

The Space Invaders

by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter Twelve: Death on Zeron

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Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes (approx)
Preparation: Activity 2: One copy of the transcript (text) or part of the transcript with gaps for each student.

Activity 1

- 1 Ask students to think back to the end of Chapter 11 and quickly review what has happened in the story so far. Ask them to predict how the story is going to end. (If necessary, play Chapter 11 again).
- 2 Then, play the recording of Chapter 12.
- 3 Put students into pairs and ask them to discuss their predictions and what they heard.
- 4 Ask students if their predictions were correct.

Extension: Storyboarding

Put students into groups and ask them to choose five to eight clips or scenes from the story. Ask them to draw these scenes and make a storyboard.

Note: A storyboard is a series of pictures used to illustrate a story. They are often used when making a film to show the key moments of a story.

Activity 2

- 1 Make a copy of the transcript and delete certain words to create gaps. Then, photocopy enough copies for your students.
- 2 Hand out the gapped text to your students and give them time to read through it.
- 3 Explain that you will play the recording and they should complete the text with the words they hear.
- 4 Play the recording.



- 5 Pair students and get them to check their answers together.
- 6 Play the recording again.
- 7 Check as a class.

Note: You could extend the activity by asking students to think of one or two other words that could logically fit into the gaps, e.g. *In a few minutes/seconds the humans....* You could also choose to focus on particular language areas, e.g. verbs, adjectives, prepositions.

Example text:

The spaceship began to slow _____. It was getting _____ Zeron. In a few _____ the humans were _____ and back in the _____ room. They watched the Zeron _____ ships on the visual display _____.

Extension: Space Invaders II

On the board write *Space Invaders II: The Sequel*. Ask your students if they have seen any films that have a sequel (a second, and sometimes third or fourth film based on the same characters etc.). Put the students in groups and ask them to think about a sequel for *Space Invaders*. Invite groups to tell the class their ideas.

Chapter Twelve: Death on Zeron

Transcript

The spaceship began to slow down. It was getting near Zeron. In a few minutes, the humans were awake and back in the control room. They watched the Zeron guard ships on the visual display screen.

‘Have you put the power shield round the ship?’ Garth asked Omega.

‘We do not need the power shield yet,’ answered Omega. ‘We are still far away, but we are approaching quickly. You must prepare yourselves.’

‘Have you recharged the sonic key?’ asked Garth.

‘It is ready,’ was Omega’s reply.

‘Give me the key,’ ordered Garth.

Omega gave the key to Garth and he put it in his pocket. His laser gun was fixed in his belt.

‘The power shield is now around the ship,’ announced Omega. ‘You have seven minutes before I take the ship away from Zeron.’

The three of them moved into the teleporter. Omega told Garth to stand between Miranda and Varon.

‘The control switch for the teleporter is beside your right foot,’ Omega explained. ‘When you touch the switch, the three of you will be teleported immediately into the Zeron strongroom.’

The planet Zeron had now become much larger on the visual display screen. The Zeron guard ships looked strong and dangerous.

‘Are you ready?’ asked Omega.

‘I am ready,’ answered Garth and the two others nodded in agreement.

Omega counted out the seconds. ‘Six – five – four – three – two – one – zero.’

Garth touched the switch with his foot. Immediately, the three of them were standing in the Zeron strongroom. Garth pulled the laser gun from his belt. The strongroom was brightly lit and it was silent.

Garth and Miranda took their positions beside the door which they had seen on the plan.

‘You can have the key now,’ said Garth to Varon.

Varon crossed the room and took the key from Garth’s hand. He hurried to the wall and pointed it at the door of one of the compartments. He held the key firmly and pressed the button. They all stood and waited. Nothing happened.

‘What’s wrong?’ asked Garth.

‘The locks are strong,’ replied Varon. ‘It will take some time. Let me get on with my work. Keep watching the door.’

Garth pointed his laser gun at the door but he looked at Varon. Miranda watched them both.

At last the door of the compartment slid open with a soft noise. The Zeron crystal glowed red in the darkness of the compartment. Varon picked it up. The heavy red crystal lay in his hand.



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Transcript

'Quick, Varon,' Miranda said. 'Open another compartment. There isn't much time.'

Suddenly the strongroom was filled with noise.

'*Danger – danger,*' said a voice. It came from the alarm system in the Zeron strongroom. '*Invaders have broken into the strongroom. There are thieves in the strongroom.*

Danger – danger!

'Give me the crystal, Varon!' said Garth suddenly. And he pointed the laser gun directly at him.

Before he could fire the laser, Varon pointed the sonic key at Garth's hand. He pressed the button. The laser gun jumped out of Garth's hand and fell to the floor. Miranda moved quickly. She took up the gun and pointed it at Garth.

'Miranda!' shouted Garth. 'What – ?' But he did not finish speaking.

Miranda fired the laser and Garth fell to the floor. She went and stood beside Varon.

'Open another compartment,' she said.

Varon put the crystal in his pocket and turned back to the strongroom wall. His back was towards Miranda. He did not see her pull the injection gun from her pocket. But as she fired the injection gun, he felt pain in his neck. He turned back sharply.

'You tricked me!' he shouted. He took a step towards her. Miranda was frightened. How long would it take before the injection worked? Varon took another step.

Miranda did not wait. She raised the laser gun and pointed it at Varon. But the sonic key was still in Varon's hand. He aimed it at the laser. The laser gun flew from Miranda's hand and dropped on the floor. It lay near Garth's hand.

'You tricked me!' Varon shouted again. He was beginning to feel sleepy. He saw Garth move and pick up the laser. Garth fired the laser gun at Miranda.

Omega was watching everything on the visual display screen. There were only three seconds left for Omega to make his decision.

'I can leave Varon in the strongroom on Zeron,' thought Omega. 'If I do not bring him back, the Zerons will kill him. He will die on Zeron with Garth and Miranda.'

Omega looked again at the display screen. Varon lay unconscious on the floor of the strongroom. Miranda and Garth were dead.

'I am free,' thought Omega. 'I can do anything I like. But I must not become like these humans. I can share this spaceship with Varon.'

The Zeron guards rushed into the strongroom. They were firing their laser guns at Garth and Miranda. But the thieves were already dead. And Varon was no longer in the strongroom. He was lying unconscious on a bunk in the safety room of the spaceship.

Omega touched the controls. The ship moved quickly away from Zeron and flew out into outer space.

