Ten Light Years



Frank Pedersen

Jeff Lai

Nelson Literacy Directions

NELSON
CENGAGE Learning

NLD Level: 7
Reading Age: 9.1–9.3
Text Type: Narrative

Ten Light Years

Text: Frank Pedersen
Editor: Sharon Parsons
Text design: John Parsons
Cover design: Jennifer Warwick
Series design: Simply Literacy Limited, James Lowe and Jennifer Warwick
Illustrations: Jeff Lai
Production controller: Adam Bextream

Nelson Literacy Directions
NLD Level: 7
Reading Age: 9.1–9.3
Text Type: Narrative

Text © 2010 Simply Literacy Limited
Illustrations © 2010 Simply Literacy Limited

Copyright Notice
This Work is copyright. No part of this Work may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means without prior written permission of the Publisher. Except as permitted under the Copyright Act 1968, for example any fair dealing for the purposes of private study, research, criticism or review, subject to certain limitations. These limitations include: Restricting the copying to a maximum of one chapter or 10% of this book, whichever is greater; Providing an appropriate notice and warning with the copies of the Work disseminated; Taking all reasonable steps to limit access to these copies to people authorised to receive these copies; Ensuring you hold the appropriate Licences issued by the Copyright Agency Limited ("CAL"), supply a remuneration notice to CAL and pay any required fees.

ISBN 978 0 17 018370 3

Cengage Learning Australia
Level 7, 80 Dorcas Street
South Melbourne, Victoria Australia 3205
Phone: 1300 790 853

Cengage Learning New Zealand
Unit 4B Rosedale Office Park
331 Rosedale Road, Albany, North Shore NZ 0632
Phone: 0800 449 725

For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**

Printed in China by 1010 Printing International Ltd
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 14 13 12 11 10

For teachers' Inspection Only

Ten Light Years

Written by Frank Pedersen
Illustrated by Jeff Lai

Contents

1 Prologue 4
2 Sola Zurgum 6
3 Case 277 13
4 Ten Light Years! 18
5 Let's Hope 28

NELSON
CENGAGE Learning
For learning solutions, visit **cengage.com.au**

Meet the Characters



Sola Zurgum

A lawyer aboard the Gryxophon.



Gruinard

Another lawyer aboard the Gryxophon.



A Finaliser

A Zarcusian who destroys planets.



The Judges

A group of judges who decide what will happen to planets.

For teachers' Inspection Only

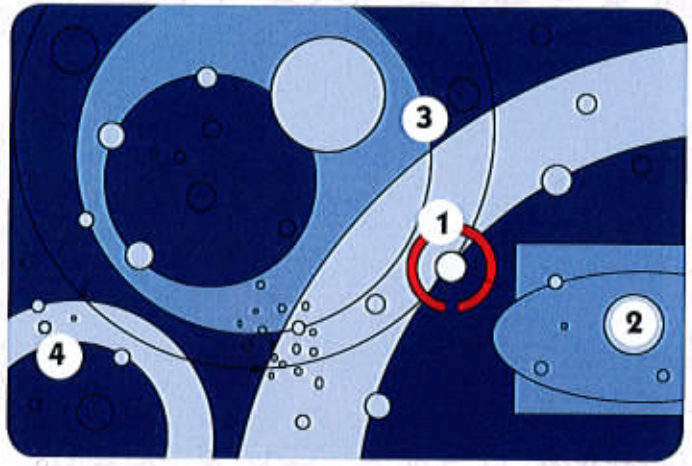
POST CARD

Dear Reader

As well as writing books, I also have a radio show. My first radio show was 20 years ago – so those radio waves have travelled 20 light years into space since then! Who knows – I might be famous throughout the galaxy, listened to by millions of aliens, without even knowing it!

Frank Pedersen
Author

A Zarcusian Space Map



1. Blue Planet Delta
2. The *Gryxophon*
3. The solar system
4. The rest of the galaxy

1 Prologue

The speeds were fast. Very, very fast.

299 792 458 metres every second.
1 079 252 849 kilometres every hour.
Almost ten trillion kilometres every year.



At the speed of light, radio waves from the tiny blue planet had beamed out to the icy depths of space.

Then, one bright yellow dawn, fifty years later, the radio waves from the blue planet reached the planet of Zarcusium.

An alarm went off. A sleepy assistant marked a spot on his galactic map.

For teachers' Inspection Only

2 Sola Zurgum

Sola Zurgum yawned. On board the space ship *Gryxophon*, there was no morning or night – but Sola always felt like another hour's sleep.

He stared in the mirror. His eyes were yellower than usual.

"You're tired, Sola," he said to himself. "These Finalisation trials are hard work."

Sola's job as a space lawyer was fun. He loved sorting out problems between planets and aliens – but his least favourite job was Finalisation.

Sola looked at the clock. He groaned. There would be no time for his hydrogen bath. He grabbed his notes for "Case 277: Blue Planet Delta". He ran for the door.

For teachers' Inspection Only

Sola found a seat on the spaceship's shuttle. He opened his notes.



"The first contact from Blue Planet Delta was via radio waves. At first, these waves were voices, and then later, music.

"The aliens of Blue Planet Delta count time using orbits around their sun. The first radio waves came after 1920 orbits."