

Lesson 1

Can I read a text fluently?

- In today's lesson we will practise reading a text just like our fluency reading lessons.
- There is a video for you to echo read along with.



The Child from Mars

For many years, Tom had been **fascinated** with space: he always imagined what life would be like if he was from Mars. Every night, before bed, Tom would sit with his mother in the garden and gaze through his **antique** telescope. The sights were astonishing: he would see shooting stars, **constellations** and even vague glimmers of light coming from other planets. Tom was no expert, but he was convinced one of the planets was Mars; he needed a giant telescope to be certain. “Okay, Tom, time for bed.”

“Oh just one more look please, Mum,” pleaded Tom.

“You will have plenty of time to stargaze tomorrow, little one,” replied Mum as she tucked Tom into his space-themed bed. Mum switched on his nightlight: it lit his room up with wondrous images of the night sky.



fascinated

/fəˈsɪneɪtɪd/

adjective

strongly attracted and interested.
"a crowd of fascinated onlookers"



antique

/ˈæntɪːk/

adjective

1. having a high value because of age and quality.
"an antique clock"
2. belonging to ancient times.
"statues of antique gods"



constellation

/ˌkɒnstəleɪʃ(ə)n/

noun

a group of stars forming a recognizable pattern that is traditionally named after its apparent form or identified with a mythological figure.



- a group of associated or similar people or things.
"no two patients ever show exactly the same **constellation** of symptoms"

Tom admired the beautiful projections on his ceiling. He counted the four bright stars that made up the Crux constellation, “One, two, three and four. All there and accounted for. Goodnight world.” Tom dozed off in no time.

During breakfast, Tom and Mum were watching the news. There had been reports about new images of Mars. Tom sat right up against the television to get a closer look. “Mum, pause the TV.” Tom gasped, “Look there. In that picture. That looks like a person.” Paying no attention to Tom’s wild imagination, Mum smiled and dusted off Tom’s bike. “Here you go, little one. Take your bike and get some fresh air: you can watch more television later.” Tom sighed and went off for a bike ride. He saw lots of children playing outside together, but Tom was always a bit of a loner. He did not feel that other children understood him, so he preferred to keep to himself. Cycling furiously, Tom could not get the images from Mars off his mind: he was sure he saw the outline of a child.

As night fell, Tom followed his usual **rituals**. He glanced through his telescope; this time he was keen to focus on the lights he thought were coming from Mars. Tom struggled to focus the image until a sudden flash of light filled the eyepiece. Stunned, Tom blinked and shook his head **frantically**. Once his vision returned, Tom peered through the eyepiece again. His jaw dropped. Tom saw a shooting light bursting from the planet he assumed was Mars. The light was getting closer.

“Tom. Tom...” a voice called. “Tom, to bed immediately!” yelled mum. He had lost track of time: it was way past his bedtime. Tom had no choice but to leave his telescope, but his imagination was running wild with ideas about what the light was.

Tucked into bed, Tom counted the lights on his ceiling as usual. “One, two, three and...” **Wide-eyed**, Tom jumped out of bed. The fourth star was not there. His projector was obstructed by an outline. An outline just like the one from the images of Mars. He heard the scattering of feet in the corner of his room. CRASH. The projector was knocked over. Reaching for his light switch, Tom launched across his room. Once the lights came on, a small figure was revealed. Oval-eyed and blue-skinned, the figure quivered as though it was frightened.



frantically

/frantɪkli/

adverb

in a distraught way owing to fear, anxiety, or other emotion.

"women wept as they frantically searched for missing children"

- in a hurried, excited, or disorganized manner.
"the two ladies competing for his attention waved frantically at him"



wide-eyed

/ˌwaɪdˈaɪd/

adjective

having one's eyes wide open as a result of surprise, fear, etc.

Similar: [staring in amazement](#) [goggle-eyed](#) [agape](#) [open-mouthed](#)

- inexperienced; innocent.
"a wide-eyed country boy"

Similar: [innocent](#) [naive](#) [impressionable](#) [ingenuous](#) [childlike](#)



ritual

/ˈrɪtʃʊəl/

noun

plural noun: **rituals**

a religious or solemn ceremony consisting of a series of actions performed according to a prescribed order.

"ancient fertility rituals"

- a prescribed order for performing a ritual ceremony, especially one characteristic of a particular religion or Church.
"she likes the High Church ritual"

Similar: [ceremony](#) [rite](#) [ceremonial](#) [observance](#) [service](#) [sacrament](#) [▼](#)

- a series of actions or type of behaviour regularly and invariably followed by someone.
"her visits to Joy became a ritual"

Lesson 2

Can I answer retrieval and vocabulary questions?



The Child from Mars

- 1) Find and copy one word which shows Tom was interested in space.
- 2) What two things did Tom do every night before bed?
- 3) What constellation did Tom's night light project on his ceiling?
- 4) Why was Tom intrigued by the images from Mars?
- 5) Find and copy the nickname Mum called Tom by.
- 6) Find and copy two words to describe the figure that appeared in Tom's room.
- 7) In the sentence, "...Tom followed his usual rituals" what does 'rituals' mean?



The Child from Mars

- 1) Find and copy one word which shows Tom was interested in space.
Fascinated.
- 2) What two things did Tom do every night before bed?
Look through his telescope and count the stars from his projector/night light.
- 3) What constellation did Tom's night light project on his ceiling?
Crux.
- 4) Why was Tom intrigued by the images from Mars?
He thought he saw a person in the image(s).
- 5) Find and copy the nickname Mum called Tom by.
Little one.
- 6) Find and copy two words to describe the figure that appeared in Tom's room.
Oval-eyed and blue-skinned.
- 7) In the sentence, “..Tom followed his usual rituals” what does ‘rituals’ mean?
The sequence of actions Tom regularly completes before bed.

Lesson 3

Can I answer a variety of
comprehension questions?



The Child from Mars

- 1) Describe what Tom can see coming from other planets in the first paragraph.
- 2) What phrase lets us know that Tom doesn't know a lot about space?
- 3) What did Tom see in the images of Mars?
- 4) What did mum make Tom do to get him out of the house?
- 5) Tom doesn't have many friends. What word lets us know this?
- 6) What does the word "obstructed" on the third page mean?
- 7) Who do you think is in Tom's room?



The Child from Mars

- 1) Describe what Tom can see coming from other planets in the first paragraph.
Vague glimmers of light
- 2) What phrase lets us know that Tom doesn't know a lot about space?
No expert
- 3) What did Tom see in the images of Mars?
The shape of a person
- 4) What did mum make Tom do to get him out of the house?
Go for a bike ride
- 5) Tom doesn't have many friends. What word lets us know this?
Loner
- 6) What does the word "obstructed" on the third page mean?
Blocked
- 7) Who do you think is in Tom's room?
A Martian / The person he saw in the Mars images