

The Space Invaders
by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter 7: Omega receives the Zeron crystal

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Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes (approx)
Preparation: Photocopy one worksheet for each student for activity 1.

Activity 1

- 1 Tell students that they are going to listen to Chapter 7.
- 2 Play the chapter.
- 3 Put students in pairs and ask them to discuss what they can remember.
- 4 After about three to five minutes stop the students and hand out a copy of the worksheet to each one.
- 5 Tell them to work with their partner and see how many of the questions they can answer.
- 6 Play the recording again.
- 6 Get pairs to check their answers with each other again.
- 6 Check as a group.

Key

- a) Omega;
- b) To receive the crystal;
- c) White;
- d) On;
- e) So that Omega can receive the crystal;
- f) Omega;
- g) **Student's own answers;**
- h) Varon's. To operate the sonic key.



Extension activity

- 1 On the board write up the following adjectives:

impatient	calm	worried
sensible	scared	scared
clever	unemotional	positive
trusting	unsure	

- 2 Ask students to work in pairs and decide which adjectives best describe Garth, Omega, Varon and Miranda.
- 3 Ask students to give reasons for their choices.

Activity 2

- 1 On the board write the following:-
Omega is ... Omega needs ...
Omega has ... Omega can't ...
- 2 Tell the students you'll play the recording of the chapter again. You want them to listen and then complete each sentence.
- 3 Tell them that the end of each sentence might not be in the recording word for word (they might need to write down what they feel / use their imagination a bit).
- 4 Play the recording.

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- 5 Put students in pairs to complete the sentences together.
- 6 Play the recording again, if necessary.
- 7 Ask a few students for their endings to each sentence and discuss as a class.

Suggested key

- Omega has (*a compartment*).
- Omega needs (*the Zeron crystal*).
- Omega can't (*tell lies, harm humans*).

Note: You could do a similar activity using sentences about the crystal i.e. The crystal is *valuable*. The crystal was *Varon's*. The crystal isn't the only *one/unique* etc.



Extension activity

Ask the students to draw/design a robot. You could get them to label the robot and describe any special features or abilities.

Note: This activity could be done in pairs or small groups and the designs/drawings could then be displayed around the classroom.

Worksheet

- a) Who needs to be prepared?
- b) What do they need to be prepared for?
- c) What colour is the switch in Omega's compartment?
- d) What is the switch set to at the moment?
- e) Why does the switch need to be changed?
- f) Who does Garth not trust?
- g) Why doesn't he trust him / her?
- h) Whose fingerprints are important? Why?

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Work with a partner and answer the questions below.

- a) Who needs to be prepared?
- b) What do they need to be prepared for?
- c) What colour is the switch in Omega's compartment?
- d) What is the switch set to at the moment?
- e) Why does the switch need to be changed?
- f) Who does Garth not trust?
- g) Why doesn't he trust him / her?
- h) Whose fingerprints are important? Why?



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Transcript

The three humans moved towards the door of the control room.

'Stop,' said Omega.

The three stopped and waited for Omega to speak.

'There are some things to do first. Do not bring a Zeron crystal into this room until you have prepared me.'

'Prepared you?' asked Garth. 'What do you mean?'

'I have already told you,' answered Omega. 'Zeron crystals are harmful to robots. You must prepare me to receive the crystal.'

'And how do we prepare you?' asked Varon.

'You, Varon, are the only person who can do this.'

'Why me?'

'You have the sonic key,' replied Omega. 'You will need to use your key. Here, in my right side, there is a small compartment. You must open it with the sonic key.'

Omega touched his right side with his arm.

'Inside this compartment,' Omega went on, 'you will see a white control switch. This switch is locked in the "on" position. You must use your sonic key again. Unlock the switch and set it to the "off" position.'

'Is that all?' asked Varon.

'No,' replied Omega. 'When the switch is at the "off" position, you must put the Zeron crystal inside the compartment. Then you must close the compartment.'

'And when that is done, will we have enough power to get back to Zeron?' asked Miranda.

'We will have enough power to go anywhere in the Universe,' was Omega's reply.

'Wait a moment,' said Garth. 'I remember that compartment. When we stole this ship, we made the owner program Omega to obey our commands. He opened his compartment and turned that switch to the "on" position. And he locked it there.'

A loud humming noise came from the control panel. The blue light on the display screen was flashing brightly.

'*Danger, danger,*' said the ship's warning system. '*Ten minutes of power in life support systems.*'

'If I do not get the Zeron crystal,' said Omega, 'the three of you will die.'

'I don't like this,' said Garth. 'I don't trust Omega.'

'But he's a robot,' said Miranda. 'He can't tell lies and he can't do harm to human beings.'

'Time is passing,' said Omega. 'You must decide quickly.'

'Give me the sonic key,' Varon said to Garth.



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Transcript

'No, I'm not going to give you the key,' answered Garth. 'I don't trust you. I will do it myself.'

'Don't be a fool,' said Varon. 'You can't use the sonic key. It is programmed to my fingerprints. It won't work for anyone except me.'

Garth stood holding the sonic key firmly in one hand and the laser gun in the other.

'I must find a way of getting that gun from him,' Varon thought to himself. 'If I don't kill him first, he'll kill me.'

'There is no more time for argument,' said Omega. 'You must prepare me now to receive the Zeron crystal.'

The humming noise was now much louder. The blue light on the display screen was now flashing quickly on and off.

Garth slowly handed the sonic key over to Varon. He stood back a little, but he still held the laser gun in his hand. It was pointing at Varon. Omega raised his right arm away from his side.

Varon pointed the key at Omega's right side. He pressed the button and held it firmly.

'Hurry,' said Miranda.

'Stop talking,' said Varon.

At last, there was a soft sound and the door of the compartment opened.

Varon saw the white control switch. He pointed the key at the switch and pressed the button. The switch slowly began to glow with a red light. Varon held the key firmly. The red light changed to green. It was now locked in the "off" position.

'Omega is now ready to receive the Zeron crystal,' said Varon. 'Let's get it quickly.'

The three of them hurried out of the control room. In a few minutes they were back. Varon was carrying the small box with the Zeron crystal inside. He opened the box and lifted out the crystal. Garth and Miranda looked at it closely.

'It's beautiful,' said Garth.

'And it's valuable,' added Miranda.

'It was mine,' said Varon. 'Now I am losing it.'

'Hurry,' said Miranda. 'When we get back to Zeron, we'll all have one.'

Varon placed the crystal inside the compartment. He pointed the sonic key and pressed the button. The door of the compartment closed with a soft noise. A green light glowed on Omega's side then faded.

'We've done it,' said Varon. 'Now, let's see what happens.'

