Integrating Ideas:
What Do They Believe?

Directions: Read “What We Saw” and “Are We Alone?” Then answer the questions below to help you prepare to answer the writing prompt on page 27.

1. Copy down Dr. Penelope Boston’s quote about the chances of finding life among the stars.

   ________________________________

2. Complete the sentence below to put Dr. Boston’s quote into your own words.

   In other words, Dr. Boston’s point of view is that ________________________________

3. Choose one character from “What We Saw” and write his or her name on the line below.

   Character: ________________________

4. Would the character agree with Dr. Boston about our chances of finding life among the stars?

   [ ] Yes   [ ] No

5. Use text evidence to support your answer to question 4. Be sure to explain HOW the details from the text support your answer.

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## Making Inferences

Making an inference means using clues from the text to figure out something the author doesn't tell you directly.

**Directions:** Answer the questions or follow the directions that appear in italics to fill in the chart. We completed the first row for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Inference</th>
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</table>
| **1.** On pages 21-22, Yuki and Nola talk about Nola leaving:  
"I'm sick of the stupid Mission," Nola muttered. She stopped, staring out at the jagged slabs of red-lit ice.  
"Don't say that."
"Why not? The Mission failed."
For a long minute we stared at each other. I wanted to cry, but crying out here hurts too much. Your tears freeze to your cheeks before they fall.  
"I'm sorry, Yuki," Nola said, breaking the silence. "I know how much the Mission means—meant—to you. It's just—I'm going to miss you."
"Yeah," I said. "I'm going to miss you too."
Nola grabbed my hand and squeezed it. | *What do these lines suggest about the relationship between Nola and Yuki?*  
These lines suggest that Yuki and Nola are very good friends and have a close relationship. |
<p>| <strong>2.</strong> On page 22, Yuki says this about Nola: &quot;She would never in a million light-years admit it, but she was trying not to cry too.&quot; | <em>What does this line reveal about Nola's personality?</em> |
| <strong>3.</strong> Find two moments in the story that support the inference on the right. | Nola doesn't believe that Yuki saw something while they were patrolling. |</p>
<table>
<thead>
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<td>4. On page 24, Yuki says: “Overhead the glow-in-the-dark constellations my dad had painted for me shined. My dad had copied the summer night sky over Tokyo, the city where I was born. Sometimes I thought the stars were more for him than for me.”</td>
<td><em>What can you infer about Yuki’s dad from this passage?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. On page 25, Yuki says: “My heart pounded in my chest. I could hear the blood moving in my ears.”</td>
<td><em>How is Yuki feeling in this moment? How do you know?</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?
   
   ____________________________
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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?

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

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What’s the Tone?

We often talk about tone as the author’s attitude either toward the subject he or she is writing about or toward the reader. In a work of fiction, we can also talk about the tone of the character who is narrating the story. Words that could describe tone include doubtful, humorous, gleeful, serious, and questioning. Tone is conveyed through the author’s or narrator’s word choice, the information included, and how the text is organized.

In this activity, you will analyze Yuki’s tone in “What We Saw.”
(Yuki is the narrator.)

1. Reread the following passage from page 21:

Nola sighed, kicking a chunk of ice with her antigrav boot. It went flying, striking the silvery bubble of the Perimeter. The Perimeter is a force field that keeps us safe, holding oxygen in and keeping the deadly cold out. But in that moment, the Perimeter didn’t feel like a shelter. It felt like a prison.

Like me, Nola was dressed in standard-issue outside wear: a compfiber jumpsuit, a mask covering the bottom half of her face to keep ice crystals from forming in her nose and throat, and a knit cap pulled tight over her puff of curly black hair.

Beyond the Perimeter, ice-particle storms whirled across the frozen landscape. Out there, you’d be dead in 30 seconds without a survival suit. Planet Doom’s single pale sun glittered like a piece of cheap jewelry. The sky was flushed red with hazy clouds of nitrogen. (Perimeter patrol took place during the one hour of what passed for daylight on Planet Doom—not that anybody besides me bothered to patrol anymore.)

In this passage, Yuki’s tone is dismal. (Dismal means “gloomy, dreary, or depressing.”) One reason Yuki sounds dismal is:

• Comparing the perimeter to a prison shows that Yuki feels depressed about having to stay on Planet Doom instead of going to Earth with Nola.

Write one more reason Yuki sounds dismal:

• ____________________________________________
2. Reread the following paragraph from page 23:

Nola was right: Planet Doom was cold and dark and small and mean. But I loved the way it had looked from space, a radiant rose-gold sphere suspended in a sea of darkness. I loved the way the long, cold nights made me feel cozy and safe in my family's habitat pod. And as long as I shared Planet Doom with my family and with Nola, I loved the way it had become home.

Circle the word that best describes Yuki's tone. (We defined the choices for you.)

- grim
- playful
- skeptical
- appreciative

- gloomy or worried
- fun and not serious
- doubtful, questioning
- feeling positive out of gratitude or respect

Write a statement to support your choice:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

3. Reread the following passage from pages 24-25:

I looked around and gasped. I'd never known there could be so many kinds and colors of ice. Huge slabs erupted from the ground at crazy angles, as if giants had been playing dominoes. Tiny crystals glittered on the frozen earth like a spill of diamonds.

The sky was nearly white with stars, their blazing light reflected in prisms of red and gold and green. Planet Doom's three moons hung low and heavy in the night sky.

It was so beautiful I could barely breathe. I took a step forward and then another, reaching my hands toward the stars as if I could pluck them from the sky.

My heart pounded in my chest. I could hear the blood moving in my ears. And I could hear the ice singing in the dark as it shifted, moving with glacial slowness under the relentless wind.

Write one or two words to complete the sentence below:

Yuki's tone as he describes his experience outside of the Perimeter is ____________________.

Write a statement to support your answer:

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________