

Reread

Rereading portions of “The Monster in the Mountain” can help you better understand the factual information about Mount Vesuvius and its volcanic eruptions.



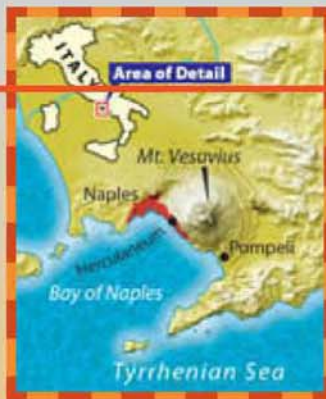
Find Text Evidence

You may not be sure why volcanologists study a volcano even when it isn’t erupting. Reread “When the Monster Awakens” on page 66 of “The Monster in the Mountain.”

page 66

When the Monster Awakens

There is a lot of **documentation** of Vesuvius’s past. Geologists have gathered this evidence of earlier eruptions by studying the rocks that were formed. Before 1944, the most catastrophic eruption occurred in 79 A.D. A Roman writer named Pliny the Younger described it in detail in his letters. On the morning of that tragic day, no one guessed that an enormous volcanic explosion was about to **pulverize** tons of rock and send it raining down on the city. People couldn’t know that thick, dark ash and fiery lava would completely destroy the nearby cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum. By evening, few people had survived.



I read that scientists gather historical and geological documentation about the volcano’s past. From this I can tell that learning about past eruptions helps predict when it may erupt again.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



How does information about past eruptions affect people living near Vesuvius today? Reread “Looking Ahead” on page 67. Remember to use the strategy Reread.

Main Idea and Key Details

The main idea is the most important point an author makes about a topic or in a section of text. The main idea may be stated or unstated. If it is not stated, readers use key details to identify the main idea.



Find Text Evidence

When I reread “Meet Marta Ramírez” on page 65, I can ask myself what this section is mainly about. All of the key details together help me figure out the main idea.

Main Idea

Ramírez’s childhood fascination with Mount Vesuvius led to a lifelong career as a volcanologist.

Detail

As a child, Ramírez saw dramatic newsreel images of Mount Vesuvius erupting in 1944.

Detail

Ramírez earned degrees in geology and volcanology.

Detail

Ramírez has studied many volcanoes, and Vesuvius in particular.

All the details connect to the unstated main idea.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Reread the rest of “The Monster in the Mountain.” Find the key details in each section and list them in the graphic organizer. Use what the details have in common to find the main idea of each section.

Go Digital!

Use the interactive graphic organizer

Narrative Nonfiction

“The Monster in the Mountain” is mostly a first-person narrative by a scientist. Narrative nonfiction:

- Gives factual information about a topic
- May tell one person’s experiences related to that topic



Find Text Evidence

“The Monster in the Mountain” is a scientist’s memoir written with the first-person pronouns I and we. A map shows the location of Vesuvius. A model adds information about how Vesuvius formed.

page 65

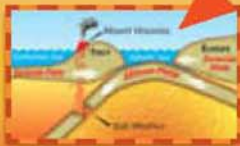
Meet Marta Ramírez

As a young girl during World War II, Marta Ramírez saw newsreels that showed B-25 airplanes flying near the smoky plume of a volcanic eruption. The year was 1944, and Mount Vesuvius in Italy was erupting! Blankets of burning ash were seen smothering the airplanes. **Shards** of volcanic rock came **plummeting** from the sky. Soldiers on the ground ran for cover. Each glowing splinter of rock was like a deadly bullet.

Those images never left Marta. She has been fascinated by volcanoes ever since. When she got older, Marta earned degrees in geology and volcanology. Though she has studied many of the world’s volcanoes, she returns again and again to Mount Vesuvius. Marta has climbed down into its smoking crater many times. In the following memoir, she describes one of her visits and why this volcano still inspires her work.

