

• ***The Aliens Are Coming!***  
• ***We're Off to Look for Aliens***

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**Summary:** Aliens from outer space are on their way. Preparation is in order.

**Strategies to use:**

Discuss the meaning of the word "alien". **The Random House Dictionary of the English Language** gives four definitions for the noun:

- a resident born in or belonging to another country who has not acquired citizenship by naturalization
- a foreigner
- a person who has been estranged or excluded
- a creature from outer space; extraterrestrial

Readers can write the biography of an alien, considering one or more of these definitions.

Discuss whether the title of this book is appropriate, given the several definitions of the word.

Students can write summaries of other stories that could have this same title.

An extraterrestrial alien looks however anyone wants it to look, since no sightings of such beings have been documented. Ask each of the students to draw a picture of an alien from outer space. Collect all of the drawings, and then redistribute them, making certain that no students get their own drawings. Then ask the students to write a description of the alien they have received. Remind students to be specific, so that it is possible to tell exactly which space alien is being described.

Collect all of the descriptions and pictures. Put the pictures on the wall, and re-distribute the descriptions, making certain that no one gets his/her own description. The students' task, then, is to find the picture of the alien being described. Discuss which descriptions were most helpful.

Readers can compare different artists' interpretations of space aliens. Using resources in the library media center and on the Internet, they can locate various drawings, paintings, and photographs of space creatures. Discuss whether any of the interpretations have anything in common.

Readers can research to determine whether there is likely to be any life in outer space. Recent discoveries have indicated the possibility of life on other planets, but what kind of life might it be? Students can research and present a debate on the feasibility of life on the other planets. Remind them to find evidence to support their assertions.

Readers make group aliens. On index cards write the body parts of any alien - head(s), hair, eye(s), body, arms, hands, legs, feet, etc. Make enough cards so that each alien will have all of the identified body parts - *e.g. if there are five groups, there will be five cards for arms, five cards for legs, etc.* Put a number in the corner of each set of cards to indicate which group alien will get the particular part.

You will also need large pieces of butcher paper on which the students will glue their alien part. These pieces of butcher paper are numbered with the different group numbers.

Students randomly select one of the alien body part cards. They then make the appropriate part using construction paper, fabric, wallpaper, yarn, sequins, crayons, etc. After they have finished their individual part, they find the large piece of paper with the number that matches the number on their body part card, and glue on the alien piece. They will only know how their alien looks when all of the pieces have been added to the creature from space.

