

# Answers

## Alien Invasion

1. Why did Voss think she was blind at first?

**One mark for answers that refer to:**

- **Because everything was black/dark.**
- **She could only see black/space.**
- **She wasn't feeling well after being unconscious/knocked out**

2. What was the bright circle that kept drifting past?

**a planet / large blue planet / the planet Earth**

3. What do you think Voss was thinking to herself at this point in the story?

**One mark for answers that summarise the actions Voss needs to take. E.g.:**

- **Needing to blow the Vanguard/ship up**
- **Press the self-destruct button**  
**(Don't award marks for simply 'destroying/killing the aliens' unless answers qualify it by explaining that Voss's own ship/crew also need to be destroyed)**

**An extra mark awarded if answers include the emotions/feelings Voss may be experiencing. E.g.:**

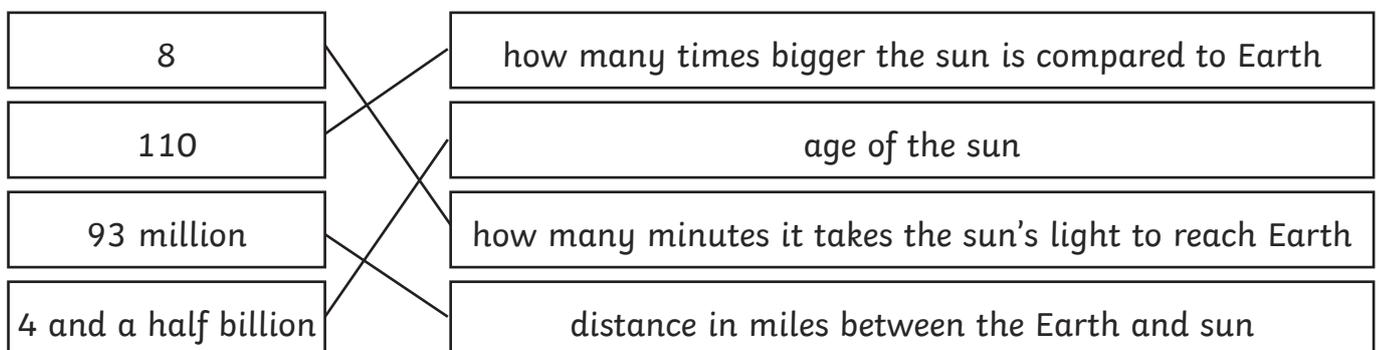
- **Regret, remorse, guilt, responsibility, duty, distress – even blame (or similar).**

4. Why has the author used such technical language for this direct speech?

**Award one mark for referring to the author's intent to make the voice/language seem 'computer-like' and not a human voice.**

## The Watcher

1. Draw three lines to link these numbers to their fact.



2. Why do you think 'The Watcher' was chosen for the poem's title?  
**Award one mark if the answer refers to the sun watching over people on Earth (or you/me).**
3. 'but you turn and sleep at night.'  
 Explain what the poem means by this:  
**Award one mark for an answer that refers to the sun setting, day turning to night, and people sleeping.**  
**Award a further mark if the answer recognises the double meaning of the word 'turn'. E.g.:**
- **People tossing and turning in their sleep and Earth turning on its axis (e.g. 'the world is turning away from the sun').**
4. Read the final verse. In your own words, sum up what the poem is saying here:  
**Award a mark for any of the following (up to a maximum of two marks):**
- **One day the sun will die.**
  - **The sun will run out of fuel/hydrogen.**
  - **There will be no light/sunlight.**
  - **Earth/the planet/humans/animals/plants will die (as well as other planets in the solar system).**
  - **For now, the sun is still here/alive/shining/will be here for many more years to come.**

## MORNING STAR GIANT HURRICANE FOUND ON SATURN

1. How fast did Cassini travel on its way through the solar system?  
**77,000 mph**
2. How wide is the hurricane that Cassini photographed? Tick two.
- |                   |                                     |   |                                     |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <b>1500 miles</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | the width of Earth                          | <input type="checkbox"/>            |
| 77000 miles       | <input type="checkbox"/>            | <b>the width of the continent of Europe</b> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
3. '...its latest pictures have sent the space-science community into an intergalactic spin!'  
 a) Think about what types of people might make up the space-science community. Write down two of them:  
**Award one mark for any of the following (maximum 2 marks):**  
**scientists, NASA workers, astronomers, astronauts, cosmologists, science teachers (or any related fields).**

b) According to the report, the pictures of the giant hurricane on Saturn have sent them into an 'intergalactic spin'. What do you think it means by this?

