

INTERACTIVE
READING GUIDE

Aliens for Breakfast

by Jonathan Etra and Stephanie Spinner

When Richard Bickerstaff sits down to breakfast, he thinks it's just going to be another boring, ordinary day. But then, his whole world gets turned upside down when an alien named Aric pops out of his cereal box and tells him that he needs Richard's help to save planet Earth! Will the two be able to save the world before the evil Dranes take over? Find out when you read this exciting and funny story!

Want to read more books like this one? Visit your local or school library to check out more!

Engaging in the literacy activities in this guide will help children improve their reading skills by highlighting key words, making connections, and focusing on conversations about the book.

Explore these activities with your child over many readings. As your child becomes more familiar with the book, refer back to this guide for more activities you can do together and questions you can ask. Your child will be able to complete more activities each time you read the story. Also, be sure to include other family members in reading time! Enjoy engaging with your family around *Aliens for Breakfast*!

CREATE SUCCESSFUL READING HABITS

Make reading something special to instill a love of reading in your child. Here's how:

- Help your child get their own library card. Visit the library frequently to let your child refresh their collection and ask the librarian for recommendations of books that are like the ones they already enjoy.
- Have lots of books and other reading materials around. When family members ask for gift ideas, suggest books that they like with their favorite characters or from a well-known series. Some reading material that makes great gifts:
 - comic books & graphic novels
 - magazines
 - fan guides
 - video game & movie novelizations
 - cookbooks

ASK QUESTIONS TO CHECK UNDERSTANDING

Whether you read this book with your child or they read it independently, it is important to pause at the end of each chapter to help children reflect on what they have read. Here are some prompts to help older readers reflect before, during, and after reading:

Before Reading:



- What do you know about aliens?
- Have you read any other science fiction books or books with alien characters? What were they about?

During Reading:



- Who are the main characters in this story? How would you describe them?
- How does Aric get into Richard's kitchen? (ch. 1)
- What planet does Aric come from? What mission does he have on Earth? (ch. 1)
- How is Dorf different from Richard's other classmates? (ch. 1)
- How is Dorf able to control the humans? How does Richard keep himself from being controlled by Dorf? (ch. 2)
- What food is the secret weapon to stop Dorf? What happens to him at the end? (ch. 6)
- How does Richard's friend, Henry, change throughout the story? (ch. 7)

After Reading:



- What do you think would have happened to Earth if Richard and Aric hadn't saved the day?
- What was your favorite part or chapter? What made it your favorite?
- Would you recommend this book to a friend? Why or why not?

BE A WORD DETECTIVE

A **compound word** is a longer word that is made up of two smaller words. Sometimes the meaning is clear like *lunchbox* = *lunch* + *box* (ch. 1). Other compound words have a meaning that is different from the meaning of the smaller words like *cowboy* = *cow* + *boy* (ch. 7). When your child gets stuck on a word, encourage them to find smaller words they know inside the longer word.

Below are some of the compound words in this book. Ask your child to read the smaller word parts inside each word. Talk about what the smaller words and the whole word means. Find other compound words together as you read this book and talk about what they mean!

Whole Word	Break the Word Apart	Whole Word Meaning
troublemaker (ch. 1)	trouble + maker	a maker of trouble
superpowerful (ch. 4)	super + powerful	like a power that is super
thunderstorm (ch. 8)	thunder + storm	a storm with thunder

MAKE CONNECTIONS

Guiding children to make connections between the book and their own lives or the world around them deepens their understanding of the text. Use prompts like the ones below to start a conversation with your child:

- The students in Richard's class start imitating Dorf's clothes, smile, and art project. Tell me about a time when you imitated someone or someone imitated you. What was it like? Why did it happen?
- Richard becomes very upset when he finds out that his best friend, Henry, is spending time with Dorf instead of him. Has something like this happened to you, too? How did you feel? How did you solve the problem?
- Richard is having an ordinary day until an alien shows up inside his cereal box. What other books have you read where something out of the ordinary happens to the characters? What happened? How was it similar to or different from this story?

TALK ABOUT NEW AND INTERESTING WORDS

When children encounter unfamiliar words, take a moment to talk about the words using child-friendly explanations or definitions. This promotes a rich vocabulary, enhances communication, and improves comprehension. Here are some child-friendly definitions for some important words in the book:

imitating (ch. 1)

If you **imitate** someone or something, you copy them. The students in Richard's class are **imitating** Dorf by copying his smile and the way he dresses.

clever (ch. 2)

Someone who is **clever** is very smart and quick to understand things. Mrs. Marks says that Dorf is **clever** when he knows the answer to the math problem.

shuddered (ch. 4)

If you **shudder**, you shake with fear. Richard **shudders** when he thinks about Dorf because he is afraid of him.

devoured (ch. 6)

When you **devour** food, you eat it very quickly. Dorf **devours** seven pizzas at Pizza World. What foods would you enjoy **devouring**?

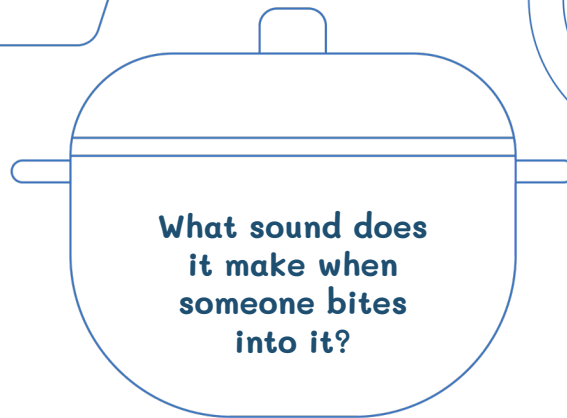
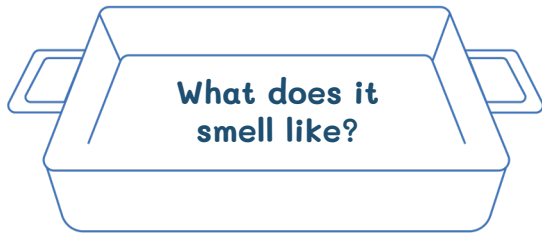
sprouted (ch. 7)

When something **sprouts**, it starts to grow very quickly. When Dorf eats the red pepper flakes and turns into his Drane form, he **sprouts** tentacles. What are other things that can sprout?

DRANE DEFENDER RECIPE ACTIVITY

Directions: In this book, the secret weapon to stop Dorf from dividing and taking over the planet was red pepper flakes. Create your own secret recipe for defeating the Dranes! Talk to a friend or family member about your recipe and describe how your recipe will smell, taste, and sound! Make a plan together for getting the Drane to eat your recipe!

Secret Recipe for _____
(name of your recipe)



How much of the recipe does the Drane need to eat?

How will you convince the Drane to eat your recipe?

What will happen to the Drane when it eats your recipe?