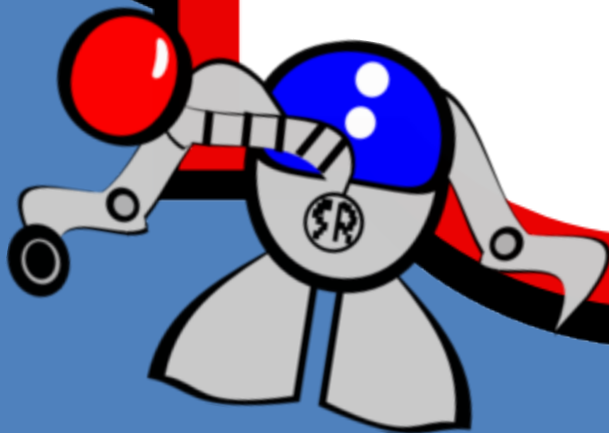


Common-Core Activities
for
“The Ruum”
Arthur Porges



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Teacher-Written Standards-Based Lesson Plans



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Common-Core-Based Activities For
“The Ruum”

Arthur Porges

By Tammy D. Sutherland and Shannon B. Temple

www.elacoreplans.com

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Title of Activity	Page	Common Core Standards
Prereading activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prediction guide • vocabulary preview 	5-7	The vocabulary preview provides words in context so that students can determine meanings. CCSSRL4
Active Reading Guide	8-13	With this activity, students are required to complete a close reading of this complex text. We have divided the first half of the story into sections. Questions from each section are provided to guide students in reading and figuring out the meaning of what they have read. The questions require the students to return to the text, to defend their answers with text, and to infer and draw conclusions. Also, key story elements and author’s craft and structure are addressed. CCSS7RL1, 3 Anchor Standards 1-6
Close Reading Notes	14	This handout provides a chart for students to take notes as they continue the second half of the story. Without questions to guide them, they will need to complete a close reading independently and take notes to clarify any part of the story that is complicated for them. CCSS7RL1,10
Post Reading Questions	15	These questions can be used to aid in comprehension and to assess comprehension after students complete their close reading of the story. With these questions, students are required to make inferences, draw conclusions, and piece together parts of the plot. CCSS7RL1,3 Anchor Standards 1-6

Vocabulary	16	This handout provides a chart for students to record words that they encounter in the text. They are asked to write definitions based on the context clues and then use a dictionary to make sure their definitions are correct. CCSS7RL1,4
Making Inferences & Analyzing How Characters Affect the Plot	17	This handout requires students to draw conclusions and make inferences. This is a good review after the story and should help struggling readers pull all parts of the plot together. At the end of the handout, <i>if/then</i> statements are provided so students can analyze how the characters affect the plot. CCSS7RL1,3
The Ruum Test	18-21	This test provides twenty multiple choice questions. Students are required to use context clues, analyze characters, plot, setting, irony, determine the point of view and genre, and much more. CCSSR Anchor Standards 1-6
Tableau	22	This activity requires students to work in groups to develop a creative tableau and then perform it for the class. A writing assignment accompanies this assignment. A rubric is provided. CCSSW Anchor Standard 4
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THE RUUM

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

“The Ruum” is always a hit with middle schoolers, if they understand it. This story is written above the seventh grade reading level, and most students will need help. Our suggestion is to read the beginning of the story with the students using the active reading questions as your guide. Read the portions out loud to your students as they follow along, and then stop to answer the questions together. Have them read some of the portions independently and then go over the questions together so that you can address any misunderstandings. Once the questions on the active reading guide are completed, students can then read the rest of the story independently. Hand out the close reading chart and tell them to take notes on each page that they read. Encourage them to ask themselves questions, just as the reading guide asked questions. Once the story is complete, you can assess their comprehension with the other handouts. Be sure to hold a discussion on the irony in the story and the outcome of the story. We hope you enjoy these handouts! Use the chart below to mark your starting and stopping places before beginning the story.

