

The Space Invaders
by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter 6: 'Steal another crystal'

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Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes (approx)
Preparation: Photocopy of the worksheet for each student



Activity 1

- 1 Ask the students to imagine they are Omega (the robot).
- 2 Explain that you will play the recording of the chapter, pausing at certain points.
- 3 The students have to imagine what Omega will say or do every time you pause the recording.
- 4 Play the recording pausing at the following points:
 - 'Why don't you go and bring the crystal yourself, Omega?'
 - Omega had been quietly listening to all they were saying.
 - 'Why not?' asked Garth and Miranda together.
 - 'We will order you to teleport us down to Zeron,' said Miranda.
 - 'What's that?' asked Garth.
 - 'Life support systems at danger level,' said the voice of the ship's warning system.

- 5 Each time you pause, ask students to work in pairs and guess what they think Omega will do or say.
- 6 At the end, ask the students how good their guesses were.

Activity 2

- 1 Give each student a copy of the worksheet.
- 2 Explain that all the sentences are wrong. The task is to listen to the story and correct each sentence.
- 3 Play the recording through once.
- 4 Put students in pairs and have them compare and check their answers together.

- 5 Play the recording again.
- 6 Get pairs to check again and then check as a class.

Key:

1. Garth was pointing the laser gun at Varon.
2. Garth and Miranda **nodded** their heads.
3. 'You're not going to get any share of our money,' added Miranda.
4. Miranda's eyes looked **cruel** and greedy.
5. 'It's **not** easy to open the compartments where the crystals are kept.'
6. 'There is **great** danger on Zeron.'
7. Garth was holding the sonic key in his **left** hand.

Activity 3

Note: You are now half way through the story (there are a total of 12 chapters). So, it's a good point at which to recap the story so far.

- 1 Put students in small groups.
- 2 Ask students to work in their group and try and remember what has happened so far. Encourage them to work together, monitor and help if asked.
- 3 Play the 8 chapters again so that students can check their memories.

Extension activity

Tell the students that Space Invaders is going to be made into a big Hollywood movie. Ask the students to decide which actors and actresses would play the different characters from the story and ask them to design a poster promoting the movie.

Worksheet

Listen to the story and correct each of the following sentences:

1. Varon was pointing the laser gun at Garth.
2. Garth and Miranda shook their heads.
3. "We'll give you a share of our money," added Miranda.
4. Miranda's eyes looked blue and greedy.
5. "It's easy to open the compartments where the crystals are kept."
6. "There is no danger on Zeron."
7. Garth was holding the sonic key in his right hand.



Chapter 6: 'Steal another crystal'

Transcript

There was silence in the control room. Garth was pointing his laser gun at Varon. Miranda was waiting for Varon's reply. Omega was working at the control panel.

'Omega knows everything,' said Varon at last. 'He can tell you where it is. Why don't you go and bring the crystal yourself, Omega?'

'Zeron crystals are harmful to robots,' replied Omega. 'I cannot touch a Zeron crystal.'

'At last,' said Miranda. 'At last you have told us that there is something which you cannot do.'

'But you know where the crystal is,' said Garth to Omega. 'Tell me and I will bring it to you.'

'I'll go and get it myself,' said Varon. 'But first, I want an agreement.'

'What kind of agreement?' asked Garth and Miranda together.

'We need this crystal to get us back to Earth. That's correct, isn't it?'

Garth and Miranda nodded their heads.

'But I was going to sell this crystal for many millions of credits,' continued Varon. 'If we use the Zeron crystal to get us back to Earth, I will have nothing. And you will be able to sell the computer you stole.'

'What agreement do you want?' asked Garth.

'You're not going to get any share of our money,' added Miranda. 'It is ours. We stole the computer.'

'I don't want any share of your money,' said Varon, 'I want something much more valuable.'

'Tell us what you want,' said Garth.

'I must go back to Zeron.'

'Back to Zeron!' cried Miranda. 'You're mad.'

'I'm not mad,' said Varon. 'Think about it. Omega can teleport us down into the Zeron strongroom. We can steal another crystal.'

Miranda's eyes looked cruel and greedy. Varon was not mad.

'Why only one crystal?' she asked. 'Why can't we steal one for each of us? Then we will be the richest people in all the Universe.'

'We may not have time,' explained Varon. 'It is not easy to open the compartments where the crystals are kept.'

'What do you mean?' asked Garth.

'Each crystal is locked in a compartment. There is only one crystal in each compartment. And it takes time to open a compartment.'

Omega had been quietly listening to all they were saying. Now he turned from the control panel and looked at them.

'I must warn the three of you,' he said. 'There is great danger on Zeron. Death is waiting there for you.'

'There will be no danger,' said Varon. 'You can teleport us down straight into the strongroom. We will take a crystal. Then you can teleport us back.'



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Transcript

'We will take three crystals,' said Miranda.

'I cannot teleport you down to Zeron,' said Omega quietly.

'Why not?' asked Garth and Miranda together.

'I know that death is waiting for you on Zeron. I cannot send a human being to his death.'

'We will order you to teleport us down to Zeron,' said Miranda.

'I have already explained to you,' said Omega. 'I am unable to obey orders which I do not understand.'

The three humans looked at Omega. They each wanted to get back to Zeron. Each one of them wanted a valuable Zeron crystal.

'There is something I may be able to do,' said Omega after a moment's silence.

'What's that?' asked Garth.

'I may be able to change the controls of the teleporter,' explained Omega. 'Then you will be able to teleport yourselves down into the strongroom on Zeron.'

'And you will be able to teleport us back here to the ship?' asked Varon.

'I do not think I will be able to do that,' replied Omega.

'Why not?' asked Garth.

'I think you will all die on Zeron.'

'Nonsense,' said Miranda. Her eyes were bright with greed. 'Varon will open the compartments quickly. We will be in and out of the strongroom before the guards know. And we will each have a crystal.'

'Good,' said Garth. 'That's agreed. We will now go back to Zeron. We will teleport ourselves down and steal another crystal.'

'Three more crystals,' Miranda said eagerly.

'All right,' agreed Varon. 'We will try to steal three more crystals.'

Omega moved back to the control panel. A strong blue light was shining on the screen.

'*Life support systems at danger level,*' said the voice of the ship's warning system.

'You must hurry,' said Omega. 'The life support systems are beginning to weaken. You have twenty minutes left.'

'I'll go and get the crystal now,' said Varon. 'Where's my sonic key? I need it.'

Garth was holding the sonic key in his left hand. The laser gun was still in his right hand.

'I'm coming with you,' he said to Varon.

'And I'm coming too,' added Miranda.

