

LEVEL B1

ENGLISH READERS EDELVIVES



AVANTE SCHOOL OF DETECTIVES

The Inexplicable Appearances On Nolan Island

David Fernández Sifres
ILLUSTRATIONS Albertoyos



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before reading

- 1 This story is set on an island. How much do you know about islands around the world? **Decide** if these islands are in the Northern or Southern Hemisphere.

Iceland **Northern or Southern Hemisphere?** _____

Tasmania **Northern or Southern Hemisphere?** _____

Madagascar **Northern or Southern Hemisphere?** _____

Sicily **Northern or Southern Hemisphere?** _____

Great Britain **Northern or Southern Hemisphere?** _____

Galapagos **Northern or Southern Hemisphere?** _____

Hawaii **Northern or Southern Hemisphere?** _____

- 2 **Match** the authors to these stories written about islands.

Robinson Crusoe Robert Louis Stevenson

Treasure Island H.G. Wells

Kensuke's Kingdom Jules Verne

The Lord of the Flies Enid Blyton

The Island of Doctor Moreau C.S. Lewis

The Mysterious Island William Golding

The Famous Five: Five on Kirrin Island Michael Morpurgo

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader Daniel Dafoe

3 Look at the word “inexplicable” in the title of the story. It’s made up of a core word (explain) plus a prefix at the beginning (in = negative) and a suffix at the end (able = adjective). **Build** some more words by adding prefixes and suffixes.

Dis
Dis
Dis
In
In
In

agree
appear
appoint
cred (credible)
explic (explain)
visib (visible)

able
able
ance
ibility
ility
ment

Inexplicable, _____

4 Look at the cover of the book. **Make a list** of all the things you can see. What do you think the story is going to be about?



List of things _____

The story is going to be about _____

- 5 Look at the first pages of the book. There is a message called “YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED”. **Decide** if these sentences about the message are (T) or False (F).

Anybody who is interested can go to the Avante School of Detectives.

Somebody from the school must invite you.

Nobody knows when or where they might be invited.

Everybody who is chosen is given a letter.

Everybody who is invited has the qualities to become a great detective.

Nobody is happy to go to Avante.

- 6 Now look at the information about the six friends. **Identify** the characters from these descriptions.

This character has a special friend who helped them when they were small.

This character is very, very clever.

This character is very positive and energetic.

This character lost his parents during a journey.

This character speaks and writes very well.

This character knows as much about biology as technology.

7

The title of the story is The Inexplicable Appearances on Nolan Island. Find the 10 examples of inexplicable phenomena in the word search.

FAIRY

CROP CIRCLE

FLYING SAUCER

BIG FOOT

POLTERGEIST

UFO

WITCH

WIZARD

GHOST

YETI

X	K	I	N	M	S	P	J	G	R	C	Y
P	I	U	Q	X	G	I	T	R	Y	T	S
L	H	T	B	H	Z	C	U	H	S	S	B
X	D	X	E	H	F	T	Y	O	R	I	X
B	N	J	H	Y	O	X	H	O	I	E	X
I	Q	N	C	H	R	G	D	L	S	G	F
G	Q	O	T	H	D	I	R	E	Z	R	C
F	L	Y	I	N	G	S	A	U	C	E	R
O	U	H	W	A	H	P	Z	F	Y	T	Y
O	B	C	R	O	P	C	I	R	C	L	E
T	T	H	R	V	U	I	W	U	F	O	O
P	P	U	O	K	V	M	T	H	F	P	P



during reading

- 1 Look at these words from the first chapter. Do you know them? Are you sure you don't know them? Maybe you have seen them before. **Put** them in the right column for you, then you can find out the meaning of the ones you are sure you don't know!

boarding hatches – subaquarail – specialised magazines –
hermetically sealed – nervous – patted – sea vessels –
monologues – leagues – oxygen – excursion –
welcome you aboard – enjoy the ride

I know these words	I'm not sure about these words	I don't know these words
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

- 2 At the beginning of the book there are a lot of flashbacks that explain why Nautilus have gone to Nolan Island. **Decide** if the following things happened before (Past) or at (Present) the time of action.

Past / Present? Miss Taffeine told Nautilus she was not giving them a homework assignment.

Past / Present? The Captain welcomed the travellers.

