

SPACE Reading Comprehension – Key Stage 2 – Year 5

The Adventure to Planet Zarnok

Jem sat in the cockpit of the starship, staring at the vast darkness of space. The mission was simple: explore a newly discovered planet called Zarnok. It was rumoured to be full of strange creatures and hidden mysteries. As Jem gripped the controls, their heart raced. This was the first time they had left Earth!



“Prepare for landing,” the ship’s computer announced in its calm, robotic voice. Jem’s eyes widened as the ship broke through Zarnok’s thick, swirling atmosphere. The landscape below was like nothing they had ever seen before. Tall, spiky trees with glowing blue leaves covered the ground, and rivers of sparkling silver water flowed between them.

As the ship touched down, Jem put on their space helmet and cautiously stepped outside. The air was thick and heavy, making every movement slow. Suddenly, Jem heard a noise—a soft humming sound coming from the trees. Out of the shadows emerged a group of creatures with shimmering green fur and wide, glowing eyes.

“Who are you?” Jem asked nervously.

“We are the Zarnokians,” one of the creatures replied in a voice that sounded like the wind. “You are the first visitor from the stars.”

Jem felt a rush of excitement. They had just made first contact with an alien species! The Zarnokians led Jem through their forest to a towering city made of crystal. The buildings sparkled like diamonds, and light seemed to shine from within them.



“We have many secrets here,” the Zarnokians said. “But only those who prove their bravery can uncover them.”

Jem’s adventure had only just begun. What mysteries would they find on Planet Zarnok? Only time would tell.

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1. What was Jem's mission in the story?
2. What did Jem see when they first arrived on Planet Zarnok?
3. How did the Zarnokians look, and what was special about their voices?
4. What does the landscape of Zarnok look like? Give two details from the text.
5. Why do you think Jem felt nervous when they heard the humming sound?
6. What do the Zarnokians say about their city and its secrets?
7. How did Jem feel about meeting the Zarnokians? Use evidence from the text.
8. What might Jem need to do to uncover the secrets of Zarnok?
9. Describe how the city of the Zarnokians is different from cities on Earth.
10. What do you think Jem's next adventure on Zarnok could be?

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MARK SCHEME

1. Jem's mission was to explore a newly discovered planet called Zarnok.
2. When Jem arrived on Planet Zarnok, they saw tall, spiky trees with glowing blue leaves and rivers of sparkling silver water.
3. The Zarnokians had shimmering green fur and wide, glowing eyes. Their voices sounded like the wind.
4. The landscape of Zarnok had tall, spiky trees with glowing blue leaves, and there were rivers of sparkling silver water.
5. Jem likely felt nervous because they were in an unfamiliar place and heard a strange, unfamiliar humming sound coming from the trees.
6. The Zarnokians said their city had many secrets, but only those who proved their bravery could uncover them.
7. Jem felt excited about meeting the Zarnokians. This is shown by the text, which mentions Jem felt a "rush of excitement" after making first contact with them.
8. Jem might need to prove their bravery, as the Zarnokians mentioned that only the brave could uncover the secrets of their city.
9. The Zarnokian city was made of crystal, and the buildings sparkled like diamonds with light shining from within, unlike Earth's cities, which are made of materials like concrete and metal.
10. Jem's next adventure on Zarnok could involve exploring the crystal city further and discovering the secrets the Zarnokians hinted at.