

The Space Invaders
by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter Two: On the Spaceship

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Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes approx
Preparation: Activity 1: one worksheet for each student or pair of students



Activity 1

- 1 Hand out a copy of the worksheet to each student or pair of students.
- 2 Give students one minute to read through the questions, then ask them to turn the worksheet over so that the questions are face down.
- 3 Play the recording.
- 4 Ask students to turn the worksheet back over and try to select the correct answer for each question.
- 5 Put students in pairs or groups and get them to check together.
- 6 Play the recording again and get pairs or groups to check their answers.
- 2 Ask students to listen carefully.
- 3 Once you stop the recording, ask students to summarize what they heard. Elicit or tell the students that they heard a woman being described.
- 4 Ask the students to draw a picture of the woman.
- 5 Play the recording again and give students time to finish their drawing.
- 6 Finally, put students in groups and have them show each other their pictures.

Rationale: Drawing provides an interesting and fun alternative to checking comprehension through language based activities.

Answers

1. c; 2. a; 3. c; 4. b; 5. a; 6. b

Extension: Question time

Put students in pairs and ask them to write three or four multiple choice questions. Monitor as they work, then put pairs in groups. Students take turns to ask and answer the multiple choice questions, keeping score of the number of correct answers. If necessary, play the recording again.

Extension: Future predictions

Play Chapter Two from 'Good', *thought Varon to himself*, to the end. Put students in pairs and ask them to write three things they think will happen in the next chapter. Summarize the predictions on the board and as a class vote for the three most likely. Keep a record of these to refer to once students have heard Chapter Three.

Activity 2

- 1 Play Chapter Two from *Varon very slowly moved back towards the open door, to She had raised her arms and her hands were tightly closed.*

Worksheet

1. Where was Varon?

- a) In prison
- b) On his spaceship
- c) On someone else's spaceship

2. What did Varon have in his pocket?

- a) A red crystal
- b) An empty box
- c) Nothing

3. Why did Varon look around the room?

- a) He wanted to hide
- b) He thought someone was hiding
- c) He wanted to hide something

4. Who was in the control room?

- a) Just Omega, the robot
- b) A woman and Omega, the robot
- c) Varon and a woman

5. Who did the woman think had made a mistake?

- a) Omega, the robot
- b) Herself
- c) Varon

6. Why won't Omega send Varon back to Zeron?

- a) Omega likes Varon
- b) Omega doesn't want Varon to be hurt
- c) Omega was ordered not to



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Transcript

Varon opened his eyes and looked around. He was lying on a metal bunk in a small room. The bunk was fixed to a metal wall.

'The Zeron guards have caught me,' he thought. 'I am in prison.'

There was a small screen in the metal wall opposite the bunk. Varon got up and pressed a switch. The screen lit up and a picture appeared. Outside there were thousands and thousands of stars and planets. The biggest was a large circle of bright, yellow light. Varon had seen the same yellow light when he was coming towards Zeron in his spaceship. Now he was looking at the planet Zeron from space. A short time ago, he had been standing in a swamp on its surface.

'I'm in a spaceship,' Varon said to himself. 'And it's not my spaceship. But how did I get here?'

Then he remembered the Zeron guards who had been chasing him. And he remembered Omega.

'The robot has teleported me here,' he said to himself. 'But what about the Zeron crystal? Have I still got it?'

Quickly he felt in his pocket for the small box. It was still there. He opened the box and looked at the red crystal lying inside. He was lucky. No one had searched his pockets. No one had taken his precious crystal.

Varon looked around the room for a hiding place. There was no furniture – only the metal walls and the metal bunk. There was the small visual display screen in one wall and above the bunk there was a small air vent. The air vent was covered with a metal grille.

Varon took a small metal tool from his pocket. He pointed the instrument at the edge of the grille and pressed a button. There was a humming noise. Varon pointed the tool at the grille and moved his arm round slowly in a circle. After a few seconds, he reached up and carefully lifted the grille away from the air vent.

He took the box with the crystal in it from his pocket and placed it carefully inside the vent. He put the grille back in place. He used the instrument again. In a few seconds, the grille was firmly fixed back to the wall.

There was no door in the room. But this did not trouble Varon. He pointed the metal tool at the wall between the visual display screen and the bunk. He pressed the button. Nothing happened. Then he turned round and pointed at the other wall. He pressed the button again and this time there was a soft sliding noise. Part of the wall slid to one side. Varon had opened the door.

The corridor outside the room was long and dark, but there was a light at one end. Very quietly, Varon moved down the corridor towards the light. The light was coming from an open door. Varon stopped at the side of the door and carefully looked inside. It was the control room of the spaceship.

There was someone standing inside, near the open door. Quickly, Varon moved back and stood against the metal wall of the corridor.



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Transcript

A woman's voice said. 'It was a mistake to bring him up here to the ship.'

'Mistakes are made by humans. I do not make mistakes,' said a quiet voice. Varon knew the voice immediately. It was Omega's voice.

'You have made a mistake,' the woman repeated angrily. She said each word sharply and coldly.

Varon very slowly moved back towards the open door. He looked carefully into the control room. He saw Omega standing in front of the controls of the spaceship. The woman was standing looking at Omega angrily. She was young, about twenty-five, and she had long, bright red hair.

'You must send this man back to Zeron immediately,' said the woman.

'I cannot do harm to a human being,' Omega replied quietly. 'If I send the man back to Zeron, he will be killed by the guards. I cannot send him back.'

Varon smiled. He did not want to go back to Zeron.

'But you must obey my orders,' said the woman.

'That is correct,' said Omega.

'Then I order you to send this man back to Zeron.'

Omega stood quietly at the controls of the spaceship. He did not do anything.

'Obey my order immediately!' shouted the woman. 'Teleport this man back to Zeron.'

'I do not understand your order,' said Omega quietly.

'It is a simple order,' said the woman angrily. 'Send him back to Zeron.'

The woman now turned towards the robot. Varon could see she was very angry. Her eyes were bright and hard. She had raised her arms and her hands were tightly closed.

'Your order is not simple. It does not make sense. I cannot obey it.' Omega's voice was quiet and soft.

'Why not?'

'Varon is a human being. That is correct?' said Omega.

The woman agreed.

'I cannot harm a human being. If I send him back to Zeron, he will die. Therefore I cannot send him back. I cannot obey your order.'

'Good,' thought Varon to himself. He did not want to go back to Zeron to die. But he did want to go back to Earth. And this spaceship could take him there. He had to find a way to get control of the spaceship. Varon started to move back away from the open door.

'Stay where you are,' said a man's voice behind him. 'Do not move.'

Varon felt cold metal touch the back of his neck. He knew that the man was pointing a laser gun at his head. He stood very still.