At the Monster’s Mouth

I recently went to see this **dynamic** volcano again. I decided to climb its slope along with the dozens of curious tourists visiting that day. As we walked, our shoes crunched on cinders that had been dropped there long ago. Finally reaching the rim, we gazed at the spectacular view. We stared 800 feet down into the crater. It was quiet for now, but I knew it was only sleeping. Frequent tremors and small earthquakes prove that this monster is not dead. Did the others standing there with me know about the danger beneath their feet?



This model shows how Mount Vesuvius formed where one plate of Earth’s crust pushes against another. Molten rock at this collision point exerts pressure upward until lava explodes from the volcano.

65

Text Features

Maps Maps show the locations of places discussed in the text.

Models Models provide simple visual explanations of detailed factual information.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Find and list two text features in “The Monster in the Mountain.” Tell your partner how each contributes to your understanding of the factual information.

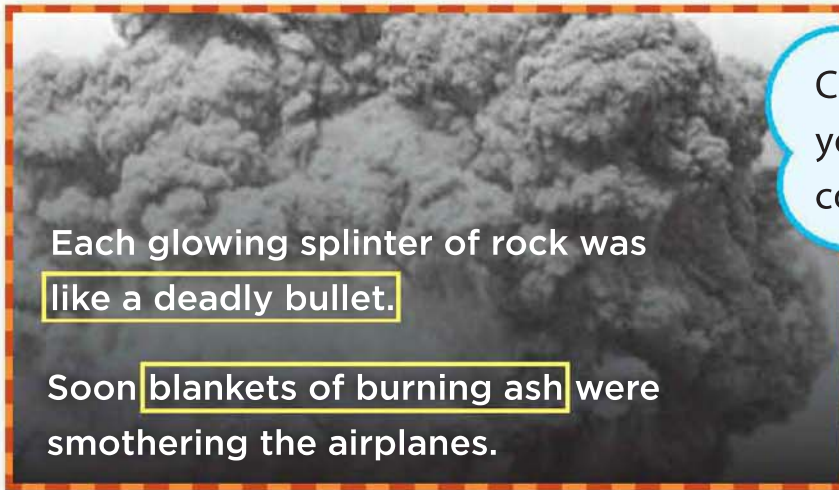
Metaphor and Simile

A simile compares two things or ideas using the words *like* or *as*. A metaphor is a direct comparison that refers to one thing as another. It does not use *like* or *as*.



Find Text Evidence

On page 65, I see the word *like* in the sentence, Each glowing splinter of rock was like a deadly bullet. This comparison is a simile. In the sentence, Soon blankets of burning ash were smothering the airplanes, the burning ash is compared to smothering blankets without using *like* or *as*. This is a metaphor.



Context clues help you understand the comparisons.

Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Reread the first sentence on page 66. Tell whether it contains a simile or a metaphor. Identify the things being compared. Then identify one more simile and one more metaphor. Tell how the comparisons add to your understanding of the text.



Readers to ...

In narrative nonfiction writing, the author's tone reminds readers that a real person is speaking. This recognizable voice helps readers understand the topic. Reread the excerpt from "The Monster in the Mountain" below.

Expert Model

Descriptive Details

Describe the author's **voice**. How does her **tone**, or style, add to your understanding of the topic?

At the Monster's Mouth

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know about the danger beneath their feet?



Writers



Editing Marks

- ^ Add
- , Add a comma.
- ⊙ Add a period.
- ✂ Take out.
- / Make a lowercase letter.

Anika wrote about volcanic pollution. Read her revisions to a part of this informational text.

Grammar Handbook

Complex Sentences

See page 453.

Student Model

Vog

Living near Kilauea Volcano, I know how vog, or volcanic smog, pollutes the air. First, the haze it creates makes it hard to see. ^{Second,} ~~Did you know~~ vog contains a poisonous gas?

^{When I go outside,}

~~The gas irritates my skin and makes my eyes water.~~ ^{Finally,} Vog damages crops.

Some plants turn brown and shrivel up. Everyone should know about the negative effects that vog can have.

COLLABORATE



Your Turn

- Describe the tone, or style, that Anika uses. Which words and phrases bring out this tone?
- Tell how she made a complex sentence.
- Tell how the revisions improved her writing.

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