

Alien in My Pocket: Blast Off!

By Nate Ball

Questions

1. Who was the little blue person from the football shaped craft?
A. Mork from Ork
B. Uncle Martin from Mars
C. Amp from Erde
D. Mr. Spock from Vulcan
Answer: C (p. 11 HB)
2. Why couldn't Zack remember the Alien's name and the name of his planet?
Answer: Zack couldn't remember the Alien's name and the planet's name because he has trouble paying attention. (p. 16 HB)
3. Why do you think that Amp is 'Kinda moody'?
Answers will vary, but should include the following points: His spaceship has crashed and needs fixing; Most of the life forms on Earth are giants to Amp, and his weapons are ineffective on them; he was almost 'done-in' by a giant cat. (p. 11- 25 HB)
4. Who is Olivia?
A. Zack's sister
B. A complete stranger
C. Zack's tutor
D. Zack's classmate
Answer: D. Zack's classmate (p. 62 HB)
5. How did Zack realize that Max *knew* he was behaving strangely?
Answer: Zack realized that Max knew his behavior was strange because Max looked 'utterly shocked' at what he was saying. (p. 48 HB)
6. Rule #1 states not to bring an alien to school because they don't mix. What events support that rule? Name at least 2.
Answer: The events can be any two of the following: Amp made the teacher say mushy things; Amp's escape got Zack into trouble; Zack was embarrassed by comments made by his classmates; (p. 61-65 HB)
7. Zack uses several idioms that Amp doesn't understand. What does he mean when Zack says to Amp, "I'm in a real pickle here."?
Answer: "In a pickle" means in big trouble. (p. 75 HB)

8. Why do you think that the rocket didn't work?
Answer: Answers will vary, but one inference could be – Zack and Olivia's rocket did not have enough power to get Amp's ship high enough to leave the Earth's atmosphere. (p. 123 - 127 HB)
9. How does Amp's mistake calculating the time of Erde's planned invasion affect Earth?
A. It gives Earth more time before the invasion
B. It gives Earth less time before the invasion
C. It gives Earth no time before the invasion
D. Both B and C
Answer: A (p.128 HB)
10. True or False? Zack feels much better about himself by the end of the story.
Answer: True. "I couldn't help but smile, knowing that this year just might be better or at least more interesting than I could have ever imagined" (p. 136 HB)