

Before Reading

TALKING ABOUT THE COVER

- What are meteors and where do they come from? (*They are usually pieces of rock, from outer space*)
- How could a science-fiction writer use a meteor in a story, do you think?
- What other things that exist in or travel through outer space are useful to science-fiction writers? (*Spaceships, light, radio waves, planets, stars, satellites, etc.*)

BEFORE READING ACTIVITIES (PAGE 107)

ACTIVITY 1 BEFORE READING

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that the answers are 1c, 2a, 3c and 4d.

If they choose the answers that appeal to them most, ask them to explain what it is that appeals to them.

While Reading

METEOR

TO THE BLACK DOTS ON PAGE 13 WHILE READING

Viewpoints:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1 Fortans | 5 Humans |
| 2 Humans | 6 Humans |
| 3 Fortans | 7 Fortans |
| 4 Fortans | |

Possible sentences:

- To the Fortans, their spaceship was a metal mountain, the largest thing ever built, but to the humans it seemed like an ordinary ball of metal, less than a metre in diameter.
- The humans heard a hissing noise from the 'meteor', which was the Globe's machines replacing the sleeping gas with fresh air; the faint buzzing noise they heard later was the machines clearing the passage out of the Globe.
- The Fortans' first experience of Earth seemed to them to be a very wide level plain and a square sun; the humans would have seen these as the wooden boards of the outhouse floor and as the outhouse window.
- An ordinary domestic cat to a human viewpoint became for the Fortans a great black monster, with two pointed ears.

- What humans would see as the brick wall of the outhouse appeared to the Fortans to be a cliff made up of strangely regular blocks of rock.
- Spiders and other insects were for the Fortans fierce, six-legged and eight-legged creatures of horrible appearance, though they were quite easy to kill since they were not intelligent.
- The fierce grey creatures seen by the Fortans, and assumed to be the builders of the tunnels, would be rats or mice to humans.

BEFORE READING TO THE END OF METEOR

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that number 2 is what happens.

DUMB MARTIAN

TO THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 35 WHILE READING

- Duncan Weaver to the Company Agent, expressing his surprise and annoyance when told he would have to marry the Martian girl, Lellie, before he could take her with him to Jupiter IV/II.
- The Company Agent to Duncan, pointing out that as Duncan has never lived on Mars, he does not understand what Martians are really like, and is underestimating their intelligence.
- The man whose place Duncan was taking on the way-load station, to Duncan, about bringing a Martian wife with him as a companion on his five-year appointment, as Duncan was doing.
- Duncan to Lellie, about Lellie's attempts, after repeated bullying from Duncan, to pronounce the letter 's' in the word 'yes'.
- Lellie to Duncan, trying to explain why she can't smile in the way that someone with a human face can.
- Duncan to Alan Winter, about Alan teaching and explaining new ideas to Lellie, and treating her as if she was an Earth-woman.
- Alan Winter to Duncan, about Lellie's ability to read enabling her to find out her rights, thus making it harder for Duncan to control her.

BEFORE READING TO THE END OF DUMB MARTIAN

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that Alan Winter is dead, that Duncan ends up teaching Lellie quite a lot of things, that Lellie says nothing about Alan's death, but takes her revenge in the end in a most satisfying way, by setting up a neat little plan to cause Duncan's death.

SURVIVAL**TO THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 61** WHILE READING

Students can complete these sentences how they like.

Possible completions might be:

- 1 The Captain thought Alice Morgan was a quiet little thing, but the Pilot *thought she was the sort of woman who could show great determination if there was a need for it.*
- 2 The spaceship's side-rockets would not work, which meant *that the crew could neither steer the spaceship nor land it.*
- 3 The spaceship would not go on into outer space because *the Captain managed to put it into orbit round Mars, where it would go endlessly round and round.*
- 4 The Captain was deeply shocked when Alice *came to see him and asked if she could have Bowman's share of the food in addition to her own.*

BEFORE READING TO THE END OF SURVIVAL

Encourage students to speculate and to make guesses, but do not tell them the answers. They will find out as they read that Alice is pregnant, the next deaths are caused by shooting, the passengers begin to kill and eat each other, and the rescue spaceship finds only two survivors – Alice and her baby.

