

# **Tales of Ten Worlds**

HEINEMANN GUIDED READERS  
ELEMENTARY LEVEL

ARTHUR C. CLARKE

# Tales of Ten Worlds

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HEINEMANN

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# HEINEMANN GUIDED READERS

## ELEMENTARY LEVEL

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The Heinemann Guided Readers provide a choice of enjoyable reading material for learners of English. The series is published at four levels. At *Elementary Level*, the control of content and language has the following main features:

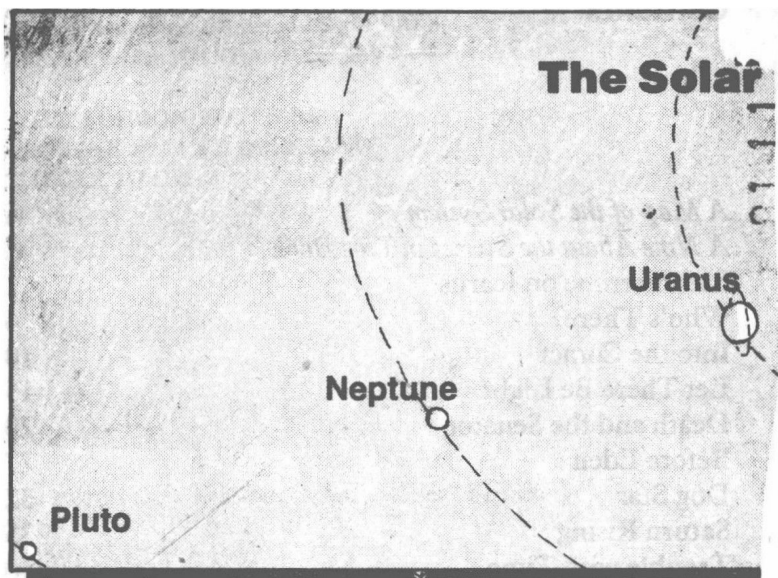
**Information Control** Stories have straightforward plots and a restricted number of characters. Information which is vital to the understanding of the story is clearly presented and repeated when necessary. Difficult allusion and metaphor are avoided and cultural backgrounds are made explicit.

**Structure Control** Students will meet those grammatical features which they have already been taught in their elementary course of studies. Other grammatical features occasionally occur with which the students may not be so familiar, but their use is made clear through context and reinforcement. This ensures that the reading as well as being enjoyable provides a continual learning situation for the students. Sentences are kept short – a maximum of two clauses in nearly all cases – and within sentences there is a balanced use of simple adverbial and adjectival phrases. Great care is taken with pronoun reference.

**Vocabulary Control** At Elementary Level there is a limited use of carefully controlled vocabulary (approximately 1,100 basic words). At the same time, students are given some opportunity to meet new or unfamiliar words in contexts where their meaning is obvious. The meaning of words introduced in this way is reinforced by repetition. Help is also given to the students in the form of vivid illustrations which are closely related to the text.

## **Guided Readers at Elementary Level**

- 1 Road to Nowhere by John Milne
- 2 The Black Cat by John Milne
- 3 Don't Tell Me What To Do by Michael Hardcastle
- 4 The Runaways by Victor Canning
- 5 The Verger *and* Other Stories by W. Somerset Maugham
- 6 The Red Pony by John Steinbeck
- 7 Star for a Day by Philip Prowse
- 8 The Goalkeeper's Revenge *and* Other Stories by Bill Naughton
- 9 The Stranger by Norman Whitney
- 10 The Promise by R. L. Scott-Buccleuch
- 11 The Man With No Name by Evelyn Davies and Peter Town
- 12 A River Ran Out of Eden by James Vance Marshall
- 13 Madeleine by Celia Roberts
- 14 The Cleverest Person in the World by Norman Whitney
- 15 Claws by John Landon
- 16 Oxford and Cambridge by Margaret Turner
- 17 Z for Zachariah by Robert C. O'Brien
- 18 Tales of Horror by Bram Stoker
- 19 The British Royal Family by Anne Collins
- 20 Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
- 21 Silver Blaze *and* Other Stories by Sir A. Conan Doyle
- 22 Tales of Ten Worlds by Arthur C. Clarke
- 23 The Boy Who Was Afraid by Armstrong Sperry
- 24 The Escape *and* Other Stories by W. Somerset Maugham

