

***Astrosuars: Day of the Dino-Droids* By Steve Cole**
Chapter One THE TUNNEL IN SPACE

Captain Teggs was a very worried dinosaur.

Most days, he felt on top of the world - on top of *any* world. After all, he was in charge of the DSS *Sauropod*, the best ship in the whole Dinosaur Space Service. He had the finest, bravest crew any captain could hope for. And he even had a private larder crammed with three hundred types of delicious ferns. His life was one long exciting adventure in space - with just a spot of tummy-ache now and then.

But today, sat in the *Sauropod's* control pit, he was worried. And with good reason. Admiral Rosso - the crusty old barosaurus in charge of the DSS - had disappeared.

"I've double-checked the admiral's movements," said Arx, Teggs's second-in-command, looking up from his controls. "He left in his private starship for a holiday on the planet Trimuda. But no one has seen or heard from him since."

Teggs nodded glumly. "And he was due back at DSS HQ yesterday!" He turned to his communications officer, a stripy hadrosaur named Gipsy. "Anything to report?"

"I've listened in to every message sent and every signal received in Trimuda's part of space over the last week." Gipsy put down her headphones with a sigh. "Nothing from Admiral Rosso."

Teggs chewed on some bracken. "I just hope we find him safe and well - and *fast*. The Pick-a-Planet meeting is due to be held in just three days, and if we're not back at DSS HQ with Admiral Rosso by then . . ."

"It could mean trouble," said Gipsy.

"Trouble with a capital T!" Teggs agreed.

Example Questions:

Retrieve:

What is the name of Teggs' ship? What type of dinosaur is Gipsy? Who has gone missing? Tell me two things that make Teggs feel happy most days. Why was Teggs worried?

Interpret – Go APE! (Answer it, Prove it, Explain it)

Why does Gipsy sigh when she puts her headphones down? How does Teggs feel when he hears that Admiral Rosso has not been seen or heard from since his holiday? What do you think bracken is?

Choice

The writer describes Admiral Rosso as 'crusty' – what does this tell us about this character? What do you think might have happened to Admiral Rosso? Why does the writer write the word 'any' using italics?

Other skills that could stretch the reader's thinking:

Analysing

How is Teggs different to Gipsy? What do you think each character is thinking? What could happen if Admiral Rosso is in danger?

Evaluating

Do you think the dinosaurs have done enough so far to find out where Rosso is? Explain. Is Teggs a good captain?

Creating

Suppose you were Teggs, what would you do next? If you were a captain of a space ship what three things you would need to make your ship the best in space?