

The Space Invaders
by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter 10: More Plans

Author: Adrian Tennant
Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes approx
Preparation: Activity 2: one worksheet for each student.

Activity 1

1 On the board write the following verbs in three groups:

A	B	C
help	obey	steal
knock	recharge	murder
stop	shake	warn

- Put students in three groups and give each group one set of words.
- Ask the groups to listen for their words and write down the situations they are used in.
- Play the recording of Chapter 10.
- Then, ask groups to check their answers together.
- Put students in new groups so that each new group contains one student with each set of words.
- Tell the students to explain how their words were used in the story to the other students in their group.
- Monitor and help where necessary.

Extension: Tell your story

Ask the students to try to remember a situation where they felt in danger or where they wanted something a lot. Put the students in pairs and ask them to recount the situation to each other. Encourage the students to ask each other questions and explore the situations. If necessary, choose a confident student and model the activity with them.



Activity 2

- Hand out copies of the worksheet to each student.
- Ask the students to read through the texts of the characters' thoughts. Then play the recording of Chapter 10.
- On the board write the names of the four characters in the story: *Varon*, *Omega*, *Garth* and *Miranda*.
- Ask the students to match the names to each text. Point out that there are only three texts but four characters.
- Put students in pairs and ask them to compare their answers.
- Then, check the answers as a class.

Key: Text 1 = *Omega*; Text 2 = *Varon*; Text 3 = *Miranda*

Extension: Garth's story

Put students in pairs and ask them to work together and write a short text, similar to the ones in Activity 2, for Garth. Monitor and help if necessary. Ask several students to read their texts to the class.

Activity 2: Worksheet

Text 1

The fools are going to kill each other. They won't listen to me and I keep warning them. But they don't know that I've heard their plans. They still think they control me!



Text 2

I need to find a way to protect myself. I'm in danger. I need to get Omega to help me. They need to get the crystal from Zeron, but they'll try to kill me.

Text 3

They're all fools. They don't realise I can be dangerous and they don't think I have a weapon. My homemade gun will work perfectly and then I'll escape. I'll be rich and they'll be dead.

Transcript

Miranda went out into the corridor and walked the short distance to Varon's cabin. She touched a button in the wall and the door opened immediately. Varon was lying asleep on the bunk.

Miranda looked down at him.

'You're a fool,' she thought. 'How can you lie there sleeping? Anyone who trusts Garth is a fool.'

She shook Varon by the shoulder until he woke up.

'What's wrong?' he asked sleepily. 'Are we ready to leave?'

'Not yet,' replied Miranda. 'I have come to talk to you. I want you to help me.'

'I am going to help you to get the Zeron crystals. What more help do you want?' asked Varon.

'You know very little about me and Garth,' began Miranda.

'I know enough,' interrupted Varon. 'You are thieves. And you are murderers.'

'I am not a murderer,' said Miranda. 'I helped Garth on Earth. But I did not kill the owner of this spaceship. It was Garth who murdered him. I don't want to stay with Garth any longer.'

'Why are you telling me this?' asked Varon.

'Because we need to help each other,' replied Miranda. 'When you have opened the compartment in the strongroom, he plans to kill you. And he'll not want to share anything with me. When he has killed you, he'll kill me.'

'But what can we do against Garth?' asked Varon. 'There is only one laser gun on the ship and he never lets it go.'

'That's true,' agreed Miranda. 'But do you remember when Garth wanted to use the gun and kill you in the control room? Omega was able to stop him using the gun. But Omega will not be able to help when we're on Zeron. He can't go down there with us. Robots cannot steal.'

'So there's nothing we can do against Garth,' said Varon.

'Yes, there is,' said Miranda. 'We can ask Omega for help.'

'Ask Omega for help! How can he help us?'

'Omega has to help us,' explained Miranda. 'Omega is a robot. He is programmed to obey us. We can order him to give us something to stop Garth using the laser gun.'

'What can Omega give us?' asked Varon.

'Omega will think of something,' replied Miranda. 'Let's go now and speak to him.'

'What about Garth?'

'He is asleep,' said Miranda. 'Let's go to the control room.'

Omega was waiting for them when they arrived in the control room.

'Omega,' said Miranda, 'we need your help.'

'What do you want?' asked Omega.

'We are afraid of Garth,' Miranda explained. 'He wants the Zeron crystals for himself. He may try to kill us on Zeron.'

'I have warned you,' said Omega. 'Death is waiting for you on Zeron.'

'But you can help us,' interrupted Miranda.



Transcript

'I cannot help you to kill one another.'

'We know that,' replied Miranda. 'You are a robot. We are not asking you to kill anybody.'

'What help can I give you?'

'Give Varon something that will stop Garth using the laser gun,' said Miranda.

Omega stood for a few moments in silence. Then he spoke to Varon.

'Your sonic key needs to be recharged,' he said. 'You must tell Garth to give the key to me.'

'Why? What will you do to it?' Varon asked.

'I will give it more power,' replied Omega. 'If you point it at Garth's hand, the power will knock the gun to the floor.'

'And I will be ready,' said Miranda. 'I will pick it up and I will make sure that Garth does not do any harm to us.'

Varon thought about this idea for a few seconds. Miranda watched him carefully. Omega was working at the control panel.

'There is something else,' said Varon. 'I need something else.'

'What do you need?' asked Miranda.

'Omega obeys your orders,' explained Varon. 'And he obeys Garth's orders. But he has not been told to obey my orders.'

'There is no need for him to obey your orders,' answered Miranda. 'What orders do you need to give Omega?'

'The most important order of all,' said Varon. 'The order to teleport us back from Zeron to this ship.'

'But why do you need to give that order?' asked Miranda.

'I am the only person who has been in the Zeron strongroom,' explained Varon. 'I'll know first if the Zeron guards learn that we are there. It will be safer if I am able to give the order to teleport us back to the ship.'

Miranda thought of the injection gun which she had hidden in her overalls.

'If I agree to this it will please him,' she thought to herself. 'He'll trust me if I tell Omega to obey him. But it will be me who will tell Omega to take me back to the ship. When I use the injection gun on him, he will fall unconscious in a few seconds.'

'Omega, you will obey Varon's orders,' she said. 'You will obey his orders when we are on Zeron.'

'I understand,' said Omega quietly. 'But no orders will come to me from Zeron. You will be dead.'

Miranda didn't listen to Omega. She was thinking again about the Zeron crystals. She was thinking of wealth and power.

'Now we can sleep,' she said to Varon. 'Omega will tell us when we are ready to leave.'

'That will be in two and a half hours' time,' said Omega. 'I will tell you when we are ready to leave.'

