

## Discussion Guide for *Dear Earthling* by Pen Avey

**D**ethbert Jones is your average ten-year-old – only he lives on the planet Crank with his pet chicken-snail and his robot best friend Andi Social. When he and Andi join the Space Cadets, a Scouts-like organization, they are totally smooched at the prospect of going to Space Camp where they'll learn to pilot a real shuttlecraft and disintegrate weapons of mass destruction. Blamtastic!

To earn his cosmic correspondent badge, Dethbert begins writing to an earthling – and boy, does he have a lot to write about! Between questions about Earth food, culture, and activities, Dethbert recounts his experiences attempting to avoid his horrible little sister, impress his animal-obsessed crush, and fly a space shuttle. Misadventures – from hairy ankles to crash landings – abound, but Dethbert's curiosity and enthusiasm can't be crushed, not by anything in this galaxy, anyway!



### **DEAR EARTHLING**

**AUTHOR:** Pen Avey

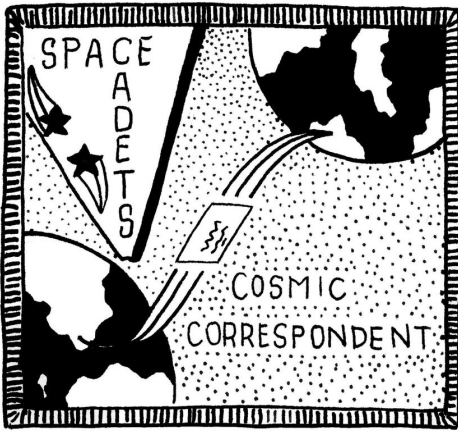
Common Deer Press · 114 pages

**TYPE OF ACTIVITY:** Individual

**LEVEL:** Ages 8-12

**SUBJECT:** Science

Begin with a short discussion with the following questions:

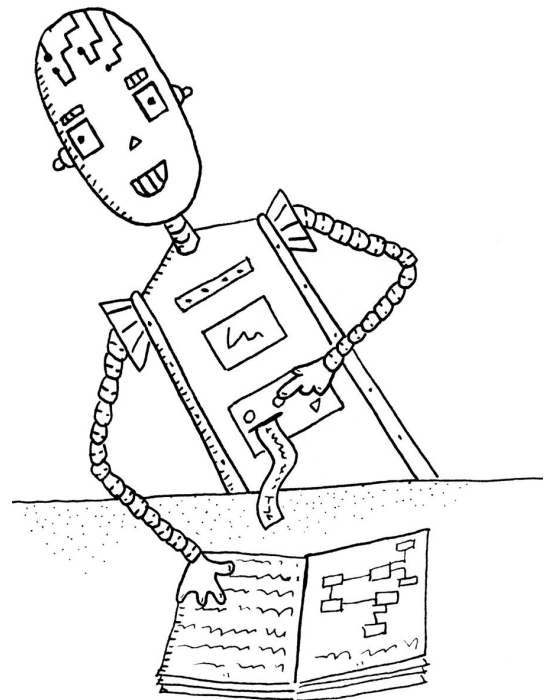


1. Has the cover captured your attention as a reader?
2. What do you like about it when you compare it to other covers?
3. What is your favourite part about it? Explain why.

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Now, discuss what the students think about space:

1. What are your thoughts on outerspace and the possibility of life on different planets?
2. What kind of similarities and differences do you believe we may share with aliens?
3. When you look up into the dark sky, what do you hope we can find in our universe?
4. Do you think we may look the same as an alien lifeform? Or will we look different?
5. Imagine what scientific discoveries and inventions these aliens could come up with and discuss with your classmates.



Name:

Date:

Which characters in *Dear Earthling* are your favourite?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

Name 3 things from planet Crank that we don't have on planet Earth.

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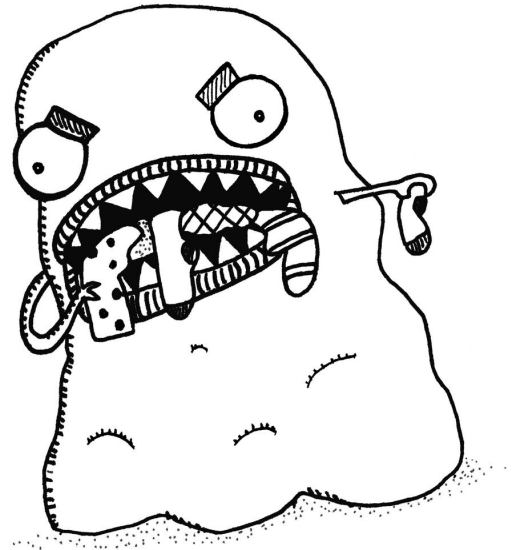
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Why doesn't Stabwell Phillips like Dethbert Jones?

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Does Killian Brown like Dethbert? Copy a sentence from the text that shows how she feels about him.

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# 4/6 DEAR EARTHLING · DISCUSSION GUIDE

Name:

Date:

**Do you think Albert, the “Many-Clawed Beastie,” was right to return to his home planet in the end? Explain your answer.**



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**What do you think Dethbert learned through his adventure?**

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**If we were a Cosmic Correspondent, who would you like to correspond with? Explain why.**

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Name:

Date:

Write a short letter to Dethbert. In it, you could

- tell him about an interesting or unusual aspect of life on Earth,
- ask a question about his life on Crank,
- or tell him your favourite Earth joke.

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# 6/6 DEAR EARTHLING · DISCUSSION GUIDE

Name:

Date:

Find the words from the list below inside this word-search. They can appear horizontally, vertically or diagonally.

One of the words doesn't appear. Can you work out which one it is?

(If you despise word-searches, draw a diagram of Stabwell's bionic arm instead!)

Z X S S D B U G G S F P Q M J F Z S B F  
I J V T X S S K D J L W Y D J Q N O P B  
I D H D E S C I J G U Q O H S E T A V O  
Y P N E P D O X T K P W M E E E U O R Q  
A C J A T N A D Q M P Q A R M V J W A Y  
C U K K O K W C A F I S C G B T O T Z X  
C R P K N M F H V Q E N T S E I V I W O  
T I U B L A R C H G S O D E T H B E R T  
R M T S X Y O F A S Q I G V X K F R N I  
E V B S T T W H B F A T S J R T O P Y Q  
B V M I A A N I P D W N C J U B U P L Z  
L E Q T W T R K R S Z E S R O R U E O X  
A Z C O R M M D T N T V C T A Q A S H W  
V Y Z Z E C F A Q R R N L B Z N Y A G W  
E C A P S C B O L C G I M Y W W K K E A  
S B B I F W L K Z B J Y D E D A E V F V  
V S Z P E O P P A K U S T N A V J C G M  
N A I L L I K O F C L K P H C E Q L B B  
T C L K K Z Y O B J Z B F E T M A Q O O  
O W W F H A T S E F K E I R H S K L B M

ALBERT  
BLAMTASTIC  
CADETS  
CREENS  
DETHBERT  
FROWN  
INVENTIONS  
ROBOT  
SPACE

ANDI  
BLARCH  
CRANK  
CRUSTARD  
FLUPPIES  
GRUMBELOID  
KILLIAN  
SHRIEKFEST  
STABWELL