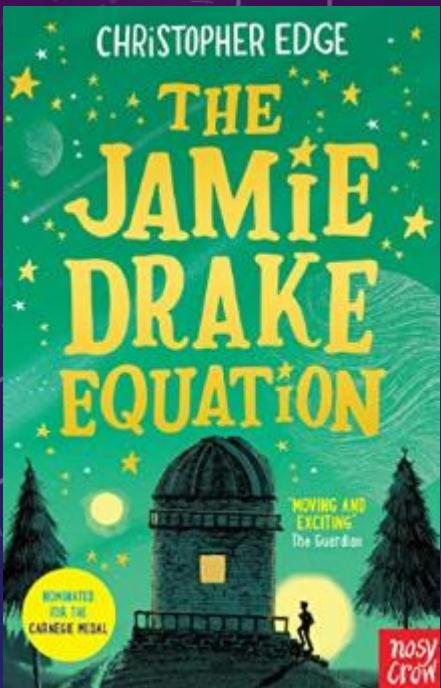


RECALL

1. Who is the main character of The Infinite Lives of Maisie Day?
2. What special event is happening to the main character?
3. Describe Maisie's family.
4. From the start, do we find out that something is wrong? What?
5. Does her family eventually solve the problem?



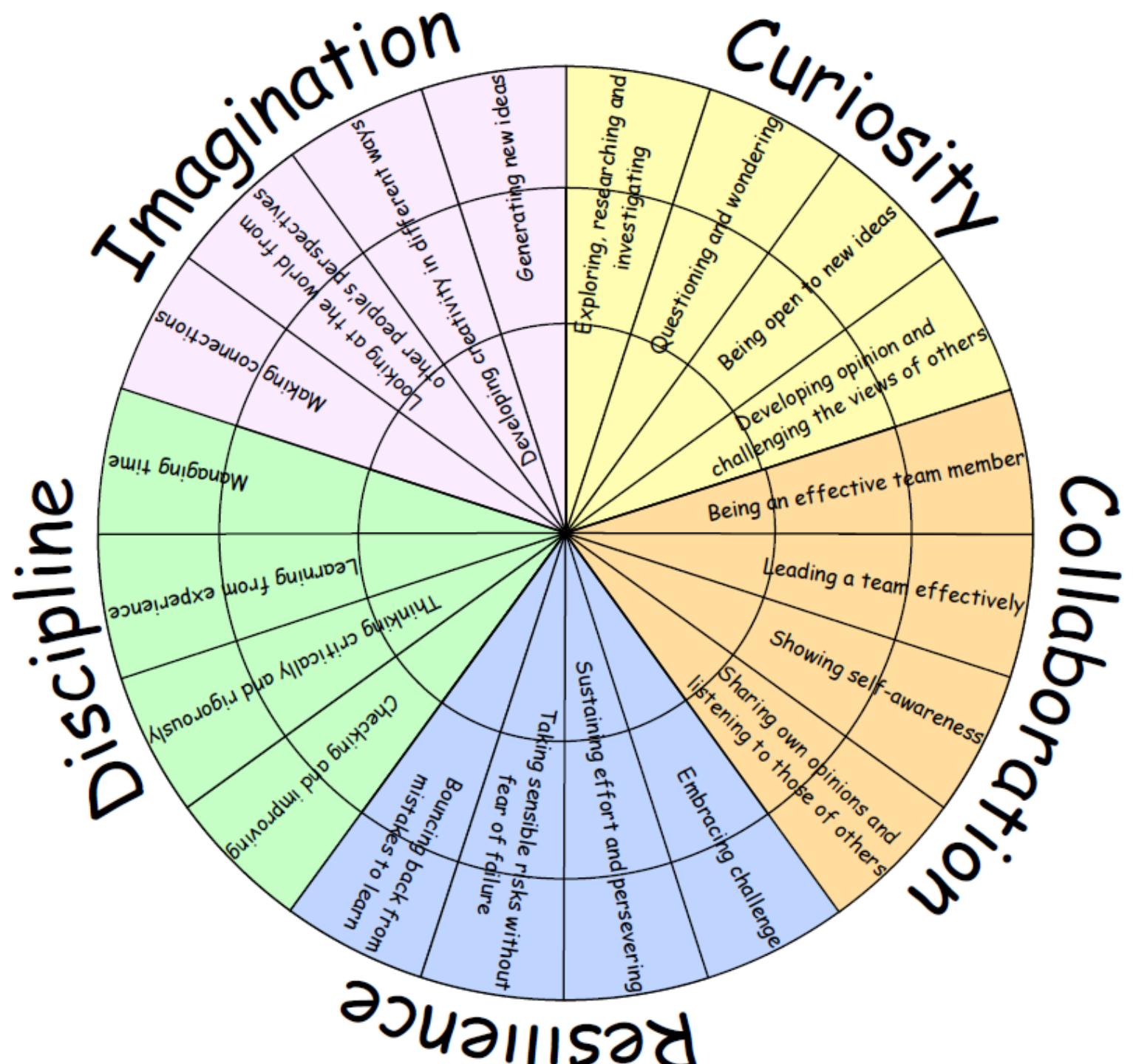
THE JAMIE DRAKE EQUATION

BY CHRISTOPHER EDGE



RESPONDER (15II)

- I can articulate personal responses to literature, identifying how and why a text affects the reader due to authorial intent



LEARNING HABITS

- What do you think is the most important Learning Habit?
- Is it one of your strengths or is it something you need to develop?
- How will you know that you have practised that Habit during the lesson?



