

### 3 The Visitors

by George Shea

#### Before You Read

Before you read "The Visitors," study the words below. Make sure you know what each word means. This will help you understand the story.

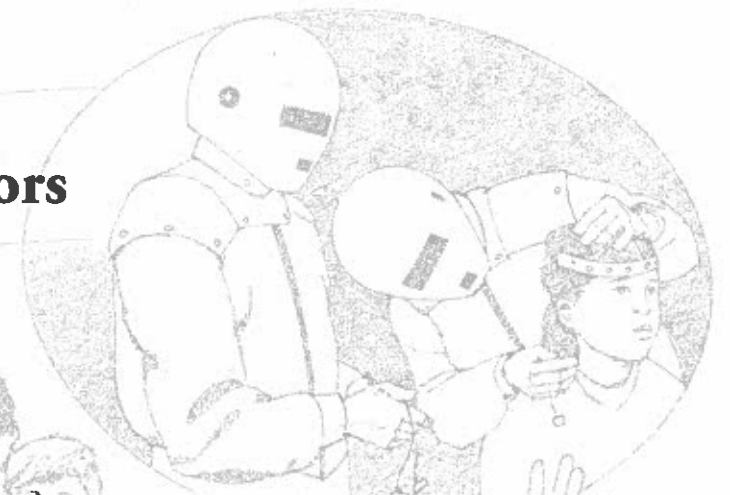
**creatures:** living people and animals

**floated:** moved slowly in the air

**forward:** ahead; to the front

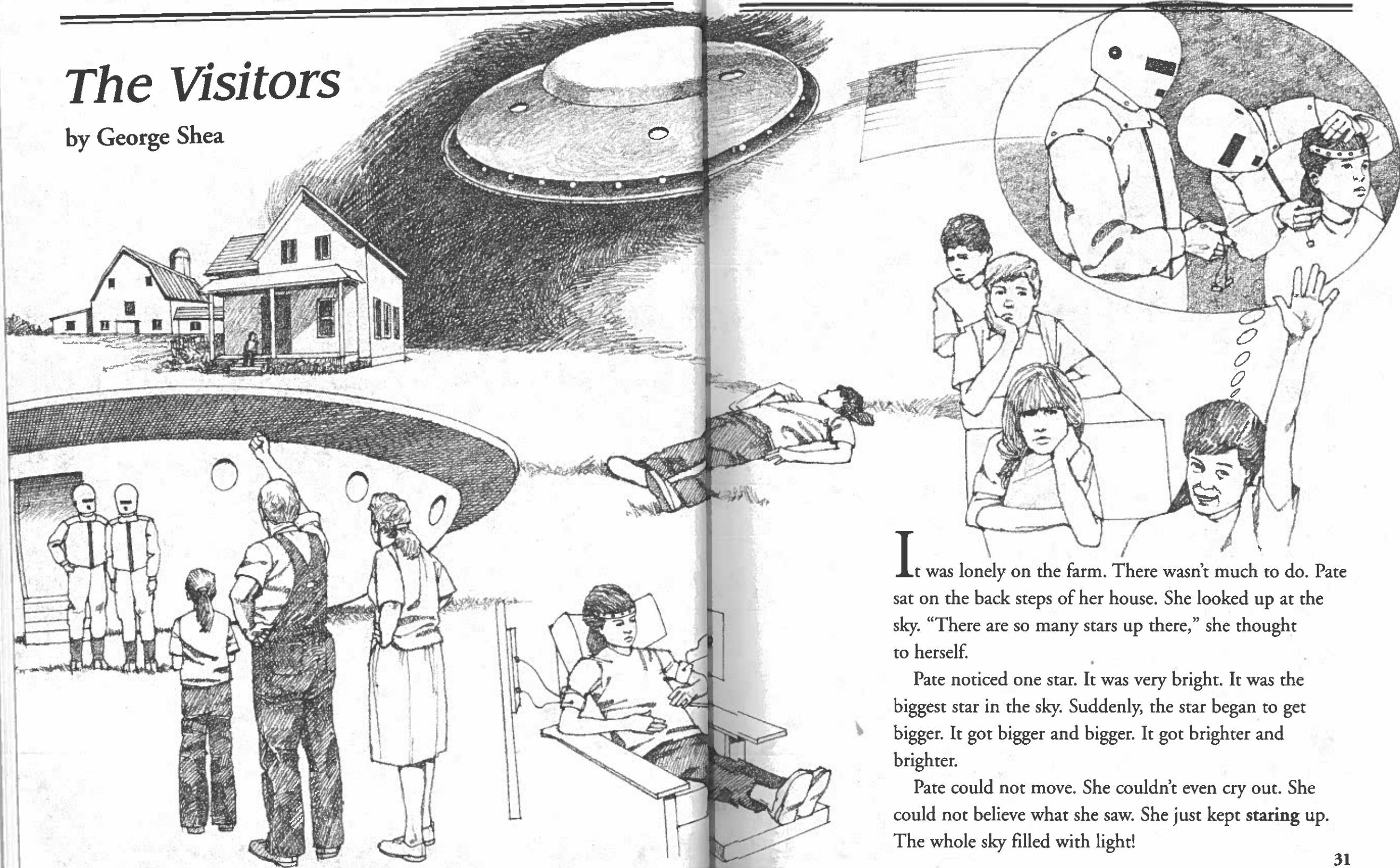
**planet:** Planets move around the sun. Some planets are bigger than Earth.

