

Jamal's Jigsaw

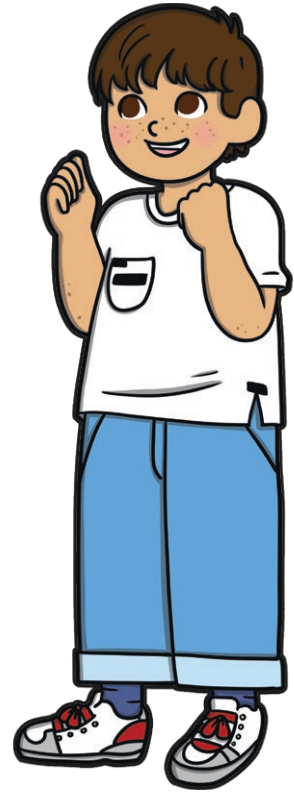
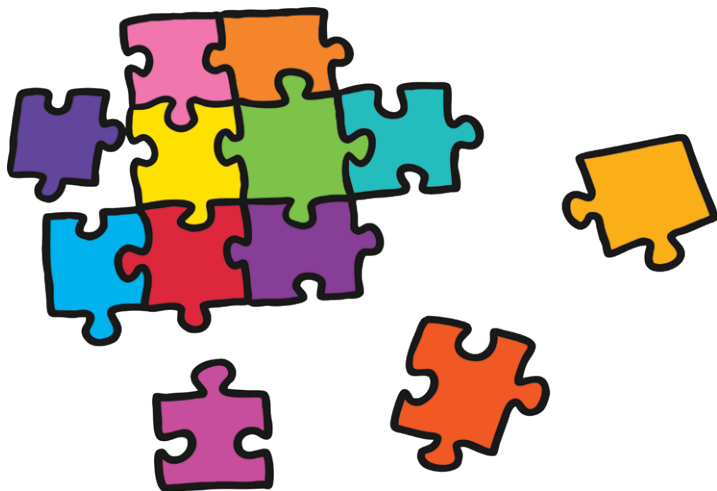
**Kenzie loved to draw. Malik loved maps.
Sandra loved to play football. Jamal
didn't like any of those things.**

All he wanted to do, all day and all night, school or home, was solve jigsaw puzzles. He didn't mind what pictures were on them - beautiful landmarks, flash cars or adorable animals - he dived straight in and got them solved.

Jamal always took a travel-sized jigsaw in his school bag so that he could have a go once he had finished eating his packed lunch.

"Oooh, Jamal's jigsawing again," Kenzie shouted across the dinner hall one rainy Tuesday.

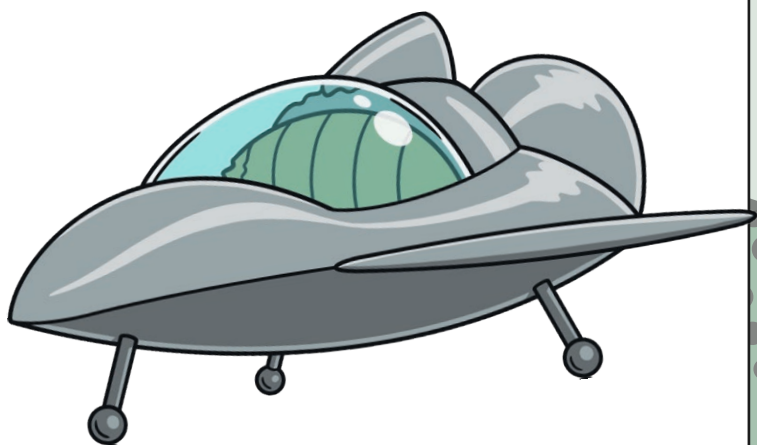
"How boring, Jamal!" Sandra joined in, as Malik pulled a face. If only the other kids would let him puzzle in peace.



"The dining hall is for dining, not puzzling, Jamal," the lunchtime supervisor said, tutting at the noise. Jamal sighed and packed up his jigsaw.

If only the adults would let him puzzle in peace.

There was a nice sunny corner in the school yard that didn't really get too much of the breeze. It was so nice, Jamal could fall asleep. He decided to complete his puzzle out there. This one was of a fantastic metallic spaceship flying around a colourful rocky planet. In the windows, tiny green aliens waved. Jamal was just about to pop the final piece into place when the bell rang for the end of lunch.



