Grade 6

READING Science Fiction

The Mysterious Plant of Proxima Centauri

In 2225, Earth received its first sample of plant life from another star system: Proxima Centauri, our nearest stellar neighbor. The plant was named "Centauri Bloom" by scientists, but kids just called it the "Space Rose" because of its rose-like petals which shone with an iridescent glow.

Unlike any plants we know, the Centauri Bloom did not rely solely on sunlight for energy. At night, its leaves would unfurl and spread wide, absorbing energy from starlight and even the faint glow of distant galaxies. This made scientists wonder if the Centauri Bloom evolved in a place with limited sunlight.

Dr. Mia Hernandez, a leading botanist, believed that the Centauri Bloom communicated through color. When exposed to different sounds, the plant's glow would change shades. A high-pitched sound might make it glow blue, while a deep bass note turned it green.

One day, during an experiment, a young scientist played a melody on her flute. To everyone’s amazement, the Centauri Bloom responded with a symphony of colors, flashing and pulsing in time with the music.

News of the discovery spread quickly, and soon everyone wanted a Centauri Bloom. But there was a mystery that no one could solve: the plant would only grow in the lab where it was first studied. Many tried to replicate the conditions, but none succeeded.

Scientists speculated that the Centauri Bloom had formed a special bond with its first Earth environment. Perhaps it thrived on a unique combination of Earth's atmosphere, the sounds in the lab, and the love and curiosity of the scientists who cared for it.

While many questions about the Centauri Bloom remained unanswered, one thing was clear: It was a living reminder of the wonders that awaited humanity among the stars.

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. Where did the Centauri Bloom come from?

    a) Mars

    b) Proxima Centauri

    c) The Moon

    d) Venus

2. What did kids call the Centauri Bloom?

    a) Space Rose

    b) Starlight Flower

    c) Centauri Cactus

    d) Galaxy Lily

3. How did the Centauri Bloom gather energy at night?

    a) From electricity

    b) From sunlight

    c) From starlight

    d) From water

4. Who believed the plant communicated through color?

a) The young scientist

b) Dr. Mia Hernandez

c) All the kids

d) The president

5. How did the plant respond when a scientist played a flute?

a) It withered away

b) It grew larger

c) It showed a symphony of colors

d) It emitted a sound

6. Could the Centauri Bloom grow outside the initial lab?

a) Yes, everywhere

b) Only in greenhouses

c) No, only in the initial lab

d) Yes, but only in gardens

7. What year did Earth receive its first sample of the plant?

a) 2020

b) 2125

c) 2200

d) 2225

8. Why did people want the Centauri Bloom?

a) Because it was poisonous

b) Because of its mysterious growth conditions

c) Due to its ability to communicate

d) Because of its symphony of colors

9. What did the Centauri Bloom remind humanity of?

a) The dangers of space

b) The wonders awaiting among the stars

c) The importance of music

d) The fragility of life

10. How did the Centauri Bloom change color?

a) When it was watered

b) When exposed to different sounds

c) In different seasons

d) When it was hungry

Answers and Explanations:

1. b. Proxima Centauri
The passage mentions it came from Proxima Centauri.

2. a. Space Rose
Kids named it due to its rose-like petals.

3. c. From starlight -
It absorbed energy from starlight at night.

4. b. Dr. Mia Hernandez
Dr. Mia believed it communicated through color.

5. c. It showed a symphony of colors
It responded to the melody by flashing colors.

6. c. No, only in the initial lab

The plant would only grow in its first lab.

7. d. 2225
The year mentioned is 2225.

8. d. Because of its symphony of colors
The plant's colorful response made it popular.

9. b. The wonders awaiting among the stars
It served as a reminder of space's wonders.

10. b. When exposed to different sounds
The plant changed colors when exposed to sounds.