

Literacy World Comets

Stage 2

Title:

Split!

Authors:

Jan Burchett and Sara Vogler

Year:

4

Genre:

Fantasy Novel

Summary

Lia Vine is a Skyler, who lives with her family in Skyville, above the treetops. Life in Skyville is slow and gentle, but Lia longs for excitement. Every twelve years there is a Great Feast including stories about the Skyville ancestors. Lia is too young to attend, but goes in disguise to hear the stories. The event is interrupted by the devastating news that something is wrong with the trees – they are dying slowly. Lia decides to investigate down on the ground.

On her way down Lia falls, and lands on Sprout – a Rootle. The Rootles, who live at a frantic pace on the ground, are also alarmed by the state of the trees, but blame the Skylanders. Sprout takes Lia to explain things to his father, Chief Rootle. He does not believe her, and the Rootles lock her up in a cage in the forest. Here she is discovered by Great-uncle Runnicles who had left Skyville for the ground many years before. Sprout helps Lia escape, and they go home with Uncle Runnicles.

Uncle Runnicles has an ancient book, where Lia and Sprout read about the Waterfall of Wonderful Wetness – this must be the source of their problems. All three set out to find the waterfall, but when they get there, they see that it has dried up. Sprout and Lia climb up the cliff face while Uncle Runnicles sets off to explore on his own. The children discover a dam blocking the waterfall at the top of the cliff.

Corporal Bung and his men guard the dam. They work for Big Blocker, who stopped the waterfall so that he could wallow in the water. Big Blocker tells the guards to throw the children over the cliff, but Uncle Runnicles saves them in the nick of time. Furious, Big Blocker throws his weight around, but he dislodges the dam and disappears in the rush of water. The waterfall begins to flow again, and Lia, Sprout and Uncle Runnicles realise that the trees were being killed by lack of water. They explain their findings to the Skyler and Rootle leaders, and discover that the waterfall was the reason that the two peoples split from each other in the first place!

Primary Framework Objectives:

**T4 strand 7:** Identify and summarise evidence from a text to support a hypothesis

**T4 strand 7:** Explain how writers use figurative and expressive language to create images and atmosphere

**T4 strand 8:** Interrogate texts to deepen and clarify understanding and response

## Literacy World Comets Stage 2: Split! Guided Reading Card Framework Edition

By Jan Burchett, Sara Vogler

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