

# Shared reading text

Use this extract as a shared reading text to provide the basis of the story

The park looked particularly dismal that morning. The bark chippings under the seesaw were dark and soggy with rain, the red paint on the slide was peeling rustily, and the seats on the swings looked damp and cold. Black clouds were circling overhead like huge birds.

The children sat around drearily. Some were kicking stones and playing dejectedly, while the mothers chatted and rocked prams.



“I’m sure it’s going to rain again soon,” Molly complained. “What’s the point of being in the park in a rainstorm?”

“We’ll stick on the slide,” said Harry. “It won’t be slippery anymore if it gets wet.”

George brightened up instantly. “Are you sure?” he said. “Let’s try! We could all go down together and test it out!”

The three children sped up the metal steps, balanced at the top holding each other’s jumpers, then pushed off. They flew down easily, the clouds, trees, prams and mothers spinning around them. But they never landed on the squelchy black matting at the end of the slide.

Instead, to their amazement, they flew on and on, then tumbled onto the floor of a...



# Adventure stories

## An Ancient Egyptian temple



- Tutankhamun has the following problems. Which one would you like to help him to solve?
1. Tutankhamun is building a great temple to his favourite god. Unfortunately, work is progressing very slowly and now all the workers have gone on strike, demanding more pay. Some of them have even left the building site and gone back to their villages. What can Tutankhamun do?
  2. The annual flood of the River Nile has started, but Tutankhamun has been told that this year it will be exceptionally high. The consequences will be disastrous. All the houses along the banks will be swept away and most people will be made homeless. How can Tutankhamun avert the crisis?
  3. Tutankhamun is afraid. He is sure that his wicked uncle is planning to murder him, marry his wife, and become pharaoh in his place. Is he imagining things? Can you help him to find out the truth and remove the threat to his safety?



# Adventure stories

## A pirate's cave



- The pirate inside the cave has some serious problems. Choose one of the problems below that you can help him to solve.
1. The pirate knows that his enemies are not far away from the island. In fact, the last time he looked through his telescope, the sails of another pirate ship were just appearing over the horizon. He is ready to do battle with them but he has run out of cannon balls. What can he do?
  2. Several years ago the pirate volunteered to look after the whole crew's store of treasure. He promised that he would take good care of it and he buried it inside this cave. The crew is now on its way to claim equal shares and the pirate has carefully dug it up, but it is all in a frightful mess. The gold is scratched and rusty, rubies and emeralds have fallen out of the necklaces and bracelets, and the pins have broken off the brooches. It looks worthless! The other pirates will be furious! Can you help him?
  3. The pirate has been trapped inside this cave for weeks. Just outside the entrance, deep in the long grass, many large poisonous snakes are waiting to make a meal of him if he ventures outside. He has run out of food and he is desperate to escape – he needs your help!



