

READING & TRAINING

Gina D. B. Clemen

# Alien Alert in Seattle





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These symbols indicate the beginning and end of the passages linked to the listening activities.





# Seattle

This story takes place in Seattle, Washington, on the Pacific Coast of the United States. Washington was named after America's first president, George Washington (1732-99). It is a very green state with a lot of forests, mountains, lakes, a beautiful coast and two national parks.

Seattle is the largest city in the northwest area of the United States. It has a population of nearly 600,000. It is often called the Emerald City because of its beautiful green trees. It is also called "the rainy city" because it rains a lot.

When the first European settlers <sup>1</sup> arrived in the area in 1851 only the Dwamish Indians lived there. The city was named after the Indian chief Seattle, who was friendly to the settlers. Seattle was built on

1. **settlers** : people who move to a new place to live there.



seven hills and it grew quickly during the Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush.<sup>2</sup> People who were looking for gold stopped in Seattle and bought supplies<sup>3</sup> before going north. Today the city is an important transportation and business center.

Seattle's most famous landmark is the Space Needle. It was built in 1962 for the World's Fair. A 40-second elevator ride will take you up almost 160 meters to the observation area where you can get a wonderful view of the city. There is also a restaurant at the top.



The Space Needle.

2. **Alaska-Yukon Gold Rush** : a period at the end of the 19th century when thousands of people went to an area of northern USA/Canada to search for gold.
3. **supplies** : (here) food, drink, clothing and other necessary objects.





Ferry boats are a popular means of transportation in Seattle. You can take a fun tour on a ferry boat and visit other interesting towns and islands nearby.

Another wonderful attraction is the big Seattle Aquarium; it is one of the best in the country.

Pike Place Market is over a hundred years old and it is a big tourist attraction. You can buy all sorts of flowers, food and souvenirs here, and you can watch street performers and musicians.

### 1 Comprehension check

Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- |   | T                        | F                        |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 Seattle is the largest city on the northeast coast of the USA.              | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 Seattle often has wet weather.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 Chief Seattle was a Dwamish Indian.   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 In the nineteenth century a lot of people went to Seattle to look for gold. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 The Space Needle is not open to the public.                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Tourists can buy presents for their friends at Pike Place Market.           | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |



# INTERNET PROJECT

## Let's visit Seattle!

Connect to the Internet and go to [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it). Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you see this title and click on the relevant link for this project.

There is a lot to see in Seattle. Divide the class into eight groups and each group can visit one of these exciting places and do a brief report on it to present to the class:

- |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 The Space Needle       | 5 Woodland Park Zoo               |
| 2 Pike Place Market      | 6 Bill Speidel's Underground Tour |
| 3 Seattle Aquarium       | 7 Tillicum Village                |
| 4 The Seattle Waterfront | 8 Ride the Ducks of Seattle       |





# *The Characters*





## Before you read

### 1 Vocabulary

What can you see in the pictures? Use the words from the box.

universe alien UFO planet



A



B



C



D

2

### 2 Listening

Listen to first part of Chapter One and decide if these sentences are true (T) or false (F).

- 1 Karen doesn't like where she lives.
- 2 She likes taking part in some sports.
- 3 She was at home when she heard the news about a UFO.
- 4 Two tourists saw an alien near the Cascade Mountains.
- 5 Karen's dad doesn't believe aliens exist.
- 6 All the newspapers thought the sighting was interesting news.

T	F
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>





# Alien Alert!

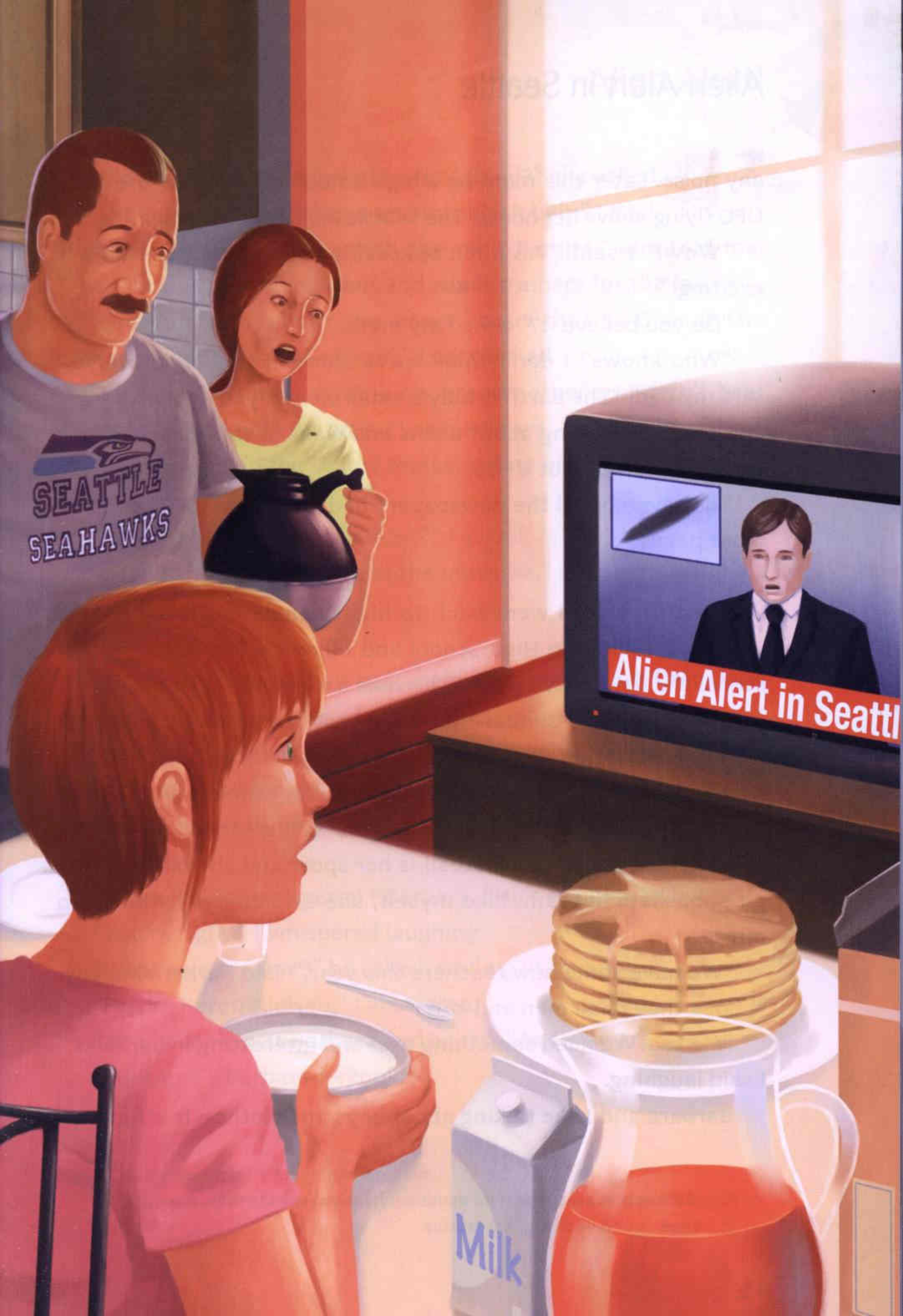
My name's Karen Nielsen and I'm fifteen years old. I'm tall and I have short red hair and green eyes. I live in Seattle, Washington. It's a wonderful, green city and I love it. I live with my parents and my dog, Tex, in a yellow house with a lovely garden. Tex is a big brown dog and he's three years old. I have a lot of fun playing with him.

In my free time I like playing volleyball, going rock climbing and listening to music. I have a big music collection and I love listening to music with my friends. I also like reading science fiction books.

My story begins in August, a month before school started. My parents and I were having breakfast in the kitchen and we were watching the local news on the television.

Suddenly the newsreader said, "Alien Alert! Early this morning there was a report of an unidentified flying object near the Cascade Mountains east of Seattle. Two tourists saw a UFO in the sky above them. They said it was gray and round. They also said it didn't make






SEATTLE  
SEAHAWKS

Alien Alert in Seattle

Milk





## Alien Alert in Seattle

any noise. Later this morning a high school teacher saw the same UFO flying above her house. The Seattle Police are investigating.”

“Wow!” I said. “An alien spaceship here in Seattle! This is exciting!”

“Do you believe it?” asked my mom.

“Who knows? I don’t think we’re alone in this big universe,” said my dad. “The Earth is only a small planet, you know.”

I started thinking about aliens and went to the library to look at some books about UFOs.

That evening all the newspapers had “ALIEN ALERT!” on their front pages.

A month later I went back to high school. This is my second year at Washington High School and I like it a lot. When I finish school and university I want to become a chemist.<sup>1</sup>

On the way to school I met my best friend and classmate, Barbara Reynolds. She is a tall, pretty girl. She lives near my house and we always walk to school together. She is Afro-American and one of the best students at our school. She wants to become a doctor. Basketball is her sport and she plays on the girls’ basketball team. Like myself, she also enjoys listening to music.

“We have some new teachers this year,” said Barbara happily. “I hope they’re all men and cute!”<sup>2</sup>

“Me too. We need something new and interesting in our lives,” I said laughing.

Barbara and I like talking about boys and clothes; it is fun.

1. **chemist** : a scientist who studies chemical substances.

2. **cute** : good-looking, attractive.





"Did you buy any new clothes for school?" she asked.

"I bought these new jeans and this black belt," I said.

"The jeans look great with the pink T-shirt," she told me.

"I bought this new blue jacket and white trainers for the fall."<sup>3</sup>

"Did you hear about the news about that UFO near the Cascade Mountains last month?" I then asked.

"I was in California visiting my grandmother so I didn't hear much, but I read about it online," said Barbara. "People see at least one every month in the United States, but no one has ever seen an alien,"

"Do you think they really exist?" I asked.

"I don't think we're alone in the universe," she said. "But it's a mystery..."

"I agree."

We got to school at half past eight and went to our first class, science. There was a man of about thirty in the classroom.

"Hello, I'm Mr Kent, your new science teacher," he said.

Barbara and I looked at him. He was tall and quite slim. He had blond hair and brown eyes. He was well-dressed and had a friendly face.

"We're lucky!" whispered<sup>4</sup> Barbara. "He's really cute."

"You're right!" I whispered laughing.

"What's your name?" he asked, smiling at me.

"Hi, I'm Karen Nielsen," I answered.

Then he looked at Barbara and asked, "And who are you?"

"My name's Barbara Reynolds."

3. **fall** : autumn in American English.

4. **whispered** : said very quietly because she didn't want other people to hear.





## Alien Alert in Seattle

At that moment an airplane passed over our school and made a lot of noise. Everyone in class looked out of the window, but the sun was very bright in front of us and it hurt our eyes. We turned away from the window, but Mr Kent didn't. He looked directly at the airplane and at the sun. How strange, I thought, the sun doesn't hurt his eyes.

When the science lesson was over we went to the English lesson. The new teacher was a very thin man with black hair and green eyes. He had a small nose and a pale<sup>5</sup> face.

"What a strange teacher!" I whispered to Barbara.

"Very strange!" she whispered.

The new teacher didn't smile and spoke slowly and coldly to the class.

"My name is Mr Wilkinson and I'm your new English teacher. I don't want any talking in class. This year we're going to study William Shakespeare and other great writers."

"Ugh! How boring!" said two boys, who were sitting at the back of the class.

"Stop that now!" said Mr Wilkinson. "Now open your literature books at page five."

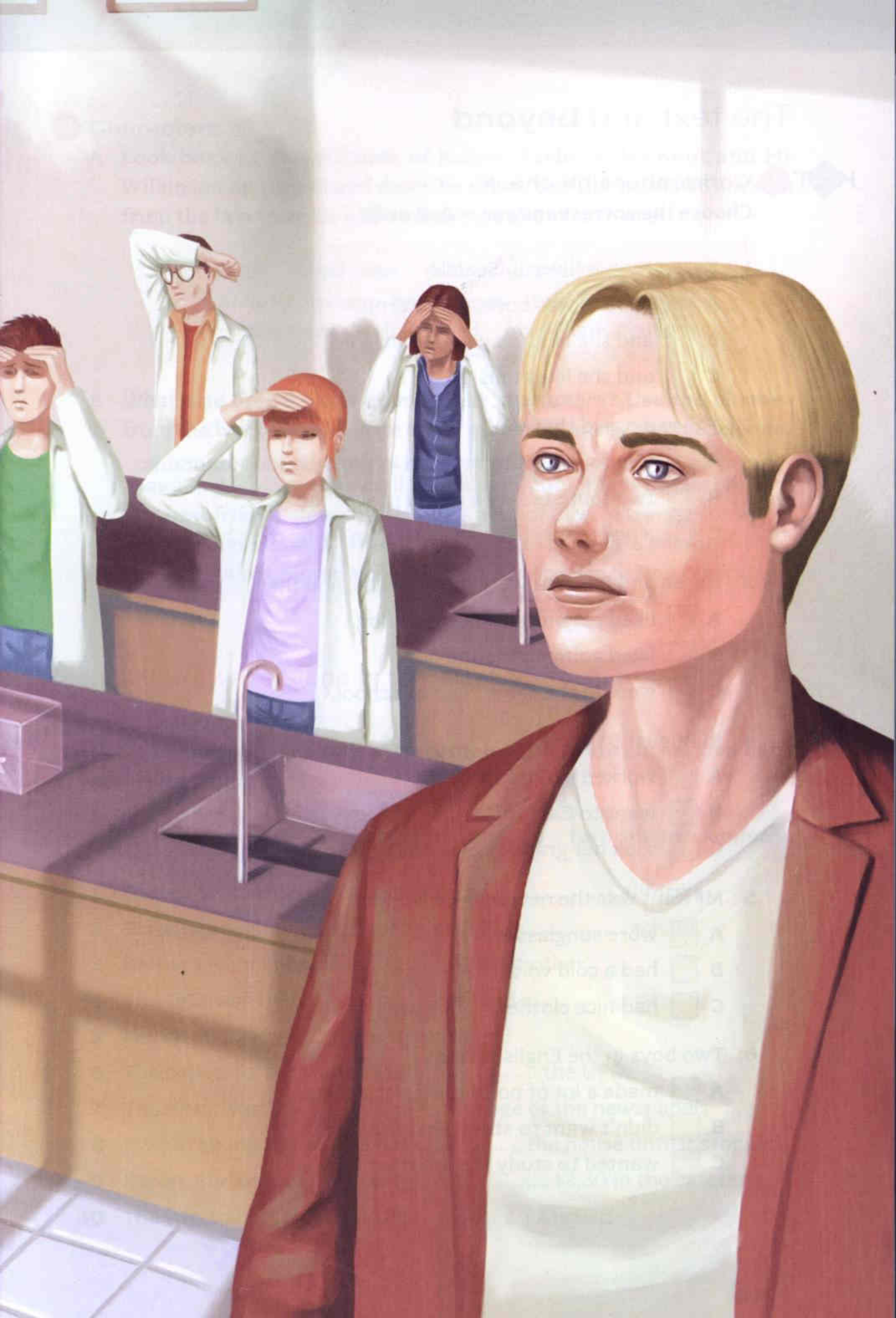
His voice was strange: he sounded like a robot.

Barbara touched my arm and whispered, "He's terrible! How are we going to survive this class?"

I looked at her and whispered back, "I have absolutely no idea."

5. **pale** : very white, without a lot of color.







## The text and **beyond**

### **KET** 1 **Comprehension check**

Choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 Karen Nielsen lives in Seattle,  
A ☐ but she was born in California.  
B ☐ and she likes playing tennis.  
C ☐ and she likes music.
- 2 The radio said that  
A ☐ two tourists saw an alien in the Cascade Mountains.  
B ☐ two tourists saw a round spaceship.  
C ☐ a policeman heard a spaceship flying over his house.
- 3 Karen and Barbara were best friends, and they  
A ☐ liked playing with Karen's dog.  
B ☐ liked going to the movies.  
C ☐ were in the same class at school.
- 4 In August Barbara  
A ☐ worked in California.  
B ☐ went to California.  
C ☐ took her grandmother to California.
- 5 Mr Kent was the new science teacher and he  
A ☐ wore sunglasses.  
B ☐ had a cold voice.  
C ☐ had nice clothes.
- 6 Two boys in the English class  
A ☐ made a lot of noise during the lesson.  
B ☐ didn't want to study Shakespeare.  
C ☐ wanted to study the great writers.



## 2 Characters

- A Look back at the pictures of Karen, Barbara, Mr Kent and Mr Wilkinson on page 8 and describe them. Use the words or phrases from the box to write a few sentences about each one.

blond hair   small nose   thin   short red hair   pretty  
 Afro-American   brown eyes   tall   green eyes  
 pale face   well dressed   black hair   cute

- B What else do we know about these characters? Use the phrases from the box below to write a few more sentences about each one.

has a dog   plays volleyball   good student   plays basketball  
 best friend   likes music   has a lot of CDs   strange voice  
 likes clothes   friendly   wants to become a doctor  
 wants to become a chemist   reads science fiction books

**"I don't think we're alone in the universe"**

## 3 Prepositions

Use the prepositions below to complete the sentences. Use each preposition only once.

with   on   inside   at   above   from   in   for   about   under

- 1 The art teacher was young and came ..... California.
- 2 Barbara bought a pair of white trainers ..... school.
- 3 Barbara went shopping ..... her mother.
- 4 The UFO was flying ..... her house.
- 5 Tex slept ..... the kitchen table.
- 6 The police did not want to talk ..... the UFO.
- 7 The story was ..... the front page of the newspaper.
- 8 It was raining so they stayed ..... the house until it stopped.
- 9 Karen, Barbara and Walter met ..... 12.30 in the cafeteria.
- 10 The two tourists saw the UFO ..... August.



## KET 4 Notices

Which notice (A-H) says this (1-5)? There is an example at the beginning (0).

A

**SEATTLE AQUARIUM**

Adults: \$10.00  
Children: \$5.00  
Children under 5: free  
Family ticket:  
(2 adults & 2 children) \$25.00

B

**FERRY BOATS TO PORT TOWNSEND**

Leave from Pier 8  
every day at noon  
If wet weather use  
Pier 3 or 5

C

**WELCOME PARTY  
TONIGHT IN  
SCHOOL CAFETERIA**

For all new teachers  
and their families

D

**SEATTLE CITY TOUR**

Tour bus leaves Pike Place  
Market every hour From  
11 to 4 – buy tickets on board  
Tour guides speak  
four languages

E

**PIKE PLACE MARKET**

Open daily from  
10 to 7 restaurants, cafés,  
gift shops, movie theaters

F

**LEAVE BIKES  
AND SKATEBOARDS**

Outside the park  
on weekends

G

**JACK'S FRENCH  
BAKERY**

Fresh French bread!  
Open daily  
Chocolate cake on Sundays

H

**CHILDREN'S  
HOSPITAL**

Silence please!

- 0 ..... **A** ..... There is a special price for families.
- 1 ..... You can go to the party if this is your first year teaching at the school.
- 2 ..... You can have lunch here.
- 3 ..... Information is not only in English.
- 4 ..... You can ride your bike here on Tuesdays.
- 5 ..... If it rains you have to change pier.





# *UFOs*

## *What are UFOs?*

Unidentified Flying Objects, or UFOs, are often sighted by people all over the world. About fifty sightings are reported every day. These mysterious flying objects are sometimes photographed and filmed. People talk about them a lot. Some people say they visited aliens on UFOs! Most of the pictures and films of UFO are fakes.<sup>1</sup> And others have a scientific explanation. Every year there are international meetings where ufologists<sup>2</sup> study and discuss the latest sightings and other UFO news.

## *Do UFOs really exist?*

There are many explanations for bright lights and objects with strange shapes that appear in the sky. They can be bright airplane lights, secret military airplanes, satellites, weather balloons or strange cloud shapes. Or perhaps they are UFOs!

1. **fakes** : not real, tricks.

2. **ufologists** : people who study UFOs.



## Sightings

Sightings are divided into four categories:

- 1 CE-1K – Close encounters of the first kind are UFO sightings in the sky or on the ground with no real evidence.<sup>3</sup> Most UFO sightings are of this kind and can be explained scientifically.
- 2 CE-2K – Close encounters of the second kind are sightings with evidence: marks on the ground, a watch that stops or a car motor that turns off.
- 3 CE-3K – Close encounters of the third kind are sightings of aliens from a UFO.
- 4 CE-4K – Close encounters of the fourth kind are real meetings with aliens or a visit on a UFO.

Reports of sightings started a long time ago. An old story says that Alexander the Great and his army saw strange objects flying in the sky in the year 329 BCE.

One of the first important sightings in the United States was in Sacramento, California. One day in November 1896 about two hundred people said they saw a big UFO flying over them. Newspapers all over the United States talked about this exciting event for weeks. During this time there were many sightings everywhere.

## Flying saucers<sup>4</sup>

On June 24, 1947, Kenneth Arnold, an American pilot, was flying over the Cascade Mountains in Washington. Suddenly he saw nine silver discs flying at about 1,900 kilometers an hour. When he went back to his air base he immediately told the newspapers about the “flying

3. **evidence** : something that shows that what you say is true.

4. **saucers** : small plates on which you put a cup.





The 1947 UFO sighting in Roswell, New Mexico is so famous that it has now become a tourist attraction.

saucers” he saw in the sky. From that moment Arnold became famous all over the world and the term “flying saucer” was born.

In July 1947 people in the small town of Roswell, New Mexico, USA, said that a UFO with aliens crashed <sup>5</sup> there. The United States Air Force said that it was not a UFO but a secret weather balloon. <sup>6</sup> Newspapers wrote a lot of articles about Roswell, but no one knows the truth.