***Use the chart below to mark your starting and stopping places before beginning the story. We strongly suggest marking these starting and stopping places in the story prior to reading. This will help tremendously with the active reading guide questions.**

Section	Start with the paragraph beginning...	End with the words...	Page number
	First paragraph <i>The cruiser</i>	<i>...to the commander</i>	
	<i>“Excellency...”</i>	<i>...it may have collected.”</i>	
	<i>The commander’s triangular eyes...</i>	<i>...age of reptiles</i>	
	<i>When the two men...</i>	<i>...don’t scare ‘em to death!”</i>	
	<i>Jim thumbed his nose...</i>	<i>...no gloomy forebodings</i>	
	<i>Moving with the unhurried...</i>	<i>...sheepskin holster in the lean-to</i>	
	<i>He was whistling..</i>	<i>...no bigger than a pony</i>	
	<i>Fascinated, Jim walked down...</i>	<i>The man turned and fled.</i>	
	<i>Jim Irwin weighed ...</i>	<i>...hardly breaking his stride</i>	
	<i>One thing was certain...</i>	<i>...every nerve a charged wire</i>	
	<i>But there was no change of technique...</i>	<i>...might put it many minutes behind him.</i>	
	Students will read the remainder independently.	They will use the close reading chart to take notes as they read.	

THE RUUM

Fun with Predictions

spaceship

robot

chase

paralyzed animals

Jim

Northern Canada

pursues

captures

21 days

Walt

These are important words from the story. Some of the words are characters. Some tell of the setting, and others tell of the conflict. After looking at these words, write a short statement predicting what you think will happen. Of course, your prediction may not be close to what really happens in the story, but it is still fun to imagine what the story may be about. Be prepared to share what you write with your class. No peeking at the story!☺

My Prediction:

THE RUUM

Before we read the story, see if you know some of the vocabulary words that we will encounter. Match the words in the box to the correct definitions below. Use the sentences to help you.

laden – Grandpa arrived laden with presents.

uncouth– The weird looking caterpillar was covered in fur and had ugly, uncouth whiskers protruding from it.

lean-to - The man was stranded on an island, so he built a lean-to in the shelter of a rocky overhang.

expedition - Bob killed three large deer on his hunting expedition.

nuisance - Dogs that bark loudly at night can be a nuisance.

conglomeration- The jewelry store has a huge conglomeration of earrings, rings, necklaces, and bracelets.

latter – I like apples and pears, but I prefer the latter.

respite - After putting up with ten hyper girls at a sleepover , the mom needed a respite.

detour- We had to detour off of the interstate because of a wreck.

1. a shelter built to keep one warm and/or dry _____
2. carrying a lot of things _____
3. the second of two things just mentioned _____
4. to take another route _____
5. a brief period of rest _____
6. someone or something that annoys you _____
7. strange, odd, crude; unfamiliar _____
8. a journey or trip _____
9. an accumulation of miscellaneous things _____

THE RUUM

Active Reading Guide

Understanding what you read – To help you comprehend this story, follow the directions on this reading guide. Make sure you stop and answer the questions as you read.

Stop after the first paragraph, and answer the following questions.

1. Where is this story taking place? _____
2. So far, there are two characters. Who are these characters? _____ and _____

Read the second paragraph. Then stop to answer the following questions.

3. What is the problem? _____
4. Do you know which planet in our solar system is the third planet from the sun?

Read the next four paragraphs. Stop when you finish the line, “*And on the earth, it was the age of the reptiles.*” Answer the following questions before continuing the story.

5. Is the commander human? _____ How do you know?

6. How does the commander feel about the ruum being left? _____

Find some words that the author uses to show how the commander feels.

7. According to the story, how was the ruum “set”? _____

What do you think this “setting” might mean? _____

8. Based on what you have read so far, you can infer that the ruum is some sort of _____

9. What happened to *Ilkor*, the cruiser? _____

10. What does the phrase *laden with dead* mean? _____

11. Complete the following sentence from the story. *And on the earth it was the age of* _____.

Read the next three paragraphs. Then, stop after the sentence “ ...shoot ’em, but don’t scare ’em to death!” Then, answer the following questions.

There are two characters who have been introduced, Jim Irwin and Walt Leonard.

12. What is Jim Irwin looking for? _____

13. Is it still the “age of the dinosaurs”? _____ How do you know? _____

14. Which of the two characters is a pilot who is about to leave the other? _____

Write a passage that supports your answer.

15. The author uses nonstandard English for Walt’s dialogue. Why does he do this? _____

Read the next paragraph- the one that begins, “Jim thumbed his nose...” Then stop to answer the following questions before moving on with the story.

