



“What We Saw”

Why do we explore space?

Respond to each statement by checking “agree” or “disagree.” Be prepared to justify your responses.

	Agree	Disagree
1. We are not alone in the universe.		
2. Curiosity can lead to both positive and negative outcomes.		
3. Space exploration can improve life on Earth.		
4. Humanity’s progress depends on exploring the unknown.		
5. The greatest risk is the risk not taken.		
6. There comes a time when you should give up on a goal.		
7. Humans should find other planets to live on.		
8. Eventually, scientists will run out of things to discover.		
9. People with curious minds are often not taken seriously.		
10. Searching for life on other planets is important.		

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"What We Saw"

Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about the characters of
Yuki and Nola.

1. Compare Yuki's feelings about Planet Doom and the Seager Mission with Nola's feelings about Planet Doom and the Seager Mission.

2. What are two words or phrases that describe Nola's personality? Explain why you chose each word or phrase.

3. What are two words or phrases that describe Yuki's personality? Explain why you chose each word or phrase.

4. Pick a line or a couple of lines from the story that you think best represent Yuki and Nola's friendship. Provide reasons for your choices.

5. If you were in Yuki's place—sure that you'd seen flashing blue lights outside the Perimeter—what would you do? Would you sneak out and investigate like Yuki does, even though it's dangerous and against the rules? Explain.

6. Choose either Nola or Yuki and explain why you would or would not want that character as a friend.

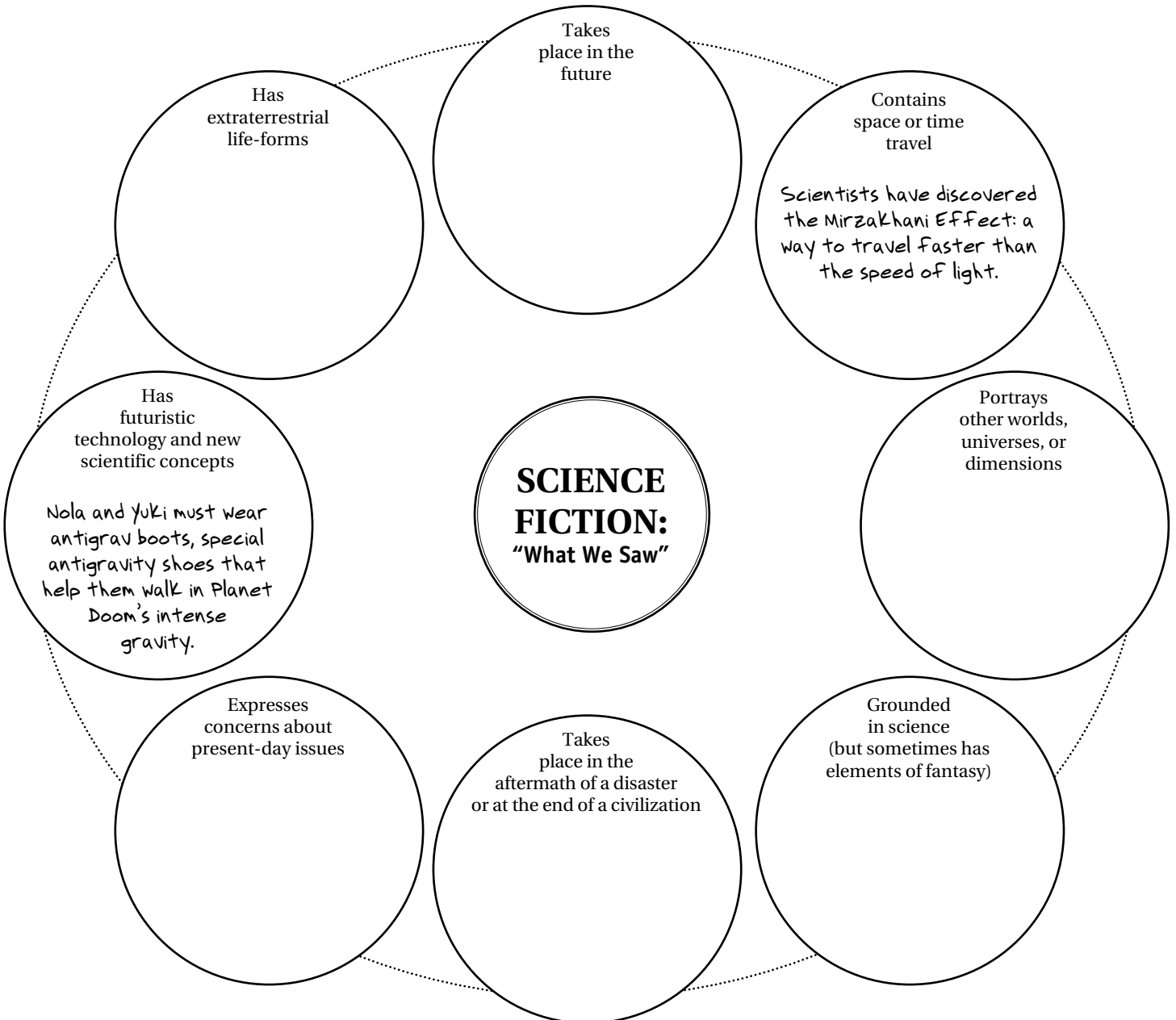
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A **genre** is a category of literature or art. Mystery, myth, historical fiction, and biography are all genres of literature.

Genre Exploration: "What We Saw"

"What We Saw" belongs to the genre of science fiction (often shortened to sci-fi). In this activity, you will explore what makes it a science fiction story.

Directions: The graphic organizer below gives some common characteristics of sci-fi. "What We Saw" does not have all of these characteristics, but it has many of them. We explained how the story shows two of these characteristics. **Choose FOUR other characteristics and briefly explain how the story shows those characteristics.**



Directions: Answer the questions below.

1. What other stories, plays, or movies have you read or seen that belong to the genre of science fiction?

2. Science fiction stories often inspire readers to imagine what the future could look like and think about how the human species might change over time.

A. What challenges do the humans in "What We Saw" face? How are they attempting to overcome these challenges?

B. Are there aspects of the future Sarah McCarry portrays in "What We Saw" that you think are possible or probable? Explain.



Beware the Thunder

Is change always for the better?

Respond to each statement by checking “agree” or “disagree.” Be prepared to justify your responses.

	Agree	Disagree
1. Avoiding your responsibilities will make them disappear.		
2. The world can change a lot in 20 years.		
3. It’s important to stop and smell the roses.		
4. Hard work is rewarded; laziness is punished.		
5. If you don’t keep up with the world around you, you’ll get left behind.		
6. Change and progress are the same thing.		
7. Change is inevitable—it cannot be avoided.		
8. People should be satisfied with the lives they have.		
9. The world is changing faster today than it ever has before.		
10. Change can be positive or negative.		

Name: _____ Date: _____

Beware the Thunder **Character Thinking Tool**

1. How does Cornelia feel about Rip? Explain your answer using details from the play.

2. If you were in Cornelia's place, would you have similar feelings about Rip? Explain.

3. List Rip's strengths and weaknesses as a person. Support your answers with details from the play.

strengths	weaknesses

4. Rip's dog, Wolf, is a character in the play, though he doesn't have any speaking lines. What is the purpose of Wolf's character? In other words, what does he add to the play?

5. Is Rip a static or dynamic character? Explain your reasoning.

A **static character** does not change in any important way over the course of a story.

A **dynamic character** undergoes an important internal change over the course of a story.