

## **LO: Shared reading Middle of Chapter 5**

The space-bat-angel-dragon was so **astounded** that he agreed. Why, he thought, when this silly little creature has finished his antics, I'll just lick him up. So the monster agreed, and watched to see what the test of strength was to be. After all, if he wanted, he could flatten the Iron Man with one eyelash.

The engineers had fastened all the girders together in the shape of a grid, a huge iron bed the size of a house. Under this they had made a steel lined pit. Now they poured fuel oil into the pit. The space-bat-angel-dragon watched. Now they lit the fuel oil and the flames roared up fiercely through the bars of the grid. And now the space-bat-angel-dragon got his first shock. The Iron Man was stretching himself out on his back, on the grid, among the flames, his ankles crossed, his hands folded behind his head – just as if he were in bed, while the flames **raged** under and around him.

The monster stared down, and the Iron Man smiled up out of the midst of the flames. The flames became fiercer. The grid became red-hot. The Iron Man's hair and elbows and toes became red-hot. His body became first blue, then black, then began to glow dully. He was getting red-hot. Still he smiled up at the monster, and still the flames grew fiercer. And now the Iron Man was entirely red-hot. Pretty soon, he was almost white-hot. And still he smiled, out of white-hot eyes and with white-hot lips. And all the time the space-bat-angel-dragon stared down in **astonishment**. But now the fuel oil was all burned away.

Suddenly the flames died, flickered and went out. The white-hot Iron Man sat up, stood up, got stiffly off his glowing bed and began to walk to and fro on the sand, cooling. He cooled slowly. He went from white to orange, from orange to red, red to black, as he walked, coolly swinging his arms. Now at last he spoke to the monster.

"If you can't bear to be made red-hot like me, then you are weaker than I am, and I have won, and you are my slave."

The monster began to laugh.

"All right," he roared. "Build the fire, and I'll lie on it." He laughed again. He knew the Iron Man couldn't build a fire the size of Australia. But then his laugh stopped. The Iron Man was pointing upwards, at the sun.

"There is the fire for you," he shouted. "You go and lie there. Go and lie on the sun till you are red-hot." The monster gazed up at the sun. He felt strangely cold suddenly. But how could he refuse?

All right! And he set off. With slow giant wingbeats, he lifted his immense body off the earth, and flew slowly up towards the sun, while the whole earth watched...

### **Questions:**

#### **Retrieval**

- a. **The space-bat-angel-dragon thought it could squash the Iron Man. With what exactly?**
- b. **Find, underline/highlight 2 words which contain an apostrophe for contraction.**

#### **Words in context**

- c. **Astonished and astounded are synonyms but what meaning do they share? Use a thesaurus to find out.**
- d. **'the flames **raged** under and around him' **Raged** here means (of an illness or fire) spread very rapidly or uncontrollably. What else could rage mean?**

#### **Inference**

- e. **The space- bat- angel – dragon went along with the Iron man's plan to test each others strength. Why do you think it did this? Why not just destroy the Iron Man at once?**
- f. **The sun will destroy the space-bat-angel-dragon. Agree or disagree?**

**astonished**

**astounded**



**surprised**

