



Chapter 1 · Touchdown

Aunt Agatha is making the first stop on her travels, to a strange planet called Earth. Her arrival is causing quite a fuss! What will she make of it? And what will the humans make of her?

AUNT AGATHA, SPACE TRAVELLER

David MacPhail

CONTENT



READ!

- **Reading comprehension questions:** 10 multiple choice questions to test text retrieval and reading comprehension. These questions may also be completed online at www.fictionexpress.co.uk
- **Guided reading:** teacher's notes and a written response worksheet comprising 6 questions which allow for deeper response to the story, looking at personal response, inference and prediction



WRITE!

- **"Inspire!" words** to encourage children to include them in their own writing
- **"Spotlight!" word list** of the words highlighted and defined online
- **Writing worksheet:** draw and describe somewhere Aunt Agatha could land
- **Vocabulary worksheet:** using noun phrases to describe Earth



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** recount and discuss the places described (link to writing)



EXPLORE!

- **Language activity:** matching greeting to language



Name: _____

1

What squashed Uncle Flint?

- A. A space rock hit him
- B. Aunt Agatha landed on him
- C. He was squashed by his money

2

What did the nephew give Aunt Agatha for her birthday?

- A. Rocks
- B. A guidebook
- C. Socks

3

Why is Aunt Agatha's spaceship so bad?

- A. It's second-hand
- B. She made it herself
- C. It's made from cheese

4

Who is Jumbo?

- A. An elephant that came to Saturn
- B. An alien disguised as an elephant
- C. Aunt Agatha's cuddly toy

5

What has Jumbo written?

- A. A letter to Aunt Agatha
- B. A guidebook about Earth
- C. A song about Saturn



Name: _____

6

Why can't Aunt Agatha leave Earth when the man shouts at her?

- A She broke her spaceship when she landed
- B. She has promised to visit her friend Jumbo
- C. She needs to recharge the batteries on her spaceship

7

Where does Aunt Agatha land?

- A. Outside a primary school
- B. In a shopping centre car park
- C. On top of Uncle Flint

8

What job did Aunt Agatha have before she retired?

- A. She was head teacher of a school
- B. She was a famous explorer called Blaze
- C. She worked at a shopping centre

9

What does Aunt Agatha think the frightened humans look like?

- A. Martian spider pigs
- B. Galactic sheep from Jupiter
- C. Venus running chickens

10

Why do people start crashing cars nearby?

- A. They are trying to escape from the police
- B. Lots of aliens are trying to drive cars
- C. Everyone is driving fast, away from the scary alien

**1**

Ask: Who is Aunt Agatha? (an alien) Ask: What do we know about Aunt Agatha? Together, locate details about Aunt Agatha in the text, for example: she is 400, she has 40 feet, 12 eyes and three heads, she is covered in scales, she used to be a head teacher, but she has now retired, she is from Saturn. If possible, look at a map of the solar system and find Saturn, Earth and the asteroid belt.

2

Ask: What has happened to poor Uncle Flint? (He has been squashed by some space rock.) Speculate what Uncle Flint is like that it might have been possible to blow him back up again. Agree that these aliens are very different from us. Ask: How does Uncle Flint's death help Aunt Agatha? (He leaves her lots of money.) Ask: What does she decide to do with the money? (Become an explorer like cousin Blaze.) Ask: What does Galactic mean? Where might you spend Galactic pounds?

3

What is Aunt Agatha's spaceship like? Read the paragraph starting 'My spaceship is in a terrible state...' and agree that it sounds like it's about to fall apart. Spend time speculating on what it might look like, allowing the children to use their imagination. Challenge the children to locate three adjectives in this paragraph. (terrible, ghastly and best). Discuss the meaning of ghastly. Continue the hunt in the next paragraph, locating noisy, smelly and angry.

4

Ask: What happens when Aunt Agatha arrives on Earth? Encourage the children to take turns to retell part of the story. For example: Aunt Agatha lands in a car park, crushing some of the cars. She has an argument with a man then frightens all the humans when she comes out of her spaceship. A boy and a girl seem pleased to see her. Aunt Agatha sees a police officer chasing a man. Ask: What do you think Martian spider pigs might be like? (Animals with wild waving arms.)

