Think About It!

**Close-Reading Questions:** Read the story “The Space Rock” in the March/April 2019 issue. Then go back and reread sections of the article to answer the questions below.

1. a. Read the first section. What does Karl mean when he says “I was feelin’ sorta blue”?

b. Why was he feeling this way?

2. What does Karl compare in the simile “Then whump-whump-whump like a flat tire”? 

Continued on next page >
Think About It!, p. 2

3. Read “The Rock Arrives.” Why does Daddy pick up Karl and hold him tight?

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4. What does Karl compare in the simile “The magnet stood up like a soldier at attention”?

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5. a. What does Brother say created the meteorite?

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Think About It!, p. 3

b. Why does Daddy stare at Brother “as if he had lost his mind”?

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6. Read “Daddy’s Idea.” What does Daddy’s idea to move the meteorite to a new museum in town show about his character?

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7. What does Daddy mean by “I believe that getting what you need out of something is better than getting all that you can out of something”?

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8. Read “The Choice Is Made.” What does Karl mean when he writes in his poem that the space rock “stopped the ghosts from coming around”?

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Critical-Thinking Question (a big question about the whole article):

9. On page 15, Karl says that something passed overhead “like a thundercloud moving a million miles an hour.” After the space rock lands, he says that “it was quiet, like the Earth and everything on it was holdin’ its breath.” What do these similes mean? How do they help you understand what Karl saw and heard?

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Pause and Think

Before Reading: Below you’ll find the Pause and Think questions from “The Space Rock” in the March/April 2019 issue. Read the sections that go along with each question and then answer the Pause and Think question below.

1. Beginning Section

PAUSE AND THINK: This family and the people of Rock Creek face a problem. What is it?

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2. “The Rock Arrives” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: What is the object that landed in Karl’s field?

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Continued on next page >
3. “All About Money” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: How do people feel about the meteorite?

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4. “Two Choices” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: What decision does the family have to make about the rock?

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5. “Daddy’s Idea” Section

PAUSE AND THINK: What does Daddy want the family to do with the rock?

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PAUSE AND THINK: What does the family decide to do with the rock?

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Vocabulary Practice

Here are the vocabulary words from the story “The Space Rock.”
Look at their meanings.

**ghost town (p. 15):** a town that no longer has people living in it

**gash (p. 16):** a long, deep cut

**meteorite (p. 16):** a piece of rock that has fallen to the ground from outer space

**meteor (p. 16):** a glowing piece of metal from outer space that flies through the sky

**atmosphere (p. 16):** all the air that surrounds Earth

**meteor shower (p. 16):** a large number of meteors that fall at one time

**Directions:** Select the best answer to each question below.

1. **Where would you look to see a meteor?**
   A  in the sky
   B  in a forest
   C  in the ocean
   D  in a meadow

2. **The princess swung her sword against the tree, slicing a long ___________ in its bark.**
   A  atmosphere
   B  gash
   C  meteor
   D  meteorite

Continued on next page >
Vocabulary Practice, p. 2

3. What word would you use to describe a meteorite?
A bright
B clean
C fluffy
D hard

4. What would you most likely find in a ghost town?
A haunted spirits
B quiet neighbors
C empty buildings
D children in costumes

5. The spacecraft blasted through the ____________ and into outer space.
A atmosphere
B ghost town
C meteor
D meteorite

6. Where are you most likely to learn about a meteor shower?
A gym class
B in music class
C in science class
D in a computer lab
“The Space Rock” Quiz

Directions: Read the story “The Space Rock” in the March/April 2019 issue. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Where does the story take place?
   A at the meteorite museum
   B in downtown Rock Creek
   C in a ghost town
   D on Karl’s family farm

2. What problem does the town of Rock Creek face at the beginning of the story?
   A Too many visitors are coming and taking over the town.
   B People are moving away because it’s hard to make a living.
   C The townspeople need to find a place to build their museum.
   D Business owners must raise enough money to buy the meteorite.

3. What makes Karl feel “sorta blue” at the beginning of the story?
   A Karl lives on the same farm where his father grew up.
   B After the meteor shower, Karl is worried a meteorite will hit him.
   C Their truck is broken, so Karl’s family can’t go anywhere for the holiday.
   D Karl’s twin brother figures out that the rock is a meteorite before Karl does.

4. In the sentence “I was too tongue-tied to yell back,” tongue-tied is closest in meaning to:
   A busy
   B disappointed
   C polite
   D unable to speak

5. Which word best describes how Daddy feels when he realizes the rock could have hit Karl?
   A embarrassed
   B puzzled
   C scared
   D tired

6. Which line from the story supports your answer to question 5?
   A “Daddy showed up, huffin’ and puffin’.”
   B “Suddenly, Daddy picked me up and held me tight.”
   C “Daddy stared at Brother as if he had lost his mind.”
   D “Daddy felt around inside the box.”

Continued on next page >
"The Space Rock" Quiz, p. 2

7. Why does the family decide to give up the space rock?
   A. They realize the rock has already done them a lot of good.
   B. They feel it’s bad luck to keep it.
   C. The rock is taking up too much space.
   D. The rock is costing them too much money.