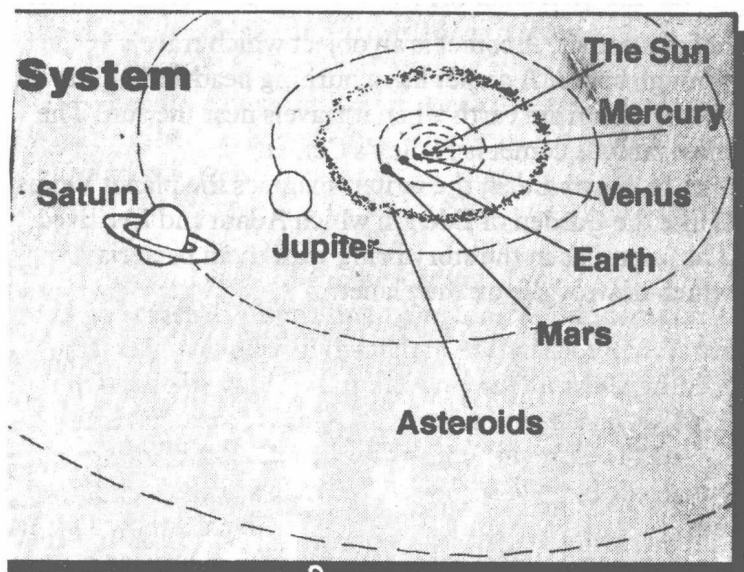


## **A Note About the Stories in This Book**

Arthur C. Clarke, the writer of these ten stories, is a famous writer of science-fiction stories. In a science-fiction story, the writer imagines what the world will be like in the future.

The writer imagines that spaceships have been invented which carry passengers on long voyages through space. The writer also imagines that space-stations and laboratories have been built on the Moon and other planets. When space-travellers go outside a space-station, they have to wear space-suits. Space-suits make it possible for the wearer to breathe and also they protect the wearers from great heat or great cold.

The stories in this collection are set in many different places. Two are set on the Earth and the others



are set in space. Most of the people in the stories are scientists who travel in space to find out more about the planets and the stars. But some of the characters are astronomers. Astronomers study space by looking through telescopes. A telescope makes it possible for an astronomer to see stars and planets which are far away from Earth.

*Summertime on Icarus* is about an accident to a space pod – a small spaceship. The accident happens on an asteroid. An asteroid is a very small planet which goes round the sun between Mars and Jupiter. Another story, *Who's There?* is set in a space-station – a large satellite going round the earth twenty thousand miles out in space. And *Dog Star* is a story set in a laboratory on the Moon.

*Into the Comet* is set in a spaceship travelling in the

tail of a comet. A comet is an object which travels through space. A comet has a burning head and tail. It can be seen from earth when it travels near the sun. The most famous comet is Halley's Comet.

In *Before Eden*, the writer imagines the planet Venus is like the Garden of Eden in which Adam and Eve lived. The scientists in the story bring with them bacteria which destroy life on the planet.



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## Summertime on Icarus

Colin Sherrard opened his eyes. He looked up and saw the sky. It was black and crowded with stars.

‘Where am I?’ he asked himself.

Then he remembered. He was in his space pod and it had crashed. It had crashed on Icarus, the hottest place in the solar system. Icarus was an asteroid. Icarus was the nearest asteroid to the sun. Colin Sherrard was nearer the sun than any man had ever been before.

Sherrard was lying in his damaged space pod. The pod had crashed among huge rough rocks on Icarus on a world only two miles in diameter. At that moment, it was night where he was. And in the darkness it was cold. But it was a very short night – it lasted only four hours. ‘In four hours’ time,’ Sherrard thought, ‘my pod will be facing the sun. It will be in the middle of a burning fire. And I will be inside it.’

Sherrard looked out into space. He saw one star brighter than the rest. But it wasn’t a star. He knew that it wasn’t a star. It was the light from *Prometheus*. *Prometheus* was the spaceship that had brought him to Icarus, across millions of miles of space.

He sat up. He knew now where he was. He remembered what had happened. He was working with other scientists on Icarus. They were trying to find out more about the sun. They always worked at night because it was cooler then. They placed scientific instruments on the rocks. Then they covered the instruments with metal foil. The thin metal foil protected the instruments from the burning daytime sun.

After a short time, the other scientists went back to *Prometheus*. But Sherrard stayed to finish the work.

When he was ready to leave, he sent a message to *Prometheus*. 'I'm leaving now,' he told the captain of the spaceship. 'I'll be back in five minutes.' He aimed the pod at the spaceship. There was a loud explosion. Immediately he knew that something was wrong. The pod shot off the asteroid in the wrong direction and began spinning out of control.