# Adventure stories

## A wizard's castle

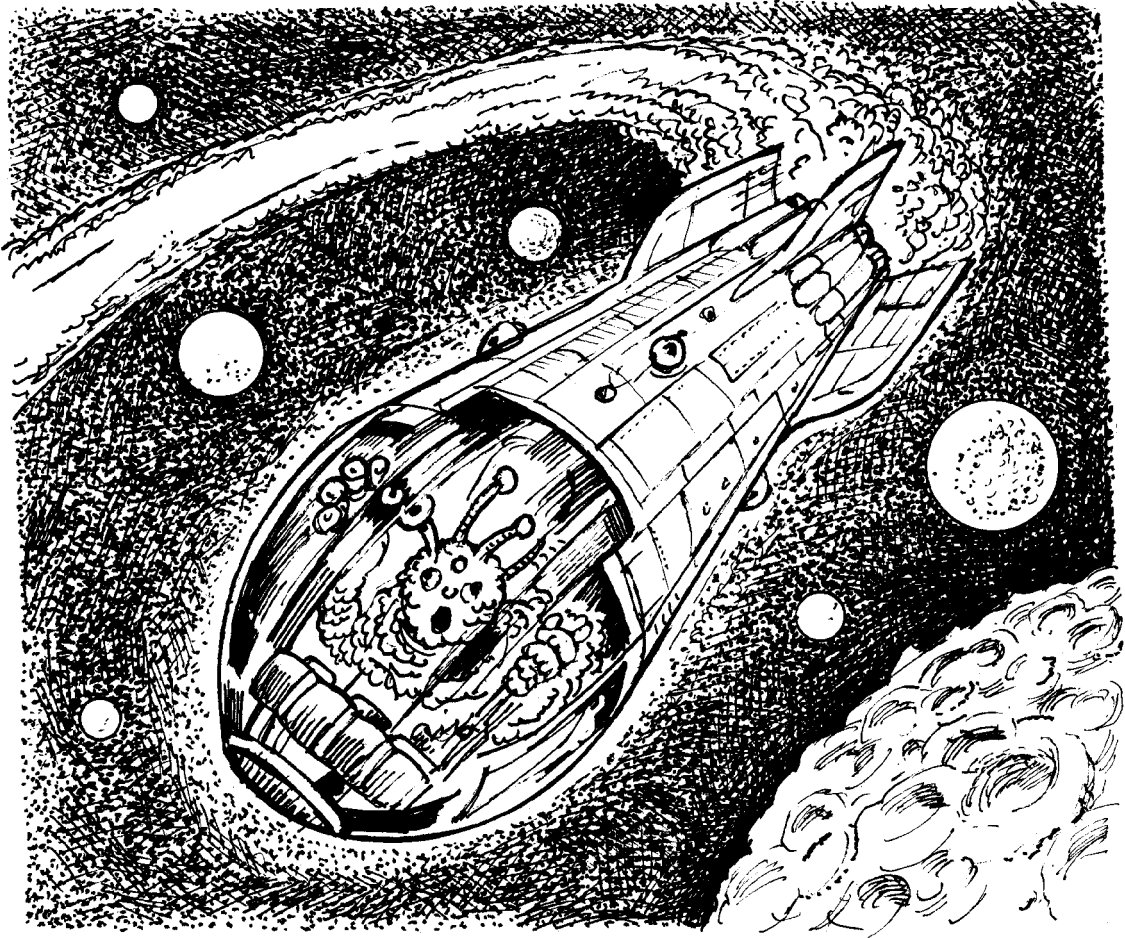


- The wizard's assistant who lives in this castle has several serious problems. Which problem do you think you could help him with?
1. The wizard is furious. His assistant has broken a bottle containing an extremely precious ingredient. It will be almost impossible to replace but it is needed in many spells. The wizard is so angry that he is rampaging around the castle looking for his terrified assistant. Can you help him?
  2. The wizard has accidentally turned himself into a beetle and now he is powerless to reverse the spell. Many people are relying on the wizard to solve all their problems but he is completely out of action. What can his assistant do?
  3. The wizard's old enemy is on his way to the castle to wage a war of magic. The two wizards must compete to see who can cast the most powerful spell. But your wizard has lost his memory after hitting his head on a stone eagle and cannot remember anything at all! What can his assistant do to prevent a disaster?



# Adventure stories

## Alien space ship



- The alien who flies this space ship has several serious problems. Which of these do you think you could help him to solve?
  1. The space ship has completely broken down and will not blast off. The alien needs to get home urgently. Can you think of a way to help him?
  2. The alien was not alone when he arrived on Earth. Unfortunately, during a visit to the zoo, a short-sighted zookeeper mistook his companion for a gibbon and locked him up in the gibbon enclosure. He is having a difficult time in there and needs rescuing urgently. This will not be easy – can you help?
  3. The alien has no desire to leave Earth as he much prefers it to his own planet. If he is to remain here he must be helped to look and behave like a human being. He knows nothing about manners or how to dress, or any of the things you learn at school. What should he do?

