

Daily Reading: Jazz Harper Space Explorer 3

The video focuses on **recognising informal language**. Children watch the **video** relating to Chapter 2. 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 2 Part 2

During the Video



1. Why do you think Jazz's diary is written using informal language?

People write informally if they are writing to a friend or, in this case, to themselves. Jazz expects that no one but her friends or herself will read this. Most diaries are written as though the writer is chatting to someone, and Jazz even starts her entry with 'Dear Diary'.

2. Look at the paragraph beginning '(Mum says it's not...'. Write down two things which make the writing feel informal. (p.29)

Children may have said that Jazz:

- **uses 'Mum' instead of Mother, or 'my mum';**
- **uses contractions such as 'it's' instead of 'it is';**
- **uses dashes to show her thoughts getting sidetracked;**
- **uses non-standard words like 'teeny tiny';**
- **has written a whole paragraph in brackets to show that she has got sidetracked from the main point of her story;**
- **writes like she speaks e.g. 'only it's not enough...'**

(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. Why do you think the author has written a word in capital letters? (p.30)

Children should recognise that if Jazz were speaking, she would emphasise this word or say it louder. Because she is writing as she would speak, she wants us to hear the words that she would put emphasis on.

After the Video



4. Why is it important for the passengers on the Argo to visit the gym? (p.29)

Children may paraphrase the following from page 29:

'On Earth, our bodies are always doing lots of work to keep us upright against the force of gravity. Since there's practically no gravity in space, our bodies don't have to work as hard. Instead, we have to exercise all the time so that our bones and muscles don't become weak and turn to jelly.'

5. How do you think Jazz feels on the Argo?

Children may explain their own ideas, such as 'I think that Jazz is keeping herself entertained because she mentions a lot of games that they have been playing.'

6. List three things that can be found in the 'Fun Zone'. (p.30-31)

Children may mention:

- **egg-shaped, squashy seats**
- **electronic tablets (where you can read any book in the universe)**
- **giant screens with TV shows and games**
- **'Galaxy Racers'**
- **'Alien Task Force'**

7. Look at pages 30-31. Find and copy three informal words for 'good' that Jazz uses.

awesome; epic; cool

(Children may also find 'completely amazing', though this is less informal than the other suggestions.)

8. Why has the author used capital letters to write 'the ONLY RULE'? (p.33)

Children may explain in their own way that Jazz is frustrated with Ellie-May's lack of understanding of the rules and that by using capital letters, the reader can hear how Jazz is speaking in their head. She is emphasising these words to show her exasperation.

Deeper Reading



9. 'She just raised one eyebrow and said, "We'll see."' Do you think that Jazz's mum will let them help her on a mission? Why? (p.31)

Children may explain their own theories; however, if they think that Jazz's mum will let them help her on her mission, speak to the children about what Jazz's mum 'raising one eyebrow' might mean.

10. What is 'microgravity'?

Children may paraphrase the paragraph in page 29 which explains that 'Every object in the universe has its own gravitational field – including humans, treadmills and even tortillas – so there is a teeny tiny bit of gravity, only it's not enough to stop everything from floating around. It's called 'microgravity'.

Related Activity



Each day, an activity related to the session will be provided. This activity asks children to rewrite a section of Jazz's diary with formal language. An example answer can be found below.

Related Activity



The answer provided below is merely an example. Read the children's answer and point out any chatty language you see or ask them to explain the changes they have made. Use the criteria on the sheet to spot e.g. places where apostrophes can be removed and words can be replaced for more formal synonyms. Exclamation marks can be replaced by full stops and jokes can be removed.

Example Answer

Dear Diary,

Unfortunately, I have been so busy landing on Mars and being monitored by the medical team (~~in case I accidentally turn to jelly~~) that I forgot all about writing in my adventure diary. There is so much to describe that I do not know where to begin.

I suppose that I should really begin with the most wonderful thing: the colony lavatories. They are genuine toilets, which one can truly flush. They have real seats, like those on Earth, rather than merely a hole in a small plastic frame and one has no need to worry about floating away. I cannot explain how much I have missed authentic lavatories.