

# Daily Reading: Jazz Harper Space Explorer 6

The video focuses on **making comparisons within the story**. Children watch the **video** relating to Chapter 5. They may choose to answer the questions on their activity sheet, they could think about the answers, or you may prefer to talk about them together. If they want to write down their answers, they can pause the video to give them time to write. Answers or example answers are included below. There are also some questions they may wish to answer at the end of the video. It will be useful for them to have the eBook in front of them (included in this pack) to find the answers to these questions.

Watch Video



## Chapter 5

### During the Video



1. What is the key difference between this diary entry and rest so far? (p.83)

**The big change in this chapter is that Elijah is the one writing the diary, not Jazz.**

2. Write down three differences between this diary entry and Jazz's usual writing.

**Children may point out some of the following:**

- **The author has started to use blue instead of black for Elijah's writing. This suggests that he uses a different pen to Jazz.**
- **Elijah has much neater writing than Jazz and the handwriting has changed.**
- **Elijah speaks differently to Jazz. While she usually writes 'Dear Diary', Elijah is more formal and says 'greetings'.**
- **Elijah uses words like 'yestersol' and his sentences are more complicated than Jazz's. This might suggest that he is an intelligent person and a good writer.**

**(Your child may have thought of some of these points, but if not, have a discussion about them. Their answer might not necessarily be wrong, and feedback is more valuable than a tick or a cross.)**

3. How do you think Elijah is feeling at the end of this chapter? Write down any evidence that tells you this. (p.88)

**Children may give their own ideas as long as they show evidence from the chapter; however, the main purpose of this question is to help them to realise that Elijah isn't a very emotive writer.**

**Example answer: 'I think that Elijah must be disappointed and worried, but actually he doesn't say anything too emotional. He says that he doesn't know what he'll do, but he doesn't use any words or punctuation that make us feel sad, angry or nervous.'**

4. How is Jazz feeling? Write down as much evidence as you can that tells the reader about her emotions.

**Children should notice that there is a lot more evidence of emotion in Jazz's writing and that her main emotion is anger/frustration/indignation. They may mention any of the following by way of evidence:**

- **She uses capital letters to show the words that she intends to shout at the reader.**
- **She repeats the word 'Mars' (- Mars!) because she doesn't feel like anyone is understanding her point.**
- **She uses exclamation marks (while Elijah didn't).**

- She repeats 'we're not allowed' to make a list of things that the adults have forbidden and to show her frustration.
- She uses informal language like 'going on about', showing that she is writing carelessly and emotionally.
- She uses rhetorical questions (such as 'Why bring us here in the first place?'), usually used in persuasive and emotive writing.

## After the Video



5. Look at the difference between Jazz's handwriting and Elijah's. What does this tell the reader about the differences in their personalities?

**Children should notice that Elijah has small, neat handwriting. They may notice his neat appearance in the illustrations and that he seems to be someone who is less creative and quite tidy. They should compare this with Jazz's slightly messier handwriting and link it to her slightly more vivacious character.**

6. Why is some of the text on page 81 written in black?

**Children should recognise that Jazz is keeping a close eye on what Elijah is writing and couldn't help but interrupt. You may wish to talk to them about what kind of friend Jazz seems to be.**

7. On page 84, Jazz says, "D'you think they've got aliens in there?". Do you think there are aliens in the lab? Explain your answer.

**Children may explain their own ideas. However, they should notice that on page 86, the scientists are talking about the possibility of 'retriev[ing] extraterrestrial life', suggesting that they haven't found any yet. They may even be aware that it is likely that any extraterrestrial life found on Mars would be in the form of microbes, probably found in the ground.**

8. What do you think Jazz's punishment will be?

**Children may explain their own theories. Decide together whether they think certain types of punishments would be as appropriate on Mars as they would on Earth. For example, taking away pocket money might not have as much impact on a planet where there are no toy shops or sweets.**

## Deeper Reading



9. Why are Jazz and Elijah in so much trouble?

**Children should recognise how important the samples in the lab are and why Jazz's mum had asked them not to touch anything. Going outside to collect samples is dangerous, difficult and expensive so this sample must have cost the colony a lot of resources.**

