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Abandon Ship!

Revision

Deductive

Warm up Questions:

- Where is this part of the story set? (a) on board The Excelsior? (b) on board Jupiter Station? (c) on Earth? (a)

- What type of ship is The Excelsior? (a science vessel)

- What alien race has The Excelsior just encountered? (the Patax)

- Is this race friendly or hostile? (hostile) How do you know? (they had injured and killed many of the crew)

Main Questions:

1. Do you think The Excelsior was designed to go into heavy battle? Why not? (no, it was a science vessel)

2. Why do you think Captain Holt decides to blow up The Excelsior rather than try and save it? (he realises that it is hopeless to try and save it)

3. Is The Excelsior described as a young or old man? (old) Is this a happy or sad image? (sad) Why? (he is no longer strong and powerful)

4. Does this suggest that the ship went to Jupiter Station (a) to get fitted with modern computer equipment? (b) to get repaired? (c) to give it a spring clean and new lick of paint? (b)

5. Highlight 'Ensign Keller'. Do you think an Ensign is high or low in rank? (low) Why do you think this? (he had been told off by the captain)

6. What do Ensign Keller's actions at Jupiter Station tell us about his character? (he was lazy and didn't take his job seriously) Do you think this is why he is now dead, yes or no? (yes)

Essential Vocabulary:

- Write down the word in paragraph 1 that means 'ship'. (vessel)

- Find a word spoken by the computer that means 'agree'. (concur) Highlight it.

- Find another word the computer uses that means 'started'. (initiated) Highlight it.

- Circle the word 'wrath'. On a scale of 1-10, how angry was Captain Holt with Ensign Keller? Show your teacher how the Captain may have acted.

- What does this word suggest about how the Captain values his crew? (he values them highly and wants to keep them safe)

- Underline the word 'scurried'. Do you think this is a fast or slow word? (fast) Why? (it is like running) Does this word also suggest that the crew's running to the escape pods was orderly or chaotic? (chaotic)

- What shape is an orb? (spherical) Draw your answer. Is this a 2D or 3D shape? (3D)

Evaluative Questions:

- What genre of text would you best describe this story as? (science fiction) With your teacher, make a list of reasons why you think this.

- Do you think this story would appeal more to older or younger children? Why?

- Some parents might say this book is too violent for younger children. Would you agree?

- Do you think books should have ratings like films do? Explain. What rating would you give this book? Why?

ABANDON SHIP!

All hands, abandon ship! I repeat, all hands, abandon ship!

The Patax were a fierce race and the science vessel Excelsior's firepower was no match for them. The last forty minutes had caused many injuries and countless deaths, and as the primary warp coil was no longer online there was only one option left to them.

Computer, this is Captain Nathan James Holt of the Star Ship Excelsior, identification code alpha seven delta nine. I hereby give the order to self-destruct.

SECOND OFFICER JOSEPHINE MAY-WEATHER, DO YOU CONCUR?

This is Second Officer Josephine May-Weather, identification code beta four tango one. yes, I concur.

AUTHORISATION ACCEPTED. COUNTDOWN INITIATED. SELF-DESTRUCT IN THREE MINUTES AND COUNTING...

Like ants at a picnic the crew scurried through the ship towards the escape pods.

They had only practised this once before, just eight months ago back at Jupiter Station. Back then, Ensign Keller had been too busy singing in the shower to abandon ship and had felt the wrath of Captain Holt as a result. But this was no drill. The peace that the science crew had once enjoyed had been evaporated by the Patax lasers and Ensign Keller was dead.

