

First Contact (1945)

By "Murray Leinster" (William Jenkins)

DAY 1

Reading Assignment

beginning - bottom of p. 5 (paragraph ending "But not on overdrive, of course.")

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Example: Tommy Dort: What is his career?

Answer: Tommy Dort prepares photographs of the celestial objects the crew discovers in space for scientific study. He also helps navigate the *Llanvabon*.

Complete the rest on your own paper.

Tommy Dort: What is his job with the ship? What has he just completed?

the Captain/Skipper: What is he like? What crisis does he face at the end of today's reading?

Llanvabon: What and where is it? What is its mission?

alien ship: Why is it a problem that the *Llanvabon* meets it? What does the earth crew know about it so far?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 2

Reading Assignment

bottom of p. 5 (paragraph beginning "Tommy Dort had approached") - top of p. 11 (end of I)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

alien ship: Why can they not be trusted? Why can they not ever know the location of Earth?

the Captain/Skipper: What does he see as both the potential dangers and the potential rewards of contact with an alien species?

alien "lifeboat": What is its function? Why does the alien ship deploy it?

Tommy Dort: Why is he chosen to interact with the alien ship? What does his reaction to this reveal about his character?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 3

Reading Assignment

top of p. 11 (II) - 15

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Llanvabon: Why is it in that portion of space?

alien ship: In what way or ways does its crew seem to share the perspective of the *Llanvabon*? What evidence is there that this is, in fact, the case?

psychologist: How has he helped to resolve the problem?

alien race: What ability do they seem to have that the human race does not? What traits do they share with the human race?

the Captain/Skipper: What seems to be his decision about what has to happen to one of the two ships at the end of today's reading?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 4

Reading Assignment

p. 16 – top of p. 21 (paragraph ending “made battle more unavoidable.”)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

Llanvabon: Why can't it (or the alien ship) simply leave?

alien race: How is their vision different from humans? What ability of humans seems to interest them?

Tommy Dort: What is his attitude toward the aliens?

“Buck”: Who is he? What is he like?

the Captain/Skipper: What decision has he made about the aliens? How does he feel about this decision? What preparations does he order to carry out that decision?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 5

Reading Assignment

top of p. 21 (paragraph beginning “It was curious how completely such alien brains could mesh” – top of p. 26 (paragraph ending ““They say, sir, their skipper is waiting for you.”)

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

crew of the Llanvabon: How do they feel about the aliens?

Tommy Dort: How is Dort's duty in conflict with his personal feelings?

“Buck”: In what way or ways does “Buck” share Dort's perspective on events?

the Captain/Skipper: Where does he (and Dort) go? Why does he do this?

alien Skipper: Based on his actions at the end of today's reading, what does he seem to be like?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

DAY 6

Reading Assignment

top of p. 26 (paragraph beginning "Tommy and the skipper were in a long corridor") - end

Task 1

DIRECTIONS: As you read, make note of the following characters as they are introduced in the story. For each of the character, answer the clarifying question or questions following their name in complete sentences. You will use this activity to help you for a later assignment.

the Captain/Skipper: What does he threaten to do to the other ship? What is his proposal for avoiding this outcome? How would this solve the problem for both races?

alien race: What had they been planning to do? How do they react to the Skipper's proposal?

Llanvabon: How does the ship have to be prepared for Dort's plan to be enacted?

Tommy Dort: Why is Dort so optimistic that, long term, there can be peace between the two races?

Task 2

DIRECTIONS: For each days reading, summarize the action in no more than a paragraph. Remember: a summary only includes the most IMPORTANT events. Do NOT rewrite the story.