In 1965 US astronauts James McDivitt and Ed White were flying around the Earth in their spaceship. During the trip they saw a UFO and McDivitt filmed it and took pictures. No one has ever seen the pictures or the film.

People continue taking pictures of strange objects in the sky and talking about them. But UFOs are still a big mystery.

5. **crashed** : fell to the ground and broke.

6. **weather balloon** : a special balloon which carries equipment used to measure weather conditions.



# **1 Comprehension check**

Choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 About how many UFO sightings are reported every day?  
A ☐ 20  
B ☐ 50  
C ☐ 5
- 2 Ufologists are people who  
A ☐ talk to aliens.  
B ☐ study the stars.  
C ☐ study UFO sightings.
- 3 Today ufologists divide UFO sightings into  
A ☐ 2 kinds.  
B ☐ 4 kinds.  
C ☐ 8 kinds.
- 4 A CE-2K is a sighting  
A ☐ with evidence.  
B ☐ in the sky or on the ground.  
C ☐ of a friendly alien.
- 5 Kenneth Arnold was  
A ☐ an astronaut.  
B ☐ a ufologist.  
C ☐ a pilot.
- 6 He was the first person to use the term  
A ☐ flying saucer  
B ☐ flying ship  
C ☐ unidentified flying object
- 7 In 1965 two United States astronauts  
A ☐ visited a UFO in space.  
B ☐ sighted three UFOs during their flight.  
C ☐ sighted, photographed and filmed a UFO during their flight.



## 2 Discussion

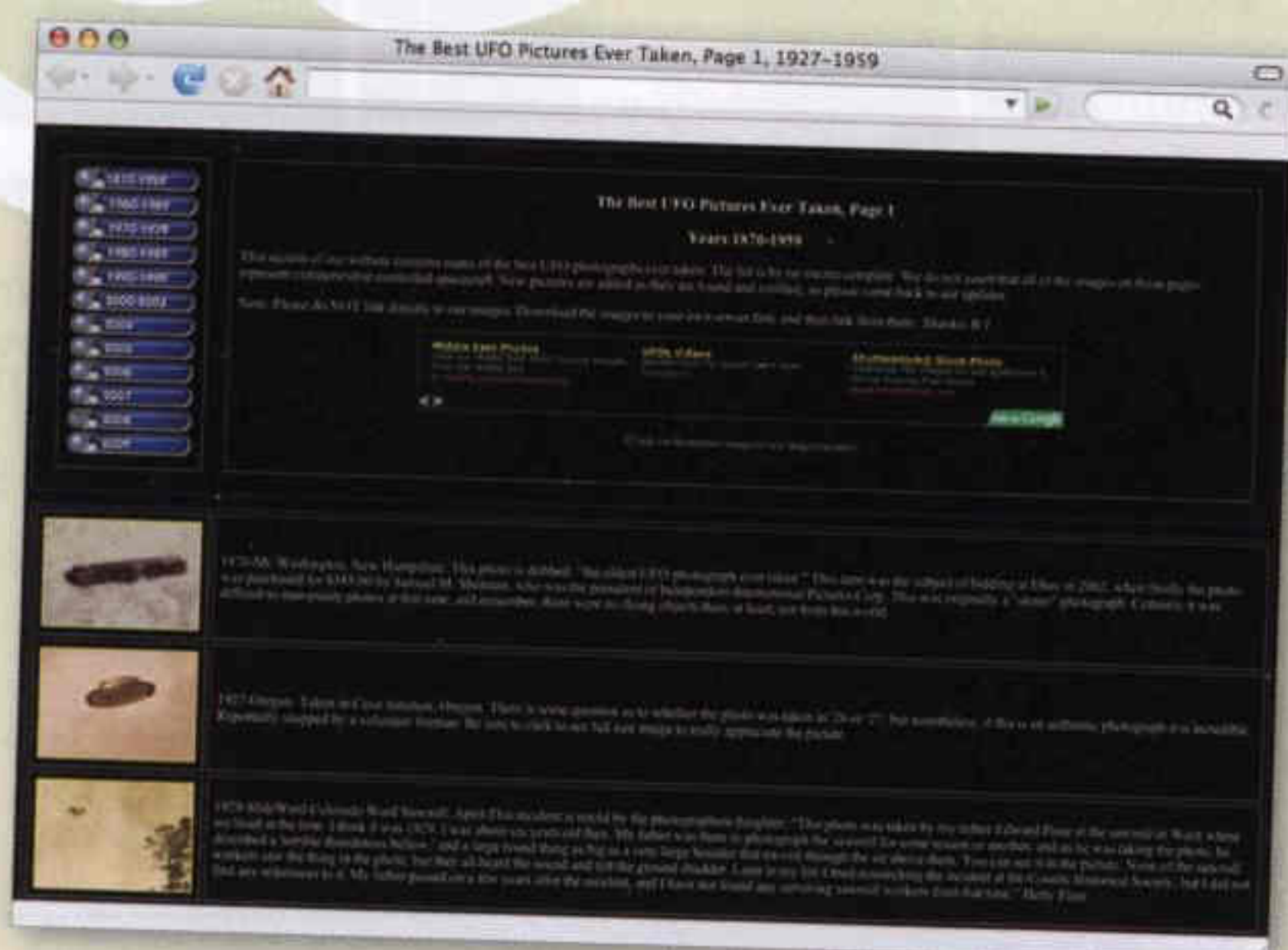
Work with a partner and answer these questions.

- 1 Do you think aliens live in our galaxy or in another one?
- 2 Have there ever been UFO sightings in your area? If so, find out more about them.
- 3 Would you like to travel in a spaceship and visit other planets or other galaxies?

## INTERNET PROJECT

### Let's look at some UFOs!

Connect to the Internet and go to [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it). Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you see this title and click on the relevant link for this project. Work with a partner and click on the years you are interested in. Then look at the pictures of the UFOs. Choose four pictures and read the short descriptions. What do you think of these pictures? Are they real or are they fakes? Write a brief report about each one and present them to the class. Did anyone find a real UFO?





## Before you read

### 1 Vocabulary – exploring space

Match a word from the box to each picture.

astronaut    telescope    comet    constellation  
satellite    space shuttle



1



2



3



4



5



6

### 2 Now complete these sentences using each of the words above.

- 1 Walter looked at the stars of the Virgo ..... in the night sky.
- 2 The ..... went on frequent missions.
- 3 The teacher looked at the stars with the new .....
- 4 There was a big ..... in the eastern sky.
- 5 We get the weather report from the weather .....
- 6 Walter dreamed of going in a ..... one day.





## CHAPTER TWO

# A Strange New Teacher

Everyone at school had lunch at 12.30 in the cafeteria.<sup>1</sup> I always had lunch with Barbara and Walter Andrews, a sixteen-year-old boy. He was tall and had dark brown hair and dark eyes, and I liked him. He was a quiet boy and didn't have many friends. His favorite subjects were math and science, and he liked computers a lot. His parents were divorced<sup>2</sup> and he lived with his father and his cat, Tootsie. He was often lonely because he never saw his mother and his father was always at work. He loved Tootsie and spent a lot of time with her.

"What do you think of our new teachers?" I asked Barbara and Walter.

"Well, I think Mr Kent is really cute. He's friendly too," said Barbara.

1. **cafeteria** : a big room in a school where the students eat.

2. **divorced** : not married any more.



## Alien Alert in Seattle

"But did you see the way he looked at the airplane? The sun didn't hurt his eyes," said Walter.

"Did you hear Mr Wilkinson's voice?" I asked. "He talks like a robot; his voice is so cold."

"And he's unfriendly," said Barbara.

"Hey, look over there. Look at what he's drinking!" whispered Walter. We all looked at Mr Wilkinson who was sitting by himself in a corner of the cafeteria. He had a strange lunch. There was a glass of green juice in front of him, and on the table there were some black pills. <sup>3</sup> He put two of them into the glass and the green juice started to make bubbles. <sup>4</sup> Then suddenly it changed color and became red. Mr Wilkinson took the glass and slowly drank the mysterious red juice.

We looked at each other nervously, but then started laughing.

"How can he drink that?" I said.

"Perhaps it's a new diet," said Barbara, "and that's why he's so thin!"

"I don't think so," Walter said.

"There's something strange about our English teacher," I said.

The next morning during the English lesson Mr Wilkinson started asking us some personal questions.

"Andrews. Walter Andrews," said Mr Wilkinson. "Tell me something about yourself."

Walter was surprised because teachers didn't usually ask personal questions.

"Well, I like computers, and my hobby is astronomy," he said.

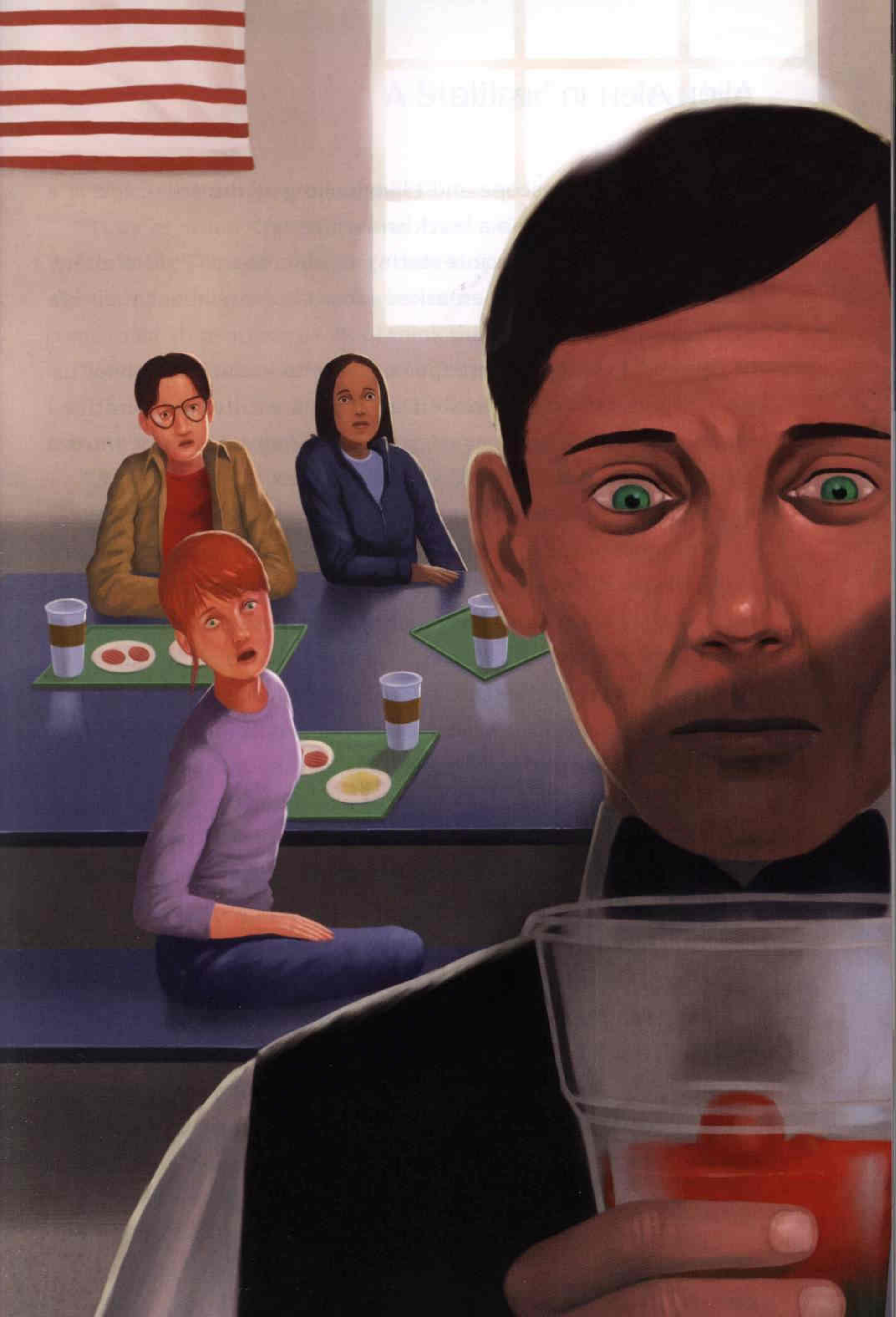
3. pills :



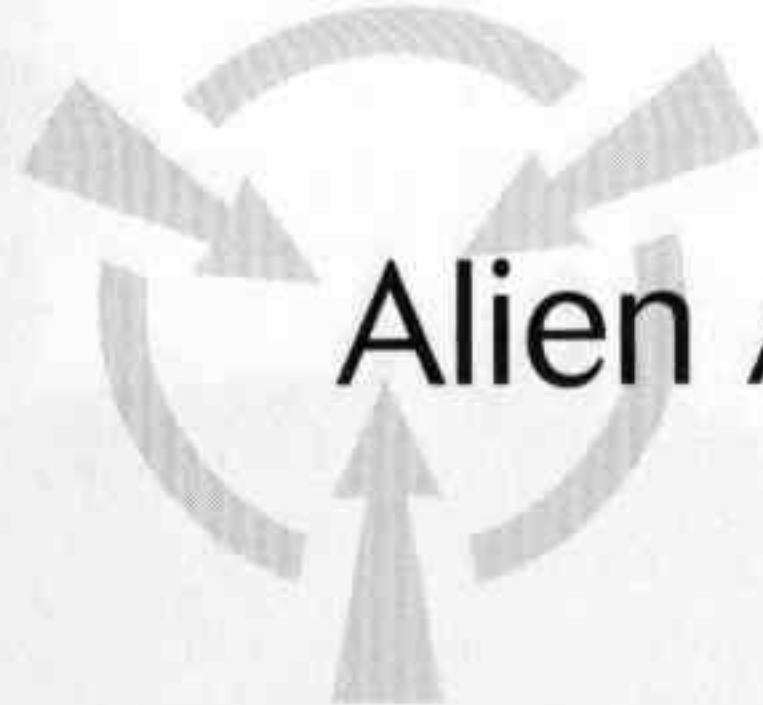
4. bubbles :











## Alien Alert in Seattle

"I have a small telescope and I like looking at the stars. I have a pet called Tootsie; she's a black and white cat."

"Good! You have an interesting hobby. Thank you, Walter," said Mr Wilkinson. He then asked other students about their life and hobbies.

"Hmm," I thought, "perhaps he wants to know more about us. How strange!" Then I looked at him carefully and I noticed something: his eyes were not green anymore. They were a different color today! I suddenly had an idea.

I put up my hand and asked, "May I go to the bathroom, please?"

"Yes, of course," Mr Wilkinson answered.

As I walked towards the door I looked at his eyes again. I was right — they were blue! They looked like the sea. I was surprised and a little scared.

That afternoon I decided to go to Walter's house. He was sitting in front of his computer. He was very interested in aliens and life on other planets. There were posters of the solar system and the constellations on the wall of his room.

"Did you hear about the alien alert last month?" I asked.

"Yeah, in the Cascade Mountains, right near Seattle!" said Walter. "The news was exciting, but the police and the newspapers never tell us the truth. I'm sure there are UFOs and aliens in the universe."

"What are you looking at now?" I asked.

"I'm on the Internet, on the International Space Club site," he said excitedly. "Listen to this, Karen. Something very important is happening. A comet is passing through the Virgo constellation. When a comet and a constellation meet, aliens can travel to our planet! Everything is right for intergalactic voyages!" <sup>5</sup>

5. **voyages** : long journeys.



## A Strange New Teacher



“What are intergalactic voyages?” I asked.

“They’re when you can travel from one galaxy to another,” Walter said. “They can take place only at special times, for example, when a constellation and a comet meet. Some people say aliens come to Earth to attack us. But I think they want to study us.”

“Wow, you know everything about space!” I said.

“I love space,” said Walter, smiling. “I want to become an astronaut. I want to go to another galaxy and perhaps meet aliens!”

“Wow! That’s interesting and dangerous,” I said and started thinking. Suddenly I had an idea. “Perhaps Mr Wilkinson is... an alien!” I said slowly.

“What!” he cried, looking at me. “Oh, Karen, you read too many science fiction books! He’s not an alien.”

“Well, his voice doesn’t sound human, his eyes change color and he has a very strange lunch,” I said.

“What do you mean, his eyes change color?” he asked surprised.

“Didn’t you notice?” I said. “Yesterday they were green and today they were blue!”

“Are you sure?” he asked.

“Of course I’m sure,” I said excitedly. “Listen, Walter, there was a UFO sighting last month and Mr Wilkinson is a new teacher at Washington High. No one knows where he comes from! Perhaps he arrived on that UFO.”

Walter looked at me with his big, dark eyes and said, “Well, it’s possible! He has got a very strange face and his voice is really cold. Perhaps he is an alien! And that’s why he asked us those personal questions — he wants to study us.”

“Exactly!” I said. “But let’s study him, too! We can follow him and see where he lives.”



## The text and **beyond**

### **KET 1** Comprehension check

Are these sentences "Right" (A) or "Wrong" (B)? If there is not enough information to answer "Right" (A) or "Wrong" (B), choose "Doesn't say" (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Mr Wilkinson had a glass of milk for lunch.  
 A Right                      **B Wrong**                      C Doesn't say
- 1 Walter is interested in studying the sky at night.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 2 Karen asks to leave the classroom because she wants to check the color of Mr Wilkinson's eyes.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 3 The website says an alien can come to Earth only when a constellation and a UFO meet.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 4 Walter's father is a famous astronaut.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 5 Karen thinks Mr Wilkinson comes from space.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say

**"What do you think of our new teachers?"**

### **2** Question words

Write the correct question word from the box in the spaces. Then in pairs ask and answer them.

How   Why   Who   When   What   Where

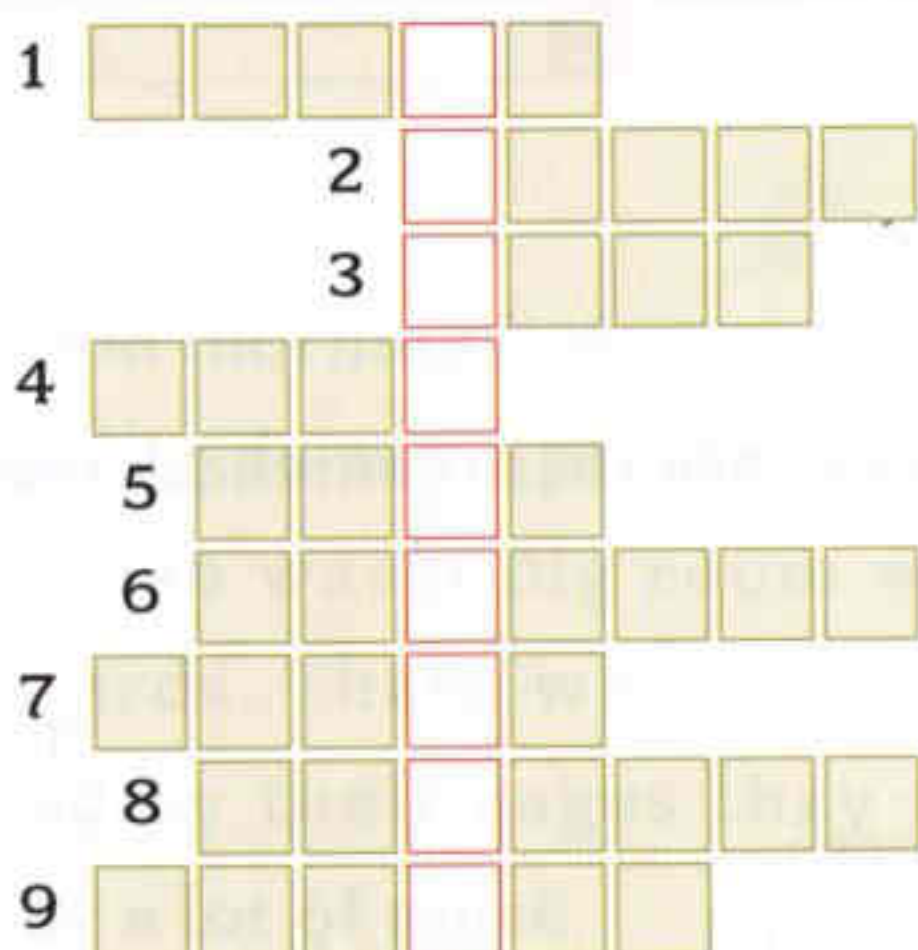
- 1 ..... did Walter decorate his room?
- 2 ..... did Karen go to Walter's house?
- 3 ..... is Walter often lonely?
- 4 ..... did Karen notice about Mr Wilkinson's eyes?
- 5 ..... do the students have lunch?
- 6 ..... is friendly and handsome?



### 3 Vocabulary

Read the definitions below and complete the crossword. What is the word going down?

- 1 A drink made from fruit.
- 2 A living creature from another planet.
- 3 The season between summer and winter.
- 4 Something with not much color.
- 5 Attractive or good-looking.
- 6 Someone who works with chemical substances.
- 7 Some news which gives you a warning.
- 8 Say something very quietly.
- 9 A long journey, used to talk about space travel or traveling at sea.



T: GRADE 4

### 4 Speaking: hobbies

Walter's hobby is astronomy. Talk about your hobbies. Use the questions below to help you.

- 1 Make a list of your hobbies.
- 2 Why do you like your hobbies?
- 3 How often do you do them?
- 4 Is there a hobby you don't do but would like to?
- 5 Does your best friend have your same hobbies?