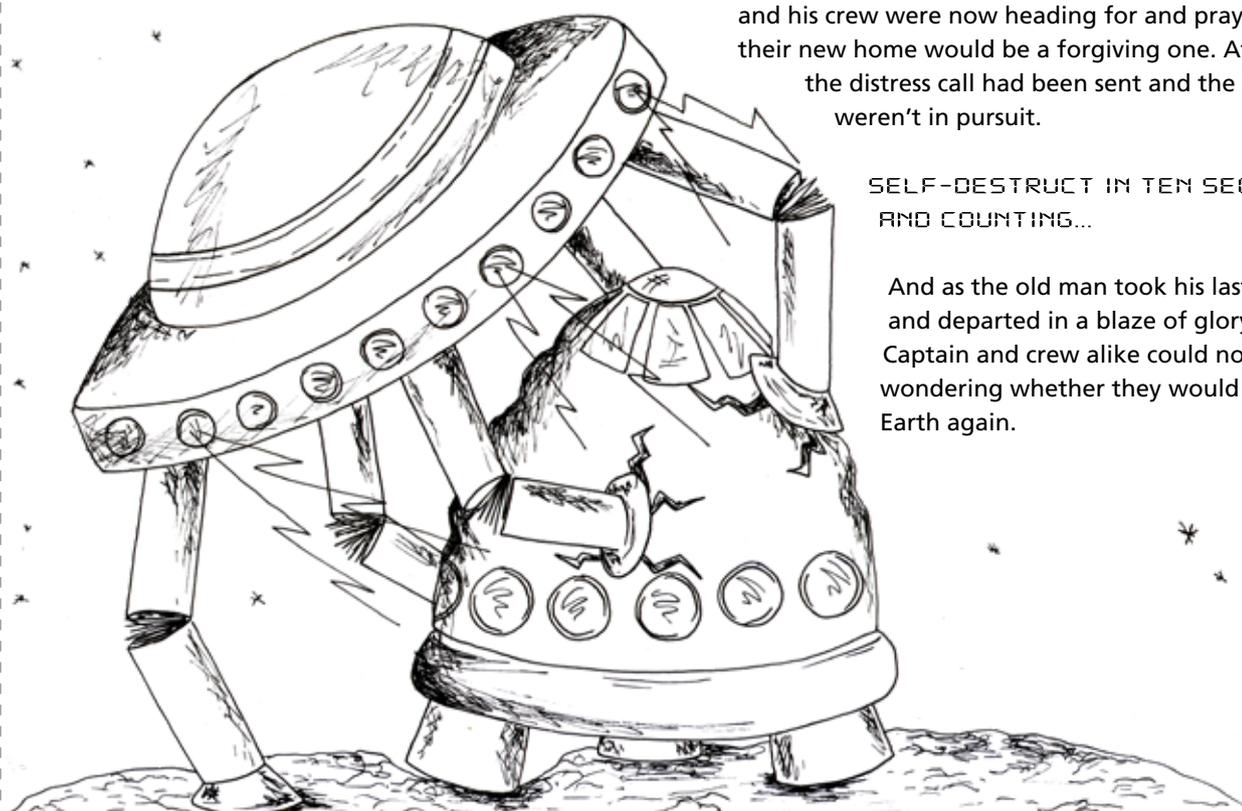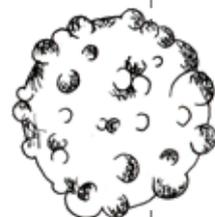SELF-DESTRUCT IN TWO MINUTES AND COUNTING...

The ship creaked and groaned like an old man tired of having to stand up and fight and more than ready to give up the battle altogether.

SELF-DESTRUCT IN ONE MINUTE AND COUNTING...

The final pod door hissed shut and with it any hope of saving The Excelsior was lost. Nathan stared transfixed by the purple orb he and his crew were now heading for and prayed that their new home would be a forgiving one. At least the distress call had been sent and the Patax weren't in pursuit.

SELF-DESTRUCT IN TEN SECONDS AND COUNTING...

And as the old man took his last breath and departed in a blaze of glory, both Captain and crew alike could not help wondering whether they would ever see Earth again.

ABANDON SHIP!

'All hands, abandon ship! I repeat, all hands, abandon ship!'

The Patax were a fierce race and the science vessel Excelsior's firepower was no match for them. The last forty minutes had injured many and killed many more, and as the warp coil was off line there was only one thing left to do.

'Computer, this is Captain Nathan James Holt of the star ship Excelsior, identification code Alpha Seven Delta Nine. I give you the order to self-destruct'.

SECOND OFFICER JOSEPHINE MAY-WEATHER, DO YOU CONCUR?

'This is Second Officer Josephine May-Weather, identification code Beta Four Tango One. Yes, I concur'.

AUTHORISATION ACCEPTED. COUNTDOWN INITIATED. SELF-DESTRUCT IN THREE MINUTES AND COUNTING...

Like ants at a picnic the crew scurried to the escape pods.

They had only practised this once before, just eight months ago back at Jupiter Station. Back then, Ensign Keller had been too busy singing in the shower to leave the ship and had felt the wrath of Captain Holt as a result. But this was no drill and Ensign Keller was dead.