5

Ask: How is this story written? Agree that it is an email. Together, find the features of a letter. Locate the salutation 'Dear Nephew'. Together, speculate on what the Nephew's reply might be. Model starting the email 'Dear Aunt Agatha' and encourage the children to comment on the events described in the email and answer Aunt Agatha's question at the end. Encourage them to explain their decision at the end, for example 'You should help the police officer because then they will trust you.'

6

Ask: What is Aunt Agatha like? Help the children to make judgements using Aunt Agatha's actions - she lands on cars, she doesn't seem to feel sorry for squashing cars, she thinks the humans are silly. Agree that she is funny and a bit thoughtless. Find the phrase "You can't park that horrible thing at a shopping centre!" Ask: Who has appalling manners: the man or Aunt Agatha? Ask the children to suggest other problems Aunt Agatha could cause on Earth.



Name: _____

1

What does Aunt Agatha look like?

2

How does Aunt Agatha become rich?

3

What is Aunt Agatha's spaceship like?



Name: _____

4

Why does the man shout at Aunt Agatha?

5

How do you know this is a letter?

6

How does Aunt Agatha behave in the story?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 1 of *Aunt Agatha, Space Traveller*.

You may wish to explore this vocabulary, to improve children's understanding of the chapter, and inspire and enhance the quality of their own writing. You might like to display the words in the classroom, and encourage children to use new vocabulary as part of the Write! worksheet tasks.

disgusting

dreadful

fleeing

panic

quiver

snugly



Name: _____

Aunt Agatha lands in a car park. Draw a picture of somewhere different on Earth that she might land. Write a paragraph below your picture to describe this place and what would happen if a spaceship landed there.



Name: _____

This picture shows our home planet Earth. Think about what we have on Earth that Aunt Agatha may have seen as she travelled here from space. Then write some noun phrases to describe some of these things. One has been done for you.



white swirling clouds



What should Aunt Agatha do?

A

Go with the children

The children are smiling at Aunt Agatha and do not seem to be afraid of her, so this could be a good way for her to get to know the humans. We know she is used to talking to children from being a head teacher, although she does seem disgusted by the human children and their smiles!

B

Help the police officer catch the man

We do not yet know whether Aunt Agatha has any special powers or equipment that would let her help the police officer. Perhaps she is just very quick because of all her feet! Do you think this choice might help her if she can show the police officer that she is not dangerous?

C

Get back in your spaceship. This dreadful planet is not worth it!

Aunt Agatha is trying to be an explorer. Should she give up straight away before she has had a look around planet Earth? Remember, her batteries need recharging anyway, so it is likely that she will need to stay on the planet for a little while, whatever she decides to do!

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *Aunt Agatha, Space Traveller*?

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, discuss where you think Aunt Agatha would like to visit on this planet. You could use your Write! worksheets to help your discussion. Do you agree on the places?



Name: _____

It would be helpful if Aunt Agatha could say hello to the humans! But which language should she choose to speak? Can you match the language to the greeting? Draw a line between the two. The first one has been done for you.

hola**Arabic****bonjour****Italian****nín hǎo****German****ciao****Spanish****namaste****French****Guten Tag****Hindi****as-salām
'alaykum****Mandarin
Chinese**

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. What squashed Uncle Flint?
A. A space rock hit him

2. What did the nephew give Aunt Agatha for her birthday?
C. Socks

3. Why is Aunt Agatha's spaceship so bad?
A. It's second-hand

4. Who is Jumbo?
B. An alien disguised as an elephant

5. What has Jumbo written?
B. A guidebook to Earth

6. Why can't Aunt Agatha leave Earth when the man shouts at her?
C. She needs to recharge the batteries on her spaceship

7. Where does Aunt Agatha land?
B. In a shopping centre car park

8. What job did Aunt Agatha have before she retired?
A. She was head teacher of a school

9. What does Aunt Agatha think the frightened humans look like?
A. Martian spider pigs

10. Why do people start crashing cars nearby?
C. Everyone is driving fast, away from the scary alien

EXPLORE! Worksheet: Sort them out!

hola / Spanish
bonjour / French
nín hǎo / Mandarin Chinese
ciao / Italian
namaste - Hindi
Guten Tag / German
as-salām 'alaykum / Arabic

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