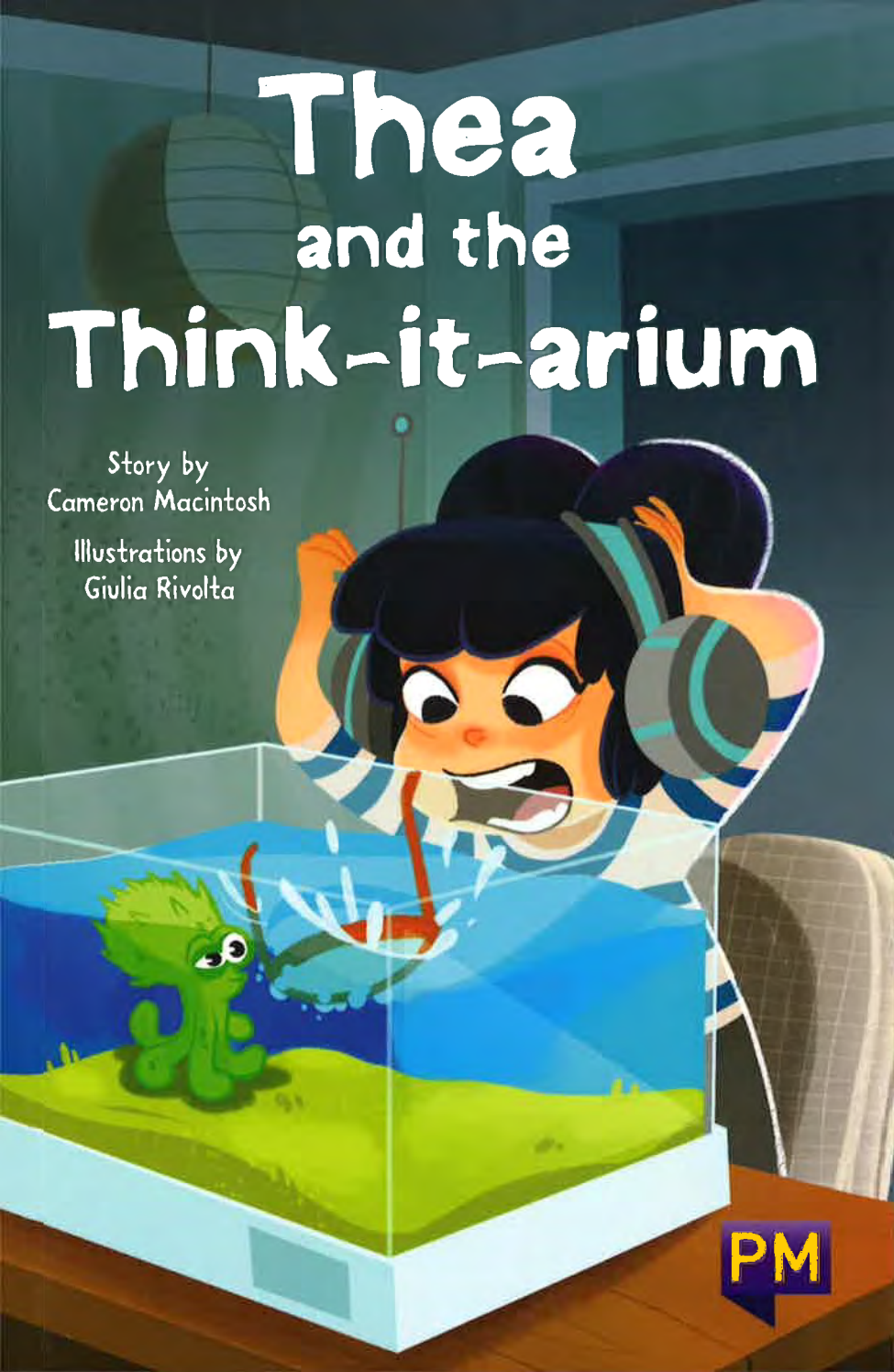
Thea and the Think-it-arium

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PM

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Thea and the Think-it-arium

Level 27 **Curriculum Area** Literacy
Running Words 3117 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)

Retelling to encourage critical thinking about the content

Ask each student to retell the story in his or her own words.
Record the retelling for further discussion and reflection.

Questions to reinforce meaning and stimulate discussion

Literal

1 What did Thea use the special headset for?
2 What made the cacto-pus charge at the crabbit?
3 Why did Thea catch the lamp?

Inferential

4 What sort of brother was Max? Why?
5 What made the strange smell in Thea's bedroom?
6 Why did the cacto-pus wrap its tentacles around the micro-specs?
7 Why didn't the cacto-pus show any interest in the plastic crab?
8 If the creatures had managed to get into the peanut warehouse, why would the people in Zingtown have been in danger?
9 Why did Maggie have so many people at the pool wearing headsets?
10 Why were Mum's micro-specs in the drainage vent?