BODY AND SOUL**TO THE BOTTOM OF PAGE 95** WHILE READING

- 1 She could not cope with marrying a man in a wheelchair. Also, Terry's injuries and the constant pain he was in had turned him into a different person from the man she had become engaged to.
- 2 An incredibly well-organized, beautiful, peaceful world.
- 3 He slept under a sheet of rose-coloured metal, which probably transmitted sound waves to his unconscious brain.
- 4 It was coming to an end, because most of the children lacked the human 'soul' – the thing that made them human instead of animal – and their minds were weak and did not develop.
- 5 Fourteen.
- 6 As part of an experiment. Hymorell wanted to give people in his time the chance to transfer to and from people far away in time, so he was practising on himself.
- 7 Because the attachment of Terry's soul to his body varied a great deal, according to the effect of the painkilling drugs he took, and Hymorell was able to identify a regular pattern and choose the weakest moment of attachment.
- 8 Because neither wanted to be stuck in Terry's body.

BEFORE READING TO THE END OF BODY AND SOUL

Encourage students to discuss the characters' dilemma and to think of possible developments in the story, explaining why they think this. Do not tell them if their guesses are right. They will find out as they read that the best answers are 1c and 2b.

THE STORY'S ENDING:

Students should be able to guess from the letter at the beginning of the story that the twist at the end is a three-way switch of bodies with a character called Stephen Tallboy. Either Terry or Hymorell could have thought of it, but in fact it was Hymorell.

After Reading

ACTIVITY 1 AFTER READING

You might want to point out to students before they begin this activity that sentences 2 and 9 are not linked directly to the sequence of events, but are Onns's introductory comments on events. Students can choose the best positions for these comments when they have reordered the other sentences.

Order of sentences:

3, 8, 6, 11, 1, 9, 4, 10, 2, 7, 5

It is now two days *since* Muin led us into open country, *where* we found a forest of tall green plants, five times our height. We could find no shelter in this forest, *so* at night we returned to the tunnels to sleep and rest. Each day we went out to explore the forest a little further, *but* today disaster hit us *and* I fear we are near the end. First, we were attacked by a great, long-haired white monster, *which* made the most terrifying noises at us. Muin very bravely shot *and* killed this white monster, *but* then three of the huge creatures came thundering towards us. It is hard to explain what happened next. Something – I cannot describe it – came down from the sky *and* picked up Muin, taking him from our sight. A minute later, *however*, Muin returned to us, falling out of the sky *and* crashing to the ground, *which* killed him instantly. I can hardly bear to remember the last horror. We were hurrying back to the tunnels *when* a cloud of killer dust hit us, *and* within seconds hundreds of us were dead. *Although* I and a few others reached safety in the tunnels, we wish now *that* we had died with our friends, *as* (*since* / *because* / *for*) what future can any of us hope for in this mad, evil world?

ACTIVITY 2 AFTER READING

Acceptable answers to these cloze passages are any words that have an appropriate meaning and fit the grammar of the sentence. Students might like to check each other's work and discuss alternative answers.

Some alternatives are given below.

AGENT'S REPORT

Just before Weaver was due to *return* to Mars, his dead body was *found* (*discovered*) outside the dome by his young *Martian* wife. Her statement follows this report, *but* does not really explain the strange *circumstances* (*way*) in which her husband died. Weaver *was* not a pleasant man and I *suspect* (*suspected*) him of treating his wife badly, *so* (*and*) it is quite possible that she *caused* his death. However,

there is no *evidence* (*proof*) to support my suspicions, and I *recommend* (*suggest*) that the company takes no further *action* in this matter. Duncan Weaver will *not* be missed.

STATEMENT BY LELLIE WEAVER

My husband had some kind of *accident* while he was working outside the *dome*, but I do not know what *happened*. I had a headache and had *gone* to bed early, so I knew *nothing* about it until it was too *late*. Earlier, my husband had said he *wanted* (*intended*, *planned*) to check something on the container *rockets*. He may have shut the outer *door* of the airlock by accident and *been* unable to open it, and perhaps *something* went wrong with his spacesuit battery *while* (*when*) he was trying to cut a *hole* in the wall to get back *in* (*inside*). When I woke up, I went *to* look for him and saw his *legs* floating outside the window. Then I *called* Jupiter IV on the radio for *help*.

