

Name: Jane Smith  
Title of Book: The City of Ember  
Author: Jeanne DuPrau  
Genre: (3)

Date Report Due: 11-3-05  
Copyright Date: 2003  
Number of Pages: 270  
Point of View: Third person

Reason for choice: I choose to read this book because a few of my friends had read this book and had recommended it to me. Also, after reading the vivid description on the inside cover of the book The City of Ember, I was intrigued by the story line. Finally, the metallic and brown shades on the cover and the map after the table of contents really drew me in.

Setting: The story takes place in the City of Ember, which was constructed by the builders. The year the story is told is 241. That shows the reader that the people in Ember have been there for 241 years.

Characters:

1. Lina: Lina is the main character in this story. She is a strong character that looks after her younger sister, Poppy. After she completes school, she trades with her friend Doon for the job of Messenger. After finding fragments of an old document, Lina begins a search to find the truth about the city of Ember.

2. Doon: Doon is the second main character in the story. He is Lina's classmate in school, and he is wise beyond his years. He shows interest in Ember's future and wants to be the one to help save Ember. After finishing school, Doon trades jobs with Lina. He did this so he could work underground in the Pipeworks, in order to be close to the generator.

3. Granny: Granny is a supporting character in this story. Lina's Grandmother is a sweet, but forgetful person. Since Lina's and Poppy's parents died of the coughing disease, Granny has been taking care of them. Recently, Granny has been forgetting things more and more. She knows that she needs to look for something, but she cannot remember what it is she is looking for. She has even forgotten to look after Poppy when Lina was not home.

Vocabulary:

1. immensely: adv. very greatly; hugely. (pg. 21)
2. rivulets: n. water flowing naturally in a channel. (pg.44)
3. ceremony: n. a special act or set of acts to be done on special occasions such as weddings, funerals, or holidays. (pg. 50)
4. vaguely: adv. not definitely or precisely expressed. (pg. 112)
5. predicament: n. a delicate and difficult position. (pg. 120)
6. mechanism: n. means or way by which something is done; machinery. (pg. 123)

Evaluation: The City of Ember contained many examples of great writing. One example that I found was on page 41. "The boots were so ancient that their green rubber was cracked all over, as if covered with spiderwebs." I thought that this was an interesting sentence because of the vivid picture that it created in my mind. I could picture a pair of green rubber boots that were

old and weathered with hundreds of small cracks all over them. The author was able to use descriptive words to create the picture in the reader's mind.

Metaphor or Simile: While reading The City of Ember, I found a simile. "Her freckles stood out like little smudges of dirt on her nose." (Pg 104) This simile compares the freckles to specks of dirt on a character's nose.

Compositional Risk: While reading The City of Ember, I found an onomatopoeia. "Doon heard a hard *thwack* and a loud "Ouch!" at the same moment." (Pg. 50) An onomatopoeia is a word that imitates the sound associated with it. In this sentence, *thwack* is used to imitate a sound that Doon is heard.

Summary:

Expository: In the novel, The City of Ember, the reader was introduced to the two main characters, Lina and Doon. Lina and Doon had just completed school and were about to be assigned a job. Lina picked Pipeworker and Doon picked messenger. Lina had dreamed about being a messenger and Doon had dreamed about working on the generator to stop the lights in Ember from flickering. After assignment day was over, Lina and Doon agreed to switch jobs.

Climax: Lina began her job as messenger and Doon began his job in the Pipeworks. Doon is discouraged because after he sees the generator he realizes that he could not fix it. The blackouts increase. Poppy, Lina's sister, finds a small box with a note inside of it and plays with it until Lina stops her. Once Lina reads what is left of the note, she discovers they are instructions for something. Are they instructions to get out of the city or perhaps instructions to fix the generator?

Resolution: Here you would write how the story ended.

Connections:

Text to text connection: While reading the story The City of Ember, I found that it was similar to another story I read called Running out of Time. Both stories have a similar plot and have something wrong with their towns.

Text to self connection: In The City of Ember, the main character, Lina, loves to draw. She uses colored pencils and loves to draw with them. I also love to draw with colored pencils and we both like to draw pictures of cities.

Text to world connection: In The City of Ember, the lights are flickering and the people are afraid the lights will go out. In New Orleans, after hurricane Katrina, the power went out and people were in the dark for several weeks.

Question to the Author: How did you come up with the story line in The City of Ember?

Answer from Author: I came up with the story line in The City of Ember one night as I dreaming. I imagined a city that was completely in the dark except for streetlights. After writing the initial idea down, I began to add characters and a plot.

Recommendation: I would highly recommend this book to my friends and to my teacher. My friends and teacher would enjoy it because they would enjoy the way the author created vivid pictures and told the story. It is the type of story that once you start reading, you don't want to put it down.