

Immersive Reading

Read, Reflect, and Discover

2

Michael Dyer

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Content

About the Course		vi
Course Description		
Course Aim		
Unit Components		
Lesson at a Glance		vii
Unit	Topic	Critical Reading Skills
Unit 1	FROM DUST TO DAWN	<i>Scanning for Details</i> 1
Unit 2	HOW VERBS CAME TO BE	<i>Making Inferences</i> 7
Unit 3	BRAINWAVES AND EIPHANIES	<i>Summarizing Information</i> 13
Unit 4	THE SPICE OF LIFE	<i>Sequencing Events</i> 19
Unit 5	BONES OF CONTENTION	<i>Analyzing Arguments</i> 25
Unit 6	SINGULARITY’S SLIPPERY SLOPE	<i>Drawing Conclusions</i> 31
Unit 7	DIVIDED WE BROWSE	<i>Identifying Perspectives</i> 37
Unit 8	HEAD AND SHOULDERS ABOVE	<i>Comparing and Contrasting</i> 43
Unit 9	MOUNTAIN OF MYSTERIES	<i>Identifying Cause and Effect</i> 49
Unit 10	CULTIVATING CONCERNS	<i>Distinguishing Fact from Opinion</i> 55
Unit 11	ALTRUISTIC ANIMALS	<i>Interpreting Figurative Language</i> 61
Unit 12	ECHOES OF ANNIHILATION	<i>Evaluating Evidence</i> 67
Appendices		
Vocabulary Record Sheet		73
Credits		75

Lesson at a Glance



A. CONTEMPLATE & CONNECT

1. Have you ever seen a shooting star or meteor?
2. What would you do if you knew a giant asteroid was approaching Earth?
3. Have you ever experienced an event that changed your life completely?

B. READING PREVIEW

1. Read the title and the first paragraph of the passage. What do you think the primary focus of the text is?
 - a. The evolution of dinosaurs and their habitats over millions of years
 - b. The catastrophic asteroid impact that occurred 66 million years ago and its consequences
 - c. The development of human civilizations since the extinction of dinosaurs
2. After skim-reading the text, what do you think is the main purpose of the text?
 - a. To provide a detailed scientific analysis of asteroid compositions and trajectories
 - b. To narrate a historical event in a dramatic and engaging way
 - c. To offer a futuristic perspective on space exploration and asteroid mining

Visualize content to infer the main theme.

Engage, annotate, and reflect while reading and listening.

C. IMMERSIVE READING

FROM DUST TO DAWN

1 Sixty-six million years ago, a **transformative** event occurred on Earth, forever altering its history and trajectory. The planet was home to a diverse array of life forms, including the **majestic** dinosaurs, tiny burrowing mammals, and a rich marine ecosystem. However, on a seemingly ordinary day, this serene picture was abruptly shattered by a **catastrophic** event – the impact of a colossal asteroid.

2 This asteroid, nearly 20 kilometers in diameter – twice the size of Mount Everest – collided with Earth at the **staggering** speed of over 50,000 kilometers per hour, equivalent to 40 times the speed of sound. This event, known as the **Chicxulub** impact, occurred near what is now the town of Chicxulub in Mexico. The impact created one of the largest known craters on Earth, spanning 93 miles in diameter.

3 The energy released upon impact was **astronomical**, estimated to be from two to over 50 yottajoules. To put this in perspective, this is about 40 billion times the energy of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Such immense energy was released in a fraction of a second, marking the end of the Cretaceous period and the onset of the Cenozoic era.

4 The immediate aftermath of the impact was **apocalyptic**. The collision triggered mile-high tsunamis, spreading across entire oceans, and walls of fire across continents. The devastation led to the **extinction** of approximately 70 percent of life on Earth, including the dinosaurs. The impact site itself, containing large amounts of sulfur, caused a **sulfate** haze to spread across the globe. This haze blocked sunlight, leading to a prolonged period of darkness and cold, known as an impact winter.

5 This dramatic shift in climate had dire consequences for the planet's **ecosystems**. Without sunlight, **photosynthesis** halted, leading to the death of plants and, subsequently, the collapse of food chains. This prolonged darkness and cold proved fatal for many species. The world plunged into a decade-long winter, with food sources becoming scarce or nonexistent.