Past / Present? The Captain talked about the temperature.

Past / Present? Alex invited Zinca to sit by the window.

Past / Present? Miss Taffeine looked out of the window.

Past / Present? Miss Taffeine talked about a famous pupil from the school.

3 **Tick** (✓) who did what on Nolan Island.

Who built the museum?

The 1st Count Nolan

The 3rd Count Nolan

The 5th Count Nolan

Who drew a picture?

Oto

Zinca

Ciro

Who explained some science?

Axel

Oto

Zinca

Who fell down?

Oto

Zinca

Ciro

4 Nautilus are not the first students to be sent from Avante School of Detectives. **Unjumble** the phrases to find out about their “mission”.

Victoria nor / Albatross / to solve / were able / the case. / Neither

followed them. / then Albatross / Victoria / tried first,

Albatross / Victoria and / advanced detective-work. / used some

the clues / followed / Both groups / the important places. / and watched

been very careful / They had / in their investigations. / and correct

when they / felt stressed / returned to school. / Both groups

during reading

- 1 Use the right words to complete the description of the museum (there are 5 you don't need!).

ugly beautiful no rich poor temporarily
 permanently underground anybody unhappy
 happy internationally nationally natural

The Vermont Museum was the only _____ museum in the world. The _____ owner of the island did not want to build an _____ museum to obstruct the _____ view, so he built in the _____ caves instead. Because the museum had _____ windows or doors, it was very secure, and _____ important museums were _____ to lend their works of art _____.

- 2 After dinner the six friends talked about what they knew about the case. Identify the questions they know the answers to (☺) and the ones they don't (☹).

They know the answer		They don't know the answer
	Was it possible to go inside the museum without going through the very strict security checks?	
	Did the Victorias watch the museum all night?	
	Was the museum completely deserted at night?	
	Who did the security guard allow into the museum?	
	When did the cleaner clean the museum?	
	Did the cleaner take paintings into the museum?	
	What was the yellow light on the water?	

- 3 **Correct** the false sentences about Nautilus' first visit to the museum - they are not all false!

The museum building was in a field. True / False

Correction: _____

The museum manager, Mr. Rawson, was perfectly dressed. True / False

Correction: _____

Mr. Rawson sounded like a robot. True / False

Correction: _____

The museum entrance was 50 metres deep. True / False

Correction: _____

The museum entrance was hidden by the grass. True / False

Correction: _____

The security check was at the bottom of the stairs. True / False

Correction: _____

- 4 Decide if Mr. Rawson or Armand said the following.

“Destroy that painting now!” said Mr. Rawson / Armand.

“Where are the real detectives?” said Mr. Rawson / Armand.

“I start work very early in the morning.” said Mr. Rawson / Armand.

“More paintings appear when people think the museum owner is coming to visit.” said Mr. Rawson / Armand.

“Gregor Nolan buys his own paintings.” said Mr. Rawson / Armand.

“You can't look at that painting.” said Mr. Rawson / Armand.

“I ...um...cut up the paintings and throw them away.”
said Mr. Rawson / Armand.

during reading

1 **Categorise** these elements. Do they belong to the museum or to the caravan?

Underground Rounded cave-like rooms Four wheels
Tiny windows in the ceiling Half a galleon Cool air
Portholes, lanterns and a crow's nest
Pools in the largest galleries Smell of sulphur
Balcony (the quarter-deck)

Museum	Caravan
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2 **Circle** the words and phrases linked to art.

cow's horn	entry fee	gramophone
pigments	brushes	book case
exhibition	telescope	gallery
easel	the Louvre	paintings
periscope	railings	cushions
collection	ice cream	El Prado
paints	mustard	fork
The New York Met	canvas	artist

- 3 Zinca gets the group of friends to sort out their ideas. **Finish** the explanations with one or two words.

They know the paintings continue _____

They know it is impossible to bring the paintings through the _____

Mr. Rawson and the director can't be suspects because of their secret _____

They deduce that the paintings are put in the museum by a poor _____

They think they know that Armand lied about destroying the _____

They know that Martha lied about getting _____

- 4 Read the description of the diving equipment Jacob uses for divers and **draw** a diagram of it.

The oxygen supply system consisted of two flexible tubes that came out of the helmet, one sending oxygen to the diver and the other taking away the old exhaled air.