**fooling around:** telling jokes; having fun



# The Visitors

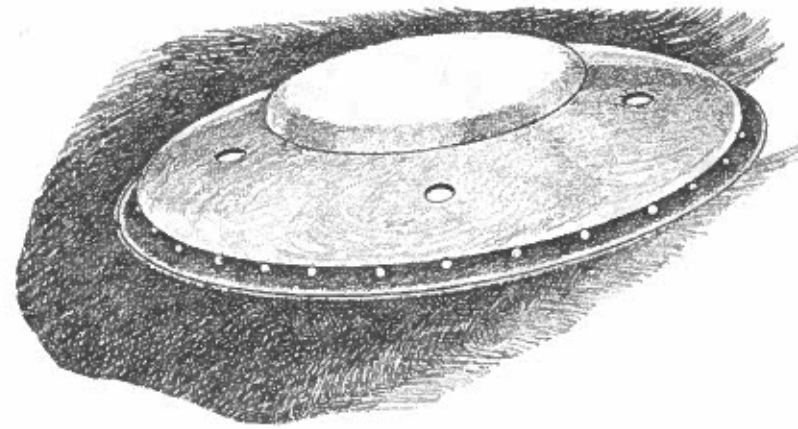
by George Shea



It was lonely on the farm. There wasn't much to do. Pate sat on the back steps of her house. She looked up at the sky. "There are so many stars up there," she thought to herself.

Pate noticed one star. It was very bright. It was the biggest star in the sky. Suddenly, the star began to get bigger. It got bigger and bigger. It got brighter and brighter.

Pate could not move. She couldn't even cry out. She could not believe what she saw. She just kept staring up. The whole sky filled with light!



Then she saw a large round spaceship. It was about 100 feet wide. It had orange lights. They blinked on and off.

The ship was coming down! It was landing in the backyard!

Pate's parents came out of the house. They stood in the yard. They did not speak. They seemed afraid.