6 However, life is resilient. Following this period of destruction, the Earth began to warm again, primarily due to volcanic activities releasing carbon dioxide. This initiated a greenhouse effect, creating new, fertile habitats across the globe. The post-impact world was markedly different from the pre-impact era. Mammals, which had previously played a minor role in ecosystems, began to **thrive** and diversify, eventually leading to the rise of humans.

7 The discovery of the Chicxulub crater and its connection to the extinction event was a significant milestone in scientific history. In 1978, geophysicist

Glen Penfield, while working on an airborne magnetic survey for the Mexican oil company Pemex, detected anomalies suggestive of a massive impact crater. Around the same time, Nobel Prize-winning geologist Luis Alvarez and his son Walter discovered high levels of iridium in soil layers dating back 65 million years. Iridium is rare on Earth but common in meteorites, suggesting an extraterrestrial origin for the extinction event.

8 In the 1990s, further investigations provided conclusive evidence of the Chicxulub crater. Scientists used advanced drilling techniques and gravity field mapping over the Gulf of Mexico. This research confirmed the crater's existence, deeply buried under limestone. However, debates continue regarding the precise pattern and scope of the dinosaurs' extinction. Ongoing scientific exploration seeks to understand the various factors that may have contributed to the dinosaurs' demise, including possible gradual environmental changes alongside the catastrophic impact.

9 The Chicxulub impact serves as a stark reminder of the fragility of life on Earth. It highlights the potential dangers posed by **celestial** objects such as asteroids. The Earth has been struck by asteroids throughout its history and will likely be hit again. The inevitability of such events underscores the importance of monitoring near-Earth objects and developing technologies to **mitigate** potential threats.

10 NASA, among other space agencies, tracks the orbits of thousands of celestial objects, some of which have come alarmingly close to Earth in recent years. For instance, in July 2019, asteroid 2019 OK passed the Earth at a distance closer than the Moon. While smaller impacts are more common, the possibility of a large, catastrophic impact, though slight, remains a significant concern.

11 The Chicxulub impact event offers invaluable insights into the dynamics of planetary ecosystems and the **resilience** of life. It serves as a crucial case study for understanding mass extinctions and the potential threats from outer space. Moreover, it provides a poignant lesson about the **impermanence** of life and the ever-changing nature of our planet. As humanity continues to explore and understand these cosmic phenomena, the story of the dinosaurs' demise remains a powerful reminder of the forces that shape our world.

sulfate: n. salt of sulfuric acid
photosynthesis: n. process plants use to convert light into energy
anomalies: n. deviations from the normal or expected
iridium: n. dense, very hard metal
celestial: adj. related to the sky or outer space
impermanence: n. state of not lasting forever

2

Summarize central themes and main points for comprehensive grasp.

D. READING FOR MAIN IDEAS

1. What is the main message of the reading passage?
 - a. Asteroid impacts on Earth are inevitable and pose significant dangers.
 - b. Life's resilience is demonstrated through its recovery after catastrophic events.
 - c. Understanding the Chicxulub impact is crucial for comprehending mass extinctions.

Relate topic themes to personal experiences for deeper understanding.

E. READING FOR DETAILS

For each statement, write T for true or F for false based on the information in the reading passage.

1. The Chicxulub asteroid was nearly 20 kilometers in diameter, twice the size of Mount Everest.
2. The energy released upon impact was equivalent to 40 million times the energy of the Hiroshima atomic bomb.
3. The impact resulted in mile-high tsunamis and walls of fire across continents.
4. The sulfate haze from the impact blocked sunlight, leading to a period of darkness and cold.
5. The prolonged darkness and cold after the impact lasted for several centuries.

Focus on specifics for detailed and nuanced comprehension.

F. CRITICAL READING

Scan the reading passage to find and note the following specific key details.

1. How many years ago did the Chicxulub impact event occur?
2. What was the diameter of the asteroid that collided with Earth?
3. What percentage of life on Earth went extinct as a result of this event?
4. What was the primary consequence of the impact on the planet's climate?

Enhance comprehension through critical analysis and effective note-taking.

Learn vocabulary in context and practice with real-world exercises.

G. WORDS IN ACTION

Complete the paragraph with the words below.

resilience thrive majestic staggering catastrophic

The _____¹ beauty of nature is often overshadowed by human activities, yet it continues to inspire awe and wonder in those who take the time to observe it. In recent years, we've witnessed a series of _____² environmental events, reminding us of our fragile relationship with the planet. Amidst these challenges, the _____³ of natural ecosystems is both humbling and instructive, offering lessons on balance and adaptation. As we advance into the future, it becomes increasingly clear that our actions today will have _____⁴ implications for generations to come. In the face of such challenges, it's essential to foster a spirit of responsibility and stewardship, ensuring that the world's diverse ecosystems continue to _____⁵.

