



Little Sammy and the Alien

Little Sammy lay on his bed listening to his favourite bedtime story.

"So, the alien lived happily ever after. The end," said Mum, in her time-to-go-to-sleep way. She leant over, pecked Little Sammy on his forehead and turned the lights out, just like she always did.

"Mum?" Little Sammy asked, as she was closing his door. "Does it always end with a happy ending?"

"Of course it does, sweetheart," his mum replied with an amused smile. "Now try to get some sleep. Goodnight."



Little Sammy's mum closed the door, leaving the bedroom in total darkness, just like she always did. Sammy lay there, staring into the darkness and waited for it all to start. It was the tapping sound that he heard first, just like he always did: a tap, tap, tapping from somewhere under his bed. Then, the strange scratchy sound began, like tiny feet scurrying along the carpet. The last sound was always the funniest. He waited, trying not to laugh, and then...

"Hemmmmmo..." a tiny voice squeaked.

Q1: Which sound did Sammy hear first? Tick **one** answer.

- scratching ☐
- tapping ☐
- scurrying ☐
- squeaking ☐



Q2: Find and copy a phrase which the author uses to show that the unusual events happened to Sammy a lot.



Q3: Do you think that Mum knows about the strange events that happen? Explain your answer.



"Meemu!" Little Sammy laughed, as he peered down to the end of his bed. There, heaving itself onto his solar system duvet, was a fluorescent-green creature. It was about the size of a teddy bear with bright yellow strands of hair. It had huge, maroon eyes and a massive mouth. It sat down and smiled, glowing brightly, and making a cooing sound, which was sort of a cross between the noises a pigeon and a baby might make. "Coo-coo," Little Sammy said, as if he understood the creature.

"Hemmmmmo," the tiny creature repeated.

"Yes, hello, Meemu," Little Sammy replied, turning on his bedside lamp. "We've already been through that." As soon as the light was on, the creature's bright colours disappeared. It looked rather plain now, with wrinkly grey skin and scraggly hair. Its eyes were still big and dark, though, which Little Sammy thought made it look quite cute.

"Meemu wanna go home," the strange thing said.

"I know," Little Sammy said. "Did you get what you needed?" The creature nodded, crawled up the bed and unzipped a bag that he was carrying.

"Meemu like," the creature giggled as it threw out a watch, a tablet, an electric razor, a hairdryer, a load of wires, two chocolate biscuits and a packet of midget gems.

"Meemu," Little Sammy sighed, "you're making a trans-dimensional space portal so that you can finally travel back to your home planet... why did you bring sweets and biscuits?"

The creature looked at his human friend as if he was mad. "Gemses power for machine, silly Sammy," it squeaked, shaking its head. "Plus, Meemu likes taste of biscuities. Yum yum." The small alien began to attach wires, plug in sockets, download programs and nibble on biscuits.

After ten minutes or so, it had finished. "Ta-da!" it sang, holding its tiny arms aloft.



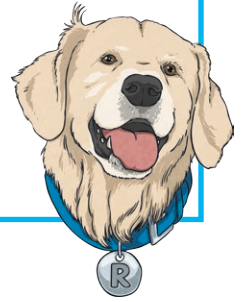
Q4: Draw a line to match the creature's body part to the adjectives that the author uses to describe them. There can be more than one adjective for each body part.

- | | |
|---------|------------|
| hair • | • yellow |
| | • massive |
| eyes • | • maroon |
| | • grey |
| mouth • | • scraggly |
| | • wrinkly |
| skin • | |



Q5: Find and copy three things that Meemu had in its backpack

- _____
- _____
- _____



Q6: How do you know that Sammy has met this creature before? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Q7: Why do you think that the creature's bright colours disappear when the light is switched on?



Q8: Why does the author choose to write Meemu's speech in broken English?

Little Sammy stared at the strange contraption the alien had created. "And you are sure that this is going to work?" he asked, looking rather sad.

The creature smiled and nodded its head.

"My mum says aliens can't live under people's beds but you've been with me ever since I can remember. You've always been there for me, Meemu..."

The alien crawled over and gave Little Sammy a hug. "Sammy brave boy. Mummy says so," it whispered. "Looook." It pointed through the window at the stars. "Find Meemu here. Meemu always be here."

The alien crawled over to its invention, tapped the tablet a few times and then flicked the hairdryer on. "Bysie," it said, waving its tiny arms in the air.

"Goodbye, Meemu," Little Sammy said over the noise of the machine, tears welling in his eyes. "I'm going to miss you."

With that, the little creature disappeared.

Every night, Little Sammy looked out of his bedroom window and stared at the stars, wondering if his best friend ever made it home. Months passed, then years, and Little Sammy grew up and became Big Sammy.

One night, he was reading a bedtime story to his daughter, Little Polly. It was her favourite story.

"So, the alien lived happily ever after. The end," he said. He leant over, pecked Little Polly on her forehead and turned the lights out, just like he always did. But this time, as the room went dark, he heard a strange tap-tap tapping noise followed by a scratching sound coming from under Polly's bed.

