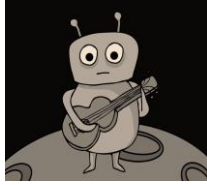


WILLIAM AND THE ALIEN ROCK

A story written with Jayden Qin and Hal Ames



William was in his room, playing with his toys, when something very strange happened. His square shaped toybox suddenly turned into a mirror. He looked into the mirror and saw funny looking aliens looking back at him. He laughed. They looked so funny and ugly. He looked behind himself and he did not see them. They were only in the mirror.

They were all different. Some were tall. Some were short. Others were blue and red and green and orange and purple. Some were crawling and other were walking. They had no hair and had big round mouths. Their noses were small but had big nostrils. Some had two ears while others had four. All of them had black and blue eyes that were really big and round.

They began to jump out of the mirror into his room. Soon there were so many aliens William had to jump onto his bed to get away from them.

“What do you want?!” yelled William.

“We want our rock back!” one of them yelled back.

“Rock? What rock? I don’t have any rocks. My brother is the one who collects rocks, not me,” William responded.

“Your ancestors took a very important rock from us. We want it back. Without it, we will die when we are young. We want to live to be old,” a blue alien told William.

William was very confused.

“Huh? A rock? My ancestors? What does this have to do with me?” he inquired.

“We want you to help us find it. Your relatives stole it, so we are sure you know

where it is. Will you help us find it?" an orange alien said.

"I would help you if I knew what you are talking about, but I don't," William answered. "Tell me what it looks like. It might help me find it for you."

"Well, it's big, it's round, and it has the pictures of every one of us on it," a purple alien described it.

"I have never seen anything like that," William explained, but he knew he had a rock his grandfather had given him when he was younger that he like to play with.

A green alien continued, "Your ancestors came to our planet and when they left, they took it. They put it into a wooden box with a big lock on it. Have you seen a wooden box with a big lock?"

William thought for a while and then he had a thought.

"You know, my toybox looks like what your described, but that is where I first saw you," William stated. "Why would you come here where my toybox is?"

"That makes sense. Why didn't we think about that?" a blue alien said.

"That rock is my favorite toy. My grandfather gave it to me when I was little. Now you say it belongs to you?"

"Why is it your favorite toy?"

"Because it changes colors and then into different toys. I never know what it will be when it changes, but I really like it,"

"For us, the rock has great meaning. It shows us our futures. We will know how long we will live. Without it we have no idea what our lives will be like. We want to know. If the rock stays on the Earth, then we only have half a life that is showing on the rock. We need to take it back. We also can use the rock to travel from place to place. That is how we got here. We found the pathway, and it led us here.

"If you don't let us have the rock, we will have to take you to our planet with us until you let us have it,"

"No, you can't have my rock. It's mine, not yours. Go home!" William yelled.

Suddenly there was a bright light. The next thing William saw was that he was not

in his room. He saw many aliens walking around, and some of them were staring at him. He felt very uncomfortable.

“HEY! Where am I?” he yelled.

The aliens turned to look at him, and then they started to laugh.

“Ha, ha, ha! We warned you that if you didn’t give us our rock back, you would come with us. Now you have stay here. The only way home is to give us the rock back,”

“NO WAY! That’s my rock and I’m going to keep it. You can’t have it!” he yelled at them.

“OK, have it your way. You can stay as long as you want. It’s fine with us,” a purple alien said and then walked away.

William decided to look for the rock. He searched and searched but could not find it. He went from place to place and found many rocks that looked like his rock, but none of them were it.

Then he had a thought. Maybe the rock was in a special place. He looked for a big building. If it was inside the building it needed to be big.

On the far side of the village he saw what he was looking for. A tall building that looked to be very important. It had many tall spires pointing to the sky.

“That must be the place!” William guessed.

As he went through the village the aliens began to follow him to the building. They were curious about what he was doing.

William opened the big doors and went inside. In front of him he saw many boxes. One of the boxes had a mirror on it. When he looked at himself in the mirror, he saw a large wooden box with a lock on it. When he tried to touch it, his hand hit the glass. He looked behind himself, but he did not see the box. It was trapped in the mirror.

He turned to ask the aliens how he could get to the box.

They all began to laugh at him.

“Why are you laughing?”

No one answered.

William got mad and picked up a stone and threw it at the mirror.

The stone just bounced off the mirror and hit him in the head, knocking him to the ground.

“OUCH! That hurt!” William screamed in pain.

The aliens just laughed at him again.

He got up, thought for a moment, and then ran at the mirror to get inside.

He bounced off the mirror and fell backwards onto the ground again.

The aliens laughed. They thought that William was the funniest thing they had ever seen.

“OK, how do I get to the box if it is locked in the mirror?” William asked very upset. He didn’t like that they are laughing at him.

One of the aliens, who is orange, steps forward and says, “Move back. We will show how it works.”

William stepped away from the mirror and then the orange alien went into the mirror and waved at William.

“How did he do that?” William was now even more confused.

The aliens just laughed and did not answer.

William ran at the mirror, hit the mirror, and bounced off again, falling to the ground on his back.

“OUCH! That hurt!” William screamed again.

A blue alien turned to his friends and said, “You would think that he would learn not to do that. He is so silly.”

“I am not! I just want to know how you do that,” William said while still laying on the ground.

The blue alien walked over to William and helped him get off the ground.

