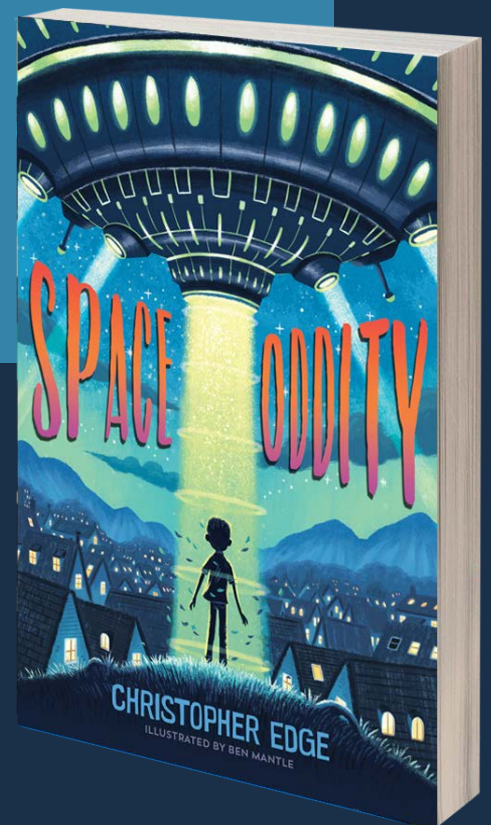


SPACE ODDITY

CREATIVE WRITING CHALLENGE

Prepared by author CHRISTOPHER EDGE, this creative writing task will take your imagination well and truly out of this world ...



SPACE ODDITY, written by Christopher Edge and illustrated by Ben Mantle

A CLOSE ENCOUNTER

Have you ever seen a UFO? In this extract from SPACE ODDITY, Jake Jones has just discovered that his dad is actually an alien! Chased through a campsite by killer robots, Jake and his dad try to escape in a zorb but are then caught in a tractor beam which comes out of the clear night sky.

I stare up again, into the brightness, but I still can't see where this light is coming from. There are no stars in the sky, just an empty blackness broken only by this single beam. Then I realize the darkness isn't empty. There's something huge up there and it's filling the sky.

Then the rest of its lights come on.

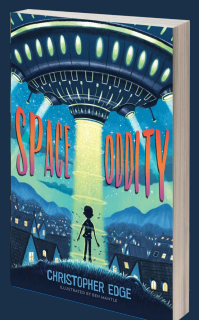
'Wow!'

It looks just like ...

What do *you* think the spaceship looks like?

Write the next part of the story, describing what Jake sees and how he reacts to this situation. As you write, think about:

- The **descriptive language** you can use to describe the UFO. Try using some out-of-this-world vocabulary from the box on the next page. Remember to use a dictionary to check the meanings of any unfamiliar words.



interstellar galactic shiny huge iridescent glittering
gargantuan alien crystalline mysterious slimy laser
strange rocket system starship force-field molten robotic
death-star lunar flying saucer hostile nebula supernova
satellite celestial chrome comet cosmic rays eclipse
fluorescent planetoid quantum shooting star zenith
beam robotic

- How you can use **similes and metaphors** to help the reader to imagine what the spaceship looks like. From an egg-shaped flying saucer to a spaceship the size of a small city, the images you choose will help readers to imagine the experience.
- The **verbs** you choose to describe how the spaceship moves. Will it *glide* through the sky or *judder* to a halt just above Jake's head? Using active verbs can help make your description more dynamic.
- How Jake will **react** to the sight of the spaceship. Try to show how Jake is feeling through his body language and actions. What will he say and what will he *do*?
- Including different **senses** in your description. Don't just focus on what the spaceship looks like, try to describe the noises it makes, what it feels like and even how it smells!
- What you think **Jake's dad** will do. If he's an alien, will he be able to come up with a stellar plan to escape from this situation?

Try to end your piece of writing on a cliff-hanger to keep readers on the edge of their seats and eager to find out what happens next!

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