ACTIVITY 3 AFTER READING

Open answers. Free writing.

ACTIVITY 4 AFTER READING

Students can complete this dialogue how they like.

Some possible answers:

SAMINE: Hymorell, is it really you?

HYMORELL: *Yes, it is, Samine. And this time I'm here to stay. I won't be going back for any more pain and suffering.*

SAMINE: But how can you be so sure? Your traps haven't caught Terry so far and he's always managed to transfer himself back.

HYMORELL: *Well, I'm hoping that this time he won't want to transfer himself back.*

SAMINE: Of course he'll want to. Here he has a young, strong body, with two whole legs.

HYMORELL: *Ah, but I've given him two whole legs. He'll find himself in a new body this time.*

SAMINE: A new body? You mean you've done a three-way transfer? So who has been unlucky enough to get Terry's old body?

HYMORELL: *Oh, a sub-normal man called Stephen Tallboy – he's a patient locked up in a psychology hospital.*

SAMINE: And what will happen to him?

HYMORELL: *He's probably dead by now. The transfer machine, which is on the table next to the wheelchair, will give anybody who touches it a fatal electric shock.*

SAMINE: Poor Stephen Tallboy! And what about Terry? If he's in Stephen Tallboy's body, how will he ever get out of hospital?

HYMORELL: *Terry Moreton's a clever man. I'm sure he'll talk his way out of that hospital very quickly.*

SAMINE: I expect you're right. Terry *was* clever – and energetic, and young, so very young . . .

ACTIVITY 5 AFTER READING

1 Samine in *Body and Soul*. Her lover Hymorell has just returned from Terry's world for the first time, after about six months of living in Terry's body and experiencing continual pain, which has had a dreadful effect on him.

2 Dr Alan Winter in *Dumb Martian*. He has been on Jupiter IV/II for three months, and has just had an argument with Duncan about teaching Lellie to read and helping her to make the most of her intelligence.

3 A War Office expert in *Meteor*, after the Globe has been cut in half and examined. This expert was the only one who thought that the Globe was an artificial meteor, and all the other experts disagreed with him.

4 Carter, the Pilot, in *Survival*. The Captain sent him to get the name bracelet from the dead body of Bowman (kept in the freezer), and Carter has just discovered that Bowman's legs have been cut off with a knife, presumably to be used as food.

5 Iss in *Meteor*. He and his group have managed to get into the garden and are in the grass of a lawn. On their way back to fetch the others, they are attacked by rats.

6 Hymorell in *Body and Soul*. He has just been transferred into Terry's legless body for the second time, and realizes that Terry might be trying to kill him so that he can stay in a whole body.

7 Alice in *Survival*. She has just decided that she must tell the Captain about her pregnancy, and force him to let her have more food. She plans to ask for Bowman's share of the food.

8 Lellie in *Dumb Martian*. Duncan is outside the dome, trying to cut a hole through the wall, and Lellie has just warned him over the radio not to do that. Duncan has come round to look in through the window, and has seen the device that Lellie has constructed to blow up the dome if the wall is cut.

ACTIVITY 6 AFTER READING

Encourage discussion of the suitability of the titles.

Students could choose different matches if they can produce good arguments to support their choice.

Meteor

- Insect Killers
- Monsters of the Blue Planet
- The Globe

Dumb Martian

- Dumb and Dumber
- A Tax-Free Revenge
- The Cost of a Wife

Survival

- The Mouse That Roared
- Baby in Orbit

Body and Soul

- The Transfer Trap
- Wheel-Chair Games

Titles that could suit more than one story:

- Escape to a New World: *Meteor, Body and Soul*
- The Woman Wins: *Dumb Martian, Survival*
- A Fatal Mistake: *Meteor, Dumb Martian*
- The Use of Legs: *Survival, Body and Soul*

ACTIVITY 7 AFTER READING

Open answers.

ACTIVITY 8 AFTER READING

Open answers.