

The Space Invaders
by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter 11: Another Warning From Omega

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Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes (approx)
Preparation: Activity 2: one worksheet for each student.

Activity 1

- 1 On the board write *Omega warns the humans*.
- 2 Ask the students if they can remember Omega's warning (that the humans will all die on Zeron).
- 3 Then, write the title of Chapter 11: *Another Warning From Omega*, and ask the students to guess what this new warning might be about.
- 4 Elicit a few of the students' guesses and write them on the board.
- 5 Play the recording of Chapter 11 and see whose guess was the closest.

Extension: Question time

On the board write the following:

*You shouldn't...
If I were you...
If you...
I must warn you that...*

Ask students to imagine they are Omega and to complete the four sentences. Put students in pairs and get them to compare their sentence endings.

Activity 2

- 1 Put students in pairs and hand out one worksheet to each student.
- 2 Ask the students to read the ten events and discuss what the correct order could be.



- 3 Switch the pairs so that the students can check their ideas with another partner.
- 4 Play the recording of Chapter 11.
- 5 Ask pairs to compare their answers and if necessary, play the recording again.
- 6 Check the answers as a class.

Key: h, f, a, i, c, d, j, b, g, e

Extension: The strongroom

Put the students in groups of three or four and ask them to draw a plan of a strongroom where valuable crystals could be kept. Ask the students to think of different alarms and special features that they might use to protect the crystals. Display the drawings around the room and ask the students to vote on their favourite one.

Chapter 11: Another Warning From Omega

Worksheet

- a) Garth arrives in the control room.
- b) Omega gives the humans another warning.
- c) Omega reminds the humans he isn't allowed to steal things.
- d) Omega shows the humans the plan of the Zeron strongroom.
- e) Omega starts the engines.
- f) Omega tells the humans to wake up.
- g) The humans each swallow a blue capsule.
- h) The spaceship is fully recharged.
- i) Varon and Miranda arrive in the control room.
- j) Varon explains why his sonic key needs recharging.



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Transcript

Two and a half hours later, Omega had finished recharging the power banks. The spaceship was now fully powered and ready to go anywhere. Omega looked at the visual display screen. It showed the three humans asleep on their bunks.

'Miranda and Garth have made plans to kill,' thought Omega to himself. 'As soon as Varon opens the first compartment, and Garth has a Zeron crystal in his hand, Garth is going to kill Miranda and Varon. Miranda plans to kill Garth and Varon. And what does Varon plan to do? Is he also ready to kill in order to have a Zeron crystal for himself? There is nothing that I need do. They will die on Zeron if I do not stop them. And now I am free. I do not need to stop them.'

Omega pressed a button on the control panel. Omega's face appeared on the visual display screen in each cabin. They each heard Omega's voice. The three humans woke up.

'It is time to leave. The ship is fully recharged.'

Garth was the first to arrive in the control room. His laser gun was fixed in his belt ready for use. Varon's sonic key was in his pocket. A few seconds later, Miranda arrived with Varon.

'Why have you brought him here?' Garth asked Miranda angrily. 'We do not need him here. He can stay in his cabin until we are ready to teleport down to Zeron.'

'Before we go down to Zeron, we must make preparations,' replied Miranda. 'Varon can help us to prepare.'

'What preparations?' asked Garth with a hard laugh.

'We order Omega to take the ship back to Zeron. Then we order him to teleport us down to the strongroom.'

'I have explained before,' interrupted Omega. 'I will not teleport you down into the Zeron strongroom. I have changed the teleport controls. You will teleport yourselves.'

'OK, OK,' said Garth impatiently. 'But it is you, Omega, who will take the ship back to Zeron. You have changed the teleport controls. What preparations do we have to make?'

'Omega will not steal the Zeron crystal for us,' was Varon's reply.

'A robot cannot steal,' added Omega. 'It is not permitted.'

'We have to go down to Zeron,' continued Varon. 'We have to go into the Zeron strongroom. I have to open the compartments. And you have to help me.'

'How can we help?' asked Garth.



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'You must know where the alarms are,' replied Varon. 'And there is the secret door. You must know where the secret door is. The Zeron guards may come into the strongroom at any time. You have to be prepared.'

'OK,' agreed Garth. 'We do not want to touch the alarms. And we must watch the door. Tell us where the alarms are and where the door is.'

'Omega,' said Varon, 'can you show us a plan of the Zeron strongroom?'

Omega pressed a switch. A plan of the Zeron strongroom appeared on the visual display screen. Varon pointed to the position of the compartments where the Zeron crystals were kept. He pointed to the position of the alarms and the wall with the sliding door.

'The door is in this wall,' he explained to Garth. 'You must stand here, near the wall and watch the door carefully.'

'And I will watch you too,' thought Garth to himself.

Miranda came up and looked at the plan.

'Where will I stand?' she asked.

'You can stand near the wall, here,' answered Varon. 'You will be on the other side of the door and you will be near Garth.'

'We will leave for Zeron in seven minutes' time,' Omega announced.

'There's one more thing,' added Varon quickly.

'Something more?' asked Garth.

'The sonic key,' replied Varon, 'it needs recharging.'

'Recharging?'

'The locks on the compartments in the strongroom are very strong,' Varon explained. 'If I am going to open them quickly, the sonic key will have to have full power.'

Garth looked at Varon. 'Is he planning to trick me?' he thought to himself. He turned to Omega.

'Does Varon's sonic key need to be recharged?' he asked.

'You will need all the help you can get on Zeron,' was Omega's reply. Omega was not telling a lie, but he had not answered Garth's question.

Garth took the key from his pocket.

'Put the key on the control panel,' said Omega.

'Give it back to me when it is recharged,' ordered Garth. He put the key on the control panel in front of Omega. 'I will give it to Varon when we are in the strongroom,' he said.

'The ship will leave for Zeron in five minutes' time,' announced Omega. 'Before we leave, I must give you all a warning.'



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'You have warned us already,' said Miranda. 'You say that death is waiting for us on Zeron. We don't believe you.'

'Yes, death is waiting for you there,' said Omega. 'But I am speaking of another warning.'

'OK, Omega,' said Garth, 'What is the other warning?'

Omega looked at the visual display screen. The picture had changed. Now it showed the planet Zeron. Three spaceships were in position round the planet.

'Those are the ships of the Zeron guards,' explained Omega. 'They are powerful ships and they are on full alert. They are watching for space invaders and we will be the space invaders.'

'Isn't there anything you can do?' asked Garth.

'Yes, there is something I can do,' replied Omega. 'We now have full power in the ship. I can use this power to put a shield round the ship. They will not be able to see us through this shield.'

'So why are you warning us?' Garth asked.

'The shield needs power – a lot of power,' Omega explained. 'I cannot keep the shield round the ship for more than seven minutes. After seven minutes, the power banks will have to be recharged once again. After seven minutes, I will have to take the ship away from Zeron.'

'So we have seven minutes,' said Garth. 'Is that enough time to steal the crystals, Varon?'

'If the sonic key is fully charged, that will be enough time,' replied Varon.

'Two minutes,' announced Omega. 'We will leave in two minutes. Humans must take safety measures now.'

The three humans went into the safety room and swallowed the blue capsules. Then they lay down on their bunks.

Omega watched them on the visual display screen. In a few seconds, they were unconscious. Omega switched on full power. The spaceship went into hyper-flight back to the planet Zeron.

