
Martian Madness

Reading Comprehension

Helping Hands

“I don’t want to clean my room!” exclaimed Joseph. He ran upstairs to his room and slammed the door. He was so frustrated that his body was shaking. He kicked off his shoes as he threw himself onto his bed. Suddenly, he thought that he saw someone duck out of the corner of his eye.

Joseph slowly sat up and looked towards his closet. There was a little green martian sitting on the trunk in his closet. It looked the same as the ones he read about in his science fiction storybooks. He gasped!

“Please don’t be afraid,” said the little martian. “And please don’t throw another shoe at me.”

“Who...what...are you?” stuttered Joseph.

“I’m the martian from the story you read last night. I want your job. If you pay me money, I will clean up your room for you.”

“But...how...” muttered Joseph as he pondered this idea.

“It’s simple!” explained the martian. “I need to get home and I can only do that once I earn enough money for the trip.”

Joseph was confused. He just couldn’t believe what was happening. Just then, Joseph’s mother called up, “And don’t forget you also need to wash all of the windows upstairs.”

Joseph turned to the martian. “Do you do windows, as well?”

The martian nodded. “You are hired!” said Joseph.

Story Questions:

1. How would you describe Joseph?
 - a. detailed and organized
 - b. embarrassed and afraid
 - c. messy and shy
 - d. disorganized and flexible

2. What is the meaning of the word *intently* as used in the passage? Use a dictionary to help you.
 - a. longingly
 - b. keenly
 - c. methodically
 - d. lengthily

3. What event in this story indicates that it is make-believe?
 - a. reading about a martian
 - b. cleaning the room
 - c. hiring a martian
 - d. kicking off his shoes

Email Writing

4. You have received an email from NASA telling you that you have been selected to go to Mars! **Write** a 7-10 sentence response.

Word Problems

5. **Read** the word problems below and **write** the answers.
 - ★ Amy went shopping for new clothes at her favourite store in the mall, Stellar Stargazer. She bought a new silver shirt for \$32 and a pair of electric jeans for \$44. She received a discount of 20%. How much money was the discount? What was the final cost of her outfit before sales tax?

 - ★ Amy's mother surprised her with a new pair of sparkle shoes that were \$32.88 before the 25% discount. How much money did Amy's mother save because of the discount? What was the final cost of the shoes before sales tax?

Fun Stuff!

6. **Learn** about genetics by [creating your own baby alien](#).