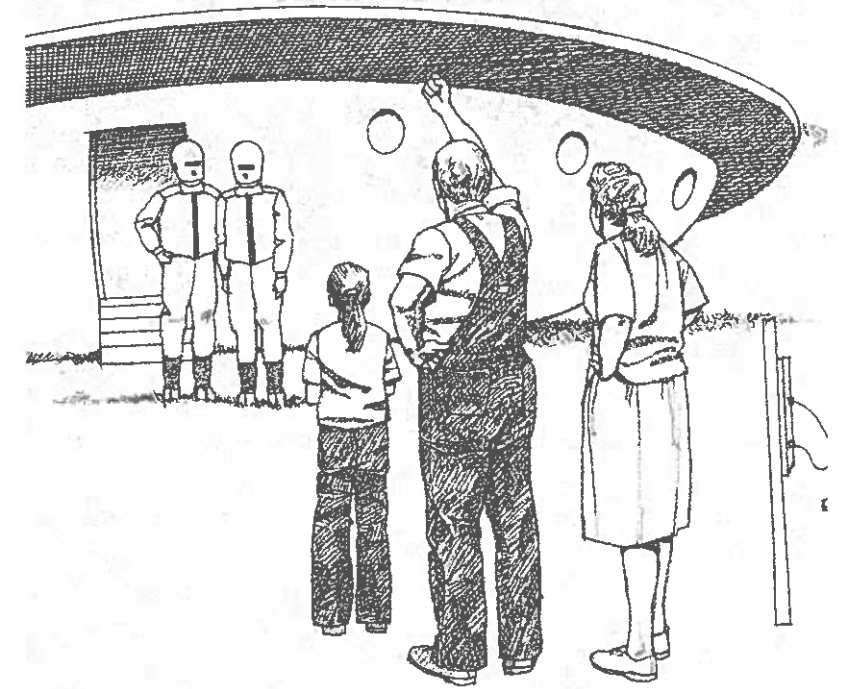
The ship landed. A door in its side suddenly opened. Two creatures came out. They floated in the air. Then they landed softly on the ground.

Pate was surprised. She thought to herself, "They look just like us."

One of the creatures spoke. It said to her, "Come closer to the ship. We will not harm you."

"No!" said her father. "Do not move! Stay where you are, Pate!"

The creature moved toward Pate. Her father stepped forward. He stood between Pate and the creature.



"Do not touch her," he said. Then he raised his arm.

The other creature moved behind Pate's father. It put something against the back of his neck.

Pate's father fell to the ground. Pate and her mother ran to where he was lying. They were afraid he was dead.

"He lives. He is fine," said the first creature. "He will wake up in an hour. He will not remember this."

Suddenly, the other creature was behind Pate's mother. It pressed something against her neck. She fell to the ground too.

Pate looked down at her mother. Pate could see that her mother was breathing. She saw that her father was breathing too.

"Come with us, please," said the first creature. "Come into the ship. We need to test you."



"Test me?" said Pate. "What do you mean? Why me?"

"You are young. We have already tested others on your planet. But all of them were older. Do not be afraid. We will not hurt you. You will be back with your parents very soon."

Pate went into the ship. They put wires on her arms. They put something around her head. It also had wires.

The wires went to a machine. It made popping noises.

Both creatures looked at the machine. Then they asked Pate questions. They asked her about her school. They asked her what she learned there.

Pate answered their questions. Then she said, "Why do you want to know these things?"

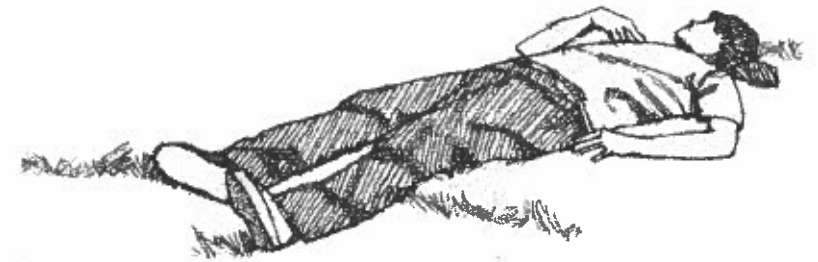
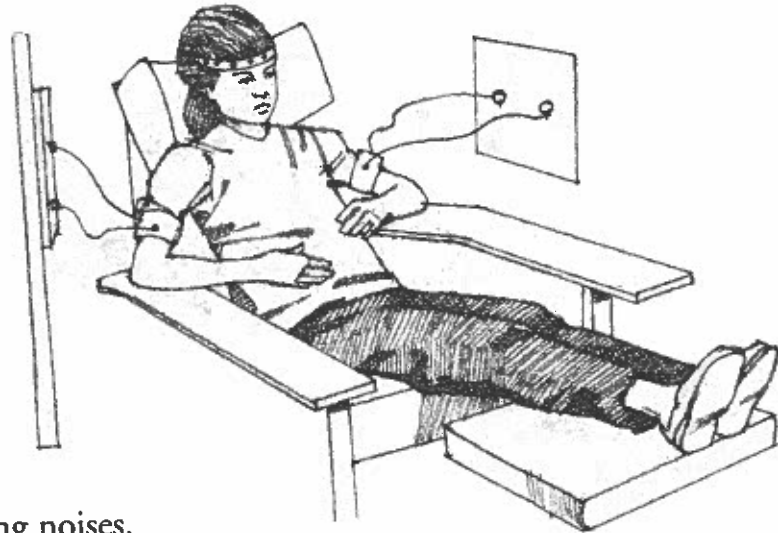
One of them said, "It is our job. Our people must know what is happening on other planets. Someday we may talk to the people who run your country. But we will be friends. We will not hurt your people."

