



SPACE ODDITY

by David Bowie

YouTube Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cYMCLz5PQVw>

Lyrics Link:

<http://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/davidbowie/spaceoddiy.html>

Space Oddity by David Bowie

(RR) Retrieval and Recording

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

1.) What type of pills does Major Tom need to take?

2.) What does Major Tom need to check?

3.) What do the papers want to know?

4.) In the 4th verse, what two verbs are used instead of 'going'.

5.) How many miles has he passed?

6.) What is he doing around his tin can?

7.) Where is the tin can?

8.) Who keeps contacting Major Tom?

9.) How do they know something is wrong?

10.) What colour is planet earth?

11.) What adverb is used to describe how he is floating?

Extension - Come up with your own retrieval and recording (RR) questions.



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(CC) Context Clues

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

1.) What do you think the word capsule means?

- a.) a metal wardrobe
- b.) the front door
- c.) a container, often cylinder in shape
- d.) a tiny cap you wear on your head

What key word(s) in the text helped you answer this question?

2.) What two meanings could the word blue have in the song?

3.) What do you think the word commencing means?

- a.) starting
- b.) stopping
- c.) a computer voice
- d.) dancing

What key word(s) in the text helped you answer this question?

4.) What do you think the word circuit means?

- a.) the heart of a computer system
- b.) a circular line for electricity to travel
- c.) flashing buttons and switches
- d.) a robot which flies a ship

What key word(s) helped you answer this question?

5.) Write 2 synonyms for the word peculiar.

Extension - Write a sentence of your own for each word



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(INF) Inference

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

1.) Why does Ground Control hope God's love is with him?

2.) What does 'you've really made the grade' suggest about Major Tom?

3.) Why does Major Tom want to tell his wife he loves her?

4.) Why do you think the line 'Can you hear me, Major Tom?' is repeated and then cut short at the end?

5.) What is the 'tin can' and what impression does this give about what it is like?

6.) What do you think happened to Major Tom? Use evidence from the text to help you explain.



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Assessment

Name(s): _____

Date: _____

1.) What word(s) best describes what the song is about

RR CC INF S

- a.) Ground Control
- b.) an astronaut
- c.) tin cans
- d.) being brave

Code (1)	Answer (1)

2.) Find and copy the line which suggests Major Tom is very brave?

RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (1)

3.) What might he mean when he says that there is nothing he can do?

RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (1)

4.) What does he turn on at the start of the song? RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (1)

5.) Circle the meanings that '*Planet earth is blue*' could mean.

RR CC INF S

- a.) water makes the earth look blue from space
- b.) the environmental damage to earth makes it look unwell from space
- c.) the sky makes the earth look blue from space
- d.) the earth is in the shape of a sad face from space

Code (1)	Answer (1)

6.) What do you think the word oddity means? RR CC INF S

- a.) one spaceship
- b.) astronaut
- c.) adventure
- d.) unusual

Code (1)	Answer (1)

7.) What do the stars look like to Major Tom? RR CC INF S

Code (1)	Answer (1)

Total

/15



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Answers

Retrieval and Recording

1. protein
2. the ignition
3. whose shirts Major Tom wears
4. stepping and floating
5. one hundred thousand (100,000)
6. sitting and floating
7. far above the word and far above the moon
8. Ground Control
9. the circuit is dead
10. blue
11. in a most peculiar way

Context Clues

1. c
2. the colour blue and feeling sad
3. a
4. b
5. strange / unusual / odd (answers may vary)

Inference (answers may vary)

1. Ground control know it is a dangerous mission and that he needs more than luck. He needs God's love too.
2. He has passed the challenge of being able to get into space. He is a very well qualified astronaut that has achieved highly.
3. People often tell someone they love them if they are worried about their future or if they think they might not come back from somewhere.
4. Ground Control can't get hold of Major Tom so they keep trying. It suggests he is not communicating back or something bad has happened to him. It is cut short which suggests something has happened to the ship or communication is finally lost.
5. The 'tin can' suggests it is metallic, light, small, fragile or flimsy in comparison to the vastness of space.
6. The song says he must leave the capsule and then it says how he is stepping through the door and floating. He is probably on a space walk outside of the ship. The circuit then breaks and communication is lost so something may have struck the ship. Perhaps it simply lost power. Major Tom could be lost floating in space or destroyed with the rest of the ship.

Assessment

1. S - b
2. INF - 'I'm stepping through the door.'
3. INF - Either that he can see that the earth is sad and he is too far away to help or that he is no longer in control of the spaceship or where he is going. It maybe that he is about to lose his life and he cannot help himself.
4. RR - the engine
5. INF - a and b
6. CC- d
7. RR - very different

