

Jurassic Park

John Hammond has recreated the world of dinosaurs on a remote island. These dinosaurs are not models – they are the real thing! He keeps them behind electric fences. He invites Dr Alan Grant to come and see them. John Hammond sends his grandchildren, Tim and Lex, and Dr Grant on a tour of the island in electric cars. Dr Grant and Ian are in one car, and Tim, Lex and Gennaro are in another. Suddenly the power fails, just as they are outside the Tyrannosaurus paddock!

'Did you feel that?' Tim asked. At first Lex didn't know what he was talking about. But then she felt it, too. The car was shaking.

There were loud quaking sounds and it seemed as though the earth was moving – like something was taking giant footsteps.

Gennaro's eyes widened in fear. The sound got louder. The vibrations felt stronger. Whatever it was was coming closer. And then they all saw it. Tyrannosaurus rex. It was gripping the fence. Gennaro stared in horror. Oh no, he thought. The dinosaur should have felt an electric shock. The power must be out in the fences, too! But would it break through?

The T-rex swung its mighty head. Tim gasped. Its boxy head was bigger than Tim's whole body. And its body was bigger than a bus. The dinosaur waved its short, silly-looking arms in the air. Then it clawed the fence. The Tyrannosaurus was tearing it down!

All at once Gennaro bolted out of the car. He didn't say a word. He just ran, leaving Tim and Lex all alone. Lex began to scream. But Gennaro didn't stop. He raced towards a small building a short distance down the road. Moments later, he reached it and ran inside. But the building wasn't finished yet. Gennaro couldn't lock the wooden door behind him.

'What's he doing?' Ian asked Alan. They hadn't noticed the Tyrannosaurus yet.

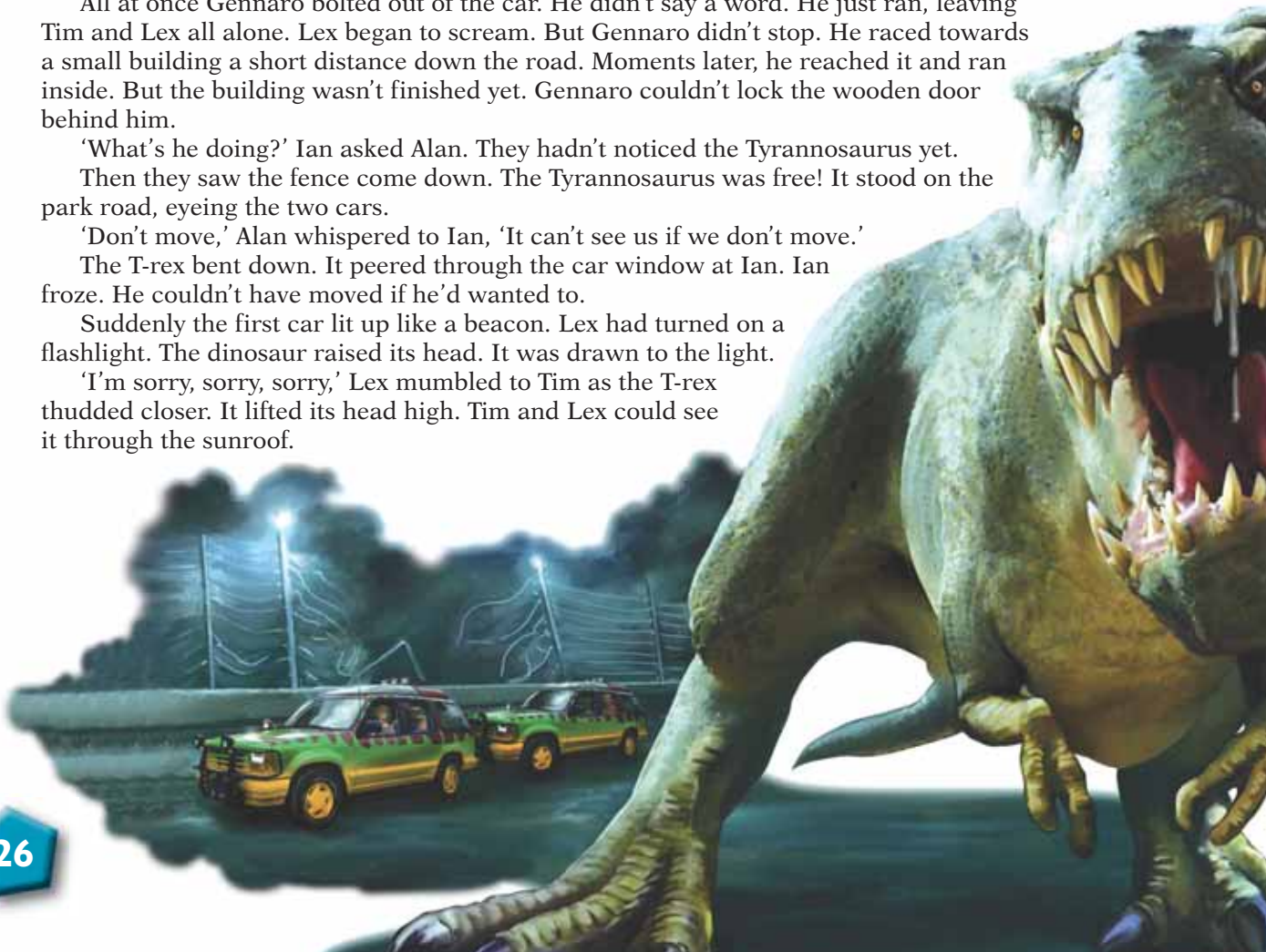
Then they saw the fence come down. The Tyrannosaurus was free! It stood on the park road, eyeing the two cars.

