

## Destination L1: A Thematic Unit

# Getting to the Core of the Matter

### STUDENT ACTIVITY

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#### BACKGROUND INFORMATION

This language arts activity centers on *The Golden Apples of the Sun*, a science fiction short story by Ray Bradbury. In this story, Bradbury introduces us to a spaceship and its crew whose mission is to fly to the surface of the sun, scoop up a piece of it, and return the “golden apples of the sun” home. There are some parallels between this story and the Genesis mission—with the distinction, of course, that one is fact, the other fiction.

#### PROCEDURE

1. Read *The Golden Apples of the Sun*, keeping in mind the science objectives of the Genesis mission as you read.
2. Think about the different types of communication that are revealed in the story. List each type of communication and give an example of each.
3. Write your definition of communication. It’s important that you put your own understanding of what communication is into your own words.
4. Share your definition with your small group in the ensuing discussion.
5. Compile the definitions into one or more agreed-upon definition of communication for your small group to report out to the class.
6. Record each small group definition on the board.
7. From these definitions, create one definition of communication. Like a dictionary, there may be more than one meaning listed. However, try to order the meanings into the most universal meaning (1), followed by the next (2), and so on.
8. Now that you have communication defined, return to your list of communication strategies list. Make a note of any non-verbal examples that you listed.

#### Non-Verbal Communication

The face has many possible expressions, each of which is a type of kinesics, or body language. Body language isn’t limited to the head, but in this activity, we are going to focus specifically on facial expressions and head movements that communicate a message. Bradbury writes with great detail, using rich metaphors and descriptive language. But he goes beyond the spoken language and shares his character’s emotions by revealing their body language as well. Below is a listing of some of the body language he uses in *The Golden Apples of the Sun*. Working in small groups, locate where each expression or movement is found in the story, and indicate the message or emotion that is communicated non-verbally. Be careful. Body movement may have a deeper meaning than the obvious.



1. Nod \_\_\_\_\_
2. Stare \_\_\_\_\_
3. Smile \_\_\_\_\_
4. Jerk \_\_\_\_\_
5. Clamp \_\_\_\_\_
6. Exhale \_\_\_\_\_

Now, working in your small group, create your own set of examples of body language that communicate an emotion or a message using the template below. Present these non-verbal cues to the class **WITHOUT USING ANY FACIAL EXPRESSIONS**. Keep track of how often you “hit the mark.” The group with the most “hits” wins.

Body Language	Emotion/Message Conveyed
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	