## Before you read

### 1 Vocabulary

Match the words in the box to the pictures.

wig cage worm



A



B



C



### 2 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Three. Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)?

- 1 Karen cut a long worm into two pieces.
- 2 She jumped up from her chair because she was afraid of the worm.
- 3 Mr Kent did not read Karen's note to Walter.
- 4 Mr Kent had an artificial arm.
- 5 Karen noticed that Mr Wilkinson's eyes changed color again.
- 6 After school Karen and Walter decided to follow Mr Wilkinson home.

T F

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## CHAPTER THREE

# A Sad Story

“Good morning!” Mr Kent said, smiling. “Today we’re going to the lab<sup>1</sup> to do some practical work.”

The lab was a big room with long tables, chairs and big cupboards. There were white mice in cages. When Mr Kent walked by their cages they all started running around and making a lot of noise.

“What’s the matter?” laughed Mr Kent, speaking to the white mice. “Are you afraid of me? I won’t eat you!”

Then he looked at the class and said, “Today’s lesson is about worms. I’m going to give you some worms and you have to cut them in half. The two pieces can live and move by themselves. You’ll see.”

I was not happy. I looked at my worm. It was long and green. I didn’t want to cut it.

1. **lab** : (short form of laboratory) a place where scientists do experiments.





## Alien Alert in Seattle

“Karen, are you afraid of your worm?” asked Mr Kent, smiling.  
“Give me your knife and I can help you.”

His arm touched mine and I got an electric shock — I jumped up from my chair.

“What’s wrong Karen?” asked Mr Kent.

“Oh, nothing, nothing,” I said, trying to smile. He cut the worm and then walked to the next table to help other students.

I wrote a note to Walter and told him about the electric shock.

“Walter!” I whispered. He turned around and I gave him the note.

“Walter and Karen, what are you doing?” asked Mr Kent.  
“What do you have in your hand, Walter?”

His voice scared me. Walter and I were in big trouble with the teacher.

“Ah, n...nothing,” said Walter.

“Please pay attention!” said Mr Kent. “Next time you’ll have to give me the note.”

“I’m sorry, Mr Kent,” said Walter.

When the science lesson was over Mr Kent called me to his desk. “Oh, no...,” I thought.

“I’m sorry I scared you during the lesson. Two years ago I had a bad car accident and lost my arm. My left arm is artificial — <sup>2</sup> it’s an electric arm. Sometimes it gives electric shocks.”

I was surprised and sorry.

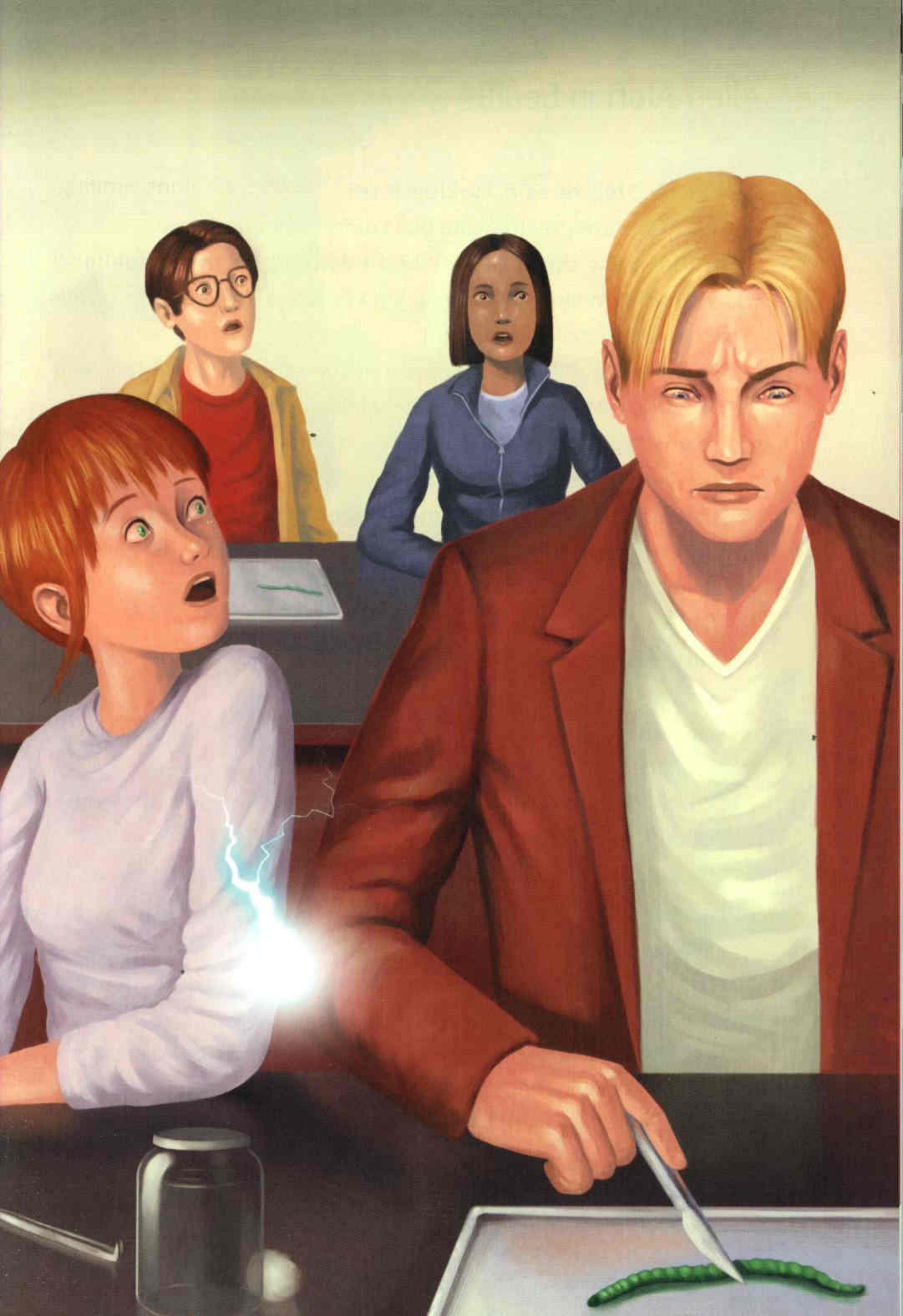
At lunch I told Walter and Barbara about Mr Kent’s electric arm. They were both surprised.

As we walked out of the cafeteria we saw Mr Wilkinson.

“Hello, Mr Wilkinson,” said Barbara.

2. **artificial** : not real.









# Alien Alert in Seattle

“Oh, uh... hi,” he said, looking at us.

His eyes were green again, but I didn’t say anything.

At half past three Walter and I ran out of the school and waited for Mr Wilkinson to walk by. We saw a lot of students and teachers, but we didn’t see him.

Finally we saw him walking down the street and we followed him silently. He lived near the school in a pretty white house. There was a small garden around it and a big tree near the front door.

END

He walked into his house and we went quietly to a window and looked inside. He put some books on the kitchen table and opened the refrigerator. He took out a bottle of the horrible green juice and put it on the table. Then he went upstairs.

“Oh, no,” said Walter, “he went upstairs.”

“No problem!” I said. “I can climb up this tree.”

“Are you sure?” asked Walter surprised.

“Of course,” I said laughing. “Don’t forget, I go rock climbing.”

“Well, be careful, Karen,” said Walter.

I climbed up the tree and I could see Mr Wilkinson’s bedroom.

“What’s happening?” whispered Walter.

“He’s in his bedroom and he’s sitting in front of a mirror,” I whispered back. “His hands are on his hair... Oh, no!”

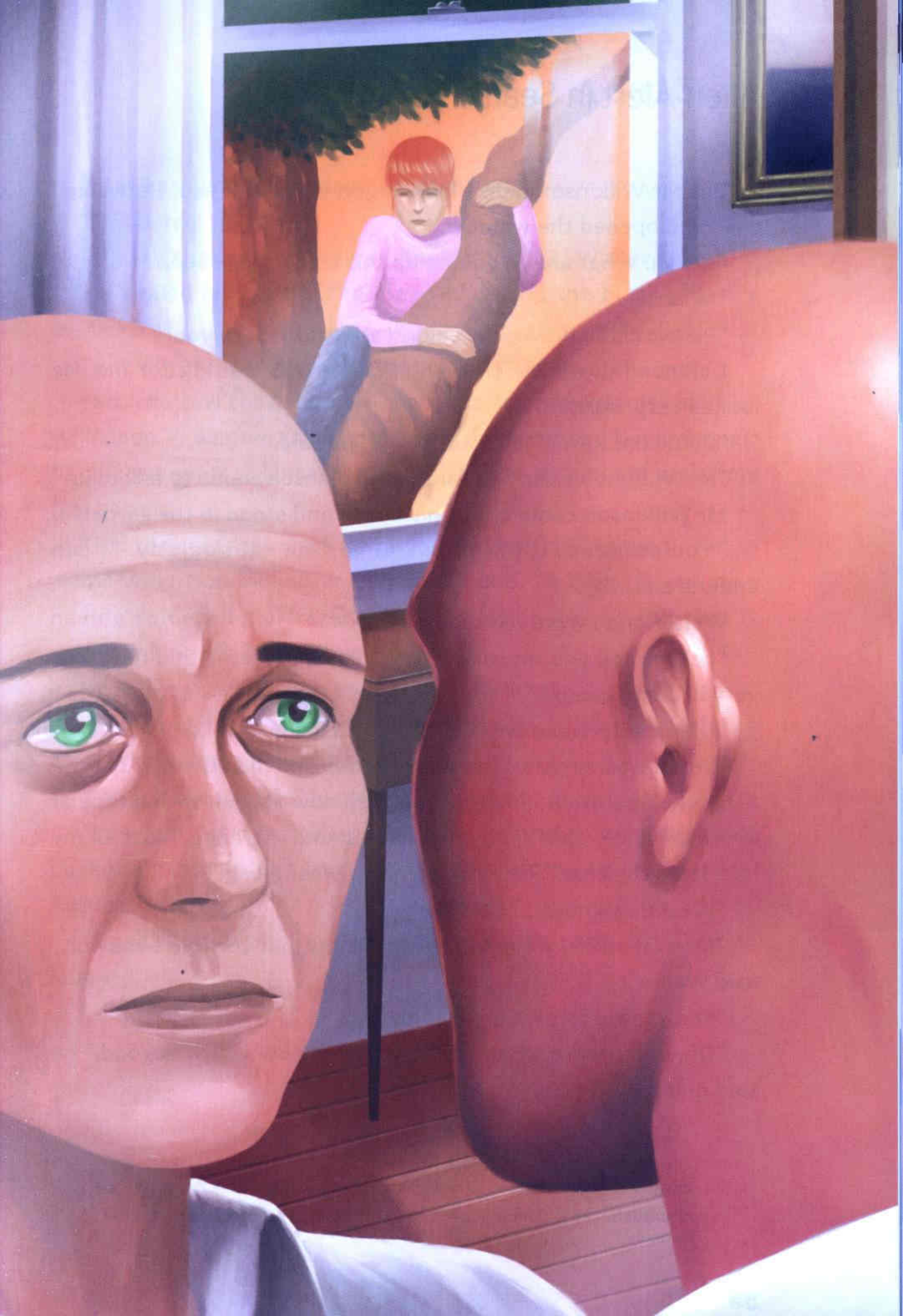
“What? Tell me!” asked Walter.

I continued looking into the house. Mr Wilkinson was now completely bald! <sup>3</sup> I felt cold.

Suddenly I saw my face in Mr Wilkinson’s mirror and he saw it too. He turned around and looked at me. I was terrified and didn’t know what to do. I could not run away because I was at the top of a big tree.

3. **bald** : without any hair.









## Alien Alert in Seattle

But Mr Wilkinson didn't look angry; he looked sad. He walked over and opened the window.

"Karen! What are you doing up this tree?" he asked.

"I... uh..."

"Please climb down," he said. "I want to talk to you."

I climbed down the tree and Walter was waiting for me. He looked very worried.

"Come on, Karen, let's run away!" he said.

"No, Walter, we can't," I said. "Mr Wilkinson wants to talk to us."

Mr Wilkinson came out of his house and stood in the garden.

"You students think I'm strange," he said quietly. "I can understand why."

Walter and I were terrified.

"Let me tell you my story. Last year my doctor told me I was very ill. I had cancer."<sup>4</sup>

"Oh, how terrible! I'm really sorry," I said.

"Yes, it was terrible. I had an operation and then chemotherapy."<sup>5</sup> After the operation I lost my voice, so now I speak with a type of artificial voice. That's why my voice sounds strange. I lost all my hair from the chemotherapy, so now I wear a wig."

"We didn't know...", said Walter.

"Mr Wilkinson, we're very sorry about our terrible behavior," said Walter.

"Yes, please forgive us," I said.

"Oh, don't worry, I am getting better now which is good," he said quietly.

4. **cancer** : a very serious illness, which sometimes kills people.

5. **chemotherapy** : the use of strong chemicals as medicine to treat cancer.



## A Sad Story



"May I ask you a question?" Walter said.

"Of course!"

"What's that green juice you drink at lunch?" Walter asked.

He smiled and said, "The green juice and the black pills are medicines."

"But why do your eyes change color?" I asked.

"So, you saw that, did you? You kids see everything!" said Mr Wilkinson. "I wanted to do something different so I bought a pair of colored contact lenses. I thought a new look could make me feel better."

"Did the contact lenses make you feel better?" I asked.

Mr Wilkinson looked at me and smiled. "A little, it was nice having something different for a day. But it's my job that is really making me feel better."

"You like your job, don't you?" asked Walter.

"I love my job," said Mr Wilkinson, smiling. "It's wonderful to work with young people like you."

"Do you like Seattle?" I asked.

"Yes, I do," said Mr Wilkinson. "It's a beautiful city with lots of parks and fun things to do. And I'm starting to make a few friends."

"Good," I said, smiling. "Welcome to the Emerald City!" We all laughed.



## The text and **beyond**

### 1 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings (1-10) to their endings (A-L) to make complete sentences. There are two endings that you do not need to use.

- 1 ☐ Karen got an electric shock
- 2 ☐ Karen wrote a note to Walter
- 3 ☐ Mr Wilkinson lived in a white house
- 4 ☐ Karen climbed up a tree
- 5 ☐ Mr Wilkinson put his hands on his hair
- 6 ☐ Karen was shocked
- 7 ☐ He saw Karen up the tree
- 8 ☐ Mr Wilkinson told Karen and Walter about
- 9 ☐ Mr Wilkinson wore contact lenses
- 10 ☐ Karen and Walter were very sorry

- A and Mr Kent saw her.
- B his illness.
- C because he wanted a change.
- D when she touched the knife.
- E about their bad behavior.
- F and she could see into Mr Wilkinson's bedroom.
- G and took off his wig.
- H when she discovered Mr Wilkinson was bald.
- I from Mr Kent's artificial arm.
- J and asked her to climb down.
- K near the school.
- L with Mr Kent and the other teachers.



**ET 2 Conversations**

Complete the conversation below. What does Walter say to Karen?  
For questions 1-5, put the correct letter A-H in the space.

**Walter:** Hi Karen! Are you free on Sunday?

**Karen:** (0) E.....

**Walter:** Do you want to come to the Seattle Aquarium with me?

**Karen:** (1) .....

**Walter:** Have you ever been there?

**Karen:** (2) .....

**Walter:** Never. Shall I pick you up at nine o'clock?

**Karen:** (3) .....

**Walter:** What about half past ten?

**Karen:** (4) .....

**Walter:** Good! We can have lunch. See you then and don't be late!

**Karen:** (5) .....

**A** That's sounds like a good idea.

**E** Yes, I think so.

**B** No, I wasn't.

**F** I'm not.

**C** That's too early.

**G** Yes, that's better.

**D** No, I don't think so. Have you?

**H** Don't worry, I won't be.

**3 Characters**

Which characters say the sentences below? Be careful some of the sentences come from earlier chapters.

1 "Don't forget, I go rock climbing." .....

2 "You students think I'm strange." .....

3 "I was in California visiting my grandmother." .....

4 "Come on, Karen, let's run away!" .....

5 "Are you afraid of me? I won't eat you!" .....

6 "I hope they're all men and cute!" .....


7 "It's wonderful to work with young people like you." .....

8 "I want to become an astronaut." .....



## KET 4 Writing

Complete these emails. Write ONE word for each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).



 To: Deborah  
 Subject: Hi

Dear Deborah,

How are you? I'm very well. How is your first year (0) .....  
 Lincoln High School? What's your new house like?

Things are very exciting here in Seattle. There (1) ..... a UFO  
 sighting in the mountains near the city in August, and my  
 friends and I keep looking (2) ..... aliens. We even thought  
 one (3) ..... our new teachers was an alien! But we were  
 wrong, of course. Write and tell me (4) ..... your new town  
 and how you are.

Love, Karen


 To: Karen  
 Subject: Hi

Dear Karen,

Thanks a lot (5) ..... your email. I'm fine.

Leaving Seattle was difficult, but I really like my new town.  
 My family and I live near (6) ..... the center and there are  
 lots of shops and other things to do. Our house is quite big and  
 it has a lovely garden. I keep asking my mom and dad to build  
 a swimming pool (7) ..... it is so sunny here — but they won't  
 do it. Lincoln High is quite far (8) ..... my home. I take the  
 bus (9) ..... day. I play on the volleyball team here too and  
 it's a lot of fun.

You must come and visit me (10) ..... during the holidays.

Love, Deborah





# Who's in the Computer Room?

After leaving Mr Wilkinson's house, Walter and I talked about our visit. Both of us felt very sorry about our behavior.

"I think we learned a big lesson today," said Walter. "Some people seem strange because they have problems – big problems. But they're people just like you and me, and they need our help and friendship."

"I agree with you, Walter," I said. "But we learned two important lessons today, thanks to Mr Wilkinson: we must help and understand others. And it's not nice to invade someone's privacy."

I thought about Mr Kent and his artificial arm. He was another person with a big problem.

"Well, the mystery is solved," I said. "Mr Wilkinson isn't an alien! He's a very nice teacher. We walked in silence for a few minutes. We were both thinking about Mr Wilkinson."





## Alien Alert in Seattle

“Hey, do you want to get an ice cream now?” I finally asked Walter.

“Good idea!” Walter said. “Let’s invite Barbara.”

“Yeah, let’s,” I said. “It’s almost five o’clock and basketball practice is over. I’ll send her a text message.”

Thirty minutes later we met Barbara and we sat down by the sea and ate our three large ice creams.

“So, what’s happening?” asked Barbara.

“We have a lot of news for you,” I said.

“Really? Well, don’t make me wait. Tell me immediately!” said Barbara laughing.

We told her everything: the news about the comet, and the intergalactic voyages, and how we had the idea that Mr Wilkinson was an alien. We told her about what happened when we followed Mr Wilkinson home and the teacher’s sad story.

Barbara listened carefully and she was very surprised.

“The poor man,” she said sadly. “What a terrible problem! And he’s alone here in Seattle, isn’t he? Karen, let’s make him a delicious chocolate cake next weekend. My mom can help us. It’ll be a welcome present.”

“Yes, let’s do it on Sunday afternoon. Then we can take it to school on Monday,” I said. “He’ll love it!”

“Well, girls, I’m not a good cook, but the chocolate cake sounds great,” said Walter.

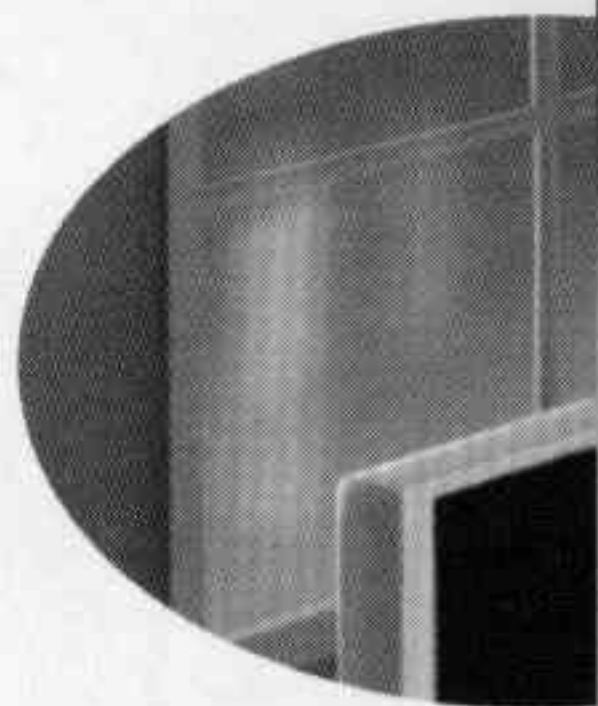
“Now tell me more about intergalactic voyages,” said Barbara.

“Yes, please do,” I said. “Perhaps aliens will come to visit Earth.”

Walter told us a lot of interesting things about UFOs and aliens.



# Who's in the Computer Room



I suddenly noticed that it was getting dark. I tried to look at my watch but it wasn't on my arm.

"Oh, no!" I said. "Where's my watch?" Then I remembered. "I took it off in the gym at lunchtime. I'm sure I left it there near the showers after volleyball. I must go and get it now!"

"Don't worry, Karen, the janitor<sup>1</sup> will find it and put it in a safe place. You can get it in the morning," said Barbara.

"But that watch is really important to me: it was a present from my grandparents," I said.

"But the school's closed at this time," said Walter.

"No, it's not closed today because Mrs Wong is preparing some math tests for her classes," I said.

"How do you know that?" asked Walter.

"I heard her talking to Miss Cruz this morning," I said.

"You know everything!" said Barbara smiling. "OK then, we'll see you tomorrow morning."

Walter also smiled and said, "Good luck!"