If only the school would let him puzzle in peace.



Afternoon lessons went by slowly. They did art, which Kenzie loved. Then they did a bit of geography, which Malik loved. Finally, they played football in PE, which Sandra loved. The children were always a bit rough when they played football. Jamal didn't like it. He fell and scraped his knee, which the other children thought was hilarious. His teacher let him go back and get

changed early for home time.

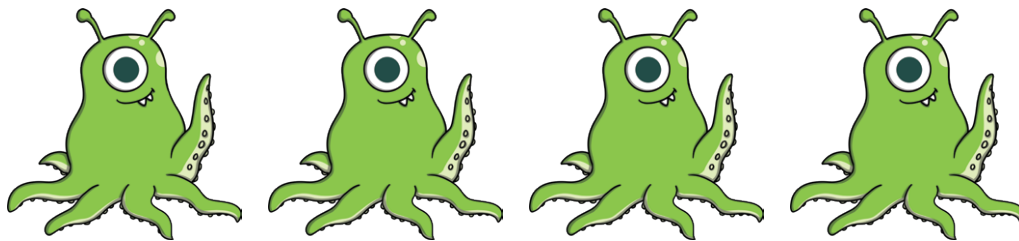
By the time the rest of the class bustled back in, all sweaty and red-faced in their PE kits, Jamal was already back in his neat and tidy uniform. He dug his jigsaw out of his bag while they noisily got changed.

The final piece of the puzzle clicked perfectly into place and suddenly, a beam of light flashed. All the children fell silent, looking around in confusion. A strange sound filled the air, like

the loudest siren the children had ever heard. Jamal and the others clapped their hands over their ears.

There was another bright flash of light and the siren stopped as suddenly as it had started. The children all gasped. The room was filled with tiny green aliens — the exact tiny green aliens that had waved at Jamal from his jigsaw puzzle. As quickly as they had appeared, they vanished. So did the rest of the children!

Well, at least the aliens let Jamal puzzle in peace.



Questions

1.

Draw lines to match the children to their favourite things.

Jamal	geography
Kenzie	jigsaw puzzles
Malik	football
Sandra	art

2.

What day is this story set? Circle the correct answer.

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

3.

Use information from the text to complete these sentences.

The children wouldn't let Jamal puzzle in peace because _____
_____.

The lunchtime supervisor wouldn't let Jamal puzzle in peace
because _____.

The school wouldn't let Jamal puzzle in peace because _____
_____.



Use two adjectives to describe each of the features of the puzzle Jamal was working on.

spaceship: _____ and _____

planet: _____ and _____

aliens: _____ and _____



Put the events of the story in order by writing the numbers 1 to 5.

The children played football.

Jamal ate his packed lunch.

Aliens abducted Jamal's classmates.

The lunchtime supervisor told Jamal off.

Kenzie shouted at Jamal.



Do you think aliens really arrived in the classroom? Why or why not?



If you were Jamal's friend, how would you help him?

Answers

1. Draw lines to match the children to their favourite things.

Jamal — geography
Kenzie — jigsaw puzzles
Malik — football
Sandra — art

2. What day is this story set? Circle the correct answer.

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

3. Use information from the text to complete these sentences.

The children wouldn't let Jamal puzzle in peace because **they kept making fun of him.**

The lunchtime supervisor wouldn't let Jamal puzzle in peace because **she said the dining hall was for dining, not puzzling.**

The school wouldn't let Jamal puzzle in peace because **the bell rang just as he was about to finish the jigsaw.**

4. What two adjectives did the author use to describe each of the features of the puzzle Jamal was working on?

spaceship: **fantastic** and **metallic**

planet: **colourful** and **rocky**

aliens: **tiny** and **green**

5. Put the events of the story in order by writing the numbers 1 to 5.

4	The children played football.
1	Jamal ate his packed lunch.
5	Aliens abducted Jamal's classmates.
3	The lunchtime supervisor told Jamal off.
2	Kenzie shouted at Jamal.

6. Do you think aliens really arrived in the classroom? Why or why not?

Child's own answer, for example:

- I think that Jamal fell asleep in the sun outside and dreamed it.
- I think he imagined it because he wanted it to happen.

7. If you were Jamal's friend, how would you help him?

Child's own answer, for example:

- I would stick up for Jamal against the other children.
- I would offer to help him with the jigsaw.