H. BEYOND THE TEXT

Choose the statement that explains how each piece of evidence supports the dinosaur extinction impact theory.

1. **Iridium layers in geological strata:** How does this evidence support the impact theory of dinosaur extinction?
 - a. It aligns with an extraterrestrial source, as iridium is common in meteorites but rare on Earth.
 - b. It indicates intense heat and pressure from an impact event.
 - c. It suggests rapid, global-scale environmental change.
2. **Discovery of the Chicxulub Crater:** How does this evidence support the impact theory of dinosaur extinction?
 - a. It indicates a massive, high-energy event consistent with an asteroid impact.
 - b. It shows evidence of widespread burning and destruction.
 - c. It suggests a change in global climate conditions.

Connect themes to broader issues and personal experiences for insight.



A. CONTEMPLATE & CONNECT

1. Have you ever seen a shooting star or meteor?

2. What would you do if you knew a giant asteroid was approaching Earth?

3. Have you ever experienced an event that changed your life completely?

B. READING PREVIEW

1. Read the title and the first paragraph of the passage. What do you think the primary focus of the text is?
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 - c. The development of human civilizations since the extinction of dinosaurs
2. After skim-reading the text, what do you think is the main purpose of the text?
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 - b. To narrate a historical event in a dramatic and engaging way
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FROM DUST TO DAWN

- 1 Sixty-six million years ago, a **transformative** event occurred on Earth, forever altering its history and trajectory. The planet was home to a diverse array of life forms, including the **majestic** dinosaurs, tiny burrowing mammals, and a rich marine ecosystem. However, on a seemingly ordinary day, this serene picture was abruptly shattered by a **catastrophic** event – the impact of a colossal asteroid.
- 2 This asteroid, nearly 20 kilometers in diameter – twice the size of Mount Everest – collided with Earth at the **staggering** speed of over 50,000 kilometers per hour, equivalent to 40 times the speed of sound. This event, known as the Chicxulub impact, occurred near what is now the town of Chicxulub in Mexico. The impact created one of the largest known craters on Earth, spanning 93 miles in diameter.
- 3 The energy released upon impact was **astronomical**, estimated to be from 2 to over 50 yottajoules. To put this in perspective, this is about 40 billion times the energy of the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. Such immense energy was released in a fraction of a second, marking the end of the Cretaceous period and the onset of the Cenozoic era.
- 4 The immediate aftermath of the impact was **apocalyptic**. The collision triggered mile-high tsunamis, spreading across entire oceans, and walls of fire across continents. The devastation led to the **extinction** of approximately 70 percent of life on Earth, including the dinosaurs. The impact site itself, containing large amounts of sulfur, caused a **sulfate** haze to spread across the globe. This haze blocked sunlight, leading to a prolonged period of darkness and cold, known as an impact winter.
- 5 This dramatic shift in climate had dire consequences for the planet's **ecosystems**. Without sunlight, **photosynthesis** halted, leading to the death of plants and, subsequently, the collapse of food chains. This prolonged darkness and cold proved fatal for many species. The world plunged into a decade-long winter, with food sources becoming scarce or nonexistent.
- 6 However, life is resilient. Following this period of destruction, the Earth began to warm again, primarily due to volcanic activities releasing carbon dioxide. This initiated a greenhouse effect, creating new, fertile habitats across the globe. The post-impact world was markedly different from the pre-impact era. Mammals, which had previously played a minor role in ecosystems, began to **thrive** and diversify, eventually leading to the rise of humans.
- 7 The discovery of the Chicxulub crater and its connection to the extinction event was a significant milestone in scientific history. In 1978, geophysicist Glen Penfield, while working on an airborne magnetic survey for the Mexican oil company Pemex, detected **anomalies** suggestive of a massive impact crater. Around the same time, Nobel Prize-winning geologist Luis Alvarez and his son Walter discovered high levels of **iridium** in soil layers dating back 65 million years. Iridium is rare on Earth but common in meteorites, suggesting an extraterrestrial origin for the extinction event.
- 8 In the 1990s, further investigations provided conclusive evidence of the Chicxulub crater. Scientists used advanced drilling techniques and gravity field mapping over the Gulf of Mexico. This research confirmed the crater's existence, deeply buried under limestone. However, debates continue regarding the precise pattern and scope of the dinosaurs' extinction. Ongoing scientific exploration seeks to understand the various factors that may have contributed to the dinosaurs' demise, including possible gradual environmental changes alongside the catastrophic impact.
- 9 The Chicxulub impact serves as a stark reminder of the fragility of life on Earth. It highlights the potential dangers posed by **celestial** objects such as asteroids. The Earth has been struck by asteroids throughout its history and will likely be hit again. The inevitability of such events underscores the importance of monitoring near-Earth objects and developing technologies to **mitigate** potential threats.
- 10 NASA, among other space agencies, tracks the orbits of thousands of celestial objects, some of which have come alarmingly close to Earth in recent years. For instance, in July 2019, asteroid 2019 OK passed the Earth at a distance closer than the Moon. While smaller impacts are more common, the possibility of a large, catastrophic impact, though slight, remains a significant concern.
- 11 The Chicxulub impact event offers invaluable insights into the dynamics of planetary ecosystems and the **resilience** of life. It serves as a crucial case study for understanding mass extinctions and the potential threats from outer space. Moreover, it provides a poignant lesson about the **impermanence** of life and the ever-changing nature of our planet. As humanity continues to explore and understand these cosmic phenomena, the story of the dinosaurs' demise remains a powerful reminder of the forces that shape our world.

