

Ruben's Race Car

Story by Cameron Macintosh

Illustrations by Dusan Lakicevic



Ruben's Race Car

Level 22

Running Words 752 **Text Type** Narrative

Curriculum Areas English (Literacy, Literature, Language); Technologies (Design and Technologies, Digital); Science (Earth and Space Sciences)

Retelling to Encourage Critical Thinking About the Content

Ask each student to retell the story in their own words.

Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to Reinforce Meaning and Stimulate Discussion

Literal

- 1 How did Mr Tamura's solar watch work?
- 2 Why couldn't Ruben's mum take the boys to the shops to get more batteries?
- 3 Why did Ruben want a car with a solar panel on the top?

Inferential

- 4 Why didn't Ruben think he would hear back from Tumble Toys?
- 5 Why is Chapter 4 called 'A Speedy Surprise'?
- 6 Why was Ruben anxious when he was opening the box on the table?
- 7 Why did Tumble Toys name the new race car 'Ruben Racer'?
- 8 How do you think Mr Tamura and Ruben's friends will react when they see the race car with a solar panel?

Applied Knowledge

- 9 Why is it important not to put batteries in landfill?
- 10 Do you think Tumble Toys will sell a lot of Ruben Racers? Why?

Links with Other PM Guided Reading Books

Level 22	Narrative	<i>Space Junk</i>
Level 21	Procedure	<i>Making and Using a Rain Gauge</i>
Level 21	Information Report	<i>Olympic Cycling</i>

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Chapter 1

A Solar-Powered Watch

It was Friday morning.

Ruben was enjoying his favourite subject, science.

Mr Tamura was telling the class about solar power.

“You might have noticed my solar watch before,”
said Mr Tamura.

“It has a solar panel behind the clock hands,
so I never have to wind it or put a new battery in it.
Come and have a look.”



Mr Tamura placed the watch on his desk.
Everybody came up and looked at it closely.



Ruben admired it more than anyone.

“I’ve seen solar panels on houses,” he said,
“but I’ve never seen one on a watch!”

“If you look around, you’ll be surprised how often
you see solar panels,” said Mr Tamura.

“There are even solar-powered cars and buses.”



“How does your watch work?” asked Ruben.

“The sunlight hits the solar panel behind the hands on my watch,” explained Mr Tamura.

“Then the panel changes the energy from the sunlight into electricity. The electricity is stored in the watch’s battery.”

“So that’s how it works!” said Ruben.

“Yes,” said Mr Tamura.

“We can use the sun’s energy in all sorts of ways.”

