

AN UNOFFICIAL MINECRAFT SERIES

DR. CAN DO



JILL
HAS A
GRAND PLAN



Jill and her friends stood outside the town in the moonlight. The night was cool and still, and the cat walked between their legs. 'I need Nether ore,' Jill said, tapping her pickaxe on her boot. 'It is the one way to make the best pickaxe of all. And the one place to find it is the Nether.' The Mage's face lit up like his glowing staff. 'The Nether! I have **ventured** there loads of times. Loads and loads!' He planted his staff in the ground and puffed out his chest. 'Stay close to me. This will be a real **adventure**. I know the way!'

Back inside, the Mage shared his plan. 'All we need is black rock,' he said. 'Then I can build us a portal.' Dr. Can Do was the most thrilled of all. 'The Nether!' he said, gripping his hammer hard.

'Creatures walk on top of the lava there! The **temperature** would melt most things, but not those **creatures!**' He was shaking with joy. 'I have always wanted to study them. What a chance this is!' Jill blinked. 'That does not sound safe to me.' Dr. Can Do laughed. 'Safe? No! But what a thrill!'





'We call them lava beasts,' the Mage said with a grin. 'Big, flat-faced **creatures**. They wander around on top of the lava on small thin legs. And the best **feature** of a lava beast? We can ride it!' Jill stared at him. 'Ride it. On the lava.' 'Yes, yes,' said the Mage. 'Hop on, and off we go. The lava is a bit hot. Nothing to worry about.' 'I would worry about it,' said Jill. The Mage shrugged. 'Then not all of us will like the Nether.'

No one spoke for a moment. Then Jill said, 'What if we did not ride across the lava at all? What if we built bridges over it?' Dr. Can Do gasped. 'A bridge rig! Gears and levers and a crank. I can **picture** it now!' 'Yes!' Jill raised her hand, smiling. 'Bridges! Solid bridges. No lava, no lava beasts. I very much want bridges.'





They agreed to get the black rock the next day and meet at sundown. As the others headed home, the Mage stood by his tower, holding his book of spells in one hand and his staff in the other. For a long, long time, he had no friends to share an **adventure** with. A slow smile crossed his face. The next day, they would build a portal. And after that? The Nether never stayed the same. No one could guess what they would find.

By sundown the next day, Jill had a big grin on her face. She stood on a slab of black rock beside Dr. Can Do, holding her water bucket up high. 'I put water right on the lava,' she said. 'The **mixture** set into hard black rock, and I dug out block after block. Ten and four blocks. All that we need.' Dr. Can Do smiled with pride. 'And I have placed the portal frame far from the town fence. Portals are loud. Lots of rumbling. Lots of whooshing.' Jill raised a brow. 'Says who?' 'Facts,' said Dr. Can Do.





The Mage did not sleep that night. Not one bit. He was in bed with his arms out wide and his eyes big and bright, a grin on his face. He could not wait for morning. It was in his **nature** to love a grand **venture**. But this would be his first time stepping into the Nether with friends. And the thing about the Nether was this: no one could say what would be waiting on the other side. Not even the Mage.

He was up before the sun. At last, it was time for **departure**. He raced to the cave where a tall frame of black rock stood waiting. His friends were there, ready to go. Jill gripped her pickaxe. Dr. Can Do clutched his hammer. The Mage raised his staff high and whispered a spell. With a boom, the portal lit up in a swirl of purple light. 'In we go,' he said. One by one, they stepped through. And the very last sound was Jill's yell: 'If I end up on a lava beast, remember. This was not my plan!'





120

Jill Has a Grand Plan

Jill needs ancient debris to craft a Netherite pickaxe, and the only place to find it is the Nether. Her friend the Mage has ventured there before and knows fire-walking creatures roam the lava, but building a portal means facing dangers no one can predict. Will Jill's friends survive their first adventure together? Created to align with the UFLI Foundations scope and sequence (Lesson 120: -ture), this book practices words like 'creatures', 'adventure', 'venture', 'nature'.

Phonics Focus: -ture

adventure, creatures, departure, feature, mixture, nature, picture,
temperature, venture, ventured

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