

A black hole with a glowing accretion disk in shades of orange and red. A blue comet streaks towards the center. Several asteroids are scattered in the dark space around the black hole.

**SADDLEBACK
DECODABLES**

DISTRAUGHT

CHALLENGING SPELLING PATTERNS: augh



“Play it again,” Major Holt said. “This could be a joke. Maybe it’s a crewman’s **naughty** trick.”



His **daughter**, Sara, hit the button.

"Something is out there . . ."



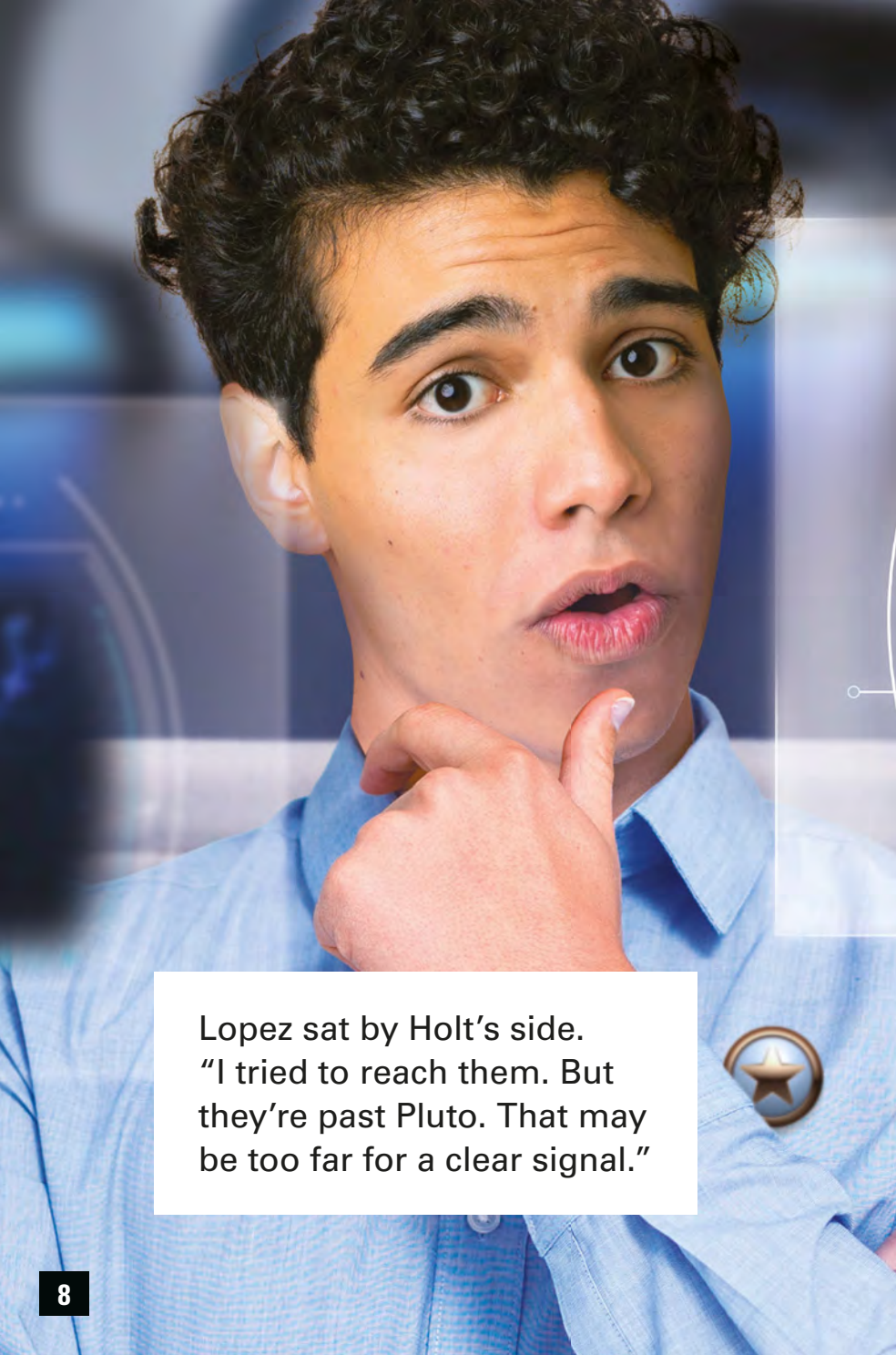


Holt scowled. Sara skipped to the next part.



"It's getting closer . . ."

"He sounds **distraught**," Sara noted.



Lopez sat by Holt's side.
"I tried to reach them. But
they're past Pluto. That may
be too far for a clear signal."





Beep! A second clip came in. The voice was even more **distraught**.



"Can't resist . . ." There was a muffled shout at the end.

SADDLEBACK
DECODABLES

CHALLENGING SPELLING PATTERNS

Badge of Honor

The Bench

Catch for the Win

Curious

Distraught

Night Threat

Scheme

Drought **NF**

Igneous Rocks **NF**

Squalls **NF**

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NF

SADDLEBACK
DECODABLES



DROUGHT

CHALLENGING SPELLING PATTERNS: ough

A sign shows the Lake Mead water line as of 2021



At first, only a few **thought** to look. Then more came to see. Soon news crews were at the scene.



A lake was going dry. Its hidden secrets were **brought** to light.

An old shipwreck surfaced. Missing cars were seen again.



Wrought items came up for air. Even bodies were found.





The finds made news. There was more to the story **though**.



This wasn't just any lake. It was a reservoir. For years, it **brought** water to over 25 million. Now it was drying up.



This is Lake Mead. There are others like it. They give life to cities and towns. But many are running low.



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