"Where are you from?" Pate asked.

"A planet," one of them said. "Its name does not matter."

"We are finished now," one of them said.

Pate felt something against the back of her neck. Then everything went black.



Pate woke up an hour later. She was lying on the ground in the backyard. Her parents were standing over her. They looked very worried.

"Pate. Are you all right?" her mother asked.

"I—I think so," said Pate. She slowly got to her feet.

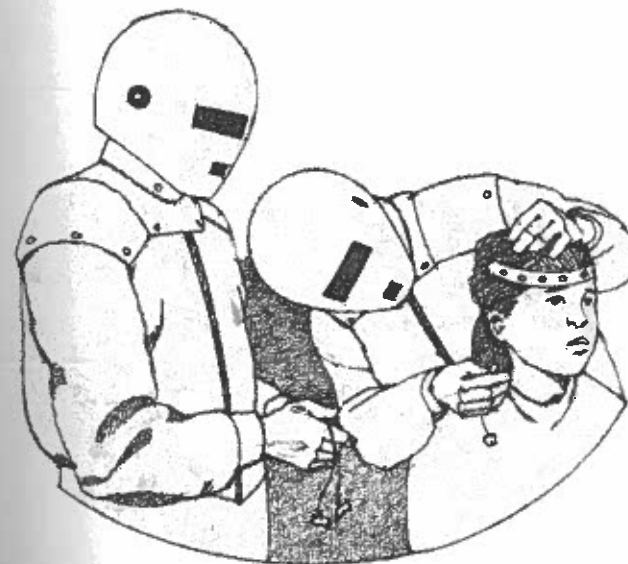
"What happened?" she asked.

"We do not know," said her father. "You probably fell down. We found you lying here. We must have fallen too. That is strange. It is very strange. Do you remember what happened?"

Pate looked around the yard. Everything seemed the same. Nothing had changed.

"No," she said. "I do not remember anything."

Weeks went by. Then one night Pate had a dream. She dreamed about the ship. She saw the faces of the creatures. She saw them put wires on her arms. She saw them put something around her head. She saw the machine. It made popping noises.



In the dream Pate heard the creatures' questions again. They asked, "What do they teach you in school? What do you learn?"

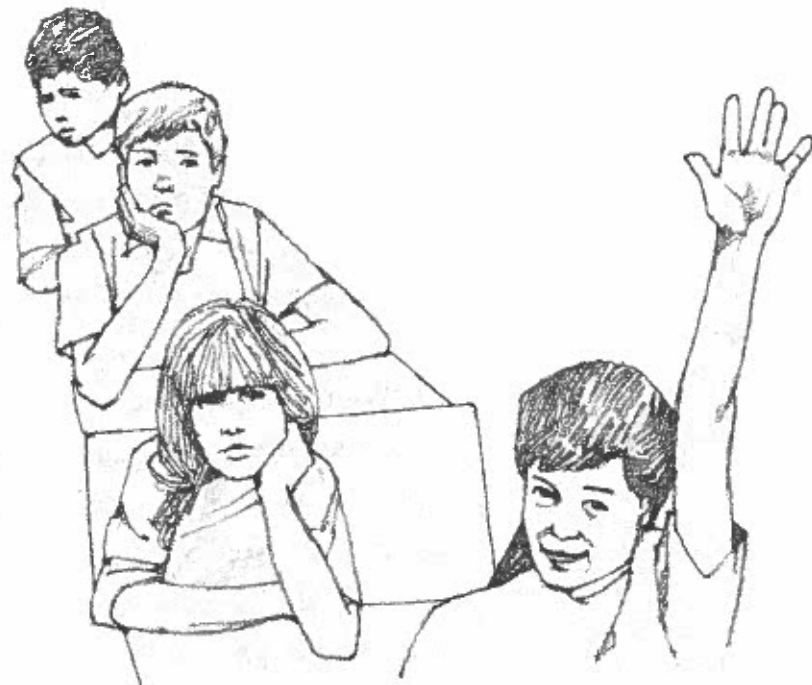
Suddenly Pate woke up. She began to shake. Everything in the dream seemed so *real*. She looked at the clock. It was time to get up.