CHAPTER 1

Read through the text.

There are 659 words.

Time how long it takes you to read the entire chapter.

To find your words per minute (wpm):

Convert your time into seconds

Multiply your minutes by 60 then add the seconds

Divide 659 by the time in seconds

Multiply by 60.

To find your words per minute (wpm) example:

3 minutes 45 seconds = $180 + 45 = 225$ seconds

$659 \div 225 = 2.93$ words per second

$2.93 \text{ words per second} \times 60 \text{ seconds} = 176 \text{ wpm}$



CHAPTER 1

You're supposed to start a story at the beginning, right?

The thing is, knowing exactly when that is can be kind of difficult. I mean, I could start this story with how the solar system was formed about four and a half billion years ago (1). That was when the centre of a huge cloud of gas and dust that was spinning in space got super-hot and turned into a star, but this story really got started way before that. It's all about putting things in the right order. That's how the solar system got going, after all.

Once the Sun was formed all the rest of the dust and stuff got stuck together to make all the planets and moons, and since then they've just kept spinning round the Sun, year after year. Some are a bit too close, like Venus, where it's a scorching four hundred degrees in the shade, while others are too far out and freezing cold, like Saturn and Neptune. But out of all those planets, all those worlds, there's only one where we know that life exists. And that's our world—the planet Earth. That's because it's right in the middle of the Goldilocks zone. Now, this isn't like the Phantom Zone in Superman—some kind of inter-dimensional prison where the three bears have locked up Goldilocks for crimes against porridge. The Goldilocks zone is the name for the region of space around a star where life has a chance of existing. Somewhere not too hot and not too cold, but just right.

And in our solar system, Earth has got this spot all to itself (2).

It's a bit like my family, really. There's Mum, Dad, Charlie and me, Jamie Drake. Dad's the star in our family's solar system because he's an astronaut. Everyone at school knows his name and he's been on TV loads of times talking about his latest space mission. He's kind of like Captain Kirk crossed with Han Solo, but cooler because he's a real person. To be fair, I reckon Mum's the star too because she keeps everything running smoothly when Dad's not around, so that just leaves Charlie and me in the Goldilocks zone. It used to be that I had this spot all to myself, but then four years ago Mum and Dad told me that I was going to have a baby sister. At first I wasn't too sure, but then Mum explained that tons of people think that the perfect family has four people in it, so by adding a little sister our family was going to be just the right size, and when baby Charlotte was born I kind of had to agree. Our family's solar system is now perfectly balanced. Mum + Dad = Me + Charlie.

Now, if you move any part of the real solar system, then the whole thing goes to pieces with planets crashing into each other or flying off into the depths of space. Everything has to be in just the right place for the Earth to keep spinning safely around the Sun. So with Dad now four hundred kilometres above our heads on the International Space Station, I'm keeping a close eye on things at home in case any bits of the Drake family solar system start to wobble (3).

So far, everything's OK. In fact, Mum and Dad were arguing a lot before he blasted off into orbit and I think having this break has just made them realise how much they love each other after all. And in ten days' time, Dad will land safely back on Earth and our family can get back to normal.

It's just a shame he's going to miss my birthday on Friday. That's the day of his spacewalk. The day the human race launches its first mission to the stars in search of alien life. I just hope he hasn't forgotten to get me a present (4).



RETRIEVAL

1. How old is the solar system?
2. When did this story begin?
3. What is the name of the special zone that Earth is right in the middle of?
4. What is special about this zone?
5. How old is Jamie's little sister?
6. Who else is in Jamie's family?
7. What does his dad do?
8. What is Jamie's dad's mission on Friday?
9. Why else is Friday important to the main character?

RETRIEVAL - ANSWERS

1. The Solar System is about 4.5 billion years old.
2. We don't really know when the story started but it could be said to have started when the Solar System began.
3. Earth is in the middle of a special zone called the Goldilocks Zone.
4. This zone is special because the temperature is just right for life to exist.
5. Jamie's little sister is 4 years old.
6. In Jamie's family, there is Jamie, his dad, his mum, and his sister Charlie.
7. Jamie's dad is an astronaut and is going to lead a special mission.
8. He has to do a spacewalk to launch the human mission to find life in the universe.
9. Friday is important to Jamie because it is his birthday.

QUERIES

Look for the numbers in brackets in the text. These show the end of a section of text (this may not be the end of a paragraph).

A query is a special sort of question where you investigate and discuss what you think before formulating an answer.

Answer Query 1 below about Section 1; Query 2 about Section 2 etc.

Section Number	Query
1	What is the author's important message about the whole of the rest of the story in this section?
2	What is the author implying about Earth and the rest of the universe?
3	Why do you think that the author puts the information about Jamie's family in here?
4	What is the author using the last two sentences to show?

PREDICTION

1. What do you think the theme of the entire story is going to be?
2. Why do you think that the author has mentioned the Goldilocks zone? How can be this related to your prediction?
3. Do you think that Jamie's dad's space-walk will go to plan? Why?
4. What makes you think that something unusual will happen to Jamie himself in the story? What do you think that it will be?

HOMEWORK



GO TO THE SCOTHOLME
PODCAST CHANNEL.



LISTEN TO CHAPTER 2 AND 3 OF
THE JAMIE DRAKE EQUATION.