He tried to get the pod back on course, but the controls did not work. Then he remembered something he read long ago: 'If you don't know what to do, do nothing.' So he waited and did nothing.

The pod spun round and round. Suddenly he saw the black rocks of Icarus above his head. The asteroid seemed to fall on top of him. The stars disappeared and his pod crashed onto the rough, black surface.

Fortunately, his pod was not badly damaged. The air supply was still working. He tried to fire the jets again. But they did not work. He tried to contact *Prometheus*. The radio was not working. But the long metal arms of the space pod were still working.

'The arms of the pod will save me,' he said to himself. 'I can use them to pull the pod over the rough ground. I must move the pod and stay out of the heat of the sun.'

He was sure his friends were coming to rescue him. But until they arrived he would have to keep moving. The shadow of night lasted only four hours on Icarus.

'I must move at once,' he thought. 'I must stay in the shadow.'

He put his fingers into the controls that worked the metal arms. He moved the arms one at a time. The pod moved – first the right arm, then the left arm. The pod moved like a huge insect across the rough ground.

Sherrard began to feel happier.

'The others will be here soon,' he said to himself. 'I'll be back in time for dinner!'

At that moment everything went wrong. Suddenly he was looking down a cliff. He became dizzy. He felt like a fly clinging to a ceiling. He was afraid that he was going to fall off Icarus. He felt he was going to fall into the black spaces between the stars.

His body was covered with sweat and he felt faint. He closed his eyes. The next moment, the pod crashed onto the rocks. He opened his eyes and looked out. He saw in front of him the broken and twisted metal arms of his space pod. He had crashed into a big rock.

Every moment the sun was coming nearer. Sherrard saw the bright light that came from it. He did not feel the heat yet, but he was afraid. He knew that soon the heat would be on him.

'I must find shelter,' he thought, 'or I will be burnt alive.'

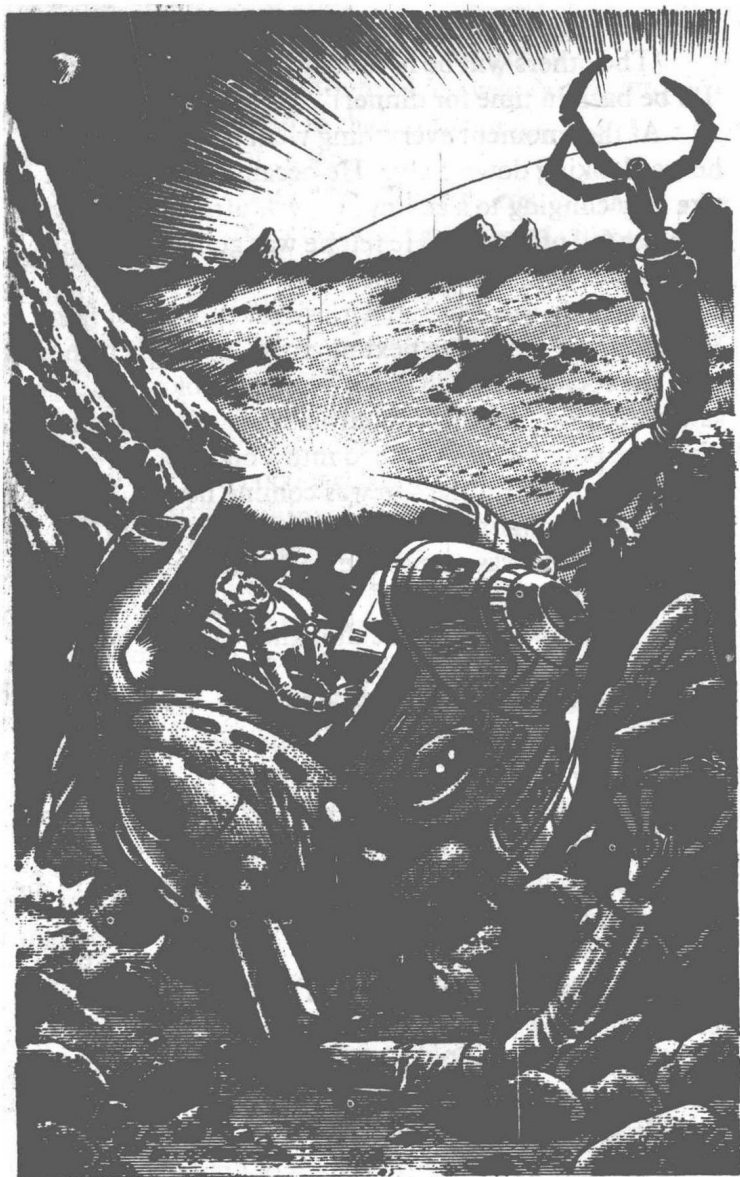
Perhaps there was shelter behind the rock. He used the broken arms to move the pod into the shadow of the rock. He lay there in his space pod.