Pate ate breakfast. Then she went to school. That morning her teacher, Mr. Anyo, talked about life in space.

He asked the class, "Does anyone believe that there is life on other planets?"

Suddenly, Pate remembered everything. She was sure that what she had dreamed had really happened. She raised her hand.

"I do!" she said. "I saw a spaceship. That was just a few weeks ago. It landed in my backyard."



The whole class laughed. Mr. Anyo laughed too. "That's very funny, Pate," he said. "Now let's stop fooling around."

"No! No! I am telling the truth!" Pate said. "The spaceship landed in my backyard. Two creatures came out of the ship. They took me inside the ship. They asked me questions. They put wires on my arms. And they put something around my head."

"Someone ought to look *inside* your head!" a kid yelled out. Everyone laughed.

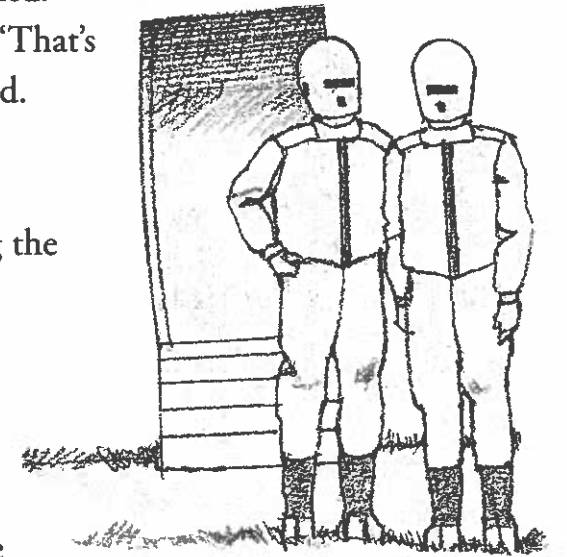
Pate stood up. "But it's true!" she said. "It is true! It is true!"

"Pate. Please sit down," said Mr. Anyo. "You must stop this talk! If you do not, I will have to send you to THE PLACE FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP."

Pate did not sit down. She ran to the board. "But it's all true!" she said. "It is true! It is true! I remember it all! I remember their spaceship. There were some words on its side. I could not tell what they said. They looked like this." She wrote something on the board.

Mr. Anyo was moving toward her.

Pate went on. "And next to the words was a little picture. It was red, white, and blue. The little picture had red and

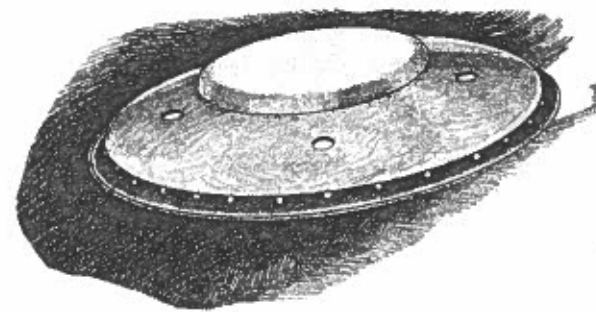


white stripes. And there were stars in a corner of the picture. There were fifty stars. I counted them all. And there were letters near the picture. They said U.S.A.”

Pate drew the little picture.

“See?” she said.

A little later Mr. Anyo sent Pate to THE PLACE FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP.



## TELL ABOUT THE STORY.

Put an  $x$  in the box next to the right answer. Each sentence tells a *fact* about the story.