Applied Knowledge

11 Why is this story called an 'imaginative' narrative?
12 If this story was real, in what year might it have happened? Why?
13 How did the author keep the reader's attention throughout the story?

Vocabulary

Replace the noun 'reaction' in this sentence:
This time I did get a reaction.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 27	Book	Narrative	*Megafauna Mega-Fright!*
Level 28	Book	Narrative	*Gadget Girl*

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Contents

Chapter 1	The Unthinkable Think-it-arium	5
Chapter 2	Troublesome Tentacles	12
Chapter 3	Creatures on the Run!	20
Chapter 4	Chaos in the Kitchen	26
Chapter 5	Watch Out, Zingtown!	33
Chapter 6	Peanuts in the Pool	41





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The Unthinkable Think-it-arium

Ever since I was old enough to walk, all I've ever wanted is a pet. Sure, I've had all sorts of robot pets. They're clean and they don't get hungry, but they're nothing like real, breathing animals. I want a pet that can snuggle into my lap without being programmed to! More than anything, though, I'd love a goldfish.

When I was five, I saw a goldfish with my own eyes, at an aquarium. Mum told me that when Grandma was my age, people had their own goldfish. They kept them in bowls or tanks in their homes. They could have as many as they wanted, and they were very cheap to buy. I can hardly imagine how wonderful that would be!

Just last week, I was drawing pictures of goldfish in my sketchpad when my big brother, Max, poked his head around my bedroom door.


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"Thea!" he yelled. "I think I've found your next birthday present!"

Usually when Max says that, he's just bought some new kind of prank device – like an exploding flower, or a fake ice cube. This time, he handed me a glossy brochure. I unfolded it and read it out loud.

"On special, June only – your very own think-it-arium for only $48.99!"

I had no idea what that meant, but I kept reading:

"Think into existence any kind of sea creature, real or imagined, and watch it come to life in your own think-it-arium tank."

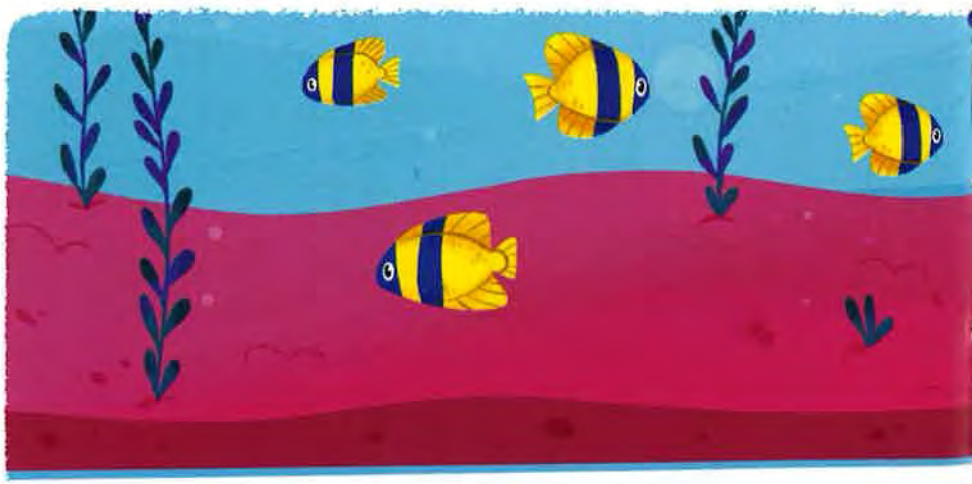
According to the brochure, the creatures would only be visible in the think-it-arium tank while the thinker was wearing a special headset. It sounded almost too good to be true!



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The next morning, I asked Dad to take me to the Zingtown think-it-arium showroom. It was a big shop, full of glass tanks that all looked quite empty. The shop owner, a woman called Maggie, was standing by a tank in the corner, demonstrating how the think-it-arium worked. She was wearing a special headset and looking down into the tank. I couldn't see what she was looking at, but when I knelt by the tank, she handed me her headset. I put it on and looked into the tank, imagining that it was full of fish. Suddenly, I could see a school of beautiful tropical angelfish. I heard myself gasping at the sight of them.

It seemed like this machine could give me everything I had ever wanted. I asked Maggie to put one aside for me, right away!





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Once we had paid for the think-it-arium, Dad helped me load the tank into the car. When we arrived home, he carried it up the stairs and set it up in my bedroom. As soon as it was plugged in, I put on the headset and started thinking up sea creatures. I started with a simple little goldfish. It swam around the tank happily, exploring the water plants that were included in the tank.



15
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24
25
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PM Level 27
28
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Thea has always wanted a goldfish, so she is very excited when her brother tells her about think-it-ariums. Wearing a headset, a person can imagine what they want to see in the fish tank, and it appears! But when Thea's imagined creatures get hungry for peanuts, the think-it-arium doesn't seem so fun any more. Can Thea un-think the creatures before it's too late?



Text Type:
Narrative (Imaginative)

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