I ran to Washington High and the main door was open. I went in and started going to the gym, but something stopped me. I had a strange feeling, but I didn't know what it was. Something was pushing me upstairs. I was afraid because the school was dark and silent. I started going up the stairs to the first floor.

"Where am I going? The gym is downstairs. Why am I going upstairs?" I asked myself. My heart was beating faster and faster. Something was waiting for me at the top of the stairs — I knew it. But what was it? I wanted to run home but I could not do it. I had to find out.

1. **janitor** : a person who looks after a school building or other public place.





## Alien Alert in Seattle

When I got up to the third floor I saw a light on in the computer room. I went quietly to the door. Someone was working in front of a computer. It was Mr Kent! He was writing a long line of numbers and letters. Suddenly I saw the face of an alien on his computer screen! The alien had a green head and big red eyes. It didn't have a nose or any hair. Its mouth and ears were very small.

Then Mr Kent put both of his hands on his head. He closed his eyes and started pulling his hair. He was taking his hair and his face off! Suddenly Mr Kent had a green face like the alien on the screen. He was an alien!

I was terrified but I could not run away. He started talking to the alien on the screen.

"Klyreg is calling home. Klyreg here," he said.

"ALTANK PILLEX, Klyreg. This is your leader speaking. How are things going?" said the alien on the screen with a strange voice.

"Everything is fine, Gortz, but I'm tired of this mask.<sup>2</sup> Life as a human is difficult," he said.

"Your work on Earth is very important," said the alien. "You have to stay there until everything is finished. Did you choose the student who will come to Mitrax?"

"No, I'm going to choose one tomorrow," said Mr Kent.

"What?" I thought. "He's going to take a student to another planet! This is terrible!"

"There's little time, Klyreg. You have to hurry. Remember, we'll meet you and the student at the old airfield behind the school on Friday night at 9.30 p.m. Don't be late! When the comet

2. **mask** : something you put in front of your face so people won't recognize you.



P.  
Ro





## Alien Alert in Seattle

leaves the Virgo constellation at midnight the intergalactic doors close. And then we can't return to Mitrax for another six hundred years."

"I know, Gortz. I won't be late," said Mr Kent.

"Good, but how will you get the student? You can't touch him or her because you're electric."

"I have a plan," said Mr Kent. "On Friday evening there's a PTA<sup>3</sup> meeting at school. There will be a lot of people here: teachers, parents and students. During the meeting I'll ask a student to come with me to the science lab. Then I'll spray him with my special X-5 spray.<sup>4</sup> With the X-5 spray humans can't think anymore, they forget who they are — they can only obey. The student will follow me to the old airfield."

"Everything on Mitrax is ready for the human," said the alien. "We want to study him."

"Good. ALTANK PILLEX, Gortz," said Mr Kent to the alien. Then he wrote a long line of numbers and letters on the computer screen and it turned black. I went quickly and quietly down the stairs and ran out of the building.

I started running down the street and across the park. I could not stop thinking about the green head and the big red eyes of the alien. And I could not believe that Mr Kent was an alien and he was planning something terrible. What could I do to stop him? I had to talk to Walter and Barbara. I felt cold and my heart was beating fast. I wanted to get home as fast as possible.

3. **PTA** : acronym for Parent-Teacher Association. At these meetings parents and teachers can talk about the students' work.

4. **spray** :





## The text and **beyond**

### ET 1 Comprehension check

Read the paragraphs below and choose the best word (A, B or C) for each space (1-12). There is an example at the beginning (0).

(0) C..... talking to Mr Wilkinson, Karen and Walter wanted to help and understand others. They learned that (1) ..... people have big problems.

Karen and Walter decided (2) ..... go for an ice cream. Barbara's basketball practice was (3) ..... and she met (4) ..... near the sea. Karen and Walter told her everything (5) ..... the intergalactic voyages and Mr Wilkinson's sad story.

Karen went (6) ..... to school because she forgot (7) ..... watch in the gym. There was (8) ..... one at school, but she saw a light in the computer room. She discovered that Mr Kent was an alien! He was talking to another alien (9) ..... the computer screen.

Karen discovered that Mr Kent's real name was Klyreg and he came (10) ..... the planet Mitrax. He was (11) ..... to choose a student to go with him into space (12) ..... the aliens from Mitrax want to study humans.

- |              |           |                |
|--------------|-----------|----------------|
| 0 A Because  | B During  | <u>C</u> After |
| 1 A some     | B any     | C the          |
| 2 A too      | B for     | C to           |
| 3 A out      | B over    | C end          |
| 4 A them     | B they    | C their        |
| 5 A with     | B on      | C about        |
| 6 A back     | B behind  | C return       |
| 7 A she      | B her     | C hers         |
| 8 A nothing  | B not     | C no           |
| 9 A on       | B at      | C in           |
| 10 A to      | B from    | C of           |
| 11 A plan    | B planned | C planning     |
| 12 A because | B so      | C and          |





## 2 Listening

Listen to the conversation between Karen and Barbara. Choose the correct answer — A, B or C.

1 When is Walter going to have a party?



2 What sport does his dad do?



3 Where is the restaurant near?



4 What are Karen and Barbara going to give Walter for his birthday?





### 3 Crossword

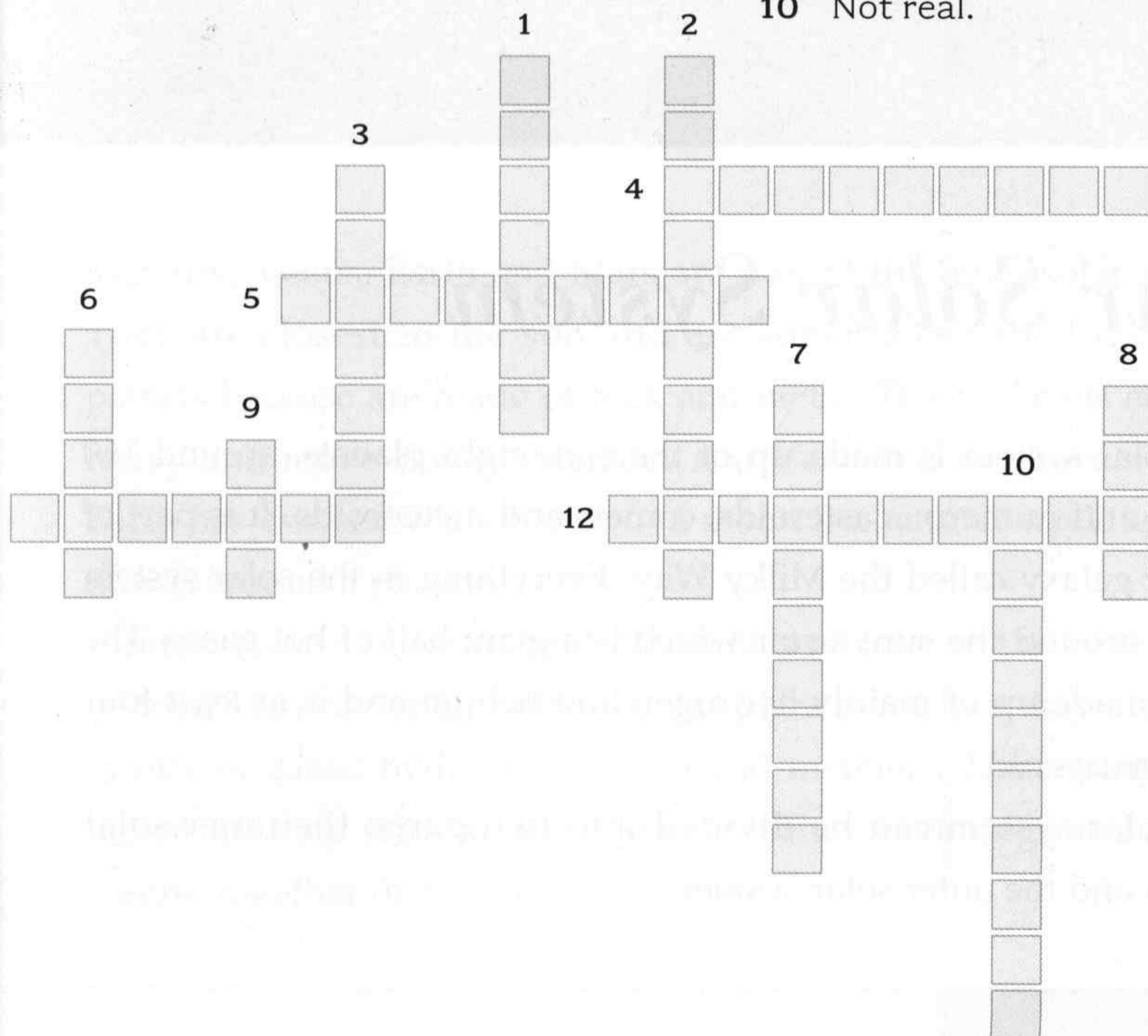
Use the clues below to complete the crossword. All the words come from chapters one to four.

#### Across

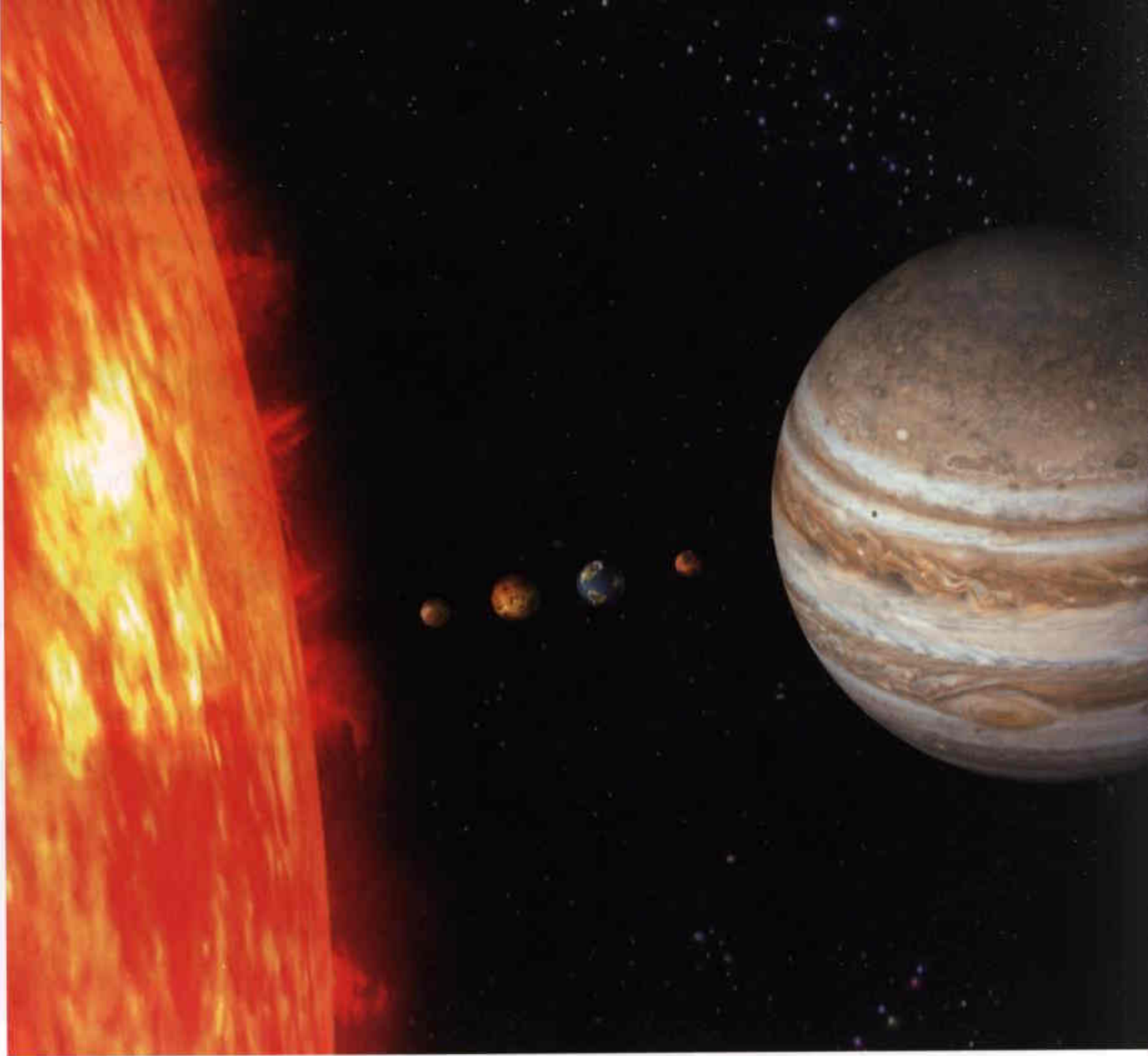
- 4 You use it to travel in space.  
5 Big room where students eat.  
11 Mountains where the people saw the UFO.  
12 One of Karen's favorite sports.

#### Down

- 1 Person who looks after a school.  
2 American state where the story happens  
3 The city where this story happens.  
6 An aerosol can which has liquid inside.  
7 You look at the stars with it.  
8 Without any hair.  
9 A place to do experiments.  
10 Not real.







## *Our Solar System*

Our solar system is made up of the sun, eight planets, around 160 moons and numerous asteroids, comets and meteoroids. It is part of a giant galaxy called the Milky Way. Everything in the solar system moves around the sun: a star which is a giant ball of hot gases. The sun is made up of mainly hydrogen and helium and is at least four billion years old.

Our solar system can be divided into two parts: the inner solar system and the outer solar system.





Mercury, Venus, Earth and Mars are part of the inner solar system. They are closest to the sun and are sometimes called the rocky planets because they are made of rock and metal. These planets are very heavy and move slowly. Mercury and Venus do not have a moon, Earth has one and Mars has two (a moon is a natural satellite which moves around a planet).

Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune are part of the outer solar system. They are often called the gas planets because they are made mostly of gases: hydrogen, helium and methane. These planets are lighter for their size and move quickly. They have rings and a lot of moons: together they have around 150.

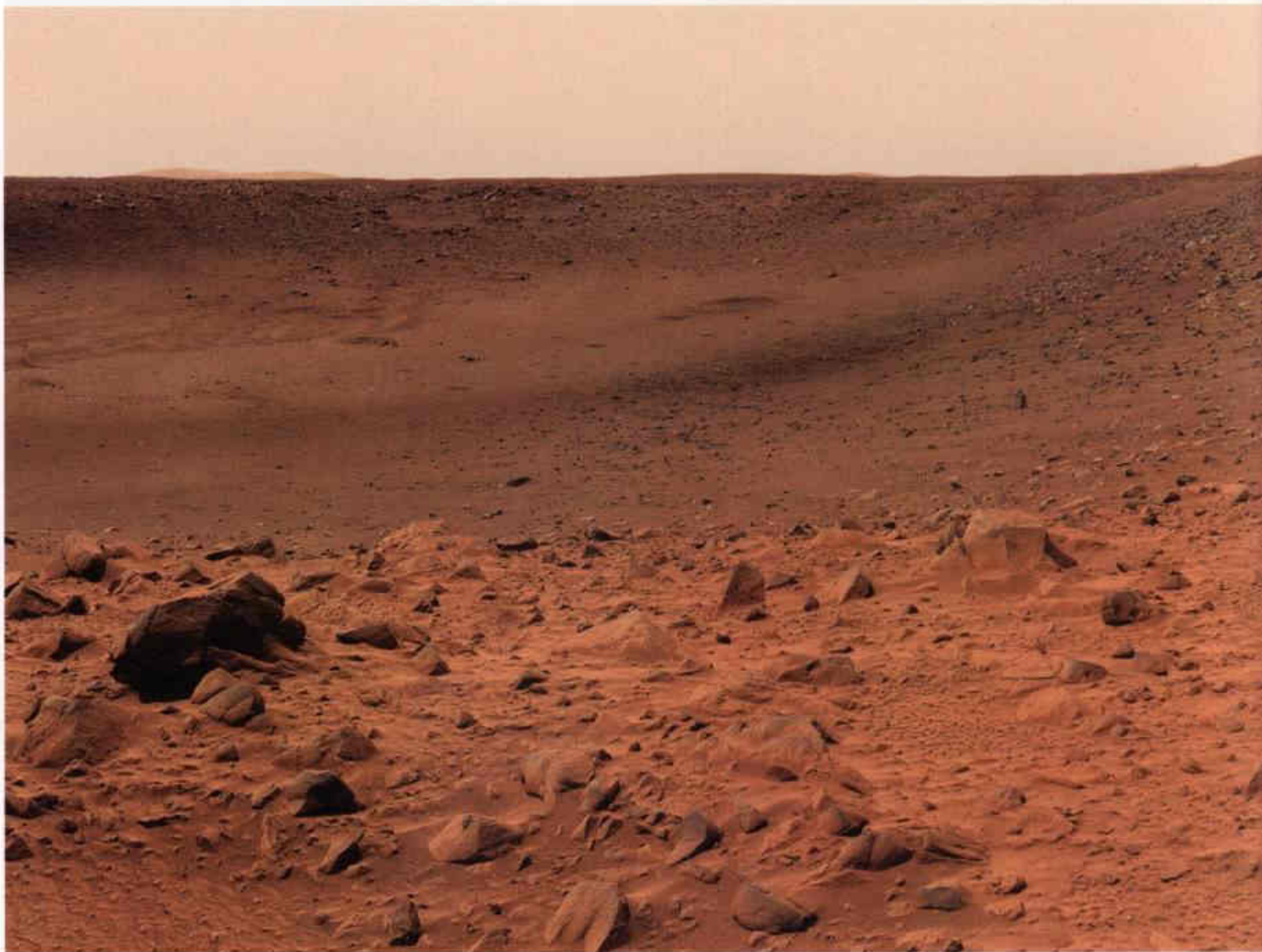


## The planets

The planets travel around the sun in circular paths called orbits.

**Mercury** is the closet planet to the sun. It has no atmosphere and no water. It is not easy for astronomers to see it because it is always so close to the sun in the sky. Mercury's year is about 88 Earth days; that means it takes 88 days for Mercury to orbit the sun.

**Venus** is the second planet from the sun and it is the hottest one. It is sometimes called the Evening Star and the Morning Star because it is very bright and you can see it at in the mornings and evenings. Venus has no water and is covered with clouds. It takes about 225 days to orbit the sun.



A photograph of Mars's surface.



**Earth** has more water than land – three quarters of the Earth is covered by water. It takes 365 days to orbit the sun.

**Mars** is often called the Red Planet because of its color. A year on Mars is about 687 days. Astronomers don't know if it rains on Mars, but they know that Mars has winds and big dust storms. Mars is the home of the biggest volcano in the solar system; it is called the Olympus Mons.

**Jupiter** is the biggest planet in the solar system. It is mostly made up of hydrogen. It has a big red spot that looks like an eye which astronomers believe is a wind storm, the biggest storm in the solar system.

**Saturn** is the second biggest planet in the solar system. In 1655 a Dutch scientist named Christian Huygens discovered that Saturn had big rings around it. A year on Saturn is very long: almost 30 Earth years.

**Uranus** was discovered by a British scientist, William Herschel, in 1781. It has a blue-green color because its atmosphere is made of methane ice.

**Neptune** was discovered in 1846. Like Uranus it is also blue because of the methane gas in its atmosphere. It has a big dark spot and astronomers think it is a hole in its atmosphere. It takes Neptune 165 years to go around the sun once because it is so far away.

After **Pluto's** discovery in 1930 until 2006, experts believed there were nine planets. Pluto, is even further away from the sun than Neptune. It is not made of gas, but of rocks and ice. It is also much smaller than the eight. After experts at the start of this century discovered other similar small planets, they decided that Pluto should be considered part of a new group of small planets, called the dwarf planets, and not part of the solar system.





A graphic representation of an asteroid.

## Asteroids

The inner planets are separated from the outer planets by the Asteroid Belt. Asteroids are large rocks in space. There are twenty-six very large asteroids and millions of smaller ones. The biggest asteroid is called Quaoar and it is about one tenth the size of the Earth.

## Comets

A comet is an icy body that looks like a star and has a long tail made of dust and gases. Its tail always points away from the sun because of the strong solar winds. It travels around the sun in an egg-shaped path. Hundreds of years ago people were afraid of comets. The most famous comet of all is Halley's comet.

## Meteoroids

A meteoroid is sometimes called a shooting star or a falling star. It is made of rock and metal and you can sometimes see one if it enters the Earth's atmosphere. Meteoroids entering the Earth's atmosphere move extremely quickly at around 11 km a second (almost 40,000 km per hour).



