

Unit 1

Name:

Date:

Self-Assessment: Special Effects

Before You Read:

After previewing "Special Effects" on pages 64 to 67 of Literacy in Action, complete the chart below by listing on one side what you know about special effects, and by listing on the other side any questions you may have. Examples have been provided.

What I Know About Special Effects	Questions I Have About Special Effects
Special effects make impossible things seem real	How do they make it look like someone is flying?
Your turn: Answers will vary.	Answers will vary.

Answer the following questions:

1. When is it easier to think of good questions to ask: when you already know a few things about a topic or when you know very little about it? Explain.

More — the more you know, the more you can question.

Reading the Selection:

Read pages 64 and 65 of Literacy in Action, then answer these questions:

1. How many people does it take to make it look like it is snowing?

Three — one making snow, one throwing extra snow, and one operating the mist machine.

2. Who do you think comes up with these ideas?

They have been created within the industry.

3. Read A to D in the orange box at the bottom of page 65 of Literacy in Action. How does this information help you understand what's going on?

They explain what the people are doing.

Read page 66 of Literacy in Action, then answer these questions:

1. Why do the tornadoes in the picture look so real?

They are pictures of real tornadoes.

2. How do special effects workers create the lightning?

The look is created on computers. Sounds are added after.

3. Compare these two methods of mixing real and computer generated images. How are they alike? How are they different?

They both mix real and special effects. One puts real photos into computer generated scenes. The other uses computer generated lightning in real scenes.

4. How could special effects make events "even more impressive than the real thing"?

Special effects make events seem impressive by making a storm seem much more violent, waves higher than what really happens, etc.

Answer the second section of questions in the Reader's Notebook: Special Effects.

Read page 67 of Literacy in Action, including the orange box at the bottom of the page, then answer this question:

1. Why would the crew film when the sea was calm and use special effects, instead of waiting for a day when the sea was really rough?

They might be in danger if a real storm was happening, and it would be much harder to film.



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