

Springboard into Comprehension

4

Main Idea Fossil Fuels
A Place in Space

Sequencing **Black Rock**

The Best Holiday Ever

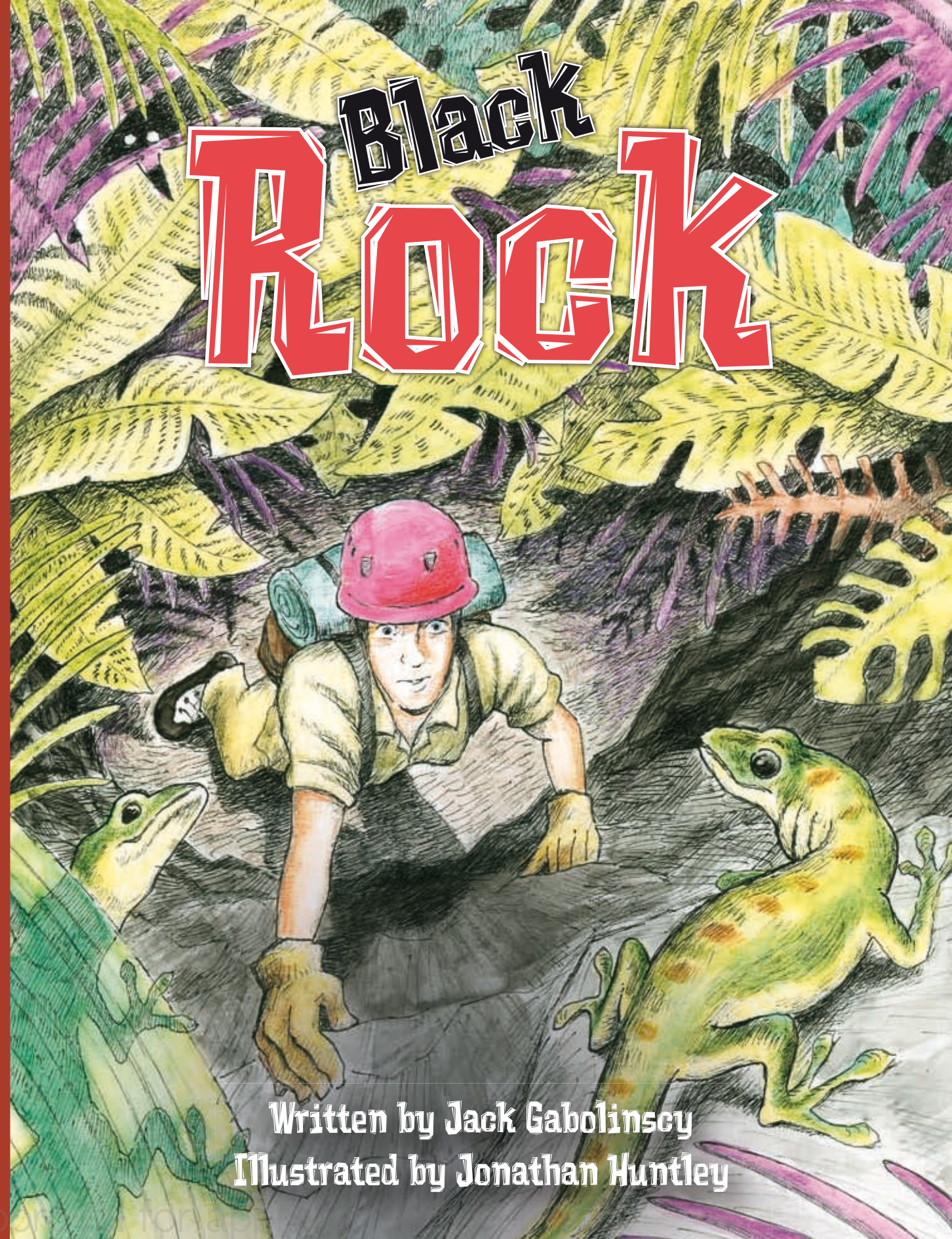
Compare and Contrast From Me to You
Your Choice!

Fact and Opinion Community Views
The Daily News

Cause and Effect Natural Disasters
The Invaders

Bias and Prejudice Have Your Say!
Save Our Skate Park

RA 8.5–9.5



Written by Jack Gabolinscy
Illustrated by Jonathan Huntley



Black Rock

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6.50 a.m.

My plate and spoon are gone. I left them by the water last night, but they've disappeared. I've decided that I'm going to set a trap.

8.10 a.m.

I've set the trap. First, I broke open some banana passionfruit and left them on some paper by the water's edge. They smell delicious – enough to tempt any thief out into the open.

Now, I'm hiding in the bushes, ready to take a photo. I hope I catch the intruder soon! The chopper is due in less than four hours.

Tony and his dad watched the video diary. They grew more worried with each entry.

“Who can it be?” asked Tony. “It might be somebody really bad.”

“I'm sure it isn't,” said his dad, frowning unhappily.

They waited and waited...9.00 a.m...9.30 a.m...

10.00 a.m...10.30 a.m...11.00 a.m... They grew more and more worried with every passing minute. But still, there was only silence.

“Something has happened,” said Tony. “Do you think she might be hurt?”

“She'll be OK. We'll just have to wait,” said his father, frowning.



Into the Unknown

Tony clicked on the position-finder on his computer. A satellite picture of the Java Sea, between Borneo and Sumatra, appeared, dotted with hundreds of small islands. Tony zoomed in. A little yellow parrot flapped its wings and chirped at him. It showed where Tony's mum was in the vast blue ocean. He was looking forward to getting her first video message.

Friday, January 1, 7.05 p.m.

I flew over Black Rock for the first time today. It's an extinct volcano. Wild waves crash up its cliffs. Wispy grey clouds and mist hang around its summit. Its cliffs shine in the sun like black glass. It's nearly one km wide and its huge crater rim reaches 1,200 m above sea level. Three small lakes sparkle through the dense jungle that covers it.

I've plotted the path I'll take. It's marked red on the map. I'll be lifted out next Thursday at twelve o'clock. I'm so excited right now. I can't wait to start my adventure and write my article!



Saturday, January 2, 7.01 p.m.

It was such a boring day today. First, I checked my climbing gear. Then, I checked all the camping equipment. After that, it was the first-aid kit, followed by my clothes and boots. Finally, I did a full check on the laptop. I'm ready for the chopper to drop me off first thing in the morning!