'Don't move,' Alan whispered to Ian, 'It can't see us if we don't move.'

The T-rex bent down. It peered through the car window at Ian. Ian froze. He couldn't have moved if he'd wanted to.

Suddenly the first car lit up like a beacon. Lex had turned on a flashlight. The dinosaur raised its head. It was drawn to the light.

'I'm sorry, sorry, sorry,' Lex mumbled to Tim as the T-rex thudded closer. It lifted its head high. Tim and Lex could see it through the sunroof.



Roar! The dinosaur opened its mouth wide, then roared again. It was so loud, the car windows rattled.

Then the T-rex struck.

The dinosaur lifted its powerful leg. Smash! It kicked the car. Windows shattered, and the car tilted on its side. The dinosaur lowered its head and butted the car off the road.

Inside, Tim and Lex tumbled about as the car rolled over. Now it was upside down. Tim twisted around to look out the window. They were right by the cliff.

The T-rex towered over the car. It put one leg on the frame and tore at the undercarriage of the car with its jaws. Biting at anything it could get a hold of, it ripped the rear axle free, tossed it aside, and bit a tyre. Lex and Tim were trapped. And the dinosaur was about to push them over the cliff!

Jurassic Park, adapted by Gail Herman from the novel by Michael Crichton



Understanding the extract

- 1 What has John Hammond done?
- 2 Where are the characters at the beginning of the extract?
- 3 Why could the T-rex grip the fence?
- 4 What does Gennaro do when he sees the T-rex?
- 5 Why does Alan say, 'Don't move'?

Understanding the words

- 6 Explain the meaning of these words as they are used in the extract.

a quaking	b vibrations	c bolted
d beacon	e butted	f undercarriage

Exploring further

- 7 How does the author create a feeling of fear in the first three paragraphs?
- 8 What impression do you get of Gennaro?
- 9 How do you know that Dr Alan Grant knows something about dinosaurs?
- 10 Why do you think Lex turned on the flashlight?

Extra

Imagine you are Tim or Lex. Rewrite the extract from your point of view. Remember!

- You don't know what Alan and Ian are doing.
- You only know what is happening in your car and what you can see through the windows.
- Include your thoughts and feelings as you tell the story.