**(Your child may have thought of some of these points, but if not, have a discussion about them. Their answer might not necessarily be wrong, and feedback is more valuable than a tick or a cross.)**

10. Why do you think the author included a 'P.S.' at the end of the chapter? (p.89)

**Children may suggest their own ideas. They should recognise that 'P.S.' is usually added to the end of a letter, and Jazz always writes as though she is writing a letter (Dear Diary).**

**Talk to them, too, about the atmosphere in the chapter at this point and how the end of the chapter is quite miserable, and discuss the idea of comic relief. The author has added a funny sentence to lift the mood and to remind us of Jazz's resilient and irrepressible sense of humour.**

## Related Activity



Each day, an activity related to the session will be provided. This is a fun quiz which is best viewed on a screen, and which asks children to decide whether parts of the story are fact or fiction. Ensure that children understand why the author has had to invent certain features of the story such as video games on the spaceship, and why they can't use all facts when writing about the future.

## Answers



1. In space, astronauts have to strap themselves to the wall to go to sleep.

**Fact.**

**It's true! Astronauts can sleep in any orientation since space has no "up" or "down". However, they must attach themselves to something so that they don't float around and bump into anything!**

2. You can get "spacesick" in space just like you can get "seasick" on a boat.

**Fact.**

**It's true! As many as half of all space travellers experience "space sickness" or "space adaptation syndrome" while they adjust to the feeling of weightlessness.**

3. Spacecrafts have entertainment suites with giant screens for playing video games.

**Fiction.**

**That's not true! Perhaps in the future, spacecrafts will have huge entertainment suites but, for now, astronauts can spend their free time reading, listening to music and watching DVDs. They are allowed to bring some of their own belongings and, on the ISS, they can talk to their families.**

4. You could make a tortilla in space and eat it without using your hands!

**Fact.**

**It's true! Using special, packeted ingredients, astronauts can create meals like tortilla wraps. It's possible to let the food float in the air and eat it without touching it with your hands but it could get messy!**

5. It can take several minutes for a video message to reach Earth from Mars.

**Fiction.**

**That's not true! We don't know how long a video call would take to reach Earth from Mars. It can take the Mars rover hours to send images back from Mars' surface, depending on the position of satellites at the time. Currently, we are able to have video calls with astronauts aboard the International Space Station with only a few seconds' delay in messages.**

6. The Valles Marineris is a huge valley that looks like a great big scar along Mars' equator.

**Fact.**

**It's true! Valles Marineris is an enormous canyon system on Mars found near its equator. It is 4,000km long and up to 7km deep, whereas the Grand Canyon in America is only about 800km long and 1.6km deep!**

7. People living on Mars will need to eat cockroaches and algae.

**Fiction.**

**That's not true! Humans have never been to Mars so we don't know what will be possible there. However, the green, slimy algae that usually grows on the surface of pond water could be the key to creating breathable air among other things. Cockroaches are also a source of protein which has been successfully bred in space.**

8. There is a Mars Knowledge Test for anyone who wishes to travel to Mars.

**Fiction.**

**That's not true! It is likely that there will be a great deal of training needed when humans travel to Mars but, until then, we don't have enough information about the planet.**

9. Sunsets on Mars are blue, not red or orange.

**Fact.**

**It's true! During the day, Mars' sky is red but, as the sun sets, the sky turns a deep blue.**

10. There is proof that life could exist on Mars.

**Fiction.**

**That's not true! So far, no proof has been found that life has ever or could ever exist on Mars. There has been evidence that there may once have been running water, but nothing yet that suggests the planet had anything living on it.**

11. On Mars, there are caves that look like craters in the ground.

**Fact.**

**That's true! There were several "skylights" found on Mars' surface which were thought to be the entrances to Martian caves.**

12. Olympus Mons is the largest volcano on Mars.

**Fact.**

**That's true! In fact, it is believed to be the largest in the solar system! Olympus Mons is a shield volcano that is 624km wide and 25km high.**