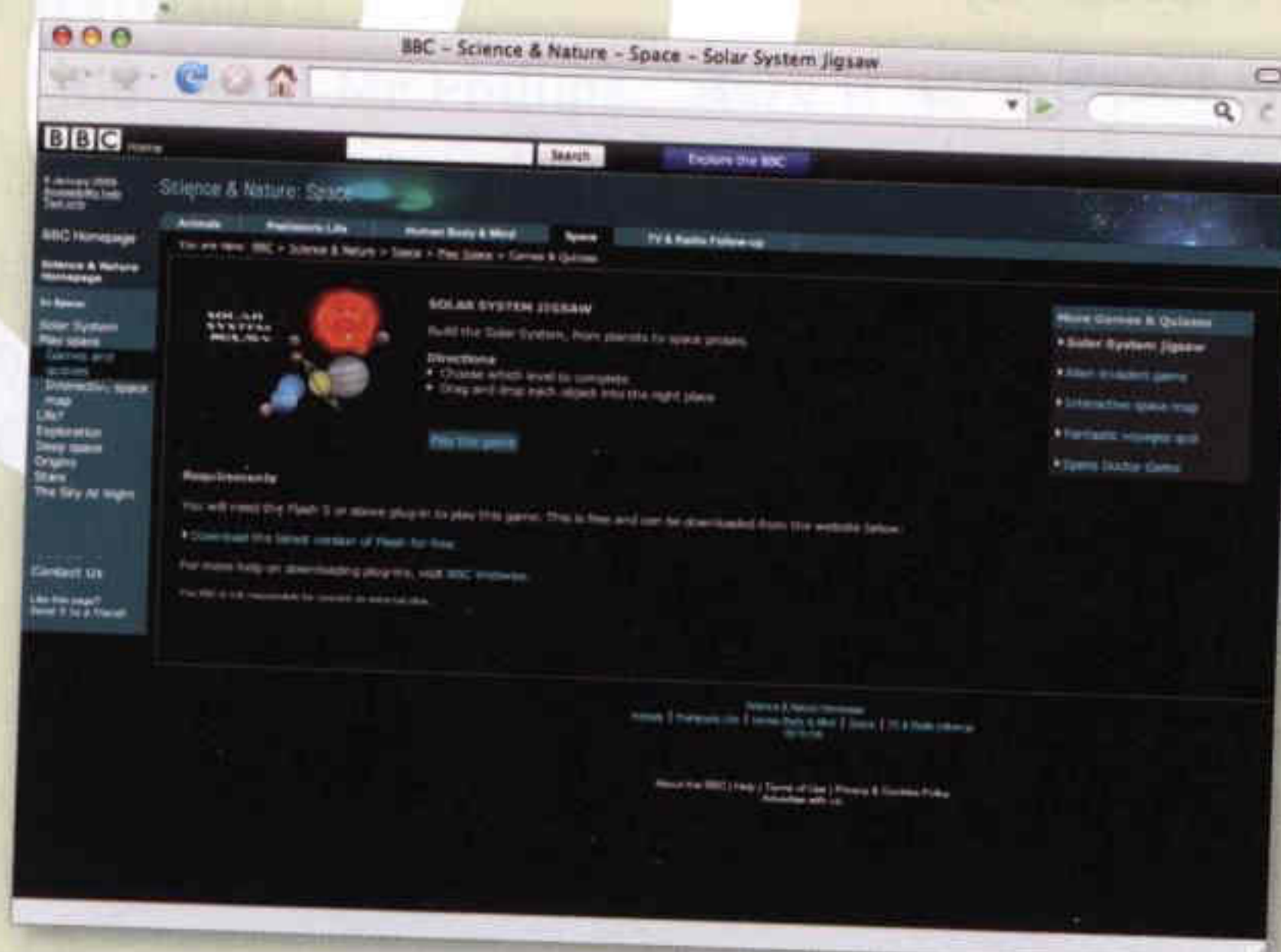
## 1 Comprehension check

Are the following sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

- |  | T                        | F                        |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 The Milky Way is a solar system in the universe.                   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 The planets of the inner solar system do not have any moons.       | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 The gas planets are not heavy for their size.                      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 Mercury is the closest planet to the sun.                          | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 Mars is called the Red Planet because it has a big red spot on it. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 Jupiter and Saturn both have rings around them.                    | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## INTERNET PROJECT

Connect to the Internet and go to [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it). Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you see this title and click on the relevant link for this project. Work in pairs and learn more about the Solar System by completing the jigsaws.





## Before you read



### 1 Listening

KET

Listen to the first part of Chapter Five and choose the correct answer — A, B or C.

- 1 What did the newspapers write about in August?
  - A ☐ the tourists in Seattle
  - B ☐ the new teachers at the school
  - C ☐ the UFO sighting
  
- 2 Who is afraid of aliens?
  - A ☐ Barbara
  - B ☐ Karen
  - C ☐ Walter
  
- 3 When are the aliens coming?
  - A ☐ today
  - B ☐ tomorrow
  - C ☐ the day after tomorrow
  
- 4 What does Barbara's brother have that can help them?
  - A ☐ a special key
  - B ☐ a special spray
  - C ☐ a special cupboard
  
- 5 What lessons did they have in the afternoon?
  - A ☐ Math and Science
  - B ☐ Math and English
  - C ☐ Math and American History



**DANGER!  
TOXIC  
CHEMICALS  
INSIDE  
X**



## CHAPTER FIVE

# The Plan

When I arrived at school the next day I went to the gym to look for my watch. I could not find it near the showers so I went to ask the janitor.

“Hello, Mr Phillips,” I said, “did you find a watch near the showers yesterday?”

“Yes, I did,” said Mr Phillips. “Here it is!” He took my watch out of a box on his desk and smiled.

“Oh, that’s great! Thanks a lot,” I said happily and ran to class. At lunch Barbara, Walter and I sat together in the cafeteria. I had a lot of things to tell them.

“Well, guys, guess who’s an alien?” I said.

“Oh no!” said Walter. “Not another alien, first it was Mr Wilkinson...”

“Is this a joke?” asked Barbara.

“No, listen to me, please!” I whispered excitedly. “Mr Kent is an alien!”





## Alien Alert in Seattle

"WHAT!" cried Walter.

"No, he's not!" cried Barbara, who thought I was joking.

"Shh! Be quiet!" I said. Some of the other students turned around and looked at us.

"Let me tell you what happened last night."

I told them everything about last night. My friends were shocked but they believed me. They stopped eating their lunches.

"Do you remember the alien alert in August?" asked Walter. "All the newspapers were talking about it."

"Yeah," said Barbara, "some people saw a UFO near the Cascade Mountains!"

"Then Mr Kent is one of the aliens from the UFO!" said Walter. "Do you remember how he looked at the sun the first day of school? And how the mice in the cages were afraid of him? Wow!"

"Aliens scare me," said Barbara. "A teacher who's an alien at our school..."

"I don't think aliens are bad," said Walter. "They're just different."

"Now listen," I said, "other aliens are coming to the old airfield Friday night in their spaceship. They want to take Mr Kent and a student to their planet, Mitrax. They want to study humans."

"A student!" cried Barbara. "That's one of us!"

"We have to stop him!" said Walter.

"Are the aliens coming this Friday?" asked Barbara.

"Yes, on the day of the PTA meeting," I said. "And today is Thursday. We only have one day to do something."

"I have an idea," said Walter.

"What is it?" Barbara and I asked.

"We have to find the special X-5 spray and take it away from Mr Kent," Walter said. "Without it he can't take the student."









## Alien Alert in Seattle

“Great idea!” said Barbara. “The spray is probably in the science lab or in his house.”

“This afternoon when he goes home we can look for the spray in the science lab,” said Walter. “But all the sprays and bottles are in locked<sup>1</sup> cupboards, and we don’t have the key.”

“Maybe my brother Matt can help us,” said Barbara. “He’s a policeman and he has a special key that opens all doors.”

“Can we use it?” asked Walter.

“Well, I can’t tell him our story because he’ll never believe it,” said Barbara. “But sometimes he goes to work and leaves the special key in his room. I’ll look for it and take it. Then I’ll put it back.”

“Be careful, Barbara,” I said. “We don’t want trouble with the police!”

We started laughing. It was time to go back to our afternoon classes: math and American history.

I was happy when school ended at half past three. Barbara and I went to her house and Walter stayed at the school library.

When we got to Barbara’s house no one was home. We went to Matt’s room and looked for the special key.

“I hope Matt didn’t take the key with him,” said Barbara. She opened all the drawers<sup>2</sup> and cupboards in his room and looked for it.

“Here it is!” she cried happily. “It was at the back of his desk drawer.”

1. **locked** : closed with a key.

2. **drawer** :



END





“Oh, great! Now let’s go back to school,” I said.

We went back to school quickly and called Walter, who was still studying in the library. It was almost five o’clock and there was no one in school. We went upstairs to the science lab. The door of the lab was open and someone was inside.

“Oh, no! It’s Mr Philips, the janitor,” Walter whispered.

“Let’s hide in the bathroom!” said Barbara. We hid in the bathroom for a few minutes. Then we heard Mr Phillips go downstairs.

“OK, now we can go to the lab,” said Walter.

We went inside the lab and looked around. There was a big sign on each cupboard that said, DANGER! TOXIC CHEMICALS INSIDE!

We opened the two big ones and looked at every bottle. There weren’t any spray cans. Then we looked inside the smallest one and found a small black spray can. It didn’t have a name.

“All the other bottles and cans have a name,” said Walter. “This must be Mr Kent’s spray!” He took it out of the small cupboard and said, “It’s very heavy.”

“Who wants to take it home?” I asked.

“Not me!” said Barbara. “My mother always looks around in my room.”

“Mine does too,” I said.


“Oh, I’ll take it home,” said Walter. “A spray can from another planet... I can study it!”

“Don’t spray yourself with it!” Barbara said laughing.

Walter, Barbara and I went home because we had a lot of homework to do. After dinner the phone rang and I answered it.

“Hi, Karen,” said Walter. “Can you come to my house? I have to talk to you.”





## Alien Alert in Seattle

"It's eight o'clock and I'm doing my homework," I said.

"Karen, please, this is important," Walter said.

"Are you alright, Walter?" I asked. "You sound strange."

"Please come, Karen. It's important."

"OK, I'll be there in fifteen minutes," I said. I quickly put on my jacket and ran downstairs to the living room. My mom was reading the newspaper and my dad was watching TV. Tex was sitting next to them.

"Mom, I'm taking Tex out for a walk."

"At eight o'clock at night?" my mom asked, surprised.

"Yeah, I'm tired of studying," I said. "I really need to take a walk and get some fresh air. I'll be back by nine o'clock."

"Some fresh air is good for you, Karen," said my dad. "It's a nice evening."

"See you later!" I said.

Tex and I walked down the street and crossed the park quickly. What did Walter want at this time? I wanted to find out. It was a warm evening and there was a full moon in the sky.



## The text and **beyond**

### ET 1 Comprehension check

Are these sentences "Right" (A) or "Wrong" (B)? If there is not enough information to answer "Right" (A) or "Wrong" (B), choose "Doesn't say" (C). There is an example at the beginning (0).

- 0 Mr Phillips had white hair and wore glasses.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      **C** Doesn't say
- 1 Karen told her friends about Mr Kent during the English lesson.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 2 The three friends wanted to look for the X-5 spray, but they did not have the key to the cupboards in the science lab.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 3 Barbara's brother, Matt, was twenty-four years old.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 4 The spray can without a name was Mr Kent's.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 5 Walter took the spray can home because he thought it was interesting.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 6 Walter phoned Karen and invited her to go for a walk.  
 A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say

### 2 Discussion

Discuss these questions in small groups. Compare your answers as a class.

What do you think...

- 1 ... Walter will do with the spray?
- 2 ... he wants to tell Karen?
- 3 ... will happen when Mr Kent can't find the spray?



**“We looked inside the smallest one and found a black spray can”**

*Smallest* is the superlative form of *small*.

To form the superlative of one-syllable adjectives we use **the** and add **-est** to the end of the adjective (old – *the oldest*).

To form the superlative of two-syllable adjectives ending in ‘-y’, we change the ‘y’ to ‘i’ and add **-est** (happy – *the happiest*)

For adjectives with two syllables or more we put **the most** in front of the adjective (interesting – *the most interesting*)

Be careful, ‘good’ and ‘bad’ are irregular.

The superlative of *good* is **best**. The superlative of *bad* is **worst**.

### 3 Superlatives

Write the superlative forms next to the adjectives.

ADJECTIVE	SUPERLATIVE	ADJECTIVE	SUPERLATIVE
1 poor	.....	7 dirty	.....
2 strange	.....	8 short	.....
3 beautiful	.....	9 young	.....
4 pretty	.....	10 important	.....
5 tall	.....	11 sleepy	.....
6 bad	.....	12 powerful	.....

### 4 Now complete the following sentences using the superlative form of the adjective in brackets.

- Karen and Barbara were ..... (*funny*) girls in class.
- Barbara was ..... (*good*) basketball player on the team.
- Walter’s father was ..... (*rich*) man in town.
- The cafeteria was ..... (*noisy*) place in the school.
- ..... (*dangerous*) chemicals were in the blue cupboard.
- Mr Wilkinson sat down in ..... (*comfortable*) chair in the cafeteria.



T: GRADE 4

**5 Speaking: food**

Karen and Barbara want to make a chocolate cake for Mr Wilkinson. The three friends like eating ice cream after school. Talk about your favorite foods and use these questions to help you.

- 1 Why do you like it?
- 2 Who prepares it in your family?
- 3 How often do you eat it?
- 4 What do you think are the six favorite foods for people your age?

**6 Odd one out**

Circle the word that doesn't belong and explain why. Then find the words that don't belong in the word square below.

- 1 science math history homework
- 2 janitor policeman doctor parent
- 3 television radio book newspaper
- 4 spaceship airfield airplane helicopter
- 5 gym computer room science lab bathroom
- 6 California Washington Seattle New York

A	R	T	O	I	R	B	O	O	K
S	S	P	D	H	E	K	Y	E	Z
B	E	C	A	V	W	X	T	O	A
B	A	T	H	R	O	O	M	E	I
E	T	O	T	I	E	N	A	I	R
K	T	S	O	O	N	N	T	P	F
S	L	L	F	A	U	O	T	T	I
N	E	E	K	G	S	E	O	M	E
A	O	H	Q	U	H	I	J	A	L
H	O	M	E	W	O	R	K	L	D





## INTERNET PROJECT



### Aliens in films

Connect to the Internet and go to [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it). Insert the title or part of the title of the book into our search engine. Click on the Internet project link. Go down the page until you see this title and click on the relevant link for this project. Can you think of some films with aliens in them. Choose one or two and find out more about it. Find out the following information and tell the class.

- 1 When was the film made?
- 2 Who directed it?
- 3 Who are the main actors?
- 4 What happens? (Make notes to give a brief summary)
- 5 Are the aliens seen as good or bad?

Here are some possible films you could choose.

- |                           |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| ▶ <i>Independence Day</i> | ▶ <i>E.T. The Extra Terrestrial</i> |
| ▶ <i>Mars Attacks</i>     | ▶ <i>Star Wars</i>                  |



A scene from *Independence Day* (1996).





# *High School* in the USA

For most American teenagers life in an American high school is an important and exciting experience. American teenagers start high school when they are fourteen and graduate <sup>1</sup> at eighteen, when they can go to work or continue studying at university. High school is not only a place to study and learn, it is also a place where students can take part in a variety of sports and enjoy a varied social life.

Every American high school has its school symbol, <sup>2</sup> colors and ring. The school ring has the name and the symbol of the school on it. Students don't have to wear a uniform, but they can buy clothes and other things with the school colors.

1. **graduate** : finish studying with a successful result.
2. **symbol** : design or picture that represents the school.



The four years each have a name: first year students are called *freshmen*; second year students are *sophomores*; third year students are *juniors* and fourth year students are *seniors*.

All students have a locker, which is a small metal cupboard where students can leave books, jackets, sports equipment and other personal things. This means that they don't have bags which are too heavy.

Students have lunch in the school cafeteria, which is always a happy, noisy place. After lunch they go outside to the school play area to talk to friends or to relax. The lunch break lasts about an hour.



When students are eighteen they can receive their high school diploma. To do this they must pass exams in all their subjects. Graduates then wear a special gown and hat and go to the graduation ceremony. The school's principal calls each student's name as he or she receives his or her diploma.





## After-school activities

High schools usually offer a wide variety of sports. Some of these are team sports, such as football, soccer, basketball, baseball and volleyball. Others are more individual, such as athletics or swimming. Sports are often a very important part of high school life, and all students are encouraged to take part. Football and basketball are probably the most important sports and many people from the local area come to see the teenagers in their games.

Cheerleaders are teams of girls, and sometimes boys, who wear special uniforms with the school colors. They perform a dance



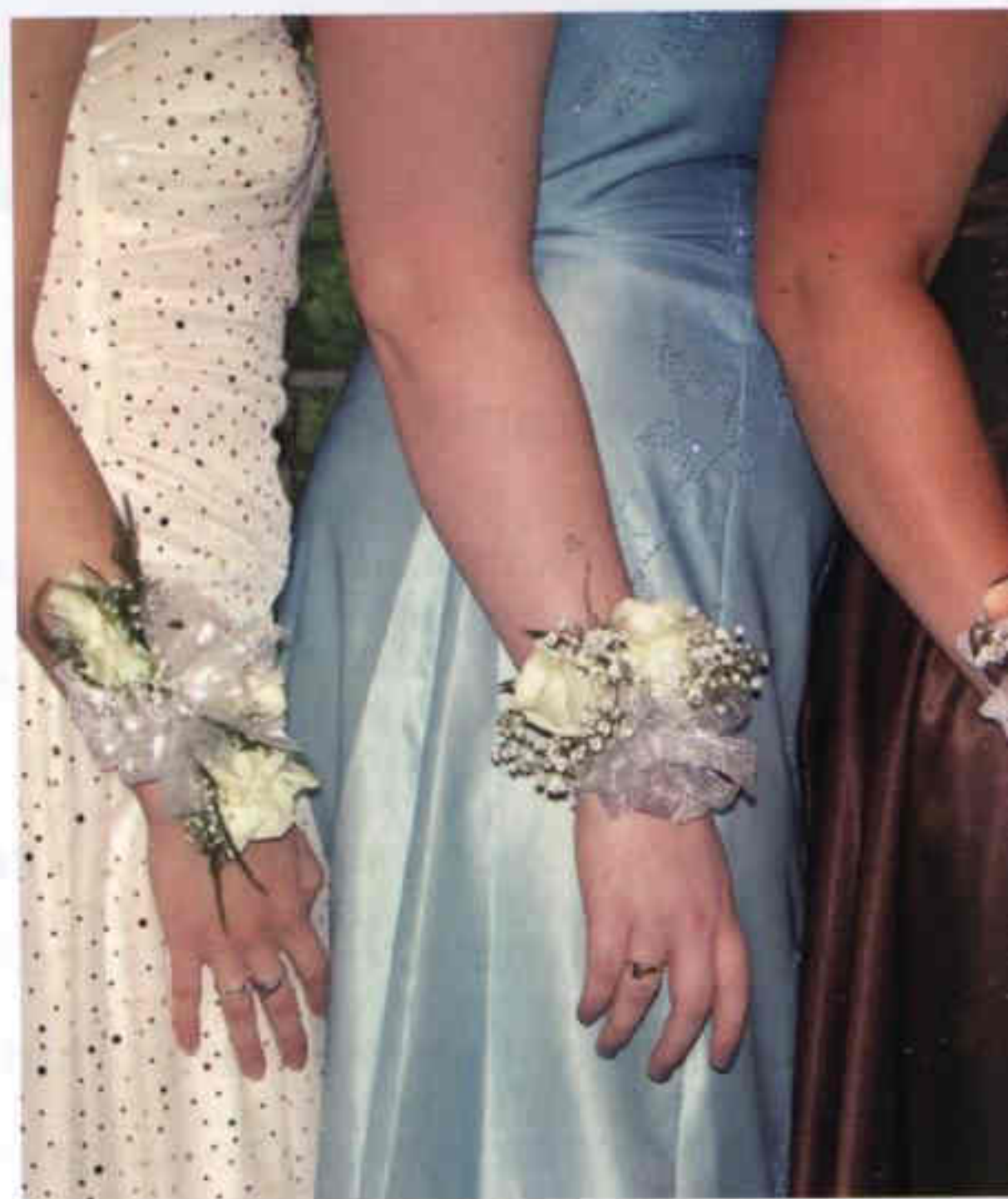
routine and cheer during team games. In many schools cheerleading is very important, with competitions between schools. There are national and international competitions every year.

Sports are not the only type of after-school activities. Some students take part in the many clubs offered. A teacher works with the students in these clubs. Here are some of the most popular ones.

- Drama Club, which prepares school plays and other theatrical events;
- Journalism Club, which prepares the school newspaper;
- Science Club, which does experiments in the science lab;
- Dance Club, which practices different types of dance and performs in shows;
- Art Club, which prepares different types of art work for exhibitions;
- Music Club, which studies music, individually, in groups or in orchestras, and then performs in concerts.

## The prom

During the school year there are a lot of social events in the evenings. There are three or four dances throughout the year, but the most important one is called the prom which happens before school finishes in the summer. The proms are usually for juniors and seniors only, but sometimes younger students can go if invited by a junior or senior student. Girls go to the prom in beautiful dresses and boys wear a suit.



Girls are given a bracelet of flowers, called a **corsage** when they go to the prom.



## 1 Comprehension check

Are these sentences true (T) or false (F)? Correct the false ones.

	T	F
1 The American high school is a place where you can develop many different interests.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 Students wear uniforms with the school colors.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 If you are a junior, you are in the second year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 Only members of the football team have lockers.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 Students have their lunches in the cafeteria.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 After school there are clubs and sports activities for everyone.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 Cheerleaders wear special uniforms and play on the volleyball team.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 An important dance before the summer is called the prom.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

## 2 Discussion

Discuss the following questions as a class.

- 1 High school life is often featured in films and on television. Can you think of any? As a class choose five films or TV shows and talk about them. How is high school usually shown? What are the positive and negative aspects?
- 2 From what you have read, compare your school to an American high school. Which aspects do you like? Which don't you like?
- 3 Name three things you want to change in your school. How can you change them?



## Before you read



### 1 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Six and choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

- 1 When is Walter going to return to Earth?  
A ☐ never  
B ☐ he doesn't know  
C ☐ in a year
- 2 How is Walter going to tell his dad about his decision?  
A ☐ he's going to write him a letter  
B ☐ he's going to phone him  
C ☐ he's not going to tell him
- 3 Who can Karen tell about Walter's decision?  
A ☐ her parents  
B ☐ no one  
C ☐ only Barbara
- 4 What does Walter give Karen?  
A ☐ his ring  
B ☐ the spray  
C ☐ a letter
- 5 Who is going to look after Tootsie?  
A ☐ Karen  
B ☐ Walter's father  
C ☐ Barbara





# A Big Decision

Walter was waiting for me at the front door of his beautiful house.

