

LEVEL

5

Upper
Beginner

Compass
Readers

Aliens Are Coming!

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A Space in the Basement

Michael stood alone in his grandfather's **basement** in the town of Martinsburg. For many years, Michael and his father had lived in a small apartment in the capital city, three hours away. Michael's father got a new job at Martinsburg College. On Saturday they would move into Grandfather's house.

Michael worried that he wouldn't make new friends in Martinsburg. Grandfather promised that Michael could use the basement if he cleaned it, though. Michael imagined he would enjoy having such a large space to use. He would play **alien** games! He would read **silly** stories!

Michael looked at the old toys and machines. They were covered with dust. How could he clean it all?

Michael pulled out a strange old machine. It had **dials** on one side. It had a microphone on another side.





Michael cleaned the dust off of a table. He set the machine down and turned it on. It made a sound. It was an old radio! Michael remembered Grandfather telling stories about friends he had met using the radio. The friends lived here in Martinsburg and in other parts of the world.

Michael turned a dial. He heard what sounded like **human** voices. Almost like human voices, that is.



Signs of Trouble

“Earth is near,” said one voice. “Prepare to meet the humans.”

“Will we take any Earth people home with us?” asked another.





“Yes. Our master **commanded** us to bring some back for our experiments.” The radio made a strange sound. Then it was **completely** quiet.