**Award one mark if the answer refers to the space-science community's excitement: Scientists were feeling excited, ecstatic, elated, delighted, happy, thrilled, amazed (or any related feeling/emotion).**

**Award an extra mark for recognition of word choice – 'intergalactic' because we're talking about space; 'spin' like a hurricane spins.**

4. It took NASA years to build Cassini, then 13 years for it to reach Saturn. Millions of dollars have been spent on it. Imagine you are the Head Scientist at NASA in charge of the Cassini mission. You have been asked to say some words on TV about the photos of the giant hurricane and how you feel about them:

**Award one mark for answers that refer to details about the Cassini mission. E.g.:**

- **Reference to it being a great scientific step**
- **Details about Cassini's journey**
- **Details/descriptions about the photo**

**Award a further mark for answers that refer to feelings/emotions about the mission. E.g.:**

- **Relieved/happy that the mission was a success**
- **Relieved/happy that the photos were so good**
- **Amazed/excited by the photos/Cassini**
- **Excited about what Cassini could do next**
- **Thankful to all the people that have worked on it**

# Alien Invasion

Voss slowly opened her eyes, the suit's alarm bleeping away in her ears. At first, she thought she may be blind; everything was black. Then a bright circle drifted past the visor of her helmet.

"Commander Dryden!" a human voice called through her ear-piece as the bright shape spun away and blackness returned. "We're under attack! We haven't much time!"

Her head was throbbing and she felt dizzy as the alarm continued to bleep. Voss tried to rub her eyes, but instead her gloved hand hit the outside of her space helmet. She tried to remember where she was. The bright circle drifted past once again, but this time her eyes were able to focus on it. It was a planet; a large, blue planet.

The blue planet whizzed past again, and then something else; something that looked like a spaceship. No – two spaceships! One of them was on fire, parts of it drifting into space.

"Commander!" the human voice cried.

"Warning," a different, computer-sounding voice said, "Oxygen levels critical. Thirty seconds remaining."

Voss suddenly realised that she was the one spinning, not the planet. "Stabilise," she ordered, and everything came to a stop. She twisted round. The blue planet was Earth and the spaceship on fire was the Vanguard Explorer. She remembered how it had come under attack, the aliens forcing their way on board. She remembered the explosion that left her unconscious and spinning into space. And she remembered what needed to be done. "Forward thrusters," she coughed. The suit pushed her towards the outer hull of the Vanguard where an amber button was flashing beside a small control panel. Voss keyed in the 10-digit password, and pressed the self-destruct button. "Sorry," she whispered.

"They're here!" the human voice screamed in her ear.

"Oxygen levels depleted," the computer voice said.

There is no sound in space, but if there was, the sound of the Vanguard exploding into a million pieces – and the alien ship along with it - would have been heard all the way to Earth.



1. Why did Voss think she was blind at first?

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2. What was the bright circle that kept drifting past?

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3. 'And she remembered what needed to be done.'

What do you think Voss was thinking to herself at this point in the story?

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4. "Oxygen levels depleted," ...

Why has the author used such technical language for this direct speech?

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# MORNING STAR

## GIANT HURRICANE FOUND ON SATURN

Scientists at NASA say a giant hurricane on Saturn, 1500 miles wide, has been photographed by their roving spacecraft, Cassini.

Cassini, which was launched way back in 2004, has been snapping all sorts of amazing images during its 77 000 mph journey through our solar system but its latest pictures have sent the space-science community into an intergalactic spin!

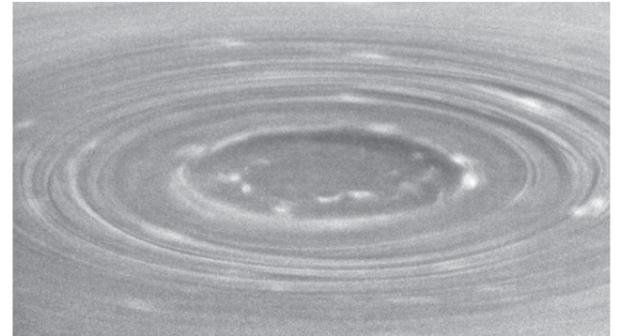


On April 26, 2017, the spacecraft dived down between Saturn and its innermost rings, and what it photographed astounded scientists back on Earth. "We did a double take when we saw this... because it looks so much like a hurricane on Earth," Andrew Ingersoll (a NASA team member) explained.