- The spaceship landed  
 a. on top of the house.  
 b. near the school.  
 c. in Pate's backyard.
- The creatures said they wanted to  
 a. test Pate.  
 b. take Pate away.  
 c. speak to Pate's teacher.
- Pate remembered the creatures when she  
 a. read a story about them.  
 b. saw a movie about them.  
 c. dreamed about them.
- When Pate told the class what had happened to her, everyone  
 a. laughed.  
 b. believed her story.  
 c. asked her questions.

## ADD WORDS TO SENTENCES.

Complete the sentences below. Fill in each blank with one of the words in the box. Each word can be found in the story. There are five words and four blanks. This means that one word in the box will not be used.

Suppose you told a friend that you saw a \_\_\_\_\_<sub>1</sub> land. Do you think that your \_\_\_\_\_<sub>2</sub> would believe what you said? Suppose a friend said that *she* saw a spaceship \_\_\_\_\_<sub>3</sub>. Do you think that you would \_\_\_\_\_<sub>4</sub> your friend?

friend      believe  
dream  
spaceship      land

x 5 =   
NUMBER CORRECT      YOUR SCORE

x 5 =   
NUMBER CORRECT      YOUR SCORE

## LEARN NEW WORDS.

The vocabulary words are printed in **dark type** in the story. You may look back at the words before you answer these questions. Put an *x* in the box next to the right answer.

1. Pate kept staring up at the sky. The word *staring* means  
 a. crying.  
 b. looking.  
 c. waving.
2. The creature said, "We will not harm you." The word *harm* means  
 a. leave.  
 b. hurt.  
 c. help.
3. Pate raised her hand to answer the question. The word *raised* means  
 a. used.  
 b. hit.  
 c. put up.
4. The creature pressed something against Pate's neck. The word *pressed* means  
 a. pushed.  
 b. threw.  
 c. needed.

<input type="text"/>	x 5 =	<input type="text"/>
NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

## EXPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED.

Here is how to answer these questions. First think about what happened in the story. Then *figure out* (work out) the right answer. This is called *critical thinking*.

1. We may infer (figure out) that the creatures came from  
 a. Earth.  
 b. the moon.  
 c. the sun.
2. Pate must have lived somewhere  
 a. in the United States.  
 b. where everyone was kind.  
 c. where the people had never heard of the U.S.A.
3. Mr. Anyo thought that  
 a. Pate's story was true.  
 b. there was something wrong with Pate.  
 c. creatures lived on other planets.
4. What did Pate draw on the board?  
 a. the faces of the creatures  
 b. a machine that made popping noises  
 c. a picture of the American flag

<input type="text"/>	x 5 =	<input type="text"/>
NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

## SPOT STORY ELEMENTS.

Some story elements are **plot**, **character**, and **setting**. (See page 3.) Put an *x* in the box next to the right answer.

1. What happened first in the *plot*?  
 a. The creatures put wires on Pate's arm.  
 b. Pate saw a very bright star in the sky.  
 c. Pate told the class she saw a spaceship.
2. What happened last in the *plot*?  
 a. Mr. Anyo sent Pate to THE PLACE FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP.  
 b. The spaceship landed.  
 c. Mr. Anyo told Pate to stop fooling around.
3. Who is the *main character* in the story?  
 a. Mr. Anyo  
 b. Pate  
 c. a creature
4. The end of the story is *set*  
 a. in Pate's house.  
 b. in a spaceship.  
 c. at Pate's school.

<input type="text"/>	x 5 =	<input type="text"/>
NUMBER CORRECT		YOUR SCORE

## THINK SOME MORE ABOUT THE STORY.

Your teacher might want you to write your answers.

- Do you think you would like to live in the place where Pate lived? Why?
- Explain why Pate was sent to THE PLACE FOR PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP.
- Did you think the story was funny or sad—or both? Tell why.
- Did the ending of the story surprise you? Explain.

Write your scores in the boxes below. Then write your scores on pages 138 and 139.

<input type="text"/>	T	ELL ABOUT THE STORY
+		
<input type="text"/>	A	DD WORDS TO SENTENCES
+		
<input type="text"/>	L	ARN NEW WORDS
+		
<input type="text"/>	E	XPLAIN WHAT HAPPENED
+		
<input type="text"/>	S	POT STORY ELEMENTS
=		
<input type="text"/>	TOTAL SCORE: Story 3	