

# THE SPACE CREATURE

Life on the spaceship had become dangerous. Something in the lower decks was attacking the crew. One by one, they were disappearing.

I heard a growl and jumped — but it was just my stomach. Boy, did I miss real food. Space food came from a tube and tasted foul. Six months ago, when I first joined the crew, I smuggled all kinds of snacks on board. I ate everything but a piece of raisin cake which I had hidden in a stripy sock. I never found that again.

The loudspeaker woke me from a daydream about that cake. “All deck hands to the food hall,” said the voice. I pulled on my space suit and trudged upstairs.

The hall was empty. “Hello. Anybody here?” I called. But there was no answer.

Had the thing taken the rest of the crew? I wasn’t sure, but the captain was too busy driving the ship to help me. It was

up to me to find out.

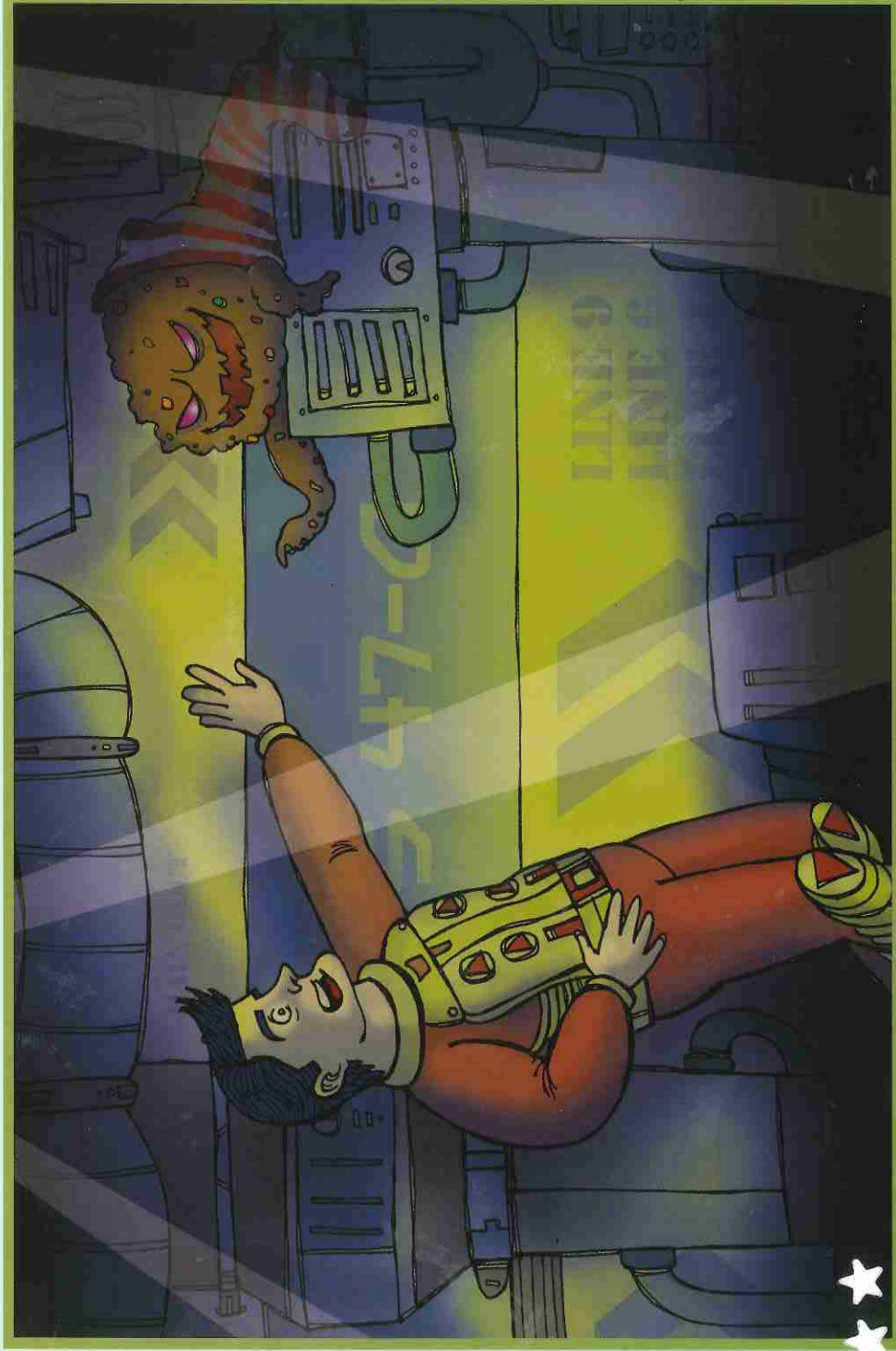
Taking a deep breath, I crept down to the bottom levels of the ship. I had only been down there once before, when I first came on board. It was dark and silent.

There — to the left! A small shadow shot down the corridor. It made a sucking noise as it moved. I chased it, but the thing darted across the vent ahead. I was very scared, but I had to run on. It

And stopped.

I was at a dead end. The thing sat on an old heating unit. It was hard to see, so I crept closer. It was nestled inside something stripy. I gasped.

It was a sock. My old sock. Curled inside it, the strange, mouldy-looking creature, glared at me with raisin eyes ...



ducked around the corner. I followed.



## Questions

- 1 What grewled?
  - a the narrator's stomach
  - a creature
  - the captain
- 2 What was first hidden in a stripy sock?
  - all kinds of snacks
  - a tube of space food
  - a piece of raisin cake
- 3 The narrator joined the crew
  - a year ago.
  - six months ago.
  - a week ago.
- 4 What sound did the creature make?
  - no sound
  - a sucking sound
  - a growling sound
- 5 The creature was
  - a pet.
  - hiding in a sock.
  - large and vicious.
- 6 Is this really a 'space creature'?
  - Yes, it is a creature from outer space.
  - No, it is not a creature, just a piece of cake.
  - No, it is a creature that grew from a piece of cake.

## Vocabulary

Match the words from the text to the clues.

- lower trudded foul smuggled vent
- 7 Secretly took something somewhere
  - 8 Disgusting or unpleasant
  - 9 Walked with slow, heavy steps
  - 10 A small opening that lets in air
  - 11 To be below something else

## Grammar

### Plurals

Nouns can name **one** thing, e.g. **cow**, or, **more than one**, e.g. **cows**.

Write more than one.

- 12 spaceship
- 13 loudspeaker
- 14 captain
- 15 shadow



## Back To The Text...

- 16 What did the boy miss?
  - a real food
  - his stripy sock

- 17 The narrator crept down to the bottom levels of the ship in the paragraph beginning
  - "I took a deep breath ..."
  - "The loudspeaker woke me ..."

## Think About This

- 18 Look at the illustration. The person in it is most likely to be
  - the captain.
  - the narrator.
  - an alien.
- 19 What word is a clue about how the cake turned into the creature?
  - strange
  - mouldy
  - starving
- 20 What kind of story is this?
  - a mystery
  - a fairytale
  - a comedy

## Challenge Option

Make and name your own sock creature.

