



# CONNECTED

English Language  
Development

FICTION

## INTRODUCTION

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**W**hat would you do if a friend went missing? What if you learned that a powerful, maybe even scary, secret lay behind the disappearance? In the story “Connected,” three friends search for a missing person—and learn of a tantalizing force that could threaten the world as they know it.

“Joshua liked to stay connected to the Internet. His friends thought he was *too* connected.”

NOTES



## FIRST READ

- 1 Joshua was late. At first, his friends were not surprised. Joshua was **habitually** late. Joshua liked to stay connected to the Internet. His friends thought he was *too* connected.
  - 2 But it was opening night for the biggest movie of the summer. Joshua should have met them hours ago.
  - 3 “Did you hear from him today?” Victoria asked. Ibrahim and Mateo shook their heads.
  - 4 She frowned. “Something’s not right. We need to see what’s going on.”
  - 5 “I know where he could be,” Ibrahim said.
  - 6 “His computer,” they all exclaimed.
- ...
- 7 Ibrahim opened the door to Joshua’s room and **froze**. Clothes, food wrappers, and comic books were on the floor. A path lead to a desk, where the blue light of a computer glowed softly. Joshua wasn’t there.
  - 8 “Come on,” Victoria said. “Start looking.”
  - 9 “For what?” Ibrahim asked.
  - 10 “I don’t know,” Victoria answered, “but I think we’ll find a clue.”
  - 11 Mateo followed silently, but stood back from his friends.
  - 12 Ibrahim searched Joshua’s backpack. Victoria checked some notebooks. She looked up and saw Mateo’s eyes before he glanced down.



3 “What’s wrong? Aren’t you going to help us?”

4 Mateo mumbled something but didn’t look up.

5 “What is it?” Ibrahim pushed.

6 Mateo answered quietly, “A few days ago Joshua told me he discovered a **virus**. He said it was different and could take over any computer.”

7 Victoria and Ibrahim looked at each other.

8 “But there was more,” Mateo continued. “Joshua said the virus could take over *anyone*. He was going to find out who created it. He told me not to say anything.”

9 Victoria and Ibrahim were shocked and couldn’t react. Mateo stepped forward.

10 “What about his computer?” he asked. “Maybe he left something here.”

11 “That’s it!” exclaimed Victoria.

12 The three friends gathered around the computer. Ibrahim took the mouse and clicked.

13 The monitor came to life. They saw white numbers moving across the screen. Soon, however, the **digits** moved faster. First, they moved diagonally, like rippling water. Then, they moved in circles like a **whirlpool**. The three friends moved closer to the screen. They couldn’t look away. The numbers blurred and four words appeared:

*Enter, if you wish.*

14 Ibrahim reached down and pressed [Enter].

15 A bright flash caused the three friends to close their eyes. When they opened them, they were no longer in the bedroom. Instead, they were in a long hallway.

16 Before, there was empty space, but now, they could see a shape. It was the figure of a man, moving toward them.

17 “That was an interesting choice, wouldn’t you say?” the figure said coolly. The words hung in the air like icicles.

18 Victoria spoke first. “Who are you?” she asked, her voice shivering.

19 “We will get to that. And we will get to your friend. But first you must do something for us.”

**USING LANGUAGE** CA-CCSS: ELD.PI.6.6.c.Ex

Find the following sentences in the text. Use context clues to determine the intended meaning of the boldfaced words.

- Joshua was habitually late. Joshua liked to stay **connected** to the Internet.
  - Joshua liked to go online, visit websites, and work on his computer.
  - Joshua liked plugging his computer into the Internet.
- Joshua said the virus could **take over** anyone.
  - The computer virus is taller than other people.
  - The computer virus can also infect people.
- Victoria and Ibrahim were **shocked** and couldn't react. Mateo stepped forward.
  - Victoria and Ibrahim felt electricity, so Mateo stepped forward.
  - Victoria and Ibrahim were very surprised, but Mateo was not.
- Ibrahim opened the door to Joshua's room and **froze**.
  - He stood perfectly still.
  - He turned to ice.

**MEANINGFUL INTERACTIONS** CA-CCSS: ELD.PI.6.1.Ex

Work with your partner or group to fill in the blank using a word from the word bank to ask a question about the story. Then read the paragraphs from *Connected* to find the correct answer. Use the self-assessment rubric to evaluate your participation in the activity.

## Word Bank

## Questions

Who	When	_____ was Joshua habitually late?
Why	Where	_____ opened the door to Joshua's room?
What		_____ did Ibrahim search?
		_____ did Joshua discover a virus?
		_____ were the friends when they opened their eyes?



1. Complete this sentence from paragraph 1 of *Connected*.

Joshua was late. At first, his friends were not surprised. Joshua was habitually late. Joshua liked to stay \_\_\_\_\_ to the Internet. His friends thought he was too connected.