There was a metal structure with two side wheels sitting on the deck. These two wheels activated the air, so when the specialist turned them carefully, he could control the diver's levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide and maintain the proper atmospheric pressure inside the suit.



during reading

- 1 **Choose** the best words to complete the next part of the story.

After the dive, Axel had cuts on his arms / neck and shoulders.

At first, Axel had felt curious / nervous during the dive.

Helena, Oto, Zinca and Ciro disliked / liked Jacob.

Axel knew that the metal circle on top of the diving helmet was designed to hold a lamp because Jacob told him / he saw it in a book.

The lamp on the diving suit was designed to be used underwater / on board ship.

Axel thought that if Martha really got seasick, she wouldn't / would live in a ship-shaped caravan.

The most important question for Axel was the question of the underground museum / helmet-light and the mysterious light they had seen twice disappear into the sea.

- 2 In your own words, **explain** what was happening in this picture.



3 **Fill** the spaces with the correct verb in the correct form.

to give to say to sign to smell to tell to wear

Nautilus went to _____ goodbye to their friends.

Helena _____ sulphur in the caravan.

Armand _____ them that Gregor Nolan was visiting the island the next day.

Martha _____ a bright scarf around her neck.

Martha _____ Nautilus one of her paintings.

The painting was _____ by Martha Miller.

4 **Unjumble** the things which surprised Miss. Taffeine.

Nautilus had only been on the island for **ERTEH SADY** and Victoria and Albatross had stayed for a week.

They could have **THUAGC** the mystery visitor during the night, but they decided not to.

Oto reassured the security guard that he wasn't a **NOLGED GLAEE**.

The Avante School had never asked for anything in return for **GLOVINS** a case.

Axel lit a **CHAMT** next to the mystery painting.

after reading

1 **Connect** the two parts of these words and **find** their definitions. (One has been done to show you.)

Sea	door	Algae which grow under the sea
Sea	hole	A round window in the side of a boat or submarine
Sea	-up	A small, often secret, door which opens in the floor or in the ceiling
Wind	years	Very, very far – literally, the distance light has to travel from a star so we can see it on Earth
Trap	sick	Nauseous feeling because of the movements of the ocean
Light-	gull	A common species of bird which lives by the sea
Port	weed	Clock-work; an old-fashioned way of getting power to make a toy or a watch function

2 **Unjumble** the names of the cities where you can visit these famous museums.

In MORE you can visit the Vatican Museum.

In MIDDAR you can visit the Prado Museum.

In FLENCEOR you can visit the Uffizi Museum.

In DOLONN you can visit the British Museum.

In ST. TERPESBURG you can visit the Hermitage Museum.

3 The mystery painting in the story was signed by Martha Miller. **Match** the names and surnames of these famous artists.

Salvador	Kahlo
Pablo	Van Gogh
Leonardo	Dalí
Frida	Emin
Tracey	Picasso
Vincent	Warhol
Andy	da Vinci

4 **Add** the right word to complete the definitions describing these art techniques.

wood paint water sticks sticking

Watercolour is a kind of paint mixed with _____.

Pastels are _____ of colour used to make drawings.

Oil painting uses thick _____ that contains oil.

A sculpture is a 3-D object made from _____ or metal.

A collage is a picture made by _____ material onto a surface.

5 The Vermont Museum had Impressionist paintings. **Choose** the right word for each sentence about different styles of painting.

Impressionist paintings used light and _____ **music / colour** _____ to give the feeling of a scene.

Surrealist paintings used _____ **animal / dream-like** _____ images in unusual combinations.

Cubist paintings used _____ **colours / lines** _____ to show the same object in different ways.

Pop Art paintings used everyday images like _____ **dreams / advertisements** _____.

after reading

- 6 The museum had very good security to protect the paintings. **Fill** in the crossword with words related to security.

Across

2. People whose job is to control the people who enter and leave a building.
9. The place in an airport where your identification is checked.

Down

1. A machine that checks if people are carrying guns.
3. Animals that can smell dangerous substances.
4. Machines that watch what everybody is doing all the time.
5. A machine that can see inside your bags.
6. You need these to open 7 Down
7. Devices that close doors securely.
8. Machines that make a loud sound if there is an emergency.

