Read the short story and answer each question.



Trouble on Planet Sprinkle

Zara stepped out of her spaceship and looked around.

Everything was pink.

The trees had swirly frosting leaves. The sky shimmered like jelly. The ground felt soft, like cake.

"This must be Planet Sprinkle!" she said, checking her map.

Suddenly, her boots stuck. The ground was melting!

"Uh-oh!" Zara said. "We have a frosting flood!"

She tapped her robot, Chip. "Time for Bubble Boosters!"

Chip beeped and launched a bubble net. Together, they floated above the sticky mess.

Zara giggled. "Crisis avoided."

Then she added a note to her map: Beware: sticky frosting storms!



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Trouble on Planet Sprinkle

- 1. What do the illustrations help show about the setting?
- A. The planet is made of sweets and is colorful and strange
- B. The planet has only trees and grass
- C. It's a dark cave underground
- D. Zara is walking through a store

- 2. What do the pictures show about Chip the robot?
 - A. He helps Zara float and looks friendly
 - B. He sleeps during the storm
 - C. He's made of wood
 - D. He is scared of the frosting

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Zara used a bubble _____ to float over the frosting flood.

4. How do the illustrations help show what Planet Sprinkle looks like?

5. What do you learn about Zara's character from the pictures and words?

Parent and Teacher Guide

Guide Reading Level: | Lexile Level: 240L-390L

Grade Level: 1st Grade, End of the Year

Genre: Science Fiction (Fiction)

Introducing the Text

"Today we'll blast off with Zara as she explores a strange and silly new planet. As we read, we'll use the pictures and words together to understand what Planet Sprinkle looks like, what's happening, and what kind of person Zara is."

Vocabulary: planet, robot, frosting, net, boosters

Before Reading Discussion Questions

- What kinds of things do you think might happen in a story set on a candy planet?
- 2. How can you tell what a character is like by looking at a picture?
- 3. How do pictures help you understand a science fiction setting?

During Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. What makes Planet Sprinkle different from Earth?
- 2. How do the pictures show what the frosting flood looks like?
- How do you know Chip is helpful?

After Reading Discussion Questions

- 1. How do the illustrations help explain Zara's adventure?
- 2. What part of the story would be hard to picture without the illustrations?
- 3. What would your own "silly space planet" look like?

Activity Idea

Let students create their own space explorer and design a "planet" filled with silly weather, animals, or environments. Then they write a short story and draw one picture. Ask them to explain how their illustration helps tell what the planet is like.

