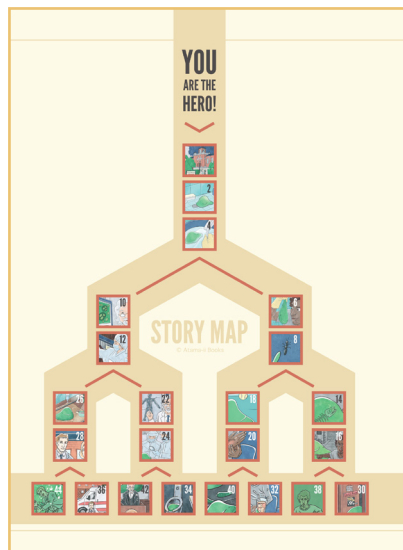


BEFORE READING



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THE OOZE

This story is about a strange new life form called the ooze. You will learn to take care of it as a pet.

Before you read, think about these questions:

1. Have you ever had an unusual or dangerous pet?
2. Can animals and plants feel happiness or pain?
3. What would you do if *you* were someone's pet?



Look at the picture. Can you describe three things in it?

Next, learn the story keywords



KEYWORDS

Learn these important words before you read the story.

biology (n.) one of the natural sciences; the study of living things

bucket (n.) a large open container, often used for carrying water

candy (n.) a sweet food made with sugar and other ingredients

drain (n.) a hole, usually in a sink or bath area, through which water can go out

drug (n.) something used for making sick people healthy; medicine

glow (v.) to give off a soft, steady light

jar (n.) a container with a wide mouth; often made of glass and used for food

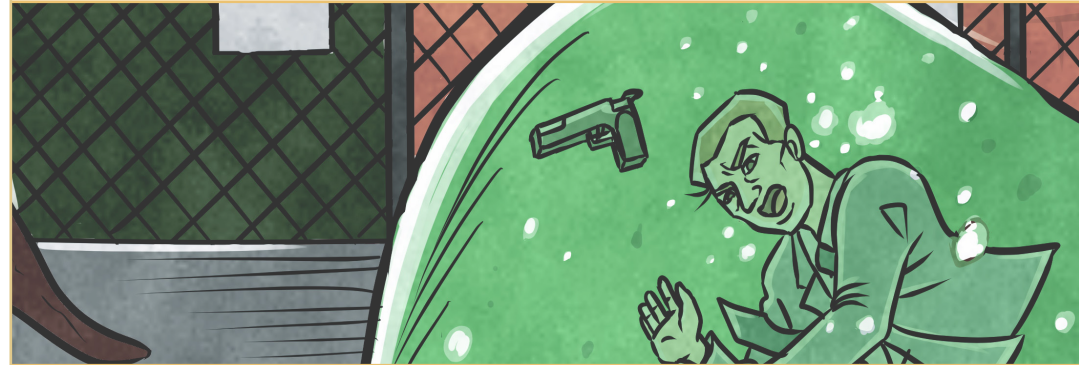
jiggle (v.) to move quickly from side to side, often in a comical way

lab (n.) short for 'laboratory'; a place to do science

ooze (n.) a slimy substance that is between a liquid and a solid

pickles (n.) vegetables, often cucumbers, preserved in liquid

KEYWORDS



plop (v.) to make a wet, heavy sound; for example, when a soaking wet towel falls to the ground

roommate (n.) a person who pays rent to share an apartment or room with someone else

shake (v.) to move quickly from side to side; to tremble; to vibrate

slimy (adj.) looking or feeling wet and sticky to the touch

suck (v.) to draw something in by pulling with the mouth; e.g. babies suck milk

tank (n.) a large glass container, often used for keeping pets such as fish or turtles

train (v.) to teach a skill through practice and often repetition

Next, read the story

AFTER READING

EXTENSION QUESTIONS

Reading a good story can make you think about new things. Talk about these questions with your friends or teacher, or find out more online. Not all questions have a clear or simple answer!

1. Do you have a pet? Have you trained it to do any tricks? What's the best way to train a pet?
2. Some people keep dangerous animals, such as tigers, as pets. You think it's right to keep such dangerous animals as pets?
3. In the story, scientists experiment on the ooze to find new drugs. Do you think it's right to experiment on animals?
4. Do you have a roommate? Would you like to have one? What are the good and bad points of living with a roommate?
5. Some people are vegetarian. In other words, they don't eat meat. What are the good and bad points of being a vegetarian?
6. Scientists classify life into groups. For example, plants, animals, and bacteria. Which group might the ooze fit into, and why?
7. If the ooze was real, what would you do with it? Can you think of ways you could use the ooze to help or entertain people?
8. In the story, the FBI come to take away the ooze. Why do you think they wanted it? How can the ooze be useful to the FBI?
9. In the story, 'you' don't clean your apartment very often. Is that true in real life? Are you a clean person or a messy person?
10. Where do you think the ooze comes from? What do you think it wants? Where do you think it will go next?

BOOK REVIEW



1. Did you enjoy this story? Why or why not?

2. Who are the main characters? Can you describe them?

3. Where does the story take place? Can you describe it?

4. Which ending did you like the most? Why did you like it?

5. Which ending didn't you like? Why didn't you like it?

STORY MAP

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