The hurricane, which is about as wide as the continent of Europe, has probably been churning for years, sometimes at speeds of up to 330 mph!

Scientists have long known about Saturn's violent weather patterns. In 1980, NASA's space

probe, Voyager, measured winds at 1,100 mph – which is about the same speed as an RAF Tornado fighter plane! Plus, keen-eyed astronomers have witnessed storms the size of Earth, using powerful telescopes.



But it is Cassini's ability to get close and photograph the hurricane that has delighted scientists the world over.



1. How fast did Cassini travel on its way through the solar system?

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2. How wide is the hurricane that Cassini photographed? Tick two.

1500 miles

the width of Earth

77,000 miles

the width of the continent of Europe



3. '...its latest pictures have sent the space-science community into an intergalactic spin!'

a) Think about what types of people might make up the space-science community. Write down two of them:

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b) According to the report, the pictures of the giant hurricane on Saturn have sent them into an 'intergalactic spin'. What do you think it means by this?

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4. It took NASA years to build Cassini, then 13 years for it to reach Saturn. Millions of dollars have been spent on it. Imagine you are the Head Scientist at NASA in charge of the Cassini mission. You have been asked to say some words on TV about the photos of the giant hurricane and how you feel about them:

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# The Watcher

I beam at you and you smile at me  
and I give you warmth and light.  
I watch you through your skies and clouds;  
but you turn and sleep at night.

Although 8 minutes is all it takes  
for light to reach your home;  
93 million miles away  
in space is where I roam.

Four and a half billion years I've lived;  
five billion yet to come,  
110 times the size of Earth  
I'm way too hot for some.

My solar winds and solar flares  
light up the Northern Lights;  
the polar pinks and greens and blues -  
the world's most wondrous sights.

The ancient Romans called me Sol,  
The Egyptians called me Ra,  
The Greeks knew me as Helios,  
you know me as your star.

One day I'll have no fuel to burn;  
the hydrogen all done,  
the light will go, your planet, too,  
but for now, I'm still your sun.



1. Draw four lines to link these numbers to their fact.

8

how many times bigger the sun is compared to Earth

110

age of the sun

93 million

how many minutes it takes the sun's light to reach Earth

4 and a half billion

distance in miles between the Earth and sun



2. Why do you think 'The Watcher' was chosen for the poem's title?

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3. 'but you turn and sleep at night.' Explain what the poem means by this:

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4. Read the final verse. In your own words, sum up what the poem is saying here:

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# Reading Revision Mat Guidance

To complete each reading revision mat, you will need to read a short passage of writing; these will be taken from either a fiction text, a non-fiction text or a poem. Once you have read and understood the passage, you will have to answer seven different types of question based on what you have read.

Each of the seven areas has an accompanying canine character to hopefully remind you of the skills you need to answer that particular type of question:

## Vocabulary Questions

Vocabulary Victor is there to help you work out the meaning of unknown words and phrases using context clues.

2a: Give / explain the meaning of words in context.



## Retrieval Questions

Rex Retriever is there to help you to go into a text and just simply retrieve the facts and key details.

2b: Retrieve and record information / identify key details from fiction and non-fiction.



## Summary Questions

Summarising Sheba is there to remind you to summarise the main point(s) or main event(s) of a paragraph or text.

2c: Summarise main ideas from more than one paragraph.



## Inference Questions

Inference Iggy will help you hunt for clues in a text about how someone might be feeling or why something is happening.

2d: Make inferences from the text / explain and justify inferences with evidence from the text.



## Prediction Questions

Predicting Pip tries to see the future and she will help you to work out what might happen next from clues in the text.

2e: Predict what might happen from details stated and implied.



### Compare, Contrast & Comment Questions

Cassie the Commentator discusses the content of a paragraph/text and compares events and characters. Can you do the same?



2f: Identify/explain how information/narrative content is related and contributes to meaning as a whole.

2h: Make comparisons within the text.

### Author Choice Questions

Arlo the Author likes to help you to spot examples of ambitious vocabulary and figurative language, and explain how these words/phrases add to the meaning of the text.



2g: Identify/explain how meaning is enhanced through choice of words and phrases.