

Grade 7
Reading - Science Fiction Passage

"The Solar Exchange"

In the year 2150, Earth was a bustling hub of intergalactic trade. Spacecraft from various corners of the Milky Way visited our blue planet to trade rare resources. One of the most sought-after items was Earth's Solar Energy, stored in specialized crystals called Solars.

Eva, a 14-year-old Earthling, lived near one of the major trade centers in New Chicago. Every morning, she'd watch ships of all sizes and shapes land, their alien pilots eager to acquire Solars. Eva's parents worked at the Solar Farm, harnessing sunlight to charge these precious crystals. She had heard tales of how the Sun's energy was unique, but she never understood why until she met Zara.

Zara was from a distant star system called Qorax. Her planet, Zanthia, had three suns, yet none emitted the kind of light Earth's Sun did. One day, as Eva was observing a trade, Zara approached her, her blue-scaled skin shimmering in the sunlight.

"Why is your Sun's energy so special?" Eva inquired, curious about Zara's intense interest in Solars.

"Our suns," Zara began, "give us light and warmth, but not the rich spectrum of colors your Sun provides. Solars allow us to experience these colors back on Zanthia. It's not just energy; it's an experience."

Eva was fascinated. To think that something so common to her was a rarity in the universe made her see her world in a new light.

One evening, Zara invited Eva aboard her ship. The interior was bathed in a pale, monochrome light, which made Eva appreciate the vibrancy of Earth even more. As a gesture of gratitude, Zara gifted Eva a small crystal from Zanthia, which glowed with the light of its three suns.

"Your Sun gives life and color," Zara said, "and now you have a piece of Zanthia's tri-sun glow."

The two became close friends, sharing stories of their worlds, and Eva realized the true value of Earth's Solar Energy. It wasn't just about power; it was about the spectrum of experiences it offered to the universe.

Questions:

1. In what year is the story set?
 - A) 2050
 - B) 2023
 - C) 2150
 - D) 2000

2. What is the primary function of Solars?
 - A) To glow
 - B) To store water
 - C) To store Solar Energy
 - D) To produce light

3. Where did Eva live?
 - A) New York
 - B) Zanthia
 - C) New Chicago
 - D) Qorax

4. How many suns does Zanthia have?

- A) One
- B) Two
- C) Three
- D) None

5. Why is Earth's Solar Energy unique to Zara?

- A) It gives more warmth
- B) It provides a richer spectrum of colors
- C) It's more powerful
- D) It's colder

6. What did Zara gift Eva?

- A) A Solar
- B) A spaceship
- C) A crystal from Zanthia
- D) A map of the Milky Way

7. What was the color of Zara's skin?

- A) Red
- B) Blue-scaled
- C) Green
- D) Transparent

8. Why do ships visit Earth?

- A) To see Eva
- B) To acquire Solars
- C) To enjoy the view
- D) To study humans

9. What was Zara's home star system called?

- A) Earth
- B) New Chicago
- C) Milky Way
- D) Qorax

10. What did Eva learn about Earth's Solar Energy?

- A) Its power was overrated
- B) It was dangerous
- C) It was the strongest in the universe
- D) It offered a unique spectrum of experiences

Answers:

- 1) Correct Answer: C) 2150 | Explanation: The passage starts with "In the year 2150..."
- 2) Correct Answer: C) To store Solar Energy | Explanation: The passage states that Solars are used to store Earth's Solar Energy.
- 3) Correct Answer: C) New Chicago | Explanation: The text mentions Eva lived near a trade center in New Chicago.
- 4) Correct Answer: C) Three | Explanation: Zara mentioned that her planet, Zantea, had three suns.
- 5) Correct Answer: B) It provides a richer spectrum of colors | Explanation: Zara said Solars allow them to experience the colors Earth's Sun provides.
- 6) Correct Answer: C) A crystal from Zantea | Explanation: Zara gave Eva a small crystal from her home planet, Zantea.
- 7) Correct Answer: B) Blue-scaled | Explanation: The passage describes Zara as having blue-scaled skin.
- 8) Correct Answer: B) To acquire Solars | Explanation: The story mentions spacecrafts visiting Earth to trade for Solars.
- 9) Correct Answer: D) Qorax | Explanation: Zara is from the star system named Qorax.
- 10) Correct Answer: D) It offered a unique spectrum of experiences | Explanation: The story concludes with Eva realizing the special experience Earth's Solar Energy provides.