16. Where is Jim?

17. How long will he be in this place? _____

18. How will Jim leave this place to return home? _____

19. Again, what is Jim looking for? _____ How many days does he have to find it? ____

20. Explain what the last sentence of this paragraph means.

Read the paragraph “*Moving with the unhurried precision of an experienced woodsman...* and the two paragraphs that follow it. Then, stop after reading the words *lean-to*. Answer the following questions.

21. Where did Jim store the dynamite? _____

22. At this point in the story, Jim has been in this place for almost _____ full weeks.

23. Why does Jim carry a gun?

Read the next five paragraphs starting with *He was whistling...* Then, stop after the word *pony* to answer the following questions.

24. Why does Jim only take the food in his emergency packet?

25. People owe Jim money. He uses slang in the story as he reflects *some of those birds he'd staked would make a strike and return his dough*. This means if some of those guys that he leant money to would get rich and return his money. According to the story, how much money is owed to Jim?

26. Jim comes upon what he describes as a “giant’s outdoor butcher shop”. Reread the paragraph that describes this site. In the box below, jot down the animals that he mentions. You may wish to draw a sketch of this scene.

Read the next six paragraphs, starting with *Fascinated, Jim walked...* and ending with the words *turned and fled*. Then, stop to answer the following questions.

27. List three interesting things that Jim realizes about the animals.

28. Find some words that are used to describe these animals. What tone do these words suggest? _____

29. What is the quasi-spherical object? _____

But it was not leather, and what appeared at first a disgusting wartiness turned out on closer scrutiny to be more like the functional projections of some outlandish mechanism.

30. Put this passage that describes the ruum into your own words so that you can figure out what it looked like. You may use a dictionary.

31. How does Jim try to attack the ruum?

32. What happens ?

Read the paragraph starting with *Jim Irwin weighed...* Read the next two paragraphs and then stop to answer the following questions.

33. How much does Jim weigh? _____

34. The ruum cannot outrun an animal or human, but what advantage does it have?

Before long, Jim guessed, the hunted animal had either turned on its implacable pursuer or, in the case of more timid creatures, run itself to exhaustion in a circle out of sheer panic.

35. Put this passage in your own words to make sure you understand what it is saying. You may need to use a dictionary.

36. According to the story, only one type of animal was safe from the ruum. What animal is this? _____

Read the paragraph that begins with *One thing was certain...* Read that paragraph and the next five paragraphs with it. The last words you should read before stopping are *every nerve a charged wire*. Then, answer the following questions.

37. What does Jim see that makes him pause? _____

38. What does Jim realize at this point about how the ruum follows its prey? Explain this.

39. Why do you think the narrator says *The significance of that fact was immense...?*

40. What is Jim going to do to the ruum? _____

Read the paragraph that begins *But there was no change of technique by the ruum...* Read that paragraph and the next five paragraphs. Then, stop and answer the following questions.

41. What Did Jim do to the ruum?

42. What happens after Jim thinks that the ruum is destroyed?

43. Why does Jim think that the ruum may have to detour if he takes a certain path?

THE RUUM

Close Reading Notes

As you read the rest of the story, you will need to continue to stop, reread, figure out things, and ask yourself questions. As you do this, take notes on each of the remaining pages of the story.

Page number	Notes to understand

THE RUUM

Post Reading Questions

Name _____

Date _____

After finishing the story, answer the following questions.

1. How does the ruum find Jim when he is on top of the barrier?

2. Why could Jim describe the ruum as intelligent? Find one passage from the story that supports this.

3. Why was shooting the ruum of no use? _____

4. Who does Jim "see" while running from the ruum? _____
What do the hallucinations that Jim has while running from the ruum suggest about his mental and physical state?

5. Why is Jim so calm around the bear? _____

Why is this ironic? _____

6. Why does the ruum ignore the bear?

7. How did the ruum defeat the bear? _____

8. Why did the ruum put Jim back on the ground and roll away? Use the last line to help you figure this out.

THE ROOM

Vocabulary

Word / Page Number	Definition – based on context or the dictionary

THE RUUM

Making Inferences & Analyzing How Characters Affect the Plot

The ruum, though a robot, is a main character in this story. To solve the mystery of why the ruum simply put Jim back on the ground without harming him, you may need to go back and reread some portions of the story. Use this handout to help you solve the mystery.

Detail about the ruum	What we can figure out from these details
Where was the ruum left?	
For what radius what the ruum set?	
For how many pounds was the ruum set?	
How did the ruum charge or energize itself?	

