

Earth 2072

The year was 2072. Beth touched the start button. The voice came on. “Good morning, Beth. Log into lesson number 9.”

Beth liked school. She liked sitting in her study pod. Today’s lesson was on history. She waited for the other children from around her home planet to sign on. There was also a visitor. It was a girl from station 54. It was near Mars. That was a place she really wanted to visit. Her parents promised that they could go there soon.

She signed on. She loved to hear the chatter on the line.

“Did you catch the **meteor**¹ **shower**² last night?” Nate asked.

“How could I miss it!” Jay interrupted.

“Amazing! We had to move our ship to get out of the way!” Beth said.

The robot started the lesson.

“Up until just 40 years ago,” it said, “children learned together in school buildings. They worked together with a human teacher. But today, we are far ahead of the old ways.”

The robo-teacher kept talking. Beth began to think what it would have been like in the old days. She had never met another child face to face. Would it be strange to be in a room with another person?

¹ **meteor**: one of the small bodies of matter in the solar system observable when it falls into the earth's atmosphere where the heat of friction may cause it to glow brightly for a short time

² **meteor shower**: many meteors falling through the earth's atmosphere resembling streams of water coming from a shower head

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which of the following subjects were students learning about in the piece?

- A math
- B space
- C history
- D language arts

2. Read the following sentences from the passage: "She waited for the other children from around her home planet to sign on. There was also a visitor. It was a girl from station 54. It was near Mars."

What is the reason for including these sentences in the passage?

- A to compare Earth to Mars
- B to describe a school day in the future
- C to explain what the lesson plan is about
- D to introduce the teacher to the reader

3. What can you conclude about Beth after reading the passage?

- A She wants to teach the lesson.
- B She missed the meteor shower.
- C History is not her favorite subject.
- D She is curious about the past.

4. Read the following sentence from the passage: "She loved to hear the chatter on the line."

In this sentence, the word **chatter** means

- A static
- B music
- C ongoing talking
- D complete silence

5. The primary purpose of this passage is to

- A teach people about the solar system
- B illustrate what a meteor shower is
- C explain how robots teach school
- D describe how life has changed in future

6. What does the dialogue among the characters tell us about the meteor shower?

7. In this passage, how has technology affected life in the year 2072?

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Beth signed on, and ____ the robot started the lesson.

- A then
- B before
- C for example
- D instead

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

In the year 2072, a girl from station 54 near Mars took part in the history lesson.

Who? a girl

(did) What? _____

Where? _____

When? _____

10. **Vocabulary Word:** interrupt: to start talking before someone else has finished talking.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: _____

Teacher Guide and Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 330

Featured Text Structure: Descriptive – the writer explains, defines, or illustrates a concept or topic

Passage Summary: “Earth 2072” describes a futuristic school day. Readers get a glimpse into how technology has changed life for students decades from now.

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6. What does the dialogue among the characters tell us about the meteor shower?

Suggested answer: From the dialogue among the characters, we learn that they enjoyed the meteor shower and thought it was really amazing. [paragraphs 4, 5, and 6]

7. In this passage, how has technology affected life in the year 2072?

Suggested answer: In the year 2072, technology has made it so that people travel around in space and can sign on remotely to their school lesson. Kids don't interact with each other face-to-face. In fact, Beth has never met another child face-to-face. Students don't learn in school buildings but rather sit in their study pods alone in far-off places and connect to each other through technology. Robots, not humans, teach the classes. [paragraphs 2, 3, 6, 7, 8, and 9]

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(did) What? **took part in the history lesson**

Where? **from station 54 near Mars**

When? **in the year 2072**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** interrupt: to start talking before someone else has finished talking.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.