

LO: Shared reading End of Chapter 5

“Haven’t you heard of the music of the spheres?” asked the dragon. “It’s the music that space makes to itself. All the spirits inside all the stars are singing. I’m a star spirit. I sing too. The music of the spheres is what makes space so peaceful.”

“Then whatever made you want to eat up the earth?” asked the Iron Man. “If you’re all so peaceful up there, how did you get such greedy and cruel ideas?”

The dragon was silent for a long time after this question. And at last he said: “It just came over me. I don’t know why. It just came over me, listening to the battling shouts and the war cries of the earth – I got excited, I wanted to join in.”

“Well, you can sing for us instead,” said the Iron Man. “It’s a long time since anybody here on earth heard the music of the spheres. It might do us all good.”

And so it was fixed. The space-bat-angel-dragon was to send his star back into the constellation of Orion, and he was to live inside the moon. And every night he was to fly around the earth, through the heavens, singing. So his fearful shape, slowly swimming through the night sky, didn’t frighten people, because it was dark and he couldn’t be seen. But the whole world could hear him, a strange soft music that seemed to fill the whole of space, a deep weird singing, like millions of voices singing together.

Meanwhile the Iron Man was the world’s hero. He went back to his scrapyard. But now everybody in the world sent him a present. Some only sent him an old car. One rich man even sent him an ocean liner. He sprawled there in his yard, chewing away, with his one ear slightly drooped where the white heat of that last roasting had slightly melted it. As he chewed, he hummed in harmony to the singing of this tremendous slave in heaven. And the space-bat-angel’s singing had the most unexpected effect.

Suddenly the world became wonderfully peaceful. The singing got inside everybody and made them as peaceful as starry space, and blissfully above all their earlier little squabbles. The strange soft eerie space-music began to alter all the people of the world.

They stopped making weapons. The countries began to think how they could live pleasantly alongside each other, rather than how to get rid of each other. All they wanted to do was to have peace to enjoy this strange, wild, blissful music from the giant singer in space.

Questions:

Retrieval

- a. What is the music of the spheres the dragon speaks of?
- b. How peaceful were the people of earth? As peaceful as _____.

Words in context

- c. The Iron Man ‘hummed in harmony’. Can you describe what that means?
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zcbkcj6/articles/zgxx2nb>
- d. Use eerie in a sentence about a sound. Could you include some onomatopoeia?

Inference

- e. What caused the spec-bat-angel-dragon to think aggressive thoughts?
- f. What lesson is Ted Hughes trying to teach us in this book?

harmony



I'd like to teach the world to sing

Harmony is an agreement, or as a mix of pleasing musical notes that go together.

An **example of harmony** is when people don't fight.

An **example of harmony** is when two people sing different parts of a duet that go together perfectly at the same time.