sulfate: n. salt of sulfuric acid

photosynthesis: n. process plants use to convert light into energy

anomalies: n. deviations from the normal or expected

iridium: n. a rare, dense, and highly durable metal

celestial: adj. related to the sky or outer space

impermanence: n. state of not lasting forever

D. READING FOR MAIN IDEAS

1. What is the main message of the reading passage?
 - a. Asteroid impacts on Earth are inevitable and pose significant dangers.
 - b. Life's resilience is demonstrated through its recovery after catastrophic events.
 - c. Understanding the Chicxulub impact is crucial for comprehending mass extinctions.
2. Match the topic sentences to the corresponding paragraph. Write the paragraph number.
 - a. ____ Earth's recovery from the impact involved warming and the rise of mammals.
 - b. ____ The impact released an astronomical amount of energy, ending the Cretaceous period.
 - c. ____ The Chicxulub impact was a massive asteroid collision that altered Earth's history.
 - d. ____ NASA's monitoring of celestial objects highlights the ongoing threat of asteroid impacts.
 - e. ____ Further investigations in the 1990s provided conclusive evidence of the Chicxulub crater.
 - f. ____ The impact's immediate aftermath included tsunamis and prolonged darkness and cold.
 - g. ____ The Chicxulub event emphasizes the potential dangers of asteroid impacts on Earth.
 - h. ____ The dramatic climate shift led to the extinction of many species and disrupted ecosystems.
 - i. ____ The discovery of the crater and high iridium levels linked the event to mass extinction.

E. READING FOR DETAILS

For each statement, write *T* for true or *F* for false based on the information in the reading passage.

- ____ 1. The Chicxulub asteroid was nearly 20 kilometers in diameter, twice the size of Mount Everest.
- ____ 2. The energy released upon impact was equivalent to 40 million times the energy of the Hiroshima atomic bomb.
- ____ 3. The impact resulted in mile-high tsunamis and walls of fire across continents.
- ____ 4. The sulfate haze from the impact blocked sunlight, leading to a period of darkness and cold.
- ____ 5. The prolonged darkness and cold after the impact lasted for several centuries.
- ____ 6. Volcanic activities releasing carbon dioxide helped the Earth to warm again after the impact.
- ____ 7. In 1978, geophysicist Glen Penfield first detected anomalies suggestive of a massive impact crater.
- ____ 8. Advanced drilling techniques and gravity field mapping in the 1990s confirmed the crater's existence.
- ____ 9. NASA has successfully diverted several potentially hazardous asteroids away from Earth.

F. CRITICAL READING



Scan the reading passage to find and note the following specific key details.

