

FAR FROM HOME



NASA has a plan to bring two astronauts back to Earth after a faulty spacecraft caused a major mission delay.

LEXILE: 1090L

SCIENCE (NGSS) STANDARD: Earth's Place in the Universe

COMMON CORE (CCSS) STANDARDS: RI.6-8.1, RI.6-8.3, RI.6-8.6, W.6-8.3

ENGAGE THE READER

Take a class poll. Ask: Who would be interested in going to space? Have volunteers share their reasons. Explain that space travel is still very unpredictable, and that astronauts have to be prepared for the unexpected. Ask if anyone has heard about the astronauts who have been in space for months longer than anticipated. Let students share what they know before they read the issue.

QUESTIONS FOR CLOSE READING AND DISCUSSION

- Why have Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore had to delay their return?
- What have the astronauts been doing at the ISS? How do you think they're feeling?
- What is NASA's solution to the problem? Do you think it's the right decision? Explain.
- How would you feel in the stranded astronauts' shoes?

EXTEND LEARNING

Ask students if they've changed their opinion about going to space. To give them a better idea about what life aboard the ISS is like, show them the videos that Williams made on a previous trip to the ISS, at ti.me/ISStour. The videos show different areas in the space station, including where astronauts sleep, go to the bathroom, exercise, and work. Return to the question of how students would feel if they were stuck at the ISS.

Invite students to think more deeply about this by having them create a facsimile of a social-media page that could belong to one of the astronauts. This can be a blog, a Facebook page, an Instagram page, or an X page. There should be at least four posts on the page, including one before takeoff and one after NASA's announcement that the astronauts won't return until February 2025.

COVER STORY QUIZ + ANSWER KEY

The cover quiz can be found on page 3 of this guide.

1. B (RI.3) **2. D** (RI.2) **3. B** (RI.1) **4. A** (RI.4) **5. C** (RI.6)

To create a digital quiz, you can use our template [here](#).

6. C (RI.7) **7. Answers will vary.** (W.1)

Name _____ Date _____

Use this week's cover story, "Far from Home," to answer the questions below. For questions 1–6, circle the letter next to the best answer. If you need more space to write your response to question 7, you may use the back of this page.

<p>1. Which event happened most recently?</p> <p>A. Five of the Starliner's thrusters misfired, and a gas supply sprang leaks.</p> <p>B. The Starliner made it safely to the ISS.</p> <p>C. Suni Williams and Butch Wilmore left Earth on the Starliner.</p> <p>D. The ISS was launched into orbit.</p>	<p>4. What does the phrase <i>close quarters</i> mean?</p> <p>A. a crowded space</p> <p>B. a place that feels like home</p> <p>C. an environment in which people are good friends</p> <p>D. a situation in which people camp in sleeping bags</p>
<p>2. What could be another good headline for the article?</p> <p>A. "NASA, We Have a Problem"</p> <p>B. "A New Way Home"</p> <p>C. "Major Mission Delay"</p> <p>D. all of the above</p>	<p>5. Which detail from the text provides a glimpse into the author's point of view?</p> <p>A. Williams and Wilmore said they were excited for the short mission.</p> <p>B. Being on the ISS "feels like coming home."</p> <p>C. The press hasn't heard more from the astronauts. But the trip has to be getting old by now.</p> <p>D. NASA announced that the astronauts will stay at the ISS until they can be retrieved in February 2025.</p>
<p>3. Based on the information in the article, it's likely that</p> <p>A. the Starliner will be used for future missions.</p> <p>B. the SpaceX Crew Dragon capsule is a safer option than the Starliner.</p> <p>C. the ISS can easily accommodate Williams and Wilmore for months.</p> <p>D. Williams and Wilmore will return home as soon as the Crew Dragon arrives at the ISS.</p>	<p>6. How do the photographs support the article?</p> <p>A. They show how the Starliner was launched to space.</p> <p>B. They illustrate the problems the Starliner experienced.</p> <p>C. They highlight different events Williams and Wilmore have been a part of as astronauts.</p> <p>D. They provide a visual representation of International Space Station.</p>

7. What are your opinions about space travel? Explain.