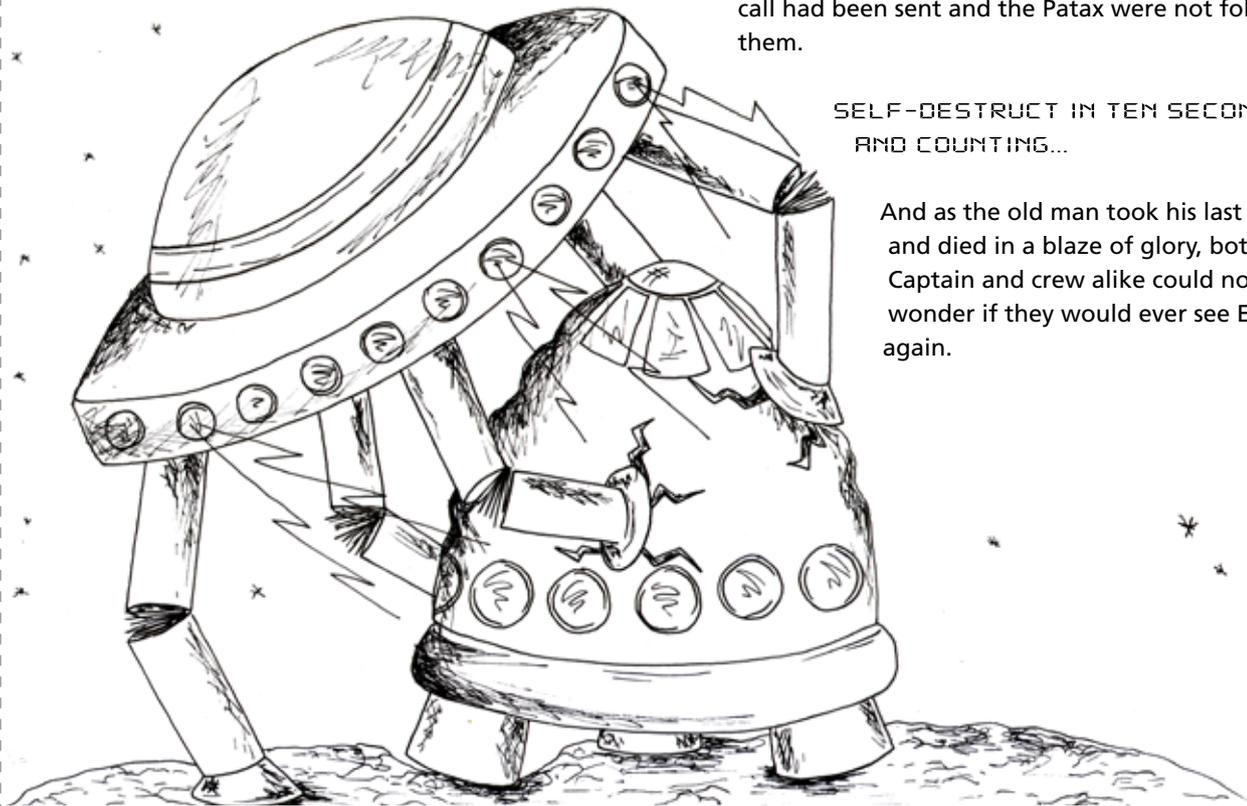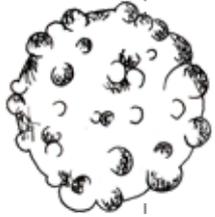SELF-DESTRUCT IN TWO MINUTES AND COUNTING...

The ship creaked and groaned like an old man. The Excelsior was tired of having to fight and was ready to give up the battle altogether.

SELF-DESTRUCT IN ONE MINUTE AND COUNTING...

The last pod door hissed shut and with it any hope of saving the ship was lost. Nathan stared at the purple orb he and his crew were now heading for and prayed that their new home would be safe. At least the distress call had been sent and the Patax were not following them.

SELF-DESTRUCT IN TEN SECONDS AND COUNTING...

And as the old man took his last breath and died in a blaze of glory, both Captain and crew alike could not help wonder if they would ever see Earth again.

ABANDON SHIP!

'All hands, abandon ship! I repeat, all hands, abandon ship!'

The Patax were a fierce race and the science research vessel Excelsior's firepower was no match for them. The last forty minutes had sustained many injuries and countless deaths, and as the primary warp coil was no longer online there was only one option left open.

'Computer, this is Captain Nathan James Holt of the star ship Excelsior, identification code Alpha Seven Delta Nine. I hereby give the order to self-destruct'.

SECOND OFFICER JOSEPHINE MAY-WEATHER, DO YOU CONCUR?

'This is Second Officer Josephine May-Weather, identification code Beta Four Tango One. Yes, I concur'.

AUTHORISATION ACCEPTED. COUNTDOWN INITIATED. SELF-DESTRUCT IN THREE MINUTES AND COUNTING...

Like ants at a picnic the crew scurried through the ship towards the escape pods.

They had only practised this manoeuvre once before, just eight months previous back at Jupiter Station. Back then, Ensign Keller had been too busy singing in the shower to abandon ship and had felt the wrath of Captain Holt as a result. But this was no drill. The peace that the science crew had once enjoyed had been evaporated by the Patax lasers and Ensign Keller was dead.

SELF-DESTRUCT IN TWO MINUTES AND COUNTING...

The ship creaked and groaned like an old man tired of having to stand and fight and more than willing to give up the battle altogether.

SELF-DESTRUCT IN ONE MINUTE AND COUNTING...

The final pod door hissed shut and with it any hope of saving The Excelsior was lost. Nathan stared transfixed by the purple orb he and his crew were now heading towards and prayed that their new home would be a forgiving one. At least the distress call had been sent and the Patax weren't in pursuit.

SELF-DESTRUCT IN TEN SECONDS AND COUNTING...

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