Return to the portion of the story that describes the animals when Jim first sees them. What is said about the size of the animals? Why were there only animals of this size? Use the information you found in the chart above to answer this question.

Return to the story to find out how much Jim weighed. Write his weight _____

Complete the following statements

If the ruum had not been left on the third planet by *Ilkor*,

If Jim had weighed 170 pounds, then _____

THE RUUM

Test

1. What genre is this story?
 - a. nonfiction
 - b. realistic fiction
 - c. science fiction
 - d. historical fiction
2. This story is told from the third person limited point of view. We know that this point of view is used because_____
 - a. We are constantly aware of what the ruum is thinking and planning.
 - b. We are constantly aware of only what Jim is thinking and feeling.
 - c. We are able to know the thoughts and feelings of both the ruum and Jim.
 - d. We are able to figure out what is happening before Jim figures it out.
3. At the beginning of the story, how does the reader infer that the commander of the *Ilkor* is not human?
 - a. He is in a spaceship.
 - b. He has sharp teeth.
 - c. He is upset about the ruum being left behind.
 - d. He has triangular eyes.
4. The *Ilkor* was destroyed _____.
 - a. by a comet during the age of the caveman
 - b. during a fight with a raider during the age of the dinosaurs
 - c. on the planet Pluto in the distant past
 - d. by the ruum when it returned during the prehistoric era
5. Which of the following helped Jim the most in his chase against the ruum?
 - a. his military background and the tricks he had learned in his hazard-filled lifetime
 - b. his gun, the dynamite, and the boulder that he found
 - c. his fast pace and unwillingness to give up
 - d. the thoughts of his wife and his child
6. Which of the following best describes the ruum?
 - a. durable, unyielding
 - b. evil, ugly
 - c. festive, helpful
 - d. revengeful, hateful

But the lord of the woods wasn't settling for any draw.

7. The author uses these underlined words to make the bear seem _____.
- angry
 - mean
 - powerful
 - jealous
8. This story includes _____.
- irony
 - suspense
 - imagery
 - all of the above
9. Why is Jim looking for uranium?
- He wants to use it to destroy the room.
 - It is worth money.
 - Without it, Walt will not return to pick him up.
 - He needs it for his spacecraft.
10. When Jim comes upon the assortment of animal bodies, he realizes that all of them _____.
- are about the same size
 - are all large
 - are all reptiles
 - are all strange and hairy

The bulky .30-06 was a nuisance and he had no enthusiasm for its weight, but the huge grizzlies of Canada are not intruded upon with impunity, and take a lot of killing.

11. In this passage, the word *nuisance* means *aggravation*. The words *intruded upon* means *invaded upon*. What does the word *impunity* most likely mean?
- exemption from punishment or harm
 - fear and anger in the face of danger
 - excitement and revenge
 - causing danger and injury

12. What was the author's purpose in telling Jim's weight early on in the story?
- to create suspense so that the reader wonders what will happen
 - to give a clue that will be needed to understand the plot
 - to show that he was strong enough to run with excess weight
 - to give a valid description of Jim
13. Which of the following details **best** supports the fact that the ruum was at an advantage over any human?
- Whatever the thing was, he had little time to study it, for after the spheroid had whipped out and retracted a number of metal rods with bulbous, lenslike structures at their tips, it rolled toward him at a speed of about five miles per hour.
 - The ruum seemed incapable of increasing its speed.
 - The steady five-mile-an-hour pace was something no organism on earth could maintain for more than a few hours.
 - There was no telling what other senses it might bring into play, even though the ruum seemed to prefer just to follow in his prints.
14. Why is it ironic that Jim wanted to get rid of excess weight?
- It is ironic because Jim thought that the extra weight would hurt him, but it actually would have helped him because he then might have exceeded the ruum's set collection weight.
 - It is ironic because he does not put down his gun, and the gun did not help him in the battle against the ruum.
 - It is ironic because Jim needed to gain weight because he was too thin and weak to fight the ruum.
 - It is ironic because the reader was aware that the gun would not work, but Jim was not aware.

It progressed as slowly and as regularly and as inexorably as before, and in his direction.

15. What does the underlined word in this passage mean?
- lazily
 - relentlessly
 - clumsily
 - quickly

Then a number of knobs opened to extrude metallic wands. One of these, topped with lenses, waved in the air. Jim drew back too late – their uncanny gaze had found him as he lay atop the cliff, peering down. He cursed his idiocy.

