D. All of the above

CHAPTER 25

75. How does Arlo cope with the boredom of house arrest?
- A. By reading Stephen's sci-fi books
 - B. By setting up a den with a view
 - C. By spending more time with Vincent
 - D. By taking up gardening
76. The third Monday is a special day for Arlo because
- A. Kate is coming to visit
 - B. He thinks someone is watching him from the trees
 - C. He and Kate are planning a rock climb from Stehen's Vortex path
 - D. He has made apple fritters
77. How does Arlo escape from the burning building alive?
- A. He soaks his hair and clothing with liquid
 - B. He runs on the side where the fire is least
 - C. He uses an improvised shield
 - D. all of the above
78. Who does Arlo blame for the fire?
- A. Len
 - B. Gwen
 - C. Both Len and Gwen
 - D. One of the above explanations, he can't be sure which

CHAPTER 26

79. Why does Arlo propose a walk on the beach with Kate, breaking house arrest?
- A. He'd like to defy the bullies and get away with it
 - B. He wants to continue looking for a Southcliff Link
 - C. The chance to use raincoats as a disguise is too good to miss
 - D. All of the above
80. Who follows them?
- A. Gwen
 - B. Mauler
 - C. Billy
 - D. Trent

CHAPTER 27

81. The Southcliff Link at last? The link on the beach will transport
- A. Only small objects
 - B. Only flat objects
 - C. Both of the above
 - D. Large or bulky objects
82. Why don't they jump in immediately when they find the 'billabong'? Which of these reasons is the LEAST likely?
- A. They don't really want to return now it has come to the point
 - B. They have to tell the whole community so they can all return
 - C. They can't leave Stephen, Norma and the others not knowing why they have disappeared
 - D. The warp might not be wide enough to transport a human body
83. How does the President know that Arlo and Kate were in this part of the island?
- A. He has been following them from the beginning
 - B. He saw Billy and knew Kate would not be far
 - C. He identified Kate once she had lost her raincoat
 - D. Len saw them from the cliff-top and told him
84. Why does Arlo find himself stuck in the warp?
- A. Billy is blocking it
 - B. He jumped in an awkward position and now can't move his legs
 - C. The force is insufficient to transport him
 - D. The warp is not wide enough to transport a human body

CHAPTER 28

85. From his trapped position, Arlo sees Kate
- A. Running up the hill towards the houses
 - B. Struggling with Gwen and overpowering her
 - C. Struggling with Gwen and being overpowered
 - D. Struggling with Gwen, being overpowered, and being thrown into the sea
86. Alone and trapped in the rock, convinced that rescue is not coming, Arlo is most afraid of
- A. Sharks
 - B. Drowning
 - C. Wind chill
 - D. Thirst

CHAPTER 29

87. How does Kate give the alarm?
- A. She persuades Gwen to summon help
 - B. She crawls up the hill to Norma's house
 - C. She manages to alert the man next door to the hospital
 - D. She sets the hospital on fire
88. Why can't Vincent and Stephen use the electrical equipment to enable Arlo to complete his crossing?
- A. It is malfunctioning
 - B. The total power is insufficient
 - C. The tide is coming in too fast
 - D. The danger of electrocuting Arlo is too great
89. How do the people of Spindrift solve the problem?
- A. They make a barrier with sandbags
 - B. They build a wall of smaller rocks
 - C. They put down clothing to absorb the water
 - D. They block the ripples with their own bodies

CHAPTER 30

90. On arriving home Arlo does these things (in this order)
- A. Looks for his father, changes his clothes, walks down to the beach, buys junk food
 - B. Looks for his father, changes his clothes, buys junk food, walks down to the beach
 - C. Changes his clothes, looks for his father, walks down to the beach, buys junk food
 - D. Changes his clothes, walks down to the beach, looks for his father, buys junk food
91. He talks to the Mayor, the Councillor, and the Emergency Service officer
- A. On a platform above the beach
 - B. on the beach
 - C. On the esplanade
 - D. In the Mayor's office
92. Where is Dad?
- A. In hospital
 - B. In Spindrift
 - C. Among the crowd at the beach
 - D. At Heidi's

93. By this time, people are arriving from Spindrift. Who has made the journey?
- A. One or two of the people
 - B. A few of the people
 - C. More than ten of the people
 - D. All of the people
94. Why does Arlo return to Spindrift?
- A. To rescue his father
 - B. To rescue Kate
 - C. To help those remaining in Spindrift to make the crossing
 - D. To find proof of the guilt of the people who had mistreated him and Kate

EPILOGUE

95. Of the four Committee members, two suffer unpleasant consequences back on Earth for their misdeeds in Spindrift. They are
- A. The President and the First Lady
 - B. The President and Gwen
 - C. The First Lady and Mr Parrott
 - D. Gwen and Mr Parrott
96. At the end, Arlo is happy because
- A. He is going back to school
 - B. Dad is marrying Heidi
 - C. Billy the Kid has survived safely
 - D. He is about to be released from quarantine