

Little Jimmy was lying on his bed listening to his favourite bedtime story, read by his Mum.

“So, the alien lived happily ever after. The end,” said Mum, in her time-to-go-to-sleep-now-mate way. She leant over, pecked Little Jimmy on his forehead and switched off the lights, the same as she always did.

“Mum?” Little Jimmy asks, as she was closing his door. “Does it always end happily?”

“Of course it does, my love,” his mum replied with an amused smile. “Now try and get some sleep, ok? Goodnight love.”

“Ok. Goodnight Mum.”

Little Jimmy’s mum closed the door, leaving the bedroom in total darkness, the same as she always did. Jimmy lay there, staring into the darkness feeling anxious, starting to sweat a little and breathe faster as he waited for it to all start. He heard the tapping sound first, the same as he always did: rat-a-tat-tat tapping from somewhere under his bed. Then, the same strange scratchy sound he always heard began, like tiny clawed feet scurrying along the carpet, pulling at the threads and clicking the material. The final sound was always the funniest and calmed Little Jimmy down. He waited with baited breath and then...

“Hewwwwwwo...” a tiny voice squeaked.

Which sound did Jimmy hear first?

Find and copy a phrase which the author uses to show that the unusual events happened to Jimmy often.

Do you think that Mum knows about the strange events that happen? Explain your answer.

“Meewu!” Little jimmy laughed, peering down to the end of his bed feeling comfortable once again. At the foot of the bed, heaving itself onto his solar system duvet with glow in the dark stars and a bright white moon, was a fluorescent-green creature. It was about the size of a teddy bear with bright yellow strands of hair. It had huge, maroon eyes with specs of spacedust instead of pupils and a huge mouth below them. It sat down and smiled, glowing brightly, and making a cooing sound, which was sort of a cross between the noises a pigeon and a baby might make. “Coo-coo,” Little Jimmy said, as if he understood the creature.

“Hewwwwwwwwo,” the tiny creature repeated.

“Yes, hello Meewu,” Little Jimmy replied, turning on his bedside lamp. “We’ve already been through that, mate.” As soon as the light was on, the creature’s bright colours disappeared. It looked rather plain now, with wrinkly grey skin and scraggly hair. Its eyes were still big and dark red, though, which Little Jimmy thought made it look quite cute, in a weird way. Not cute-cute, like the Andrex Puppy, but that kind of ugly-cute you might find in a pug.

“Meewu wanna go home,” the strange thing said in a forlorn voice. Little Jimmy thought he might have even seen the hint of a tear in the corner of its maroon eye.

“I know,” Little Jimmy said. “Did you get what you needed?” The creature nodded, crawled up the bed and unzipped a bag that he was carrying.

Meewu like,” the creature giggled as it threw out a watch, a tablet, an electric razor, a hairdryer, a load of wires, two chocolate biscuits and a packet of midget gems.

“Meewu,” Little Jimmy sighed, “you’re making a trans-dimensional space portal so that you can finally travel back to your home planet... why did you bring sweets and biscuits?”

The creature looked at his human friend as if he was mad. “Gemses power for machine, silly billy Jimmy,” it squeaked, shaking its head. “Plus, Meewu likes taste of biscuits and journey is long. Might need snacks!” The small alien began to attach wires, plug in sockets, download programs and nibble on biscuits.

After ten minutes or so, it had finished. “Ta da!” it sang, holding its tiny arms aloft.

List the adjectives used to describe the following body parts: hair, eyes, mouth, skin.

Find and copy three things Meewu had in its backpack.

How do you know that Sammy has met this creature before? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Do you think Sammy wanted the alien to stay or to go home? Use evidence from the text to support your answer (this would be a three mark question, remember 2 points and 2 pieces of evidence).

Why do you think Meewu’s bright colours disappeared when the light was switched on?

Why do you think the author chooses to write Meewu’s speech in broken English?

Little Jimmy stared at the strange contraption the alien had created. “And you’re sure that this is gong to work?” he asked, looking rather sad.

The creature smiled and nodded his head. “My mum says aliens can’t live under people’s beds, but you’ve been with me ever since I can remember. You’ve always been there for me, Meewu...”

The alien crawled over and gave Jimmy a hug. “Jimmy brave boy. Mum says so,” it whispered. “Looooook!” It pointed through the window at the stars. “Find Meewu here. Meewu always here.”

Meewu crawled over to his invention, tapped the tablet a few times and flicked the hairdryer on. “Toodles,” it said, waving its tiny arms in the air.

“Goodbye Meewu,” Little jimmy whimpered, over the nouse of the machine, tears welling in his eyes, “I’m going to miss you.”

With that, the little creature disappeared.

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Every night, Little Jimmy looked out of his bedroom window and stared at the stars, wondering if his best pal ever made it home. Months passed, then years, and Little Jimmy grew up and became Medium Jimmy, and eventually Big Jimmy.

One night, he was reading a story to his daughter, Little Janey. It was her favourite story.

“So, the alien lived happily ever after. The end,” he said. He leant over, pecked Little Janey on the forehead and turned the lights out, the same as he always did. But this time, as the room went dark,

he heard a strange rat-a-tat-tat tapping sound, followed by a scratching sound coming from under Janey's bed.

"Daddy?" Little Janey said in the dark. "Does it always end with a happy ending?"

Her father stared at the stars and waited for the final sound. "Oh, yes, Janey," he said, as a fluorescent glow reflected in the window. "It most certainly does!"

How did Jimmy feel as Meewu left?

What is happening in Little Polly's room at the end of the story?

Explain how Jimmy is similar to his mum by the end of the story.

Sum up the plot of this story in no more than 30 words.