1. How many years ago did the Chicxulub impact event occur?

2. What was the diameter of the asteroid that collided with Earth?

3. What percentage of life on Earth went extinct as a result of this event?

4. What was the primary consequence of the impact on the planet's climate?

5. Who discovered the Chicxulub crater and what was his profession?

6. In which decade did scientists provide conclusive evidence of the Chicxulub crater?

7. What do NASA and other space agencies do to monitor threats from meteors and asteroids?

G. WORDS IN ACTION

Complete the paragraph with the words below.

resilience

thrive

majestic

staggering

catastrophic

The _____¹ beauty of nature is often overshadowed by human activities, yet it continues to inspire awe and wonder in those who take the time to observe it. In recent years, we've witnessed a series of _____² environmental events, reminding us of our fragile relationship with the planet. Amidst these challenges, the _____³ of natural ecosystems is both humbling and instructive, offering lessons on balance and adaptation. As we advance into the future, it becomes increasingly clear that our actions today will have _____⁴ implications for generations to come. In the face of such challenges, it's essential to foster a spirit of responsibility and stewardship, ensuring that the world's diverse ecosystems continue to _____⁵.

Study the bold word in the example sentence and in the passage. Then select its correct meaning.

- The **ecosystem** of the tropical rainforest is incredibly diverse, hosting thousands of unique species.
a. a community of organisms b. a single species c. a natural landscape
- The invention of the internet was a **transformative** event in human history, altering how we communicate and access information.
a. slowly evolving b. maintaining stability c. causing a change
- The **extinction** of the dodo bird is a well-known example of the impact humans can have on other species.
a. new beginnings b. a species dying out c. population growth
- The novel depicted an **apocalyptic** world, ravaged by environmental disasters and societal collapse.
a. hopeful and bright b. catastrophic or destructive c. peaceful and serene
- The cost of the project was **astronomical**, far exceeding the initial budget estimates.
a. space-related b. scientifically advanced c. extremely large

Find the bold words in the passage and guess their meanings from the context.

- The factory's release of a high amount of **sulfates** into the river ____
a. reminds us that beauty is fleeting.
b. included tracking the movements of stars and planets.
- In biology class, we learned about **photosynthesis**, a process where ____
c. led to a significant deterioration in water quality.
- The scientist's observation of several **anomalies** in the data ____
d. its density and hardness, making it ideal for high-end electronics.
- Iridium** is used in applications because of ____
e. suggests unexpected patterns in the environmental system.
- The study of **celestial** bodies by ancient astronomers ____
f. green plants convert sunlight into energy.
- The **impermanence** of the garden's flowers ____

H. BEYOND THE TEXT

Choose the statement that explains how each piece of evidence supports the dinosaur extinction impact theory.

1. Iridium layers in geological strata: How does this evidence support the impact theory of dinosaur extinction?
 - a. It aligns with an extraterrestrial source, as iridium is common in meteorites but rare on Earth.
 - b. It indicates intense heat and pressure from an impact event.
 - c. It suggests rapid, global-scale environmental change.
2. Discovery of the Chicxulub Crater: How does this evidence support the impact theory of dinosaur extinction?
 - a. It indicates a massive, high-energy event consistent with an asteroid impact.
 - b. It shows evidence of widespread burning and destruction.
 - c. It suggests a change in global climate conditions.
3. Abrupt changes in fossil records at the K-T Boundary: How does this evidence support the impact theory of dinosaur extinction?
 - a. It indicates global wildfires following the impact.
 - b. It suggests a rapid, global-scale environmental change affecting life on Earth.
 - c. It shows a sudden increase in extraterrestrial materials.
4. Shocked quartz and tektites found worldwide: How does this evidence support the impact theory of dinosaur extinction?
 - a. It is evidence of intense heat and pressure from an impact event.
 - b. It shows a change in Earth's orbital patterns.
 - c. It indicates a gradual change in the ecosystem.
5. Soot and ash layers found at the K-T Boundary: How does this evidence support the impact theory of dinosaur extinction?
 - a. It indicates massive global climate change.
 - b. It shows evidence of intense seismic activity.
 - c. It is indicative of widespread burning and destruction following the impact.

Match each celestial event with its corresponding potential effect on Earth.

Celestial Event	Effect on Earth
1. If an asteroid impacts Earth ____	a. we might see a spectacular light show in the sky.
2. If a comet passes close to Earth ____	b. there could be a disruption of satellite and communication systems.
3. If solar flares occur ____	c. the night sky might brighten and we could experience increased cosmic radiation.
4. If a supernova explosion happens nearby ____	d. there might be gravitational disturbances affecting orbits.
5. If a black hole passes near the solar system ____	e. we could face massive global climate change and potential mass extinction.



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Immersive Reading
Read, Reflect, and Discover
Book 2



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