“Hi Karen!” he said. “You can leave Tex outside in the garden. Tootsie doesn’t like dogs.”

“I know, and Tex doesn’t like cats either,” I said laughing.

Walter was home alone and we went to his room and sat down.

“Karen, I have some news for you,” he said.

“News? What news?” I asked.

“I want to go to Mitrax with Mr Kent,” said Walter.

“WHAT!” I cried. “Are you joking?”

“No, I’m not joking, Karen,” he said. “This is a great opportunity for me. You know I want to become an astronaut. A trip on a spaceship to another galaxy is wonderful! I can see Mitrax and the aliens who live there. I can study them and see how they live and what they eat. I can find out things that aren’t written in books. This is a great scientific adventure and I’m lucky I can go! How many





## Alien Alert in Seattle

people have the opportunity to go to and explore another planet?"

Walter was happy and excited.

"But... aren't you afraid of aliens?" I asked. "What will they do to you?"

"I don't think Mr Kent and the other aliens want to hurt me," said Walter. "They just want to study me because I'm a human. I think I can trust them."

"When will you return to Earth?" I asked.

"I don't know," he said, "but I want to return to see you."

"Are you going to tell your dad?" I asked.

"He's away on business for a few days," said Walter. "I'm going to write him a letter and explain everything."

We talked for a long time and I began to understand Walter's decision.

"I'll never see you again," I said and started crying.

He took my hand and said, "Please don't cry, Karen. I'll come back and tell you amazing things." We were silent for a few minutes.

"Please don't tell anyone except Barbara about my decision," said Walter.

"I won't, it's our secret," I said.

"Here, take my school ring. When you look at it, think of me," he said giving it to me.

"I'll always think of you," I said quietly. I put his ring on my finger.

"Listen, Karen," said Walter, "we have to make a plan for tomorrow evening. When Mr Kent takes the student to the science lab he won't find his spray. So the student will run away and he will return to his spaceship with no one. He can't miss his spaceship because it will leave without him. I'll wait for him in the science lab tomorrow evening and I'll tell him my decision."









## Alien Alert in Seattle

"Good luck, Walter," I said.

Walter looked at Tootsie and said, "Can you look after Tootsie when I go away?"

"Well, there's Tex... but I can look after your cat," I said. "I've got a big garden."

"Thanks a lot, Karen," said Walter.

When I got home it was late and I immediately went upstairs to bed, but I couldn't sleep.

On Friday morning I met Barbara and we walked to school together. I told her about Walter's decision. She stopped in the middle of the street and almost started crying.

Then she saw his school ring on my finger. She smiled and said, "He likes you a lot."

At the end of the school day Walter, Barbara and I went for an ice cream. We sat around a small round table and ate our ice cream quietly.

"This is the last time we can have ice cream together," said Barbara sadly.

The PTA meeting started at seven o'clock. First, the parents visited our classrooms and talked to some of our teachers. At eight o'clock there was a big meeting in the gym with the principal. She was explaining about all the plans for the school over the next year. At about a quarter past eight Mr Kent got up from his chair and went to see Barbara's family. He whispered something to them and then to Barbara. She was his choice. She got up and followed him. She wasn't worried because she knew Walter was waiting in the science lab.

They left the gym and went upstairs. I decided to follow them.

"Karen, where are you going?" whispered my dad.

"Oh, I'm just going to the science lab for a minute".

END



## The text and **beyond**

### 1 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings (1-8) to their endings (A-K) to make complete sentences. There are three extra endings that you do not need to use.

- 1 ☐ Tex stayed in the garden
- 2 ☐ Walter decides to go to another planet with Mr Kent
- 3 ☐ Walter asked Karen
- 4 ☐ He is not afraid of aliens
- 5 ☐ Walter says he will return to Earth,
- 6 ☐ Karen puts Walter's ring
- 7 ☐ Karen, Barbara and Walter go to get an ice cream
- 8 ☐ The big PTA meeting

- A but he does not know when.
- B because he thinks he can trust them.
- C because he wanted to play with Tootsie.
- D because dogs and cats don't like each other.
- E on her finger
- F to look after his pet.
- G is in the gym.
- H because he wants to learn the alien language.
- I to keep his school ring in a safe place.
- J because he wants to explore space.
- K for the last time together.

### 2 Discussion

Discuss this question with a partner.

Walter made a big decision. Do you think he made the right decision?  
Why? Why not?



## KET 3 Notices

Which notice (A-H) says this (1-5)? There is an example at the beginning (0).

**SEATTLE TRAIN  
STATION**

Ticket Office  
open daily from  
6 a.m. to 8 p.m.

A

**Natural History  
Museum**

Since 1910  
Open from  
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Children under 10 free

B

**PUBLIC LIBRARY**

Free use of computers  
limited to students  
under 18  
Excluding weekends

C

**SLOW!  
RAILWAY  
CROSSING**

D

**PACIFIC PET SHOP**

Since 1898  
Closed on Tuesdays

E

**SEATTLE CITY  
ZOO**

Open 7 days a week  
Do not feed the animals

F

**SUN and SKI  
SPORTS SHOP**

30% off on all  
sports equipment  
Today only!

G

**SUMMER ROCK  
CONCERT**

Theater opens  
at 8 p.m.  
Tickets sold out

H

- 0 ..... H ..... There are no more seats available for this event.  
 1 ..... This place opened in the nineteenth century.  
 2 ..... You don't have to pay to use this if you are a student of 16.  
 3 ..... You can visit this place on Sundays.  
 4 ..... An eight-year-old does not need a ticket here.  
 5 ..... Things cost less here today.



#### 4 Mystery word

Read the definitions and fill in the gaps with the correct letters. Use the letters in the red spaces to spell a mystery word.

- 1 The English teacher's surname.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 2 Stars that form a picture.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 3 An aerosol can.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 4 You wear it on your finger.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 5 The Earth is one, Mitrax is another.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
- 6 The eighth month of the year.      \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

What is the mystery word? .....

#### 5 Washington

Complete the spaces with words from the box to find out more about the state of Washington.

capital   industries   mountain   population   volcano   western

The state of Washington is in the northwest of United States and has a (1) ..... of about 6.5 million people. Its (2) ..... is Olympia, but the biggest city is Seattle. The highest (3) ..... is Mount Rainier (4,395 meters) and the most important river is the Columbia River. It rains a lot, especially in the (4) ..... part of the state.

The most important (5) ..... in Washington are computer software (Microsoft, Nintendo) and aircraft (Boeing). Bill Gates is probably the most famous person in the state and also the second richest man in the world!

Washington is also famous for its active (6) ....., Mount St Helens in the Cascade Mountains. The last time it erupted was in May 1980.



## Before you read

### 1 What happens next?

What do you think will happen next? Choose one answer and explain why.

- 1 Walter will not go to Mitrax with Mr Kent.
- 2 Mr Kent will choose another student to go to Mitrax.
- 3 Mr Kent will be late and he will miss his spaceship.
- 4 One of the teachers will stop Walter and Mr Kent.
- 5 Walter and Mr Kent will go to Mitrax in the spaceship.

### 2 Listening

Listen to the first part of Chapter Seven and choose the correct answer – A, B or C.

1 Why was Mr Kent so shocked?

- A ☐ Because Walter wanted to go with him.  
B ☐ Because he could not find his spray.  
C ☐ Because Karen gave him a present.

2 Mitrax is

- A ☐ bigger than Earth.  
B ☐ smaller than Earth.  
C ☐ the same size as Earth.

3 Mr Kent

- A ☐ thinks humans and aliens are very similar.  
B ☐ thinks Earth is very interesting.  
C ☐ thinks humans are very interesting.





# The Old Airfield

When I got to the science lab I slowly opened the door and looked inside. Barbara was standing near the table.

Mr Kent took out his key and opened the small cupboard, but he could not find his X-5 spray.

“Oh, no!” he said angrily. “Where is it?”

I heard Walter say, “What are you looking for, Mr Kent?”

“Walter, what are you doing here?” asked Mr Kent surprised.

“Are you looking for your X-5 spray, Klyreg?” asked Walter calmly.

“How... how do you know my name and about the spray?” asked Mr Kent nervously.

“We know everything about you,” said Barbara.

“Yes, we know who you are and why you’re here,” I said. I walked into the lab and closed the door.

Mr Kent was very surprised and looked inside the small cupboard again.





## Alien Alert in Seattle

"We know about your plan and I want to go to Mitrax with you," said Walter, looking at Mr Kent in the eyes. "Leave Barbara here and take me with you. You can study me. I'm not afraid, I know you won't hurt me."

"You want to come to Mitrax with me?" asked Mr Kent, who was shocked.

"Yes, I do!" said Walter. "I want to find out about life on other planets."

"That's a very brave decision," said Mr Kent. "Mitrax is in another galaxy and it's very different to Earth. Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm sure," said Walter. "It will be a great experience."

"Mr Kent, can I ask you what Mitrax is like?" I asked. I wanted to know something about where Walter was going.

"Yes, Karen, you can," he answered. "Mitrax is a small planet, about half the size of Earth. There are no buildings and we all live in spaceships. Our technology is much more advanced, Walter will have a lot of fun discovering all the new things."

It sounded interesting. I looked at my watch and said sadly, "It's almost nine o'clock. You're going to miss your spaceship. Goodbye Walter and good luck."

"One day I'll come back!" said Walter looking at me.

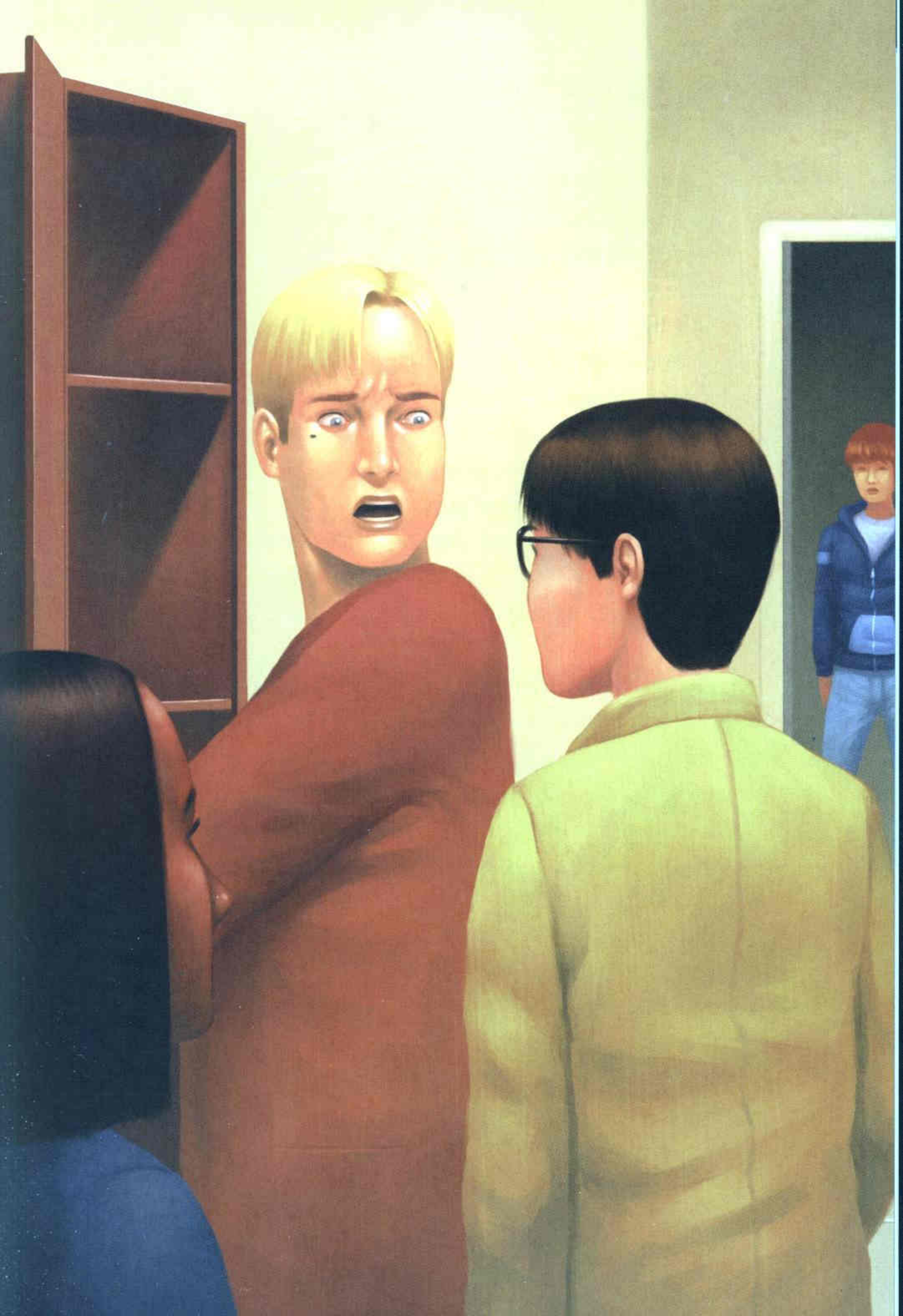
Mr Kent walked towards the door and Walter followed him.

"Yes, goodbye and good luck, Walter," said Barbara.

Mr Kent looked at us and smiled. I thought about the green face and the red eyes under the mask — I could not believe what was happening.

"You humans are... interesting," said Mr Kent. "Walter, let's go, we have to get to the airfield before half past nine." Then they ran down the stairs and left the school.









## Alien Alert in Seattle

I looked at Barbara and said, "Let's follow them! We can see the spaceship and perhaps a few aliens!"

"Yeah, let's go!" said Barbara.

END

There was no one at the old airfield. The spaceship was there, but the lights were off. It was gray and round. Mr Kent and Walter were standing in front of it. Suddenly the lights came on and a door opened.

A tall alien came to the door. He said something to Mr Kent in a strange language and then another strange voice said, "The spaceship is leaving in one minute."

Walter turned around and said, "Goodbye, Karen. Goodbye Barbara."

"Have fun on Mitrax!" I said laughing and crying at the same time.

Walter and Mr Kent went inside the spaceship and the door closed suddenly. The spaceship lights turned on and it immediately went up into the night sky silently. Barbara and I watched it until it disappeared.

Then we went back to the meeting at school. Barbara went to sit with her parents and I went to sit with mine.

"Is everything alright, Karen?" my mom asked.

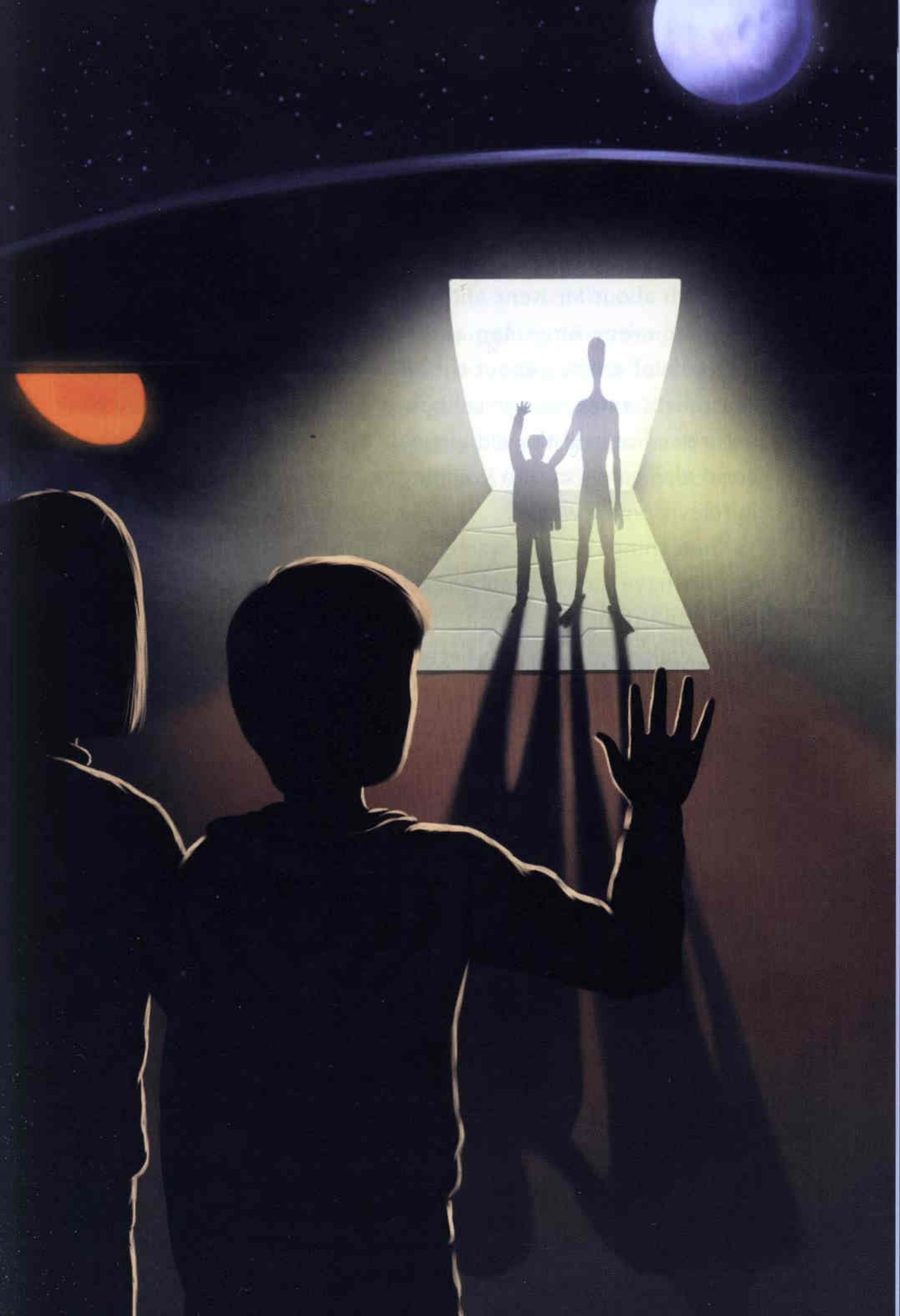
"Of course!" I said.

"This is a very interesting meeting," said my dad. "When it's over we're invited to coffee and cake in the cafeteria."

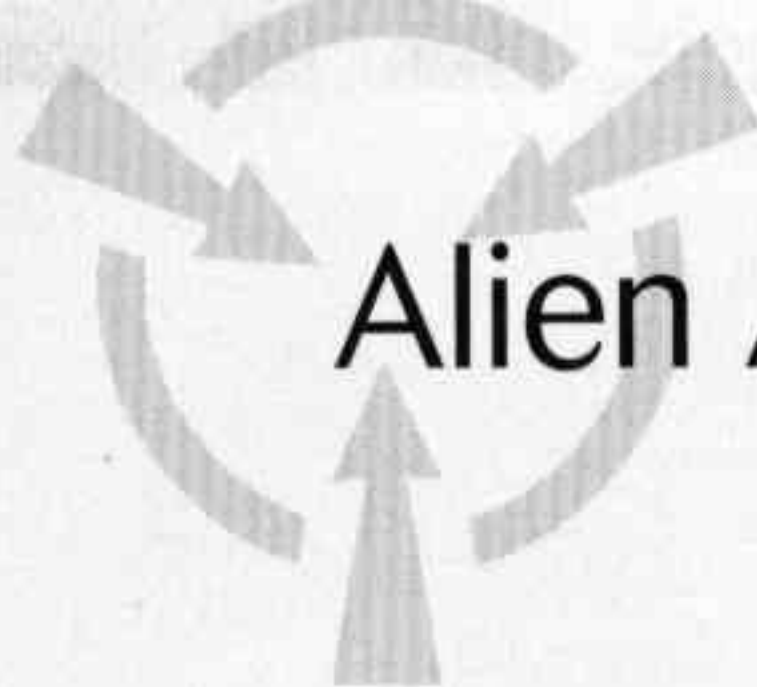
"Oh, OK," I said, but I wasn't interested: I was thinking about Walter, Mr Kent, the spaceship and Mitrax.

Barbara looked at me and smiled. She was the only one who could understand how I felt that evening.









## Alien Alert in Seattle

*Six months later...*

The day after the PTA meeting Barbara and I told everyone the truth about Mr Kent and Walter. The news was on the front pages of every American and foreign newspaper. There were hundreds of articles about the UFO, Mr Kent, Walter and Mitrax. Journalists came to our school and interviewed us. They took pictures of us and the old airfield. TV stations from all over the world also came to film Washington High School. The news was on television for weeks.

Then things slowly started to get back to normal. At school we now have a new science teacher. Her name is Miss Lundberg, and I don't think she's an alien... but who knows!

Mr Wilkinson is feeling better and he often smiles and laughs. He's starting to eat a big lunch in the cafeteria like everyone else. We all like his English class because he is an excellent teacher. He'll be our English teacher next year too.

Tootsie now lives with us and she's happy. She and Tex fought a lot in the beginning but now they're friends and they play together.

Barbara and I often talk about Walter, Mr Kent, the spaceship and our great adventure. Some evenings I sit in the garden, look at Walter's ring and look up at the sky. I think of him on Mitrax.

"Good night, Walter, wherever you are. I hope to see you soon."



## The text and **beyond**

### 1 Comprehension check

Choose the correct word in *italics*.

