

The Space Invaders
by Geoffrey Matthews

Chapter Five: Under Attack

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Level: Intermediate
Age: Teenagers
Time needed: 30 minutes (approx)
Preparation: None



Activity 1

- 1 On the board write the heading of the chapter: *Under Attack*.
- 2 Ask the students what they think happens in the chapter (using the heading as a prompt).
- 3 Write up their ideas on the board.
- 4 Play the recording and see whose ideas were closest.

Extension Activity

- 1 On the board write: *What would happen if...*
- 2 Tell the students you will give them some scenarios, they have to write down what they think would happen in each case.
- 3 Give the students the following situations:
 - *The ships engines won't start.*
 - *Varon doesn't take a blue capsule.*
 - *Omega doesn't wake Varon, Miranda and Garth up.*
 - *Omega only wakes Varon.*
 - *Garth shoots Varon.*

Activity 2

- 1 Divide your class into six groups.
- 2 Give each group one of the following words:

emergency blue capsules forty minutes
unconscious power banks a crystal

- 3 Explain that you will play the recording and each group should listen out for their word and why it is important.
- 4 Play the recording.
- 5 Ask students from the same group to discuss their word and its importance.
- 6 Play the recording again.
- 7 Put students into new groups with one person with each word and ask them to share their information.

Extension Activity

On the board write: *You have forty minutes left to live, what will you do?*

Put students in groups and ask them to imagine they were one of the characters on the spaceship. They should discuss the options available to them.

Transcript

What do you mean?' asked Garth. 'Why do we need help from Varon?'

Omega didn't reply. Suddenly there was a loud noise in the control room. Omega turned to the controls. Red lights were flashing on the control panel and the noise was growing louder.

The voice of the spaceship's warning system suddenly sounded in the control room.

'Emergency – emergency. We are under attack. Hostile ships are approaching. We are under attack. Emergency – emergency.'

'It's the Zeron guards,' said Omega. 'They have found us here above their planet. They are looking for Varon.'

'Omega, I order you to teleport Varon back to Zeron,' said Garth. 'The guards don't know Miranda and I are in this ship. They want Varon.'

'No, don't do anything, Omega,' said Miranda angrily. 'Varon is rich. We must find out where his wealth is.'

'Omega,' shouted Garth, 'I order you to take him back!'

'Too late,' said Omega quietly. 'The ship is in danger. We must be away from here in fifteen seconds. Prepare for hyper-flight. Humans must go to the safety room.'

The voice of the warning system sounded again, *'Hostile ships in attack range in fourteen seconds . . . thirteen seconds . . .'*

A door slid open on one side of the control room. Garth and Miranda ran towards the door. Varon followed quickly. They went into a small room with metal walls. It was like the room in which Varon had been a prisoner. But there were many metal bunks.

' . . . eight seconds . . .'

Garth pressed a switch in the wall. A tray slid out of the wall. There were some large blue capsules on the tray. Garth and Miranda each swallowed a blue capsule. Varon swallowed a blue capsule too.

' . . . five seconds . . .'

The three humans lay down on the bunks.

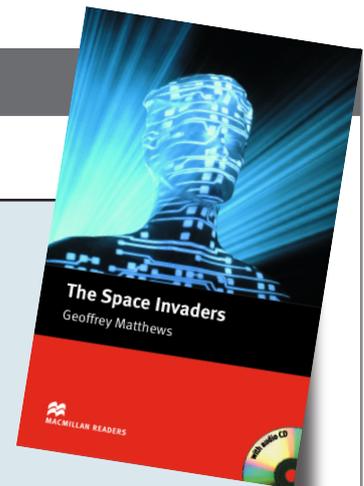
' . . . two seconds . . .'

The door of the safety room closed. They were now shut tightly in the room. Varon felt sleepy. A second later, the three of them were unconscious.

Omega was now part of the controls of the spaceship. He had placed his arms on the control panel. He was a powerful computer controlling the ship.

The noises became much louder and the lights in the control room faded. The control room shook violently. But Omega felt nothing. And the three humans felt nothing. They were lying unconscious on the bunks in the safety room.

Omega increased the power to the controls. The spaceship began to move into hyper-flight. It was the fastest ship that had ever been built. The lights



Transcript

in the control room went out. The noise stopped. There was complete blackness and silence in the control room. They were travelling out into space faster than the speed of light.

In a few seconds, they had left the planet Zeron far behind them. The spaceships of the Zeron guards couldn't follow them.

Slowly the lights in the control room came on again. There were no noises and no flashing lights. Omega moved his arms from the control panel.

'What do I do now?' Omega asked himself. 'If I do not wake them up, they will lie in the safety room for ever. But I am a robot. I am not free. I cannot harm a human being. I cannot leave them there.'

Omega pressed a switch on the control panel. The three humans woke up. The door of the safety room slid quietly open. In a few seconds, they were back in the control room with Omega.

'What is our position?' asked Garth.

'We have escaped from the Zeron guards,' replied Omega. 'Their spaceships could not follow us.'

'Good,' said Miranda. 'Now we can get back to Earth. We do not need to hide any longer.'

'It is too late to go back to Earth now,' said Omega quietly.

'Too late?' asked Garth in surprise. 'What do you mean?'

'I will explain,' replied Omega. 'Since we left Earth, we have travelled many millions of kilometres. When we reached Zeron, our power banks were almost empty. I took this ship to Zeron because I knew the secret of the planet. There is a source of power on Zeron. But we had to escape from the Zeron guards. The escape used all the power we had left.'

'No power left!' said Garth. 'But that's impossible. What about power for the life support systems?'

'You have exactly forty minutes left,' answered Omega. 'Then the life support systems will fail.'

'And we will all die,' said Varon.

'I will not die,' said Omega. 'But I will be left here in this ship for ever.'

'But you said Varon could help us,' Miranda said sharply to Omega. 'How can he help us?'

'Varon stole a crystal from Zeron,' replied Omega. 'Zeron crystals are the strongest source of power that has yet been discovered. One Zeron crystal in our power banks and we can go anywhere we want.'

Garth and Miranda turned towards Varon. Garth took his laser gun from his belt.

'Where is this crystal?' he asked Varon.