16. In this passage, how does the ruum know where Jim is?
 - a. It smells him because Jim did not cover up his scent.
 - b. It sees him on top of the cliff with its lens because Jim lets it see his head.
 - c. It climbs to the top of the cliff and notices him.
 - d. It uses its wands and tools to track him because it cannot pick up Jim's scent.

17. In this same passage, which of the following would be a synonym for the underlined word *idiocy*?
 - a. courage
 - b. mistake
 - c. stupidity
 - d. negativity

18. At times throughout this story, Jim feels all of the following except _____.
 - a. weary
 - b. desperate
 - c. defeated
 - d. content

19. True or false... In the end, Jim understands why the ruum puts him down and leaves.
 - a. true
 - b. false

20. Why did the ruum not add Jim to its collection?
 - a. The ruum did not like the way that Jim looked up close.
 - b. Jim did not fit the weight limit that the ruum required.
 - c. Jim did not have fur like the other animals in the collection.
 - d. The ruum ran out of energy.

THE RUUM

A **tableau** is a living picture that captures a moment. You will create a group tableau. This means that you will create a frozen scene from this story. You will stand in a line in front of the class and one by one “come to life”, say a line from the story while showing emotion and/or actions that fit that line, and then freeze again. Then, the person beside you will “come to life”, say his/her line and then freeze again until the entire group is done.

Follow the directions below to prepare for your dramatic presentation:

1. Choose some dialogue, a moment, or situation from the story for your group to portray. Make sure you choose a significant passage or line. If you wish, each person in the group may choose his/her own line(s), which do not have to be in the same passage. For example, person one in the group may choose the line, *Coolly, as he ran, Jim began to shed all surplus weight.* The second person in the group may choose the line, *He had just reached the top when the ruum rolled up to the base of the cliff.* While these lines are not on the same page, they are still related.
2. Once each person in the group has chosen a line or two or three, decide how each person will “come to life” and portray this line. You will memorize the line and say it out loud, but as you do so, you should include facial expressions, and movements or gestures when possible. For example, for the line *Coolly, as he ran, Jim began to shed all surplus weight,* the speaker would run in place and pretend to take off and put down his jacket or backpack. He/she would make his/her eyes wide open and say the line with a panicked and serious expression on his/her face.
3. Once everyone in the group has decided on a line, facial expressions, and motions to accompany that line, practice performing the tableau. Everyone in the group should stand frozen. Put your heads down so you are not tempted to smile or laugh. The first person in line will begin by lifting his/her head, saying and acting out his/her line. Once this line has been brought to life, that person will freeze right where he/she is, and the next person will “come to life.”
4. Now, before you perform you tableau for the class, you must first write something for your teacher. 😊 Write a paragraph explaining the significance of your chosen piece to act out. Why did you choose it? What is significant about it? Why is it memorable?
5. Good Luck!

**“THE RUUM”
ANSWER KEY**

THE ROOM

laden – Grandpa arrived laden with presents.

uncouth– The weird looking caterpillar was covered in fur and had ugly, uncouth whiskers protruding from it.

lean-to - The man was stranded on an island, so he built a lean-to in the shelter of a rocky overhang.

expedition - Bob killed three large deer on his hunting expedition.

nuisance - Dogs that bark loudly at night can be a nuisance.

conglomeration- The jewelry store has a huge conglomeration of earrings, rings, necklaces, and bracelets.

latter – I like apples and pears, but I prefer the latter.

respite - After putting up with ten hyper girls at a sleepover , the mom needed a respite.

detour- We had to detour off of the interstate because of a wreck.

1. a shelter built to keep one warm and/or dry lean-to
2. carrying a lot of things laden
3. the second of two things just mentioned latter
4. to take another route detour
5. a brief period of rest respite
6. someone or something that annoys you nuisance
7. strange, odd, unfamiliar uncouth
8. a journey or trip expedition
9. an accumulation of miscellaneous things conglomeration

Answer Key “The Ruum” Close Reading Active Reading Guide

Understanding what you read – To help you comprehend this story, follow the directions on this reading guide. Make sure you stop and answer the questions as you read.