- 1 Mr Kent opened the small *drawer/cupboard*, but he couldn't find his X-5 *spray/box*.
- 2 Walter told Mr Kent that he knew *nothing/everything* about him.
- 3 Mr Kent was *shocked/angry* after hearing Walter's decision.
- 4 Mr Kent came from a *galaxy/planet* called *Mitrax/Klyreg*.
- 5 Karen thought about the real face under Mr Kent's *mask/wig*.
- 6 Barbara and Karen followed Walter and Mr Kent to the *science laboratory/old airfield*.

### 2 Writing

Tom Miller is a journalist for the *New York Gazette*. He is visiting Seattle because he wants to write an article about Walter and Mr Kent. Complete his email to his editor, Marian Jones. Write ONE word for each space. There is an example at the beginning (0).

To: Marian

Subject: Washington High School - UFO

Hi Marian,

I'm (0) *in*..... Seattle today and I visited Washington High this afternoon. There are journalists and TV stations (1) ..... all over the world. I met the two girls who were friends with Walter Andrews. I talked to (2) ..... for (3) ..... hour. They were friendly and told (4) ..... about Walter and Mr Kent. These girls saw the spaceship at the old airfield, (5) ..... they didn't take (6) ..... pictures. This is going (7) ..... be a great story for the *Gazette*! People everywhere are talking about UFOs, aliens and space. I'm taking the plane to New York tomorrow night at a quarter past eleven. I (8) ..... call you before I leave.

See you soon,

Tom



### 3 Space travel quiz

Take this quiz and see how much you know about space! Check your answer at the bottom of page 91.

- 1 What was the first animal that traveled in space?  
A ☐ a fly  
B ☐ a monkey  
C ☐ a dog  
D ☐ a cat
- 2 Who was the first person to travel in space?  
A ☐ Michael Jordan  
B ☐ Yuri Gagarin  
C ☐ Neil Armstrong  
D ☐ John Glenn
- 3 Who was the first person to walk on the moon?  
A ☐ Neil Armstrong  
B ☐ Buzz Aldrin  
C ☐ Yuri Gagarin  
D ☐ Sally Ride
- 4 Which country has put its flag on the moon?  
A ☐ Russia  
B ☐ United States of America  
C ☐ Great Britain  
D ☐ Canada
- 5 What was the name of the first space station?  
A ☐ Sputnik  
B ☐ Mir  
C ☐ Salyut 1  
D ☐ Skylab





# 4 Crossword

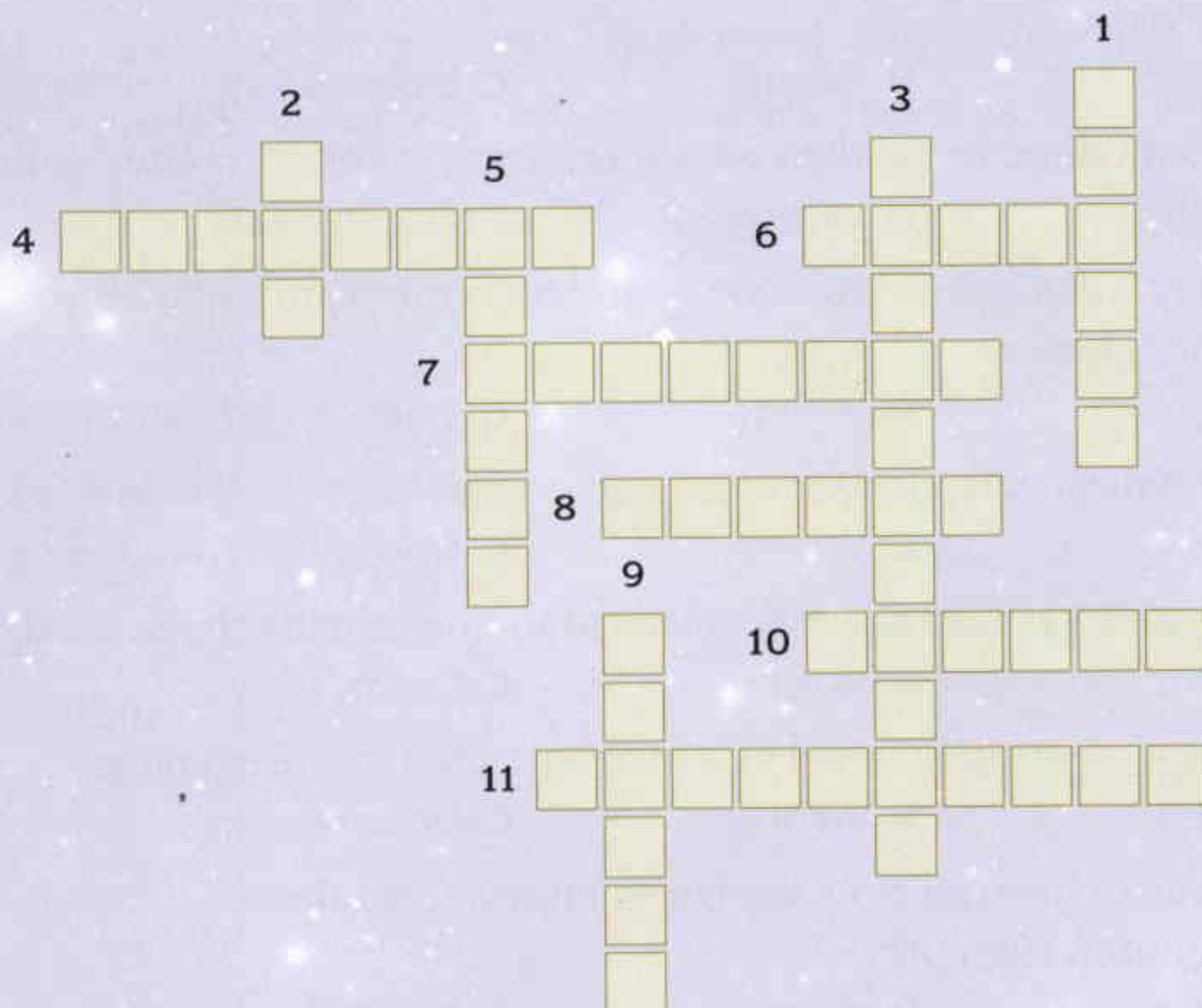
Use the clues to complete the crossword.

## Across

- 4 A place where airplanes land.
- 6 Something you like doing in your free time.
- 7 You keep things inside it.
- 8 Mr Kent's planet.
- 10 You see yourself in it.
- 11 Barbara's sport.

## Down

- 1 Mr Kent's real name.
- 2 Abbreviation for an 'unidentified flying object.'
- 3 People who write for newspapers.
- 5 Closed with a key.
- 9 The Earth is one.





**KET 1 Comprehension check**

Are these sentences "Right" (A) or "Wrong" (B)? If there is not enough information to answer "Right" (A) or "Wrong" (B), choose "Doesn't say" (C).

- 1 In August two policemen saw a UFO near the Cascade Mountains.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 2 Mr Wilkinson's eyes changed color because he wore contact lenses.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 3 Walter's telescope was very expensive.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 4 Karen got an electric shock because she touched Mr Wilkinson's arm.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 5 Karen and Barbara decided to make the English teacher a chocolate cake.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 6 Mr Kent talked to an alien who was sitting in the computer room.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 7 Mr Kent's real name was Klyreg and he came from a planet in another galaxy.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 8 Gortz was an alien leader who lived on Mitrax.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 9 Karen and Barbara saw two aliens standing outside the spaceship.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 10 The PTA meeting finished at a quarter to ten in the evening.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 11 Journalists from all over the world interviewed the students of Washington High School.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say
- 12 Tootsie and Tex finally played together.  
A Right                      B Wrong                      C Doesn't say



**2 Characters**

Match each description to a character. You can use some of the characters more than once.

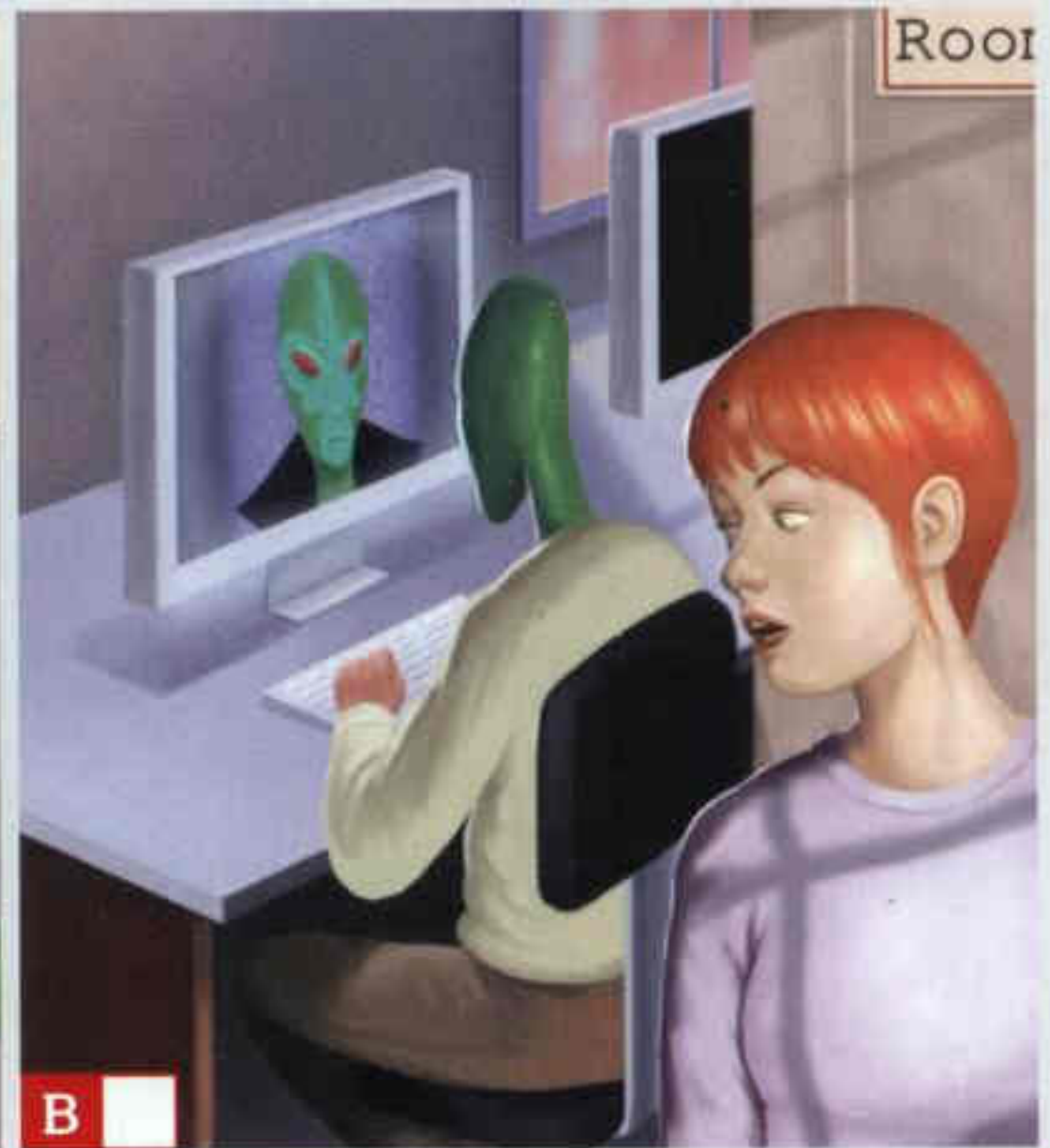
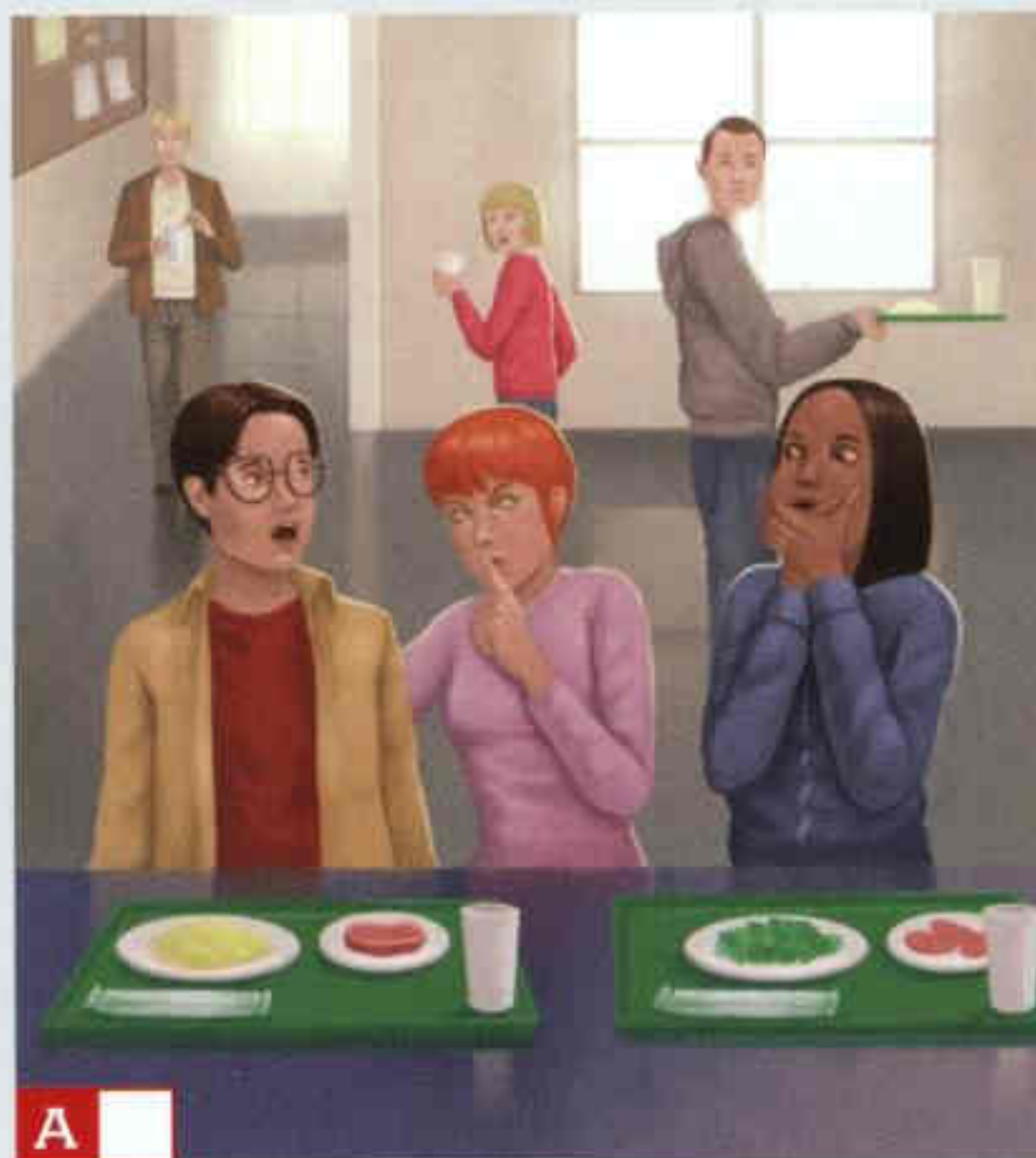
- 1 ☐ His father was always busy with his work.
- 2 ☐ She wanted to become a doctor.
- 3 ☐ He was the science teacher.
- 4 ☐ He wore a wig.
- 5 ☐ She played volleyball.
- 6 ☐ He was Barbara's brother.
- 7 ☐ She was Walter's pet.
- 8 ☐ She forgot her watch in the gym.
- 9 ☐ He wanted to learn more about the universe.
- 10 ☐ He was the school janitor.
- 11 ☐ He was three years old and Karen played with him.
- 12 ☐ He knew a lot of things about the universe.

- A Barbara Reynolds
- B Mr Wilkinson
- C Tootsie
- D Walter Andrews
- E Mr Kent
- F Mr Phillips
- G Karen Nielsen
- H Matt Reynolds
- I Tex



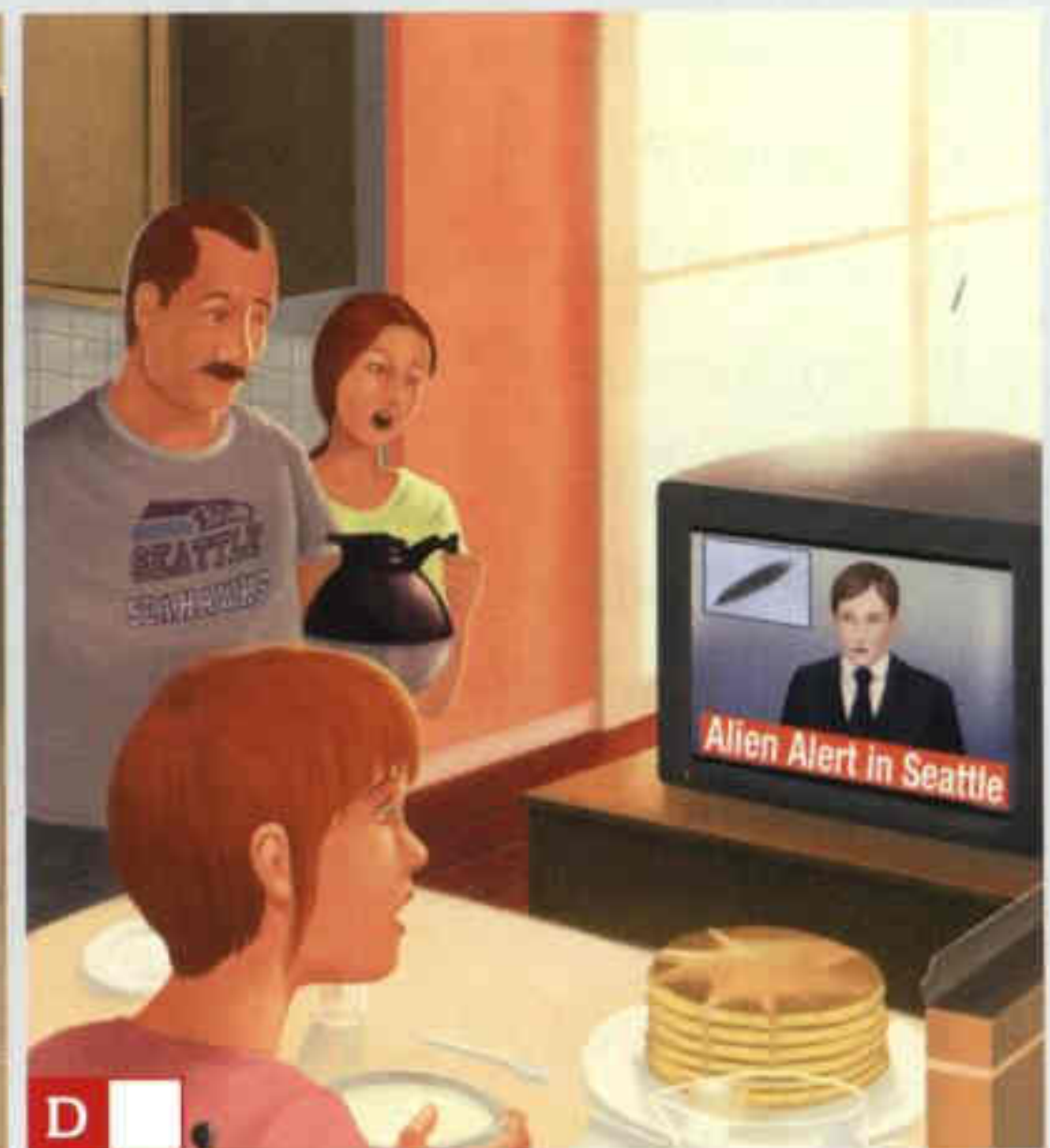
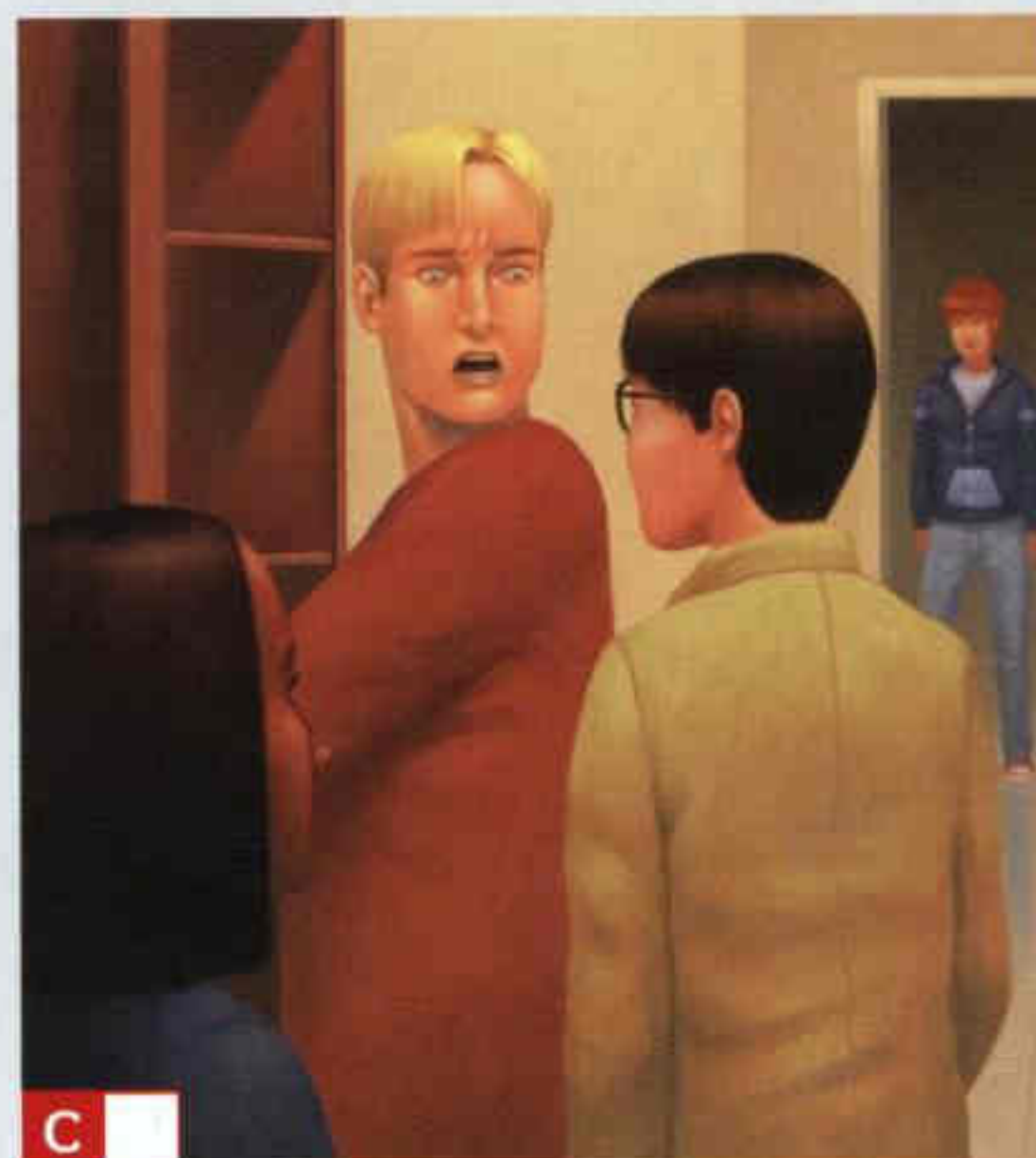
3 Picture summary

Look at the pictures from *Alien Alert in Seattle* below. They are not in the right order. Put them in the order in which they appear in the story.