He looked out into space. Far, far away he saw the beautiful planet Earth. Earth was his home. He did not want to say goodbye to it for ever. He did not want to die here on Icarus.

Outside it was growing hotter and brighter every moment. A brilliant flame flashed over the horizon. He felt the burning light of the sun on his legs.

'When I feel the full heat of the sun, I will pull the Emergency Lever,' thought Sherrard. 'Then the pod will explode and I will die immediately.'

Suddenly he saw a bright flash of light above him. It



looked like a huge mirror hanging in the sky. The light from the sun was shining on the mirror. He did not understand it. But he had no time to think about it. The heat was getting fiercer. He was unable to bear it.

He put his hand on the red Emergency Lever. He pulled the lever. Nothing happened. The lever did not move. He tried again. Still nothing. Sherrard knew he was going to die. But not quickly and easily. His death was going to be slow and painful under the burning rays of that terrible sun. Suddenly he heard his own voice. He was screaming, screaming with fear.

Then he heard another sound. It was a human voice, and it was calling his name.

'Sherrard,' the voice said. 'Sherrard. We're coming. We're coming to rescue you.'

It was the voice of the captain of the spaceship.

'Save me!' Sherrard shouted. 'I'm here. Quick! I'm being burnt alive!'

There was very little shade left behind the rock. But at that moment, something came between Sherrard and the terrible heat. Its shadow was cool and the bright light no longer hurt his eyes. He looked up and saw a big screen of metal foil above him. There, in its shadow, was another space pod. His friends had come to rescue him!

They picked him up in the broken pod and flew back to *Prometheus*. In his tiny space pod, Sherrard turned and looked again at the planet Earth. He waved his hand towards it.

'Here I am,' he said silently. 'I'm coming home.'

## Who's There?

I work in a Space-Station. From my office, I can see the Earth twenty thousand miles away. It floats in space like a big green and blue ball.

I am the Station Supervisor. I like my job, but I sometimes get bored inside the Space-Station.

One day, I was in my office watching the men working outside. They were building part of the station. Then someone called me on the radio from the Satellite Control Office.

'There's a small echo here on our radar screen. It's about two miles away and it's hardly moving. Can you see what it is?'

I took out my binoculars and looked at the sky. A small satellite was coming towards us. It looked old. I told the man in the Satellite Control Office what I had seen.

'That's dangerous,' he said. 'It will get in the way of our spaceships. Can you go out and bring it in?'

I was pleased to do something different. I didn't get out of the Space-Station very often. My office had a beautiful view, but it was good to get outside.

I put away my papers and went to get my space-suit. All the space-suits were kept in large lockers. On my way to the lockers I met our cat, Tommy. Most animals don't like living in space, but Tommy was happy. All the men liked him. As I passed Tommy, he rubbed against my legs. But I was in a hurry and could not stop to talk to him.

I climbed into my space-suit. It wasn't really a suit. It was more like a tiny spaceship, big enough for one

man. I checked the fuel, oxygen, radio and batteries. It was going to be a very short trip, so I didn't check the lockers and the food stores in the suit.

Soon I was out in space. I had to protect my eyes from the sun. In space, the sun's light is dangerous. It is very bright and it can blind you in a second. The space-suit had a special sun-shade for protection.

I saw the satellite and began to move towards it.

'This will only take a few minutes,' I thought.

But at that moment something went wrong. I heard a noise. It was a strange noise. It was not one of the noises you hear in a space-suit. It wasn't very loud, but it made me feel afraid.

Then I heard something scraping on the metal of the space-suit. I froze with fear. The hairs on the back of my neck stood up. Something was outside. And it was something alive.

'There's something outside. And it's trying to get into my space-suit,' I thought. 'What can it be?'

Then a name came into my mind.

'Bernie Summers!' I thought. 'He died in space. His space-suit broke open.'

After the accident, Bernie Summers' space-suit had been repaired. Space-suits were very expensive, so we never threw them away. After an accident, they were repaired and other men used them.

Had Bernie Summers died in this space-suit? Was his ghost trying to get back into it? I had heard strange stories about ghosts in space. I felt cold sweat on my forehead.

I grew more and more afraid.

'I must find out. *Is this Bernie Summers' space-suit?*'

I switched the radio to the emergency station.