1. Where is this story taking place? In outer space beyond Pluto
2. So far, there are two characters. Who are these characters? officer and commander
3. What is the problem? A type H-9 Ruum was left on the third planet.
4. Do you know which planet in our solar system is the third from the sun? Earth
5. Is the commander human? no How do you know?
He has triangular eyes, and no human has triangular eyes.
6. How does the commander feel about the ruum being left? He is aggravated about it and says that whoever is at fault should be punished. He does not, however, think it is important enough to turn back at the moment to retrieve it.
Find some words that the author uses to show how the commander feels.
Costly, he ordered coldly, “severely punished.”
7. According to the story, how was the ruum set? 160 pounds plus or minus 15 maximum radius of thirty miles
8. Based on what you have read so far, you can infer that the ruum is some sort of collection device, robot
9. What happened to Ilkor, the cruiser? It was shot at in a fire fight. Those on board were killed. The Ilkor is doomed to a billion year orbit because there is no one alive on board to do otherwise.
10. What does the phrase *laden with dead* mean? Everyone on the ship was dead.
11. Complete the following sentence from the story. *And on the earth it was the age of the reptiles, meaning the time of dinosaurs.*

There are two characters who have been introduced, Jim Irwin and Walt Leonard.

12. What is Jim Irwin looking for? Uranium

13. Is it still the “age of the dinosaurs”? no How do you know? The characters are people, and people were not alive when dinosaurs were on earth.

14. Which of the two characters is a pilot who is about to leave the other? Walt is leaving Jim.

Write a passage that supports your answer.

“The minute I land,” Walt called.

15. The author uses nonstandard English with Walt. Why does he do this?

to make the character seem more believable and perhaps to show the close informal relationship between Jim and Walt

16. Where is Jim? Jim is in a remote (isolated) valley of the Canadian Rockies.

17. How long will he be in this place? three weeks

18. How will Jim leave this place to return home? Walt will return to pick Jim up and take him home.

19. Again, what is Jim looking for? uranium How many days does he have to find it? 21

20. Explain what the last sentence of this paragraph means. He would get to work without thinking of anything negative or gloomy. He would work with a positive attitude.

21. Where did Jim store the dynamite? 200 yards away from his lean-to

22. At this point in the story, Jim has been in this place for almost three full weeks.

23. Why does Jim carry a gun? Jim carries a gun to defend himself against the dangerous grizzly bears.

24. Why does Jim only take the food in his emergency packet? He knows he can catch a fish in the stream or easily kill a rabbit to eat.
25. People owe Jim money. He uses slang in the story as he reflects *some of those birds he'd staked would make a strike and return his dough*. This means if some of those guys that he lent money to would get rich and return his money. According to the story, how much money is owed to Jim? \$8,000 is owed to Jim.
26. Jim comes upon what he describes as a "giant's outdoor butcher shop". Reread the paragraph that describes this scene. In the box below, jot down the animals that he mentions. You may wish to draw a sketch of this scene.

Deer, bear, cougar, mountain sheep

Strange, uncouth half-formed beasts

A conglomeration of reptiles – including dinosaurs

27. List three interesting things that Jim realizes about the animals.

They are not dead but paralyzed and miraculously preserved. They are all small- the size of a large sheep. Some of them are prehistoric.

28. Find some words that are used to describe these animals. What tone do these words suggest? strange, uncouth, half-formed, hairy beasts, nightmare conglomeration These words suggest an eerie tone.

29. What is the quasi-spherical object? the ruum that was left on the planet millions of years ago

30. *But it was not leather, and what appeared at first a disgusting wartiness turned out on closer scrutiny to be more like the functional projections of some outlandish mechanism.*

Put this passage that describes the ruum into your own words so that you can figure out what it looked like.

Sample answer: It was not leather. When he first looked at it, it looked like something with disgusting warts all over it, but when he saw it closer, he saw that it was not warts but some bizarre device with working instruments or tools on it.

31. How does Jim try to attack the ruum? He shoots it.
32. What happens? The bullets ricochet off of the ruum and do not harm it.
33. How much does Jim weigh? 149 pounds
34. The ruum cannot outrun an animal or human, but what advantage does it have? It does not become tired.

Before long, Jim guessed, the hunted animal had either turned on its implacable pursuer or, in the case of more timid creatures, run itself to exhaustion in a circle out of sheer panic.

35. Put this passage in your own words to make sure you understand what it is saying.

Either the animals that the ruum was after had turned to fight the ruum and been defeated, or in the case of the more shy, meek animals, they had run until they were exhausted and the ruum had defeated them then.