.....

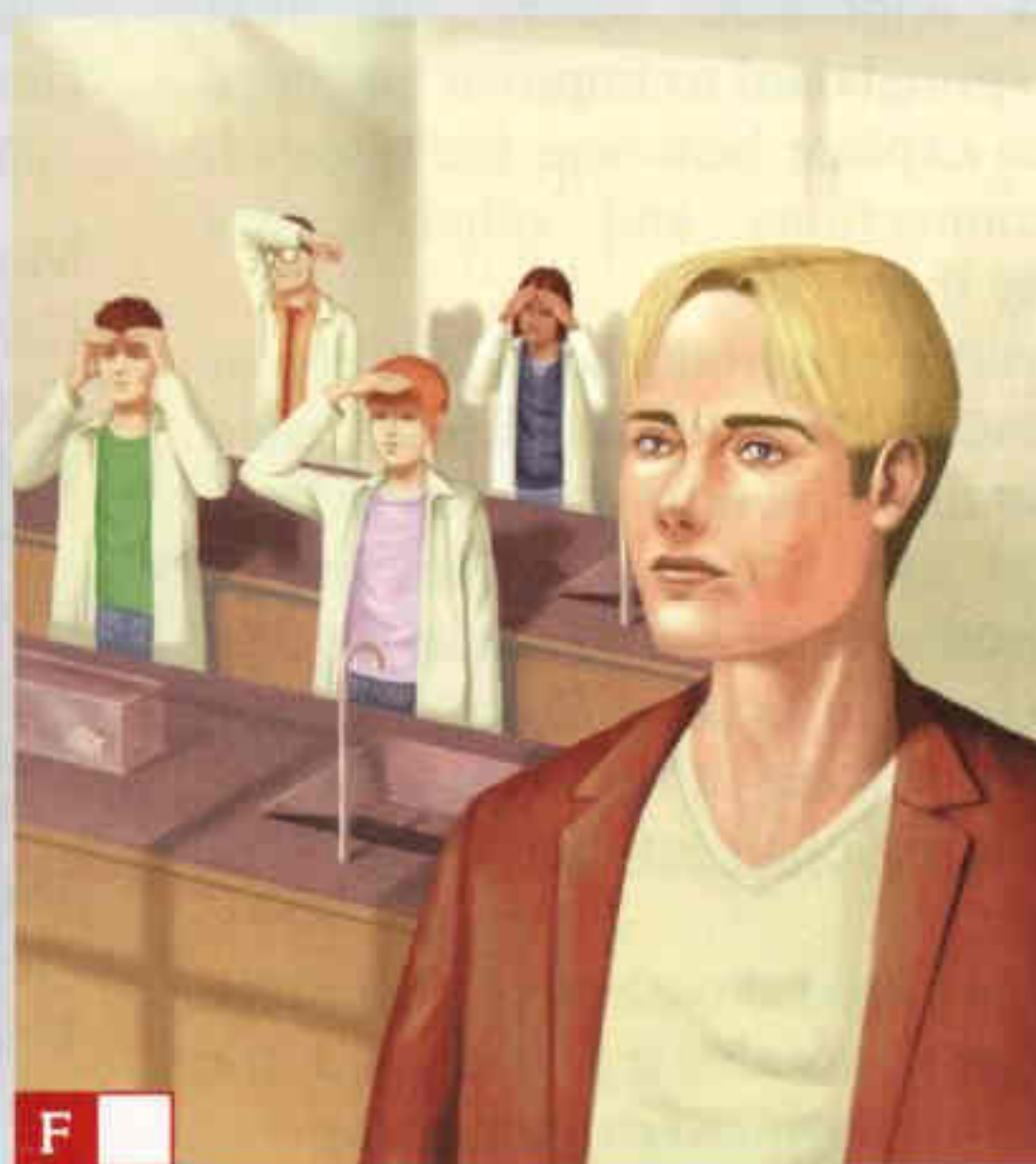
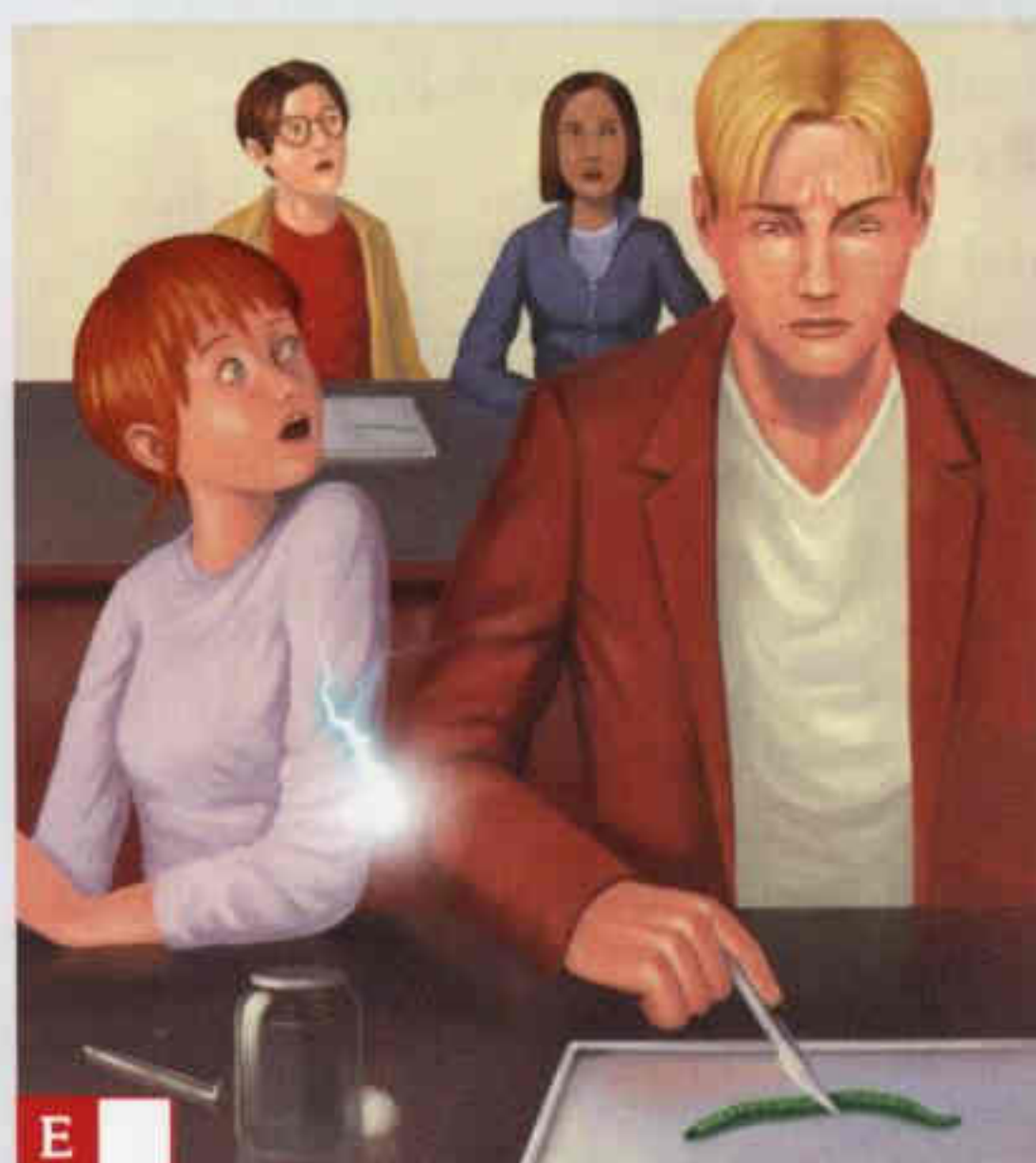
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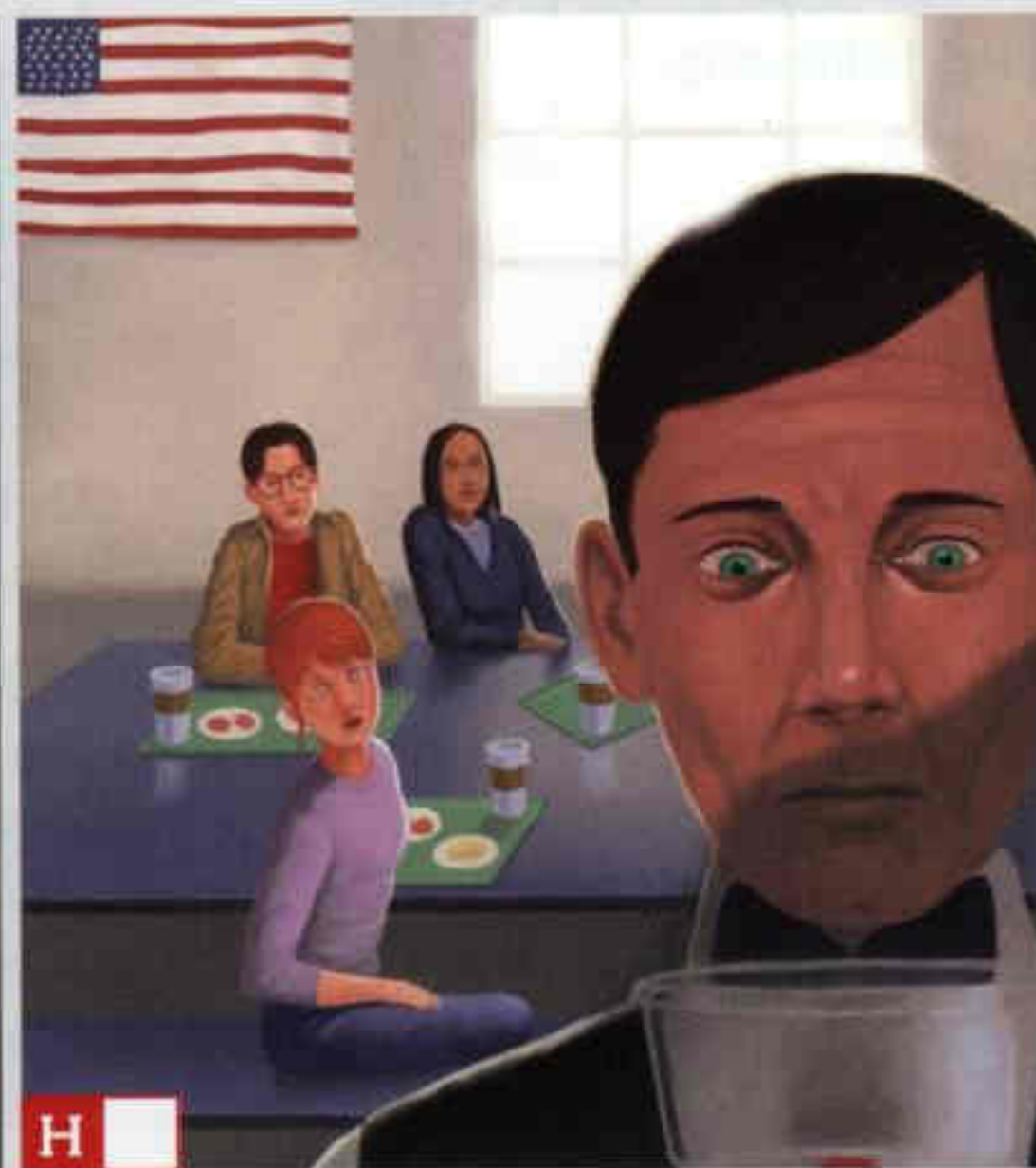
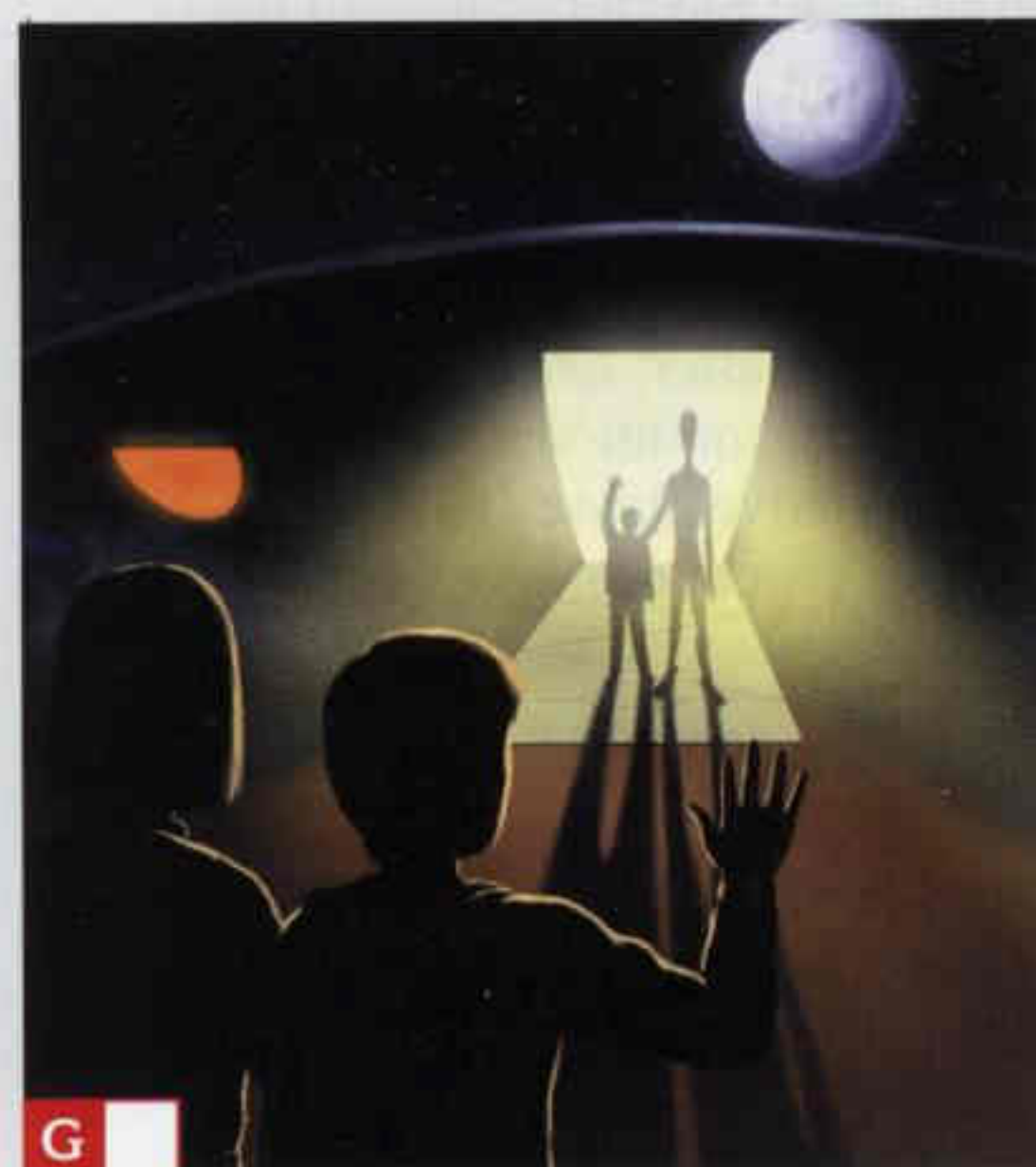
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.....

## 4 A graphic novel

Photocopy these two pages, cut out the pictures and stick them on paper in the right order. Think of words to put in speech or thought bubbles to show what the characters are saying or thinking. Do not use the words that were used in this book! Then write at least one sentence under each picture to narrate what is happening.



This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text.

The new structures introduced in this step of our **READING & TRAINING** series are listed below. Naturally, structures from lower steps are included too. For a complete list of structures used over all the six steps, see *The Black Cat Guide to Graded Readers*, which is also downloadable at no cost from our website, [www.blackcat-cideb.com](http://www.blackcat-cideb.com) or [www.cideb.it](http://www.cideb.it).

The vocabulary used at each step is carefully checked against vocabulary lists used for internationally recognised examinations.

## Step One A2

All the structures used in the previous levels, plus the following:

### Verb tenses

Present Simple

Present Continuous

Past Simple

Past Continuous

Future reference: Present Continuous;  
*going to*; *will*; Present Simple

Present Perfect Simple: indefinite past  
with *ever*, *never* (for experience)

### Verb forms and patterns

Regular and common irregular verbs

Affirmative, negative, interrogative

Imperative: 2<sup>nd</sup> person; *let's*

Passive forms: Present Simple; Past Simple

Short answers

Infinitives after verbs and adjectives

Gerunds (verb + *-ing*) after prepositions and common verbs

Gerunds (verb + *-ing*) as subjects and objects

### Modal verbs

*Can*: ability; requests; permission

*Could*: ability; requests

*Will*: future reference; offers; promises; predictions

*Would ... like*: offers, requests

*Shall*: suggestions; offers

*Should* (present and future reference): advice

*May* (present and future reference): possibility

*Must*: personal obligation

*Mustn't*: prohibition

*Have (got) to*: external obligation

*Need*: necessity

### Types of clause

Co-ordination: *but*; *and*; *or*; *and then*

Subordination (in the Present Simple or Present Continuous) after verbs such as:  
*to be sure*; *to know*; *to think*; *to believe*;  
*to hope*; *to say*; *to tell*

Subordination after: *because*, *when*, *if*  
(zero and 1<sup>st</sup> conditionals)

Defining relative clauses with: *who*, *which*,  
*that*, zero pronoun, *where*

### Other

Zero, definite and indefinite articles

Possessive *'s* and *s'*

Countable and uncountable nouns

*Some*, *any*; *much*, *many*, *a lot*; *(a) little*,  
*(a) few*; *all*, *every*; etc.

Order of adjectives

Comparative and superlative of adjectives  
(regular and irregular)

Formation and comparative/superlative  
of adverbs (regular and irregular)

## Available at Step One:

- **Alien Alert in Seattle** Gina D. B. Clemen
- **Home for Christmas** A. M. Hutchinson
- **Miami Police File: the O'Neill Case**  
Gina D. B. Clemen
- **Missing in Sydney** A. M. Hutchinson
- **Sherlock Holmes Stories**  
Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

- **Tales from The Thousand and One Nights**

- **Tristan and Isolde**

## R&T Discovery

- **Great British Writers** D. Sellen



# Alien Alert in Seattle

After a UFO sighting near Seattle, Washington, everyone is excited. But no one believes there could possibly be an alien in town, until Karen and her friends start noticing some strange things happening.

This reader uses the **EXPANSIVE READING** approach, where the text becomes a springboard to improve language skills and to explore historical background, cultural connections and other topics suggested by the text. As well as the story, written and recorded in American English, this reader contains:

- A wide range of activities practicing the four skills
- Dossiers: *Seattle*, *UFOs*, *Our Solar System* and *High School in the USA*
- Internet projects
- KET-style activities
- Trinity-style activities (Grade 4)
- A full recording of the text
- An exit test and key on our website

Step One	■	CEFR <b>A2</b>	Exam Level KET
Step Two	■	CEFR <b>B1.1</b>	Exam Preparation PET
Step Three	■	CEFR <b>B1.2</b>	Exam Level PET
Step Four	■	CEFR <b>B2.1</b>	Exam Preparation FCE
Step Five	■	CEFR <b>B2.2</b>	Exam Level FCE
Step Six	■	CEFR <b>C1</b>	Exam Preparation CAE

This volume without the side coupon is to be considered a free sample copy not for sale. (Sale or other distribution is forbidden: L. 633/1941, art. 17, c. 2). Exempt from V.A.T. (D.P.R. 26/10/1972, art. 2, lett. d).

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