

FULL FLIGHT ADVENTURE: Invaders

About the Author

Danny Pearson is both a writer and editor of children's books. His other Badger titles include *The Beekeeper*, *Alien Eggs* and *3Dee*.

Genre

Invaders is a science-fiction story in a familiar setting.

Summary

Mark is on his way home from school when he finds a small, fluffy creature in a dustbin.

He doesn't know what it is but he takes it home to look after. The next day there are five of them. He asks his friend Liz to come and identify them. She has never seen anything like them. The next day there are even more of them: and they've learned to speak English.

Government agents take Mark, Liz and the creatures to meet the Prime Minister.

The creatures are aliens who have come to clean up our planet. They want us to go to a holding facility while the work is done. The Prime Minister argues and the fluffy creatures turn into huge monsters.

The entire population of Earth is transported to the moon. It's just for two weeks, say the aliens, or maybe months... maybe a year...

Book Introduction

- Looking at the cover, who are the invaders?
- What are they?
- Where do you think this story takes place?
- What do you think the invaders might want?
- Comment on the word 'invaders'. Does it sound like the creatures might be friendly?

New vocabulary

In addition to the vocabulary provided on page 4, here are some technical words and phrases in the order they appear in the story:

P17 satellite – small vehicle that carries a computer to send information from above Earth back to the planet (or, as in this story, from the planet to somewhere else). The definition of a satellite is usually that it orbits around a planet

P19 stretched car – a large, expensive car; a limousine

P26 domed roof – curved roof that is part of a sphere in shape

Group work

Discussion points

- Why do you think the aliens first appear as small and fluffy?
- What expectations did you have for the aliens' 'work', first mentioned on page 17?
- Were you surprised to find out what the 'work' is?
- Did the ending surprise you? What did you like about the ending?

Pair work

- The government agents who come to Mark's house don't say much. Role play a scene where they are in their car on the way to pick up the children and a room full of aliens. What might they say to each other?
- **Imagine one of the agents has to phone the Prime Minister with a short report after the children and aliens have been picked up. What would he say?**

Individual work

- Write a story about Mark and Liz's life on the moon.
- **Write a report about the humans on the moon from the aliens' point of view.**

Y5, Narrative, Strand 7

Infer writers' perspectives from what is written and from what is implied.

- What does the author think about the way we treat our planet (p22-23)?
- Do you think he might be on the side of the aliens? Why do you think that?

Using the CD

Using the illustrations on page 18 or 19, write thought bubbles for the different characters.

Or

Rewrite chapter 3 from the aliens' point of view.

Copymasters

A: Author's Viewpoint

Children think about and answer questions based on the author's comments.

What special powers might the alien have: in its cute form and in its scary form?

B: Message to the World

The aliens have sent out a message to all the world's news stations. Children decide what they said.

Imagine you are a reporter. After this amazing announcement you have to comment on what has happened. What would you say?

Extension 1 (literacy)

Mark doesn't know what sort of animal he has found in the dustbin. He posts a message on a 'Weird Animals' forum. He asks other forum users for help. What would he say?

Write a reply from one of the forum users.

Extension 2 (cross curricular)

The author writes about pollution by oil spill (p30). Find out about the 10 worst oil spills in history

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/science/energy/coal-oil-gas/biggest-oil-spills-in-history>

Find out what happened when the Torrey Canyon tanker spilled oil off the Cornish coast in 1967.



Author's Viewpoint

I love the illustrations in this book. I was lucky enough to be able to work directly with the artist (Aleksandar Sotirovski). He understood that the original creature Mark discovers had to be really cute and innocent looking. The artist and I knew that towards the end of the story the creature would change and become strong and menacing.

It was fun directing Alek and his drawings knowing that in the end the tables would be turned.

Danny Pearson

Questions

Q What does the author like about the illustrations?

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Q How important do you think the illustrations are?

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Q How important do you think the author thinks the illustrations are?

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Q How does the creature change?

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Invaders (A)

Q What does the author mean when he says he enjoyed 'directing' the illustrator?

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Q What does the author mean by the tables being turned?

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