36. According to the story, only one type of animal was safe from the ruum. What animal is this? winged - birds

Students may not be able to figure this out at this point, but if Jim weighs 149 pounds, he is the right weight to be part of the ruums collection because he is within the fifteen pound limit.

37. What does Jim see that makes him pause? a large boulder
38. What does Jim realize at this point about how the ruum follows its prey? Explain this. The ruum dogged the footsteps of its prey. This means it follows its prey or tracks it like a bloodhound. The idiom to dog the footsteps of someone is to follow him or her persistently.
39. Why do you think the narrator says *The significance of that fact was immense...?*

This knowledge can help him figure out a way to lead the ruum astray.

40. What is Jim going to do to the ruum? He is going to push the boulder on top of the ruum.
41. What did Jim do to the ruum? He pushed the boulder on top of the ruum.

42. What happens after Jim thinks that the ruum is destroyed? It lifts the boulder and continues its pursuit of Jim.

43. Why does Jim think that the ruum may have to detour if he takes a certain path?

The ground was barely passable because it was full of gullies, rocks, and spiky brush.

After finishing the story, complete the following questions.

1. How does the ruum find Jim when he is on top of the barrier? It uses its lenses, and sees Jim's head because he didn't pull it back fast enough to hide.
2. Why could Jim describe the ruum as intelligent? Find one passage from the story that supports this. Possible passage: ...the spheroid was extruding three hooked rods simultaneously in a fanlike spread. In a perfectly coordinated movement, the rods snagged the cliff's edge at intervals of about four feet.
3. Why was shooting the ruum of no use? The bullets ricocheted off of it. They did no harm to the ruum.
4. Who does Jim "see" while running from the ruum? His wife What do the hallucinations that Jim has while running from the Ruum suggest about his mental and physical state? He was extremely weary and probably dehydrated. He was hallucinating, so he was in extremely bad shape.
5. Why is Jim so calm around the bear? Why is this ironic? Before the ruum, his biggest fear was a grizzly bear. Not, compared to the ruum, the bear is not so fearful at all.
6. Why does the ruum ignore the bear? It is too big for its collection.
7. How did the ruum defeat the bear? The ruum cuts the bear's throat and kills it.
8. Why did the ruum put Jim back on the ground and roll away? Jim lost weight during the chase, so he fell below the weight limit that the ruum was set to collect. For this reason, the ruum put Jim back down and rolled away.

The Ruum

How characters affect the plot

The ruum, though a robot, is a main character in this story. To solve the mystery of why the ruum simply put Jim back on the ground without harming him, you may need to go back and reread some portions of the story. Use this handout to help you solve the mystery.

Detail about the ruum	What we can figure out from these details
Where was the ruum left? Left on the third planet	Earth is the third planet from the sun
For what radius was the ruum set? Set for a radius of thirty miles	Perhaps this is as far as it could go
For how many pounds was the ruum set? 160 pounds plus or minus 15	It could only gather things that weighed within this weight limit
How did the ruum charge or energize itself? Self-energizing	It does not need to be charged. It energizes itself.

Return to the portion of the story that describes the animals when Jim first sees them. What is said about the size of the animals? Why were there only animals of this size? Use the information you found in the chart above to answer this question.

The animals were all about the same size. None of them were very large. They were all the size of a large sheep. The animals are all this size because they match the weight limit that the ruum was “set” to collect – 160 pounds plus or minus fifteen.

Return to the story to find out how much Jim weighed. Write his weight. 149 pounds

Complete the following statements

If the ruum had not been left on the third planet by *Ilkor*, Jim would never have encountered it or the chase.

If Jim had weighed 170 pounds, then the ruum would have paralyzed him and added Jim to its collection.

