Suggested levels for Guided Reading, DRA™, Lexile®, and Reading Recovery™ are provided in the Pearson Scott Foresman Leveling Guide.

Genre Comprehension Skills and Strategy

Expository nonfiction
- Main Idea
- Cause and Effect
- Text Structure

Text Features
- Captions
- Diagrams
- Labels

An Astronaut Space Walk
by Ginny Grissom
Vocabulary

everywhere
live
machines
move
woman
work
world

Word count: 281

An Astronaut Space Walk

by Ginny Grissom

Note: The total word count includes words in the running text and headings only. Numerals and words in chapter titles, captions, labels, diagrams, charts, graphs, sidebars, and extra features are not included.
What is a space walk?

When an astronaut goes outside a spaceship to work in space, that is a space walk.

In 1965, astronaut Ed White was the first American to walk in space.
Astronauts float in space. So they practice working underwater before they take a space walk. They do the same work underwater that they will do in space.

There are problems for an astronaut on a space walk. In space, there is no air to breathe. There is no water to drink. Rocks, ice, and “space junk” can hit you.

Astronaut Kathryn Thornton and Tom Akers practiced for a space walk underwater.

Astronaut Kathryn Thornton works on the Hubble Space Telescope in space.
A spacesuit helps with many of these problems. It has air, so the astronaut can breathe. It has water, so the astronaut can drink. The spacesuit protects the astronaut’s whole body.

Sometimes it is very hot in space. Other times it can be very cold. A spacesuit has many tubes. They carry cold water. That keeps the astronaut cool.

Space gloves have heaters. They keep the astronaut’s hands warm.

A spacesuit has many layers for protection.
In space, it is not easy to move around.

A special pack helps an astronaut move in space. The pack has rockets that help the astronaut move right, left, up, and down.

Astronauts inspect their tools before bringing them into space.

In space, an astronaut’s tools can float away.

These tools have loops. The astronaut can use the loops to tie the tools to the spacesuit.

Today a spacesuit is like a small spaceship. The astronaut can steer in space.
Space walks help astronauts solve problems in space. Astronauts take space walks to fix broken machines.

Astronauts take space walks to pick up objects. They bring them back to a spaceship. Sometimes they bring them back to Earth.

Astronauts fix a broken satellite and put it back in orbit around Earth.
Astronauts build things in space. Astronauts took many space walks to build the International Space Station.

Space walks in the future will help people everywhere. They will help every man, woman, and child better understand our world.

Think and Share

1. What is the main idea of this book?
2. The author describes a space walk in this book. First describe what it is, next what astronauts need, and then why they go on a space walk. How did this organization help you as you read?
3. Find three nouns in the book that tell something about space walks. Use each in a sentence.
4. The author based this book on the problems of walking in space and the way astronauts solved them. Use the chart below to tell the problems and solutions you read about.

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