Once out in the vast, cold emptiness of space, even a slight mistake at the controls can bring disaster to the space ship.

That's why Space Academy has classrooms which are exact copies of the control deck of a real space cruiser. The various complicated instruments which spacemen must handle are installed in such classrooms.

Here, Space Cadet Tom Corbett practices his lesson in astronavigation while his spacemates Astro and Roger Manning look on.

Captain Strong and Dr. Dale, of the Space Academy teaching staff, supervise the classroom assignment.
Hey, you spacelugs! This code message sounds tougher than Plutonian granite!

The class in spacecode reading is suddenly startled to receive a faint signal from outer space... where no ships are expected to cruise!

Give it to me! Lucky for you amateurs it's my turn to break down the message! I'll read it for you real quick!

"Xuivi Grax ki Kubi Magi Xorki..." This should be easy for me...

What are you trying to do, you Venusian swamp lizard? Make a fool out of me? There's no such code in the solar system!

Hold it, Roger!
LET ME GO, TOM! I'M NOT LETTING ANY VENUSIAN SWAMP CRAWLER PLAY JOKES ON ME!

HE'S SPACEGOOFY, TOM. HONEST, THAT MESSAGE CAME ON THE RADARSCOPE... JUST THE WAY I RECORDED IT!

WE CAN CHECK IT IN THE TEXTBOOKS? WHERE'S ALFIE?

A THOROUGH AND SYSTEMATIC CHECK THROUGH THE INDEX LISTING DISCLOSES NO CODE THAT'S EVEN CLOSE TO ASTRO'S MESSAGE!

I DIDN'T MAKE IT UP! I PUT ON THE AUTOMATIC DIRECTION LOCATOR AND IT SHOWED THE MESSAGE CAME FROM BEYOND OUR PLANETARY SYSTEM!

LISTEN, MATES... I'VE GOT A HUNCH THIS CAN BE SERIOUS!

YOU AND YOUR HUNCHES? YOU'RE JUST COVERING UP FOR ASTRO!

NO, I'M NOT, ROGER!

I'M GOING TO PUT THIS CODE INTO CYBERNIC SALLY! OUR THINKING MACHINE CAN WORK OUT ANY PROBLEM!

AN EXCELLENT IDEA! IF THIS IS A REAL MESSAGE-- CYBERNIC SALLY WILL KNOW IT!
ALL RIGHT, TOM! FEED THE MESSAGE TO SALLY? IF THE MESSAGE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE— I'M GOING TO KNOCK ASTRO INTO METEOR DUST!

YOU'RE JUST A BAG OF SPACE-GAS, ROGER! YOU'RE COVERING UP BECAUSE THE CODE STUMPED YOU---AFTER YOUR BRAGGING!

I'M RIGHT—ASTRO WAS PLAYING A TRICK ON ME!

WAIT, ROGER? OUR THINKING MACHINE IS STILL WORKING!

CYBERNIC SALLY HAS DONE IT! HERE'S A TRANSLATION OF THE MESSAGE!

IMPS OF SPACE! THIS MESSAGE IS A BIGGER MYSTERY THAN THE CODE!
Well, what are you waiting for, a lunar eclipse? Read it!

All right. Here it is!

"Life impossible on these planets. Third planet from sun has places covered by air, but rest of it is almost vacuum. Return to home base."

We are on the third planet from the sun... so how can they say there's no air here? There's a mystery here!

It's a mystery I can solve...

By knocking this venusian swamp monkey for a spaceloop?

Stop acting like a spacenut, Roger! This message may be serious!

It's going to be plenty serious... when I get through with Astro!

Get out of the way, Tom! I can take care of this noisy bag of space-gas!
AND WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS CONDUCT? ARE YOU SPACE CADETS OR SPACEROWDIES?

THIS IS DISGRACEFUL! YOUR FIGHTING HERE MIGHT HAVE CAUSED AN ACCIDENT AND DAMAGED OUR CYBERNIC MACHINE!

INTO MY OFFICE—MARCH! I SHALL REPORT THIS TO COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT AT ONCE!

MOST SHOCKING, SIR! THE CADETS INVOLVED WERE TOM CORBETT, ROGER MANNING, AND ASTRO!

WHAT WAS THE CAUSE OF THE FIGHT, PROFESSOR?

SOME STRANGE MESSAGE IN CODE ONE OF THEM REPORTS HE PICKED UP FROM OUTER SPACE!

WHAT'S THAT? FIGHTING OVER A MESSAGE FROM SPACE?

THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY, SIR. BUT I DOUBT ANY SUCH MESSAGE!

ORDER THEM TO REPORT TO MY OFFICE IMMEDIATELY!
YOU HEARD COMMANDER ARkwRIGHT'S ORDERS! REPORT TO HIM IMMEDIATELY! AND I HOPE THIS WILL TEACH YOU TO RESPECT THE RULES OF SPACE ACADEMY IN THE FUTURE—IF YOU ARE NOT EXPELLED!

AND I DO HOPE HE HAS YOU EXPELLED! THANKS FOR THE KIND WISHES...

DO... DO YOU THINK HE MEANT IT, TOM