"Daddy?" Little Polly said in the dark. "Does it always end with a happy ending?"

Her father stared at the stars and waited for the final sound. "Oh, yes, Polly," he said, as a fluorescent glow reflected in the window. "It most certainly does!"



Q9: How does Sammy feel as Meemu leaves?

Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Q10: What is happening in Little Polly's room at the end of the story?



Q11: Explain how Sammy is similar to his mum by the end of the story.



Q12: Sum up the plot of this extract in thirty words or less.





Little Sammy and the Alien Answers

Q1: Which sound did Sammy hear first? Tick one answer.

scratching

tapping

scurrying

squeaking

☐☒☐☐

Q2: Find and copy a phrase which the author uses to show that the unusual events happened to Sammy a lot.

Accept any of the following phrases:

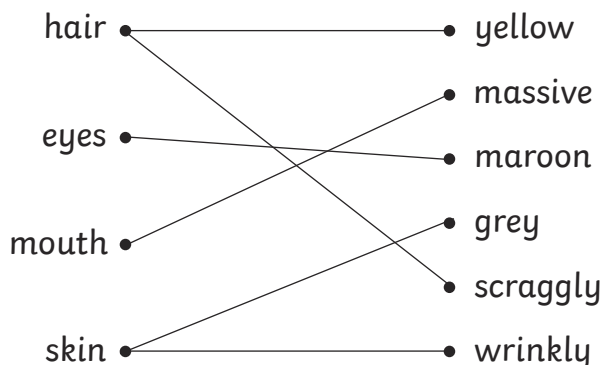
- 'waited for it all to start'
- 'just like he always did'
- 'the last sound was always the funniest'

Q3: Do you think that Mum knows about the strange events that happen? Explain your answer.

Accept the answer 'no', provided that it is accompanied by a reasonable explanation based on the text, such as:

- No, because it only happens when Mum leaves the room.
- No, because if Mum had heard the tapping sound, she probably would have gone back into Sammy's bedroom, and she didn't.
- No, because Sammy was trying not to laugh. This might be because he did not want Mum to hear and know.

Q4: Draw a line to match the creature's body part to the adjectives the author uses to describe them. There can be more than one adjective for each body part.



Q5: Find and copy three things that Meemu had in its backpack.

Accept any three of the following answers:

- a watch
- a tablet
- an electric razor
- a hairdryer
- a load of wires
- two chocolate biscuits
- a packet of midget gems

Q6: How do you know that Sammy has met this creature before? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept answers which discuss the following themes:

- Sammy must have met him before because he called the creature by its name straight away.
- Sammy answers 'as if he understands' the creature, which must mean that he has spoken to him before.
- Sammy knew what the creature was trying to make, without Meemu having to tell him.

Q7: Why do you think that the creature's bright colours disappear when the light is switched on?

- Accept any reasonable inference which would fit with the theme of the story, such as the following:
- Meemu is an alien so perhaps its colours only show up when it is dark, like it is on its home planet/in space.
- Maybe Meemu's colours glow in the dark, so when the light is on it makes Meemu look boring.
- Perhaps Meemu needs its colours to light its way when it is dark.

Q8: Why does the author choose to write Meemu's speech in broken English?

Accept any reasonable answers which discuss the theme that the author's choice of writing helps to emphasise that Meemu is an alien/not from this planet.

Q9: How does Sammy feel as Meemu leaves? Use evidence from the text to support your answer

Accept answers which infer that Sammy feels sad, despondent, downhearted, disappointed or lonely, provided that evidence from the text is used, such as:

- Sammy feels down. I know this because Sammy looked out of his bedroom window every night to see if he could see Meemu.

- I know that Sammy feels upset because the text says that he had 'tears welling in his eyes'.
- Sammy probably feels lonely because Meemu has been there 'ever since [he] can remember' and now he is gone.
- Sammy feels worried about whether or not Meemu got home safely because the text says that he spent time 'wondering if his best friend ever made it home'.

Q10: What is happening in Little Polly's room at the end of the story?

Accept answers which infer that Little Polly has an alien like Meemu in her bedroom too, just like her dad, Sammy, did when he was little, e.g.

- Little Polly has an alien in her bedroom because it makes the same strange noises that Meemu did when Sammy was little.

Q11: Explain how Sammy is similar to his mum by the end of the story.

Accept answers which discuss any of the following similarities:

- Sammy is reading the same book to his daughter that his mum read to him.
- He turned off the light in his daughter's room, just as his mum did in his.
- Sammy answered the same question for his daughter that his mum answered for him when he was little.

Q12: Sum up the plot of this story in thirty words or less.

Accept any reasonable summary of the plot in thirty words or fewer, such as:

- Sammy has a secret alien called Meemu who visits him for years before collecting what he needs to build a trans-dimensional space portal and return to his own planet.