Read the short story and answer each question.



The Floating Lunch

Lila zipped up her space suit and floated into the cafeteria of Space Station Nova. Her tummy growled.

"I hope they have noodles today," she said, flipping gently in the air. The walls hummed and glowed blue. The air smelled like warm bread and metal.

A silver tray floated her way, with a packet labeled "Noodle Surprise." Lila clapped her hands. "Yes!"

She poked the packet. Tiny noodles popped out—and floated away!

"Uh-oh!" she said, reaching for them. One noodle stuck to her helmet. Another floated past her ear.

"Use your snack net," said Captain Ray, laughing.

Lila grabbed her net and caught the noodles, one by one. When she was done, she slurped them through a space straw.

"They taste like cheese and stardust!" she said, licking her lips.

Captain Ray smiled. "Lunch in space is always an adventure."



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The Floating Lunch

- 1. What words help you imagine what the noodles did?
- A. "zipped up"
- B. "floated away"
- C. "slurped them"
- D. "grabbed her net"

- 2. What did the air smell like in the cafeteria?
- A. hot cheese and air
- B. metal and noodles
- C. warm bread and metal
- D. space and clouds

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Lila wore a _____ suit to float inside the space station.

4. What sensory words helped you imagine being in the space station?

5. Why do you think Captain Ray said, "Lunch in space is always an adventure"?

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: G Lexile Level: 165L-305L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, Middle of the Year

Genre: Science Fiction

Introducing the Text

"Today we're reading a fun science fiction story about eating lunch in space! Let's listen for special words that help us see, smell, and feel what it's like to float around and try to eat in zero gravity."

Vocabulary: cafeteria, floated, helmet, surprise, adventure

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. Have you ever seen pictures or videos of astronauts eating in space?
- 2. What do you think would happen to food if there was no gravity?
- 3. What might a cafeteria look like on a space station?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What happened when Lila opened her noodle packet?
- 2. How did she catch the floating food?
- 3. What helped you imagine how lunch in space looked and felt?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. How is eating in space different from eating on Earth?
- 2. Which words helped you picture how Lila felt or what she tasted?
- 3. Would you want to eat a "noodle surprise" in space? Why or why not?

Activity Idea

Create a "Space Food Catcher" challenge! Give students lightweight objects (pom-poms, paper scraps) and let them try to catch them with a small net or cup while pretending to float in space. Then have them write or draw about what their "space meal" would taste, look, or feel like using sensory words.