The Ruum

Test

1. What genre is this story?
 - a. nonfiction
 - b. realistic fiction
 - c. science fiction
 - d. historical fiction
2. This story is told from the third person limited point of view. We know that this point of view is used because _____.
 - a. we are constantly aware of what the ruum is thinking and planning.
 - b. we are constantly aware of only what Jim is thinking and feeling.
 - c. we are able to know the thoughts and feelings of both the ruum and Jim.
 - d. we are able to figure out what is happening before Jim figures it out.
3. At the beginning of the story, how does the reader infer that the commander of the Ilkor is not human?
 - a. He is in a spaceship.
 - b. He has sharp teeth.
 - c. He is upset about the ruum being left behind.
 - d. He has triangular eyes.
4. The Ilkor was destroyed _____.
 - a. by a comet during the age of the caveman
 - b. during a fight with a raider during the age of the dinosaurs
 - c. on the planet Pluto in the distant past
 - d. by the ruum when it returned during the prehistoric era
5. Which of the following helped Jim the most in his chase against the ruum?
 - a. his military background and the tricks he had learned in his hazard-filled lifetime
 - b. his gun, the dynamite, and the boulder that he found
 - c. his fast pace and unwillingness to give up
 - d. the thoughts of his wife and his child
6. Which of the following best describes the ruum?
 - a. durable, unyielding
 - b. evil, ugly
 - c. festive, helpful
 - d. revengeful, hateful

But the lord of the woods wasn't settling for any draw.

7. The author uses these underlined words to make the bear seem _____.
- a. angry
 - b. mean
 - c. powerful
 - d. jealous
8. This story includes _____.
- a. irony
 - b. suspense
 - c. imagery
 - d. all of the above
9. Why is Jim looking for uranium?
- a. He wants to use it to destroy the room.
 - b. It is worth money.
 - c. Without it, Walt will not return to pick him up.
 - d. He needs it for his spacecraft.
10. When Jim comes upon the assortment of animal bodies, he realizes that all of them _____.
- a. are about the same size
 - b. are all large
 - c. are all reptiles
 - d. are all strange and hairy

The bulky .30-06 was a nuisance and he had no enthusiasm for its weight, but the huge grizzlies of Canada are not intruded upon with impunity, and take a lot of killing.

11. In this passage, the word *nuisance* means *aggravation*. The words *intruded upon* means *invaded upon*. What does the word *impunity* most likely mean?
- a. exemption from punishment or harm
 - b. fear and anger in the face of danger
 - c. excitement and revenge
 - d. causing danger and injury

12. What was the author's purpose in telling Jim's weight early on in the story?
- to create suspense so that the reader wonders what will happen
 - to give a clue that will be needed to understand the plot
 - to show that he was strong enough to run with excess weight
 - to give a valid description of Jim
13. Which of the following details **best** supports the fact that the ruum was at an advantage over any human?
- Whatever the thing was, he had little time to study it, for after the spheroid had whipped out and retracted a number of metal rods with bulbous, lenslike structures at their tips, it rolled toward him at a speed of about five miles per hour.
 - The ruum seemed incapable of increasing its speed.
 - The steady five-mile-an-hour pace was something no organism on earth could maintain for more than a few hours.
 - There was no telling what other senses it might bring into play, even though the ruum seemed to prefer just to follow in his prints.
14. Why is it ironic that Jim wanted to get rid of excess weight?
- It is ironic because Jim thought that the extra weight would hurt him, but it actually would have helped him because he then might have exceeded the ruum's set collection weight.
 - It is ironic because he does not put down his gun, and the gun did not help him in the battle against the ruum.
 - It is ironic because Jim needed to gain weight because he was too thin and weak to fight the ruum.
 - It is ironic because the reader was aware that the gun would not work, but Jim was not aware.

It progressed as slowly and as regularly and as inexorably as before, and in his direction.

15. What does the underlined word in this passage mean?
- lazily
 - relentlessly
 - clumsily
 - quickly

Then a number of knobs opened to extrude metallic wands. One of these, topped with lenses, waved in the air. Jim drew back too late – their uncanny gaze had found him as he lay atop the cliff, peering down. He cursed his idiocy.

16. In this passage, how does the ruum know where Jim is?
- It smells him because Jim did not cover up his scent.
 - It sees him on top of the cliff with its lens because Jim lets it see his head.
 - It climbs to the top of the cliff and notices him.
 - It uses its wands and tools to track him because it cannot pick up Jim's scent.
17. In this same passage, which of the following would be a synonym for the underlined word *idiocy*?
- courage
 - mistake
 - stupidity
 - negativity
18. At times throughout this story, Jim feels all of the following except _____.
- weary
 - desperate
 - defeated
 - content
19. True or false... In the end, Jim understands why the ruum puts him down and leaves.
- true
 - false
20. Why did the ruum not add Jim to its collection?
- The ruum did not like the way that Jim looked up close.
 - Jim did not fit the weight limit that the ruum required.
 - Jim did not have fur like the other animals in the collection.
 - The ruum ran out of energy.

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