

The Space Invaders
by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter Four: 'You Need Varon's Help'

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes (approx)
Preparation: Activity 2 (Extension): large sheets of paper and coloured pens.



Activity 1

- 1 Play the recording of Chapter 4 and ask students to listen.
- 2 Then, ask them to write three sentences summarizing the story in the chapter.
- 3 Put students in pairs and get them to share their summaries.
- 4 Tell the pairs that they must agree on the three sentences that best summarize the story, or they can combine their ideas in three new sentences.
- 5 Ask students if they want you to play the chapter again.
- 6 Put pairs into groups of four and get them to repeat the process in steps 3 and 4.
- 7 Next, ask a few students to write out their sentences on an OHP transparency or on the board and display them for the class to read.
- 8 Finally, ask all the students to choose the three sentences that best summarize the chapter.

Extension: Hot off the press (2)

Ask students to work in pairs or small groups and write a short article about the story so far. This article can be part of the ongoing newspaper project they started after listening to Chapter 1.

Activity 2

- 1 Write the following on the board:
 - a) To Earth
 - b) A computer
 - c) A missile
 - d) That Miranda and Garth are dead
 - e) Kill Varon
 - f) His help
- 2 Explain that these are answers to six questions.
- 3 Tell the students you will play the recording of Chapter 4 again. They should listen and think of the questions that match each of the answers.
- 4 Play the recording.
- 5 Put students in pairs and get them to compare their questions.
- 6 Play the recording again, if necessary.
- 6 Ask a few students to read out their questions (you might want to see how many variations students have written).

Key:

Possible questions:

- a) Where do they want to go?
- b) What did Miranda and Garth steal?
- c) What did they fire into the moon?
- d) What do the (Earth) police think?
- e) What is Garth going to do?
- f) What does Omega say they need Varon for?

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LISTENING SKILLS TEACHER'S NOTES

Extension: Wanted - Dangerous criminals!

Ask students to make a *Wanted* poster for Miranda and Garth.

Note: When police are looking for a criminal they often have a *Wanted* poster that has a photo or a drawing as well as some information about the criminal and the crime.

You may want to show students an example. You could use an image search site, such as Google Images, to find a sample poster.



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Transcript

There was silence on the spaceship. Omega was standing quietly at the controls again. Varon was thinking about how he could learn to control Omega. Miranda and Garth were thinking about what Omega had told them. Varon was richer than both of them.

Miranda was the first to speak.

'So we all want to go back to Earth,' she said. 'Then let's go there. Omega, take us back to Earth, now.'

Omega pushed switches on the control panel. A low noise filled the room.

'Stop,' said Garth sharply. 'Stop, Omega. We cannot go back to Earth yet.'

Omega pulled back the switches and the noise faded away.

'You are stupid, Miranda,' said Garth. 'We have travelled millions of kilometres through space. We have been running and hiding from everyone for a long time now. But we can't go back to Earth yet. First, we must make sure that our plan has worked.'

'Plan?' asked Varon. 'What's your plan?'

'It's simple,' replied Garth. 'When we stole the computer, we knew that the Earth police were following us. So we stole this spaceship – the fastest spaceship that has ever been built.'

'The fastest and most powerful,' added Omega.

'When we left Earth, we flew towards the Moon,' continued Garth. 'The police ships were far behind. We fired a small missile at the surface of the Moon. By the time it exploded, we were thousands of kilometres away.'

'But what was the plan?' asked Varon.

'The police saw the missile explode,' explained Garth. 'We hope they will believe that this ship crashed on the Moon. Then they will think we are dead and they will forget about us.'

'A clever plan,' said Varon. 'But has it worked?'

'It's time to find out,' said Miranda. 'We have been hiding for long enough. Omega, find out if our plan has worked.'

Omega moved to one side of the control panel. He stood in front of a large, white screen. He placed his arms on the controls at each side of the screen. Bright lights, red and green and blue, flashed across the screen. There was a humming noise.

After a few moments, the bright lights faded away and the noise stopped. There was silence. Omega took his arms away from the control



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panel. He turned slowly towards Garth and Miranda.

'The Earth police have stopped looking for you,' he said quietly. 'They believe that this ship crashed on the Moon. They think that the ship was completely destroyed and that both of you are dead.'

Miranda laughed with joy.

'The plan has worked,' she cried excitedly. 'Now we can go back to Earth and get the computer.'

'But what about him?' asked Garth, pointing at Varon.

'Take me back to Earth with you,' said Varon. 'I have some business there.'

'I am sure you have business there,' said Garth. 'But I think you've forgotten something.'

'What's that?' asked Varon.

'You are the only person who knows that we are still alive,' answered Garth. 'You are the only person who knows we have this ship. If we take you back to Earth, you could tell the police. They will pay a big reward.' 'A big reward,' said Varon with a laugh. 'Haven't you forgotten something?'

'Tell me what I have forgotten.'

'You have forgotten what Omega has told you,' replied Varon. 'When I get back to Earth, I will be richer than both of you. I don't need any reward from the police.'

'You won't be richer than us,' said Garth in a harsh voice. 'You will never get back to Earth. I am going to kill you now.'

Garth pointed his laser gun at Varon's head.

'Don't kill him,' said Miranda suddenly. Her eyes were shining with greed. 'First, find out what he has got. Why will he be richer than both of us?'

'I don't believe Omega,' said Garth. 'It's impossible. There's nothing to steal on Zeron.'

Garth put his fingers to the trigger of the gun. But he couldn't close his fingers. Omega's arm was pointing at Garth.

'You must not kill this man,' said Omega. 'You must ask him to help you. You need his help.'

'Help?' asked Miranda sharply. 'What help?'

'If Varon does not help you, you will never get back to Earth!'