8. If there had been fewer than four rocks in the voting box, the family would have:
   A. given the meteorite to Rock Creek
   B. sold the meteorite
   C. kept the meteorite on their farm
   D. broken the meteorite into small pieces

Short Answer

Directions: On the back of this page, write your answer to each question in a well-organized response.

9. At the beginning of the story, Karl says making a living in Rock Creek is hard. His own family is having money troubles, and other families have given up and moved away. How do these two problems help Karl’s family decide what to do with the giant meteorite at the end of the story?

10. Do you think the family makes a good decision about what to do with the meteorite? Support your answer with details from the story.
“The Space Rock” Quiz

Directions: Read the story “The Space Rock” in the March/April 2019 issue. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Where does the story take place?
A at the meteorite museum
B in downtown Rock Creek
C in a ghost town
D on Karl’s family farm

2. What does Karl mean when he says he’s “feelin’ sorta blue” at the beginning of the story?
A Karl feels sad.
B Karl is petting his dog.
C Karl likes to wear blue clothes.
D Karl enjoys the sunny day.

3. In the sentence “The truck was busted,” busted is closest in meaning to:
A too large
B very loud
C broken
D locked

4. Which word best describes how Daddy feels when he sees that the rock could have hit Karl?
A brave
B scared
C tired
D mad

5. What does Brother use to prove the rock is a meteorite?
A a magnet
B a tractor
C a flat tire
D a wooden box

6. How does Karl’s family vote for what to do with the meteorite?
A They raise their hands.
B They write their choices.
C They call out “yes” or “no.”
D They put small meteorites in a box.

Continued on next page >
“The Space Rock” Quiz

Directions: Read the story “The Space Rock” in the March/April 2019 issue. Then fill in the bubble next to the best answer for each question below.

1. Who is the narrator of the story?
   A  a ghost      C  Mr. Johnson
   B  Mama         D  Karl

2. Which of the following best describes Daddy?
   A  unsselfish   C  strict
   B  cranky       D  silly

3. Which line from the story supports your answer to question 2?
   A  “You don’t disturb Daddy when he’s talkin’ to his truck.”
   B  “Daddy stared at Brother like he had lost his mind.”
   C  “I believe that getting what you need out of something is better than getting all that you can out of something’”
   D  “Daddy never complained.”

4. Mama and Daddy stare at Karl “with a peculiar look” after seeing where the meteorite landed because they . . .
   A  are angry Karl let the dog get away.
   B  realize how close Karl came to being hurt.
   C  know they’ll make a lot of money soon.
   D  no longer have a place to plant their crops.

5. How did Karl’s family earn enough money to buy a telescope, a car, and cupboards?
   A  They sold tours of the big meteorite.
   B  They opened a food stand.
   C  They sold small meteorites.
   D  They turned their farm into a museum.

6. When Daddy talks about where the meteorite landed, he’s making the point that . . .
   A  their farm is the biggest around.
   B  it just landed in their field by chance.
   C  the Johnsons want some of the money from selling the small meteorites.
   D  it would have been better if the meteorite had landed in downtown Rock Creek.

Continued on next page >
7. If there had been fewer than five rocks in the voting box, the family would have . . .
   A given the meteorite to Rock Creek.
   B sold the meteorite.
   C kept the meteorite on their farm.
   D broken the meteorite into small pieces.

8. Most of the rocks that fall from space . . .
   A are from Mars.
   B are from the moon.
   C burn up in Earth’s atmosphere.
   D weigh less than regular rocks.

9. In Karl’s poem, what do these lines mean: “There’s a space rock in our town—it stopped the ghosts from coming around”?

10. Why might someone pay lots of money for a meteorite? Use details from the story and the informational text in your answer.
Short Answer

Directions: Answer the question below in a short, well-written paragraph. Make sure to use details from the article.

Do you think the family makes a good decision about what to do with the meteorite? Support your answer with details from the story.

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Fiction Reading Kit

Remember! Setting is the time period and place in which a story happens. By describing the setting of a story, an author can help you imagine living in that world.

Directions: Answer the questions below to help you understand the story’s location.

1. Where do Karl and his family live? Describe the town they live in too.

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2. Urban means having to do with a city; rural means having to do with the countryside or farming. Is the setting of “The Space Rock” urban or rural? How long has Karl’s family been in the area?

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3. What problems is the community facing? Why do people think Rock Creek might be a ghost town soon?

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4. How does the meteorite change life for the people of Rock Creek?
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5. How might Rock Creek change once the museum is built? What do you think will happen to the community after the meteorite is moved into town?
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**Fiction Reading Kit**

Use this kit to help you build important reading skills as you dig into the fiction story “The Space Rock.”

**Featured Skill: Simile**

**REMEMBER! A simile is a device used to compare two unlike things using like or as.**

**Directions:** Below, you’ll see a few of the similes from “The Space Rock” in the March/April 2019 issue. Explain what each simile means. We’ve done the first one for you.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simile</th>
<th>Page number</th>
<th>What does it mean?</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td>It means that the thing passing overhead made a sound louder than a car driving on a flat tire.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>15</td>
<td></td>
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