2. Complete this sentence from paragraph 7 of *Connected*.

\_\_\_\_\_ opened the door to Joshua's room and froze. Clothes, food wrappers, and comic books were on the floor. A path lead to a desk, where the blue light of a computer glowed softly. Joshua wasn't there.

3. Complete this sentence from paragraph 12 of *Connected*.

Ibrahim searched Joshua's \_\_\_\_\_. Victoria checked some notebooks. She looked up and saw Mateo's eyes before he glanced down.

4. Complete this sentence from paragraph 16 of *Connected*.

Mateo answered quietly, "\_\_\_\_\_ Joshua told me he discovered a virus. He said it was different and could take over any computer."

5. Complete this sentence from paragraph 25 of *Connected*.

A bright flash caused the three friends to close their eyes. When they opened them, they were no longer in the bedroom. Instead, they were in a \_\_\_\_\_.



## SELF-ASSESSMENT RUBRIC

CA-CCSS: ELD.PI.6.1.Ex

	4 I did this well.	3 I did this pretty well.	2 I did this a little bit.	1 I did not do this.
I took an active part with others in doing the assigned task.				
I contributed effectively to the group's decisions.				
I understood the use of who, what, where, why, and when questions.				
I helped others understand the use of who, what, where, why, and when questions.				
I completed the who, what, where, why, and when sentences carefully and accurately.				



## REREAD

Reread paragraphs 14–21 of *Connected*. After you reread, complete the Using Language and Meaningful Interactions activities.



## USING LANGUAGE CA-CCSS: ELD.PII.6.2.b.Ex

Complete the sentences by filling in the blanks.

1. Find the sentence in paragraph 14 that shows Mateo saying something his friends cannot understand.

\_\_\_\_\_ but didn't look up.

2. Find the sentence in paragraph 16 that shows Mateo telling his friends something that Joshua said in the past.

Mateo answered quietly, "\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_. He said it was different and could take over any computer."

3. Find the sentence in paragraph 18 that shows Mateo needed to tell his friends more about the story.

\_\_\_\_\_  
"Joshua said the virus could take over *anyone*."

4. Find the sentence in paragraph 19–21 that shows Victoria and Ibrahim were so surprised they couldn't move.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Find the sentence in paragraph 19–21 that shows the friends have figured out what happened to Joshua.

Mateo stepped forward. "What about his computer?" he asked. "Maybe he left something here."  
\_\_\_\_\_



## MEANINGFUL INTERACTIONS CA-CCSS: ELD.PI.6.1.Ex

Based on what you have read in *Connected*, compare and contrast the different characters' reactions to their friend's disappearance, including evidence to support your ideas. Work in small groups to practice sharing and discussing your opinions, using the speaking frames. Then, use the self-assessment rubric to evaluate your participation in the discussion.

- In my opinion, Victoria reacted . . . because . . .
- Why do you think Ibrahim and Mateo reacted . . . when . . . ?
- I think . . . said that . . .
- I agree / don't agree with . . . that . . .

## SELF-ASSESSMENT RUBRIC CA-CCSS: ELD.PI.6.1.Ex

	4 I did this well.	3 I did this pretty well.	2 I did this a little bit.	1 I did not do this.
I expressed my opinion clearly.				
I listened carefully to others' opinions.				
I spoke respectfully when disagreeing with others.				
I was courteous when persuading others to share my view.				



## REREAD

Reread paragraphs 1–4 and 26–29 of *Connected*. After you reread, complete the Using Language and Meaningful Interactions activities.



## USING LANGUAGE

Complete the chart by writing the nouns, noun phrases and the expanded noun phrases in the columns.

Noun/Noun Phrase	Noun/Noun Phrase With Detail	Noun/Noun Phrase With More Detail
opening night Joshua was habitually late the figure of a man	the figure of a man, moving toward them he was too connected it was opening night for the biggest movie	it was opening night for the biggest movie of the summer

Original Sentences	Noun/Noun Phrase	Noun/Noun Phrase With Detail	Noun/Noun Phrase With More Detail
At first, his friends were not surprised. Joshua was habitually late.		Joshua was habitually late, after all	at first, his friends thought nothing of it — he was habitually late, after all
Joshua liked to stay connected to the Internet. His friends thought he was too connected.	he was connected		they often wondered if he was too connected
But it was opening night for the biggest movie of the summer.			
Before, there was empty space, but now, they could see a shape. It was the figure of a man, moving toward them.			they could see a shape, the figure of a man moving toward them





 MEANINGFUL INTERACTIONS CA-CCSS.ELD.P.6.11.a.Ex

Do you think that Joshua's friends will find him? What evidence from the text supports your opinion? Work in small groups to practice sharing and discussing your opinions, using the speaking frames.

- My opinion is that Joshua's friends will / will not find him. My opinion is based on the evidence . . .
- This evidence supports the idea that . . .

