

# Unexpected Visitors

by Nancy Butts  
Illustrations by Russ Daff



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The third graders of Jefferson School hung leaves from the ceiling, set up cardboard trees, and placed platters of plastic food on a long table. They retrieved costumes from a closet.

Hugo spun around in his wheelchair, clapping his hands for attention. “Time for rehearsal, everyone!” he said. “The more we practice, the better our Thanksgiving play will be!”

“Don’t worry,” Leon said, slipping on his vest and moccasins. “I already know my lines.”

“It’s hot in these costumes,” Penny complained. Her teacher helped her open the window.

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### Level O

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As they turned away, something with flashing lights zoomed through the open window and landed on the table. At first, no one noticed the miniature spaceship or the two tiny figures who skittered out of it.

“This is supposed to be the 21st century,” the purple one said, confused. “But this looks like the first Thanksgiving, which our data sheets clearly state took place in 1621. Did we travel through time as well as space?”

“If this is 1621, they aren’t ready for our advanced science,” said the green one. He pushed his partner forward. “Ask them what year it is.”

The purple one blinked his single eye. “Ask these giants? I don’t think so.”



“What’s that weird noise?” Leon asked, looking toward the table.

“I don’t hear anything, but who brought in their Galaxy Raider spaceship toy to school? I didn’t know it came with cool action figures!” said Cam, grabbing the two startled aliens.

Hugo sighed. “Hey, guys, forget the toys, and let’s start rehearsal.”

Their teacher called from across the room. “Break a leg, everybody!”



The two space creatures squeaked in terror.

“Did you hear that?” the purple one said. “The biggest giant wants to break our legs!”

“Whoa!” gasped Cam. “These aren’t toys. They’re alive!”

The aliens leaped from Cam’s hands, zipping toward their spaceship.

“Wait!” Penny said. “Your legs are safe. That’s just how we wish actors good luck!”

“Good-bye, earthlings!” shouted the aliens. A moment later, the spaceship streaked out the window, never to return.

“Hey, come back,” yelled Penny. “You never even saw our play!”



**Level O**

Literary

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