“Follow me, I will show you,” the blue alien said, as he took William’s hand and led him over to the mirror. “Close your eyes and think of something happy.”

“Huh? Think of something happy?” William was curious about what the reason was.

“Just do what I say, OK?” the blue alien was getting a little upset at William.

William closed his eyes and thought about playing video games with his dad. They did that almost every night.

While he was thinking about that, the blue alien pulled on his arm. When William opened his eyes, he saw the box in front of him and the orange alien was sitting on it. He looked behind himself and he could see the aliens staring at him in the mirror.

To his surprise the box was his toybox from his room, but the orange alien wouldn't let him open it.

“Why won't you let me open my toybox. It belongs to me,” William said in a strong voice.

The orange alien answered, “If you give me the rock, I will let you open the box. Otherwise, the box will remain closed.”

“Why do you want the rock. I found it. It belongs to me,” William answered.

“No, it doesn't it is ours. You stole it. We want it back. You can only open the box if you promise to give us the rock,” the orange alien answered defiantly.

“Why don't you open the box and take your rock?” William asked.

“It is locked, and you have the key,” the orange alien responded.

“No, I don't. I just open it,” William told him.

Then he noticed the alien's hands. His fingers were very long.

“You have long fingers, why can't you just pull the top open? William asked.

“I will tell you. On our planet, only the owner of a box can open it. You are the owner, so you are the only one who can open it,” the alien responded.

“What will you give me if I open the box for you?” William want to make a deal.

“If you open the box, we will share a secret with you,” the alien began, “We can travel to different planets using the rock, and we will teach you how to do that too,” the alien revealed the secret.

“Wow, that sounds exciting! Traveling to other planets, really?” William was very excited about what the alien told him.

William walked over to the box. The alien jumped off the top of it, and then William slowly opened the box. He wanted to make sure the alien didn't try to take the rock or any of his other toys.

The rock was under all the toys at the very bottom. He took it out and showed it to the aliens who all went, "OHHHHH! Our rock is back!"

The alien took William's hand and led him out of the mirror. He was now standing in front of the aliens.

"I have the rock. Will you send me and my box back to my planet?" William requested. "That is all I really want. I miss my parents and my friends. Can you do that?"

"You have to leave the rock with us. You cannot take it with you. We will send you home right now if you want," a yellow alien spoke up.

"How will you do that?" William asked.

He looked at the rock and saw his face among the aliens.

"Hey! How did my face get on the rock?" William asked.

"If you want to go home, your face is added to the rock. Anyone who uses the rock to travel has their face added to the rock forever," the yellow alien answered. "To go home stare at your face on the rock for ten seconds, then close your eyes and clap your hands three times. Then you will go home."

William did as they said. He stared at his picture for ten seconds, closed his eyes and then clapped his hand three times.

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William woke up in his bed.

He thought to himself, "Have I been dreaming?"

Looking around the room he saw his toybox right where it always had been, and everything else was still in its place. Nothing had moved.

Then he saw something different. He saw in his room there was a new picture on the wall. It was a picture of the aliens and he was in it as well. It looked just like the picture on the rock.

He went to the toybox and looked inside to see if the rock was still there. It was gone!

Now he knew that what had happened to him was real, not a dream. He was sure that no one would believe him if he told them the story, but he told it to us, so we wrote his story for him.

VOCABULARY: (*Match the word to its definition*)

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1. strange _____ | a. old relatives |
| 2. ugly _____ | b. unsure, can't understand smth |
| 3. nostrils _____ | c. a little mad |
| 4. ancestors _____ | d. to show smth |
| 5. lock _____ | e. not pretty |
| 6. pathway _____ | f. road, way to go |
| 7. spires _____ | g. holes in the nose for breathing |
| 8. confused _____ | h. used to secure something |
| 9. upset _____ | i. tall pointed buildings |
| 10. reveal _____ | j. unusual, odd |

TRUE / FALSE:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 1. William is an old man. | T / F |
| 2. The rock was in the mirror. | T / F |
| 3. William went to another planet. | T / F |
| 4. All the aliens were green. | T / F |
| 5. William's ancestors stole the rock. | T / F |
| 6. William's picture was on the floor. | T / F |
| 7. The aliens wanted the toybox. | T / F |
| 8. William lived on the planet forever. | T / F |
| 9. William woke up in his room. | T / F |
| 10. William's brother stole the rock. | T / F |

MULTIPLE CHOICE:

1. Where was the rock? _____
 - a) in the closet
 - b) under the bed
 - c) in the toybox
 - d) outside

2. What did William run into and fall to the ground? _____
 - a) wall
 - b) mirror
 - c) alien
 - d) his bed

3. Who wanted the rock? _____
 - a) William's dad.
 - b) William's grandfather.
 - c) William's brother
 - d) The aliens

4. Where did William see his face? _____
 - a) on the rock
 - b) in the mirror
 - c) on his bed
 - d) on the building

COMPREHENSION: *(Write a complete sentence to answer the question.)*

1. What did William have in his room?

2. What was in the toybox?

3. Who gave him the rock?

4. What did the aliens look like?

5. Where did the aliens take William?

6. What did William see in the mirror?

7. Why couldn't the aliens open the box?

8. What did William have to do to go home?

9. Where was William at the end of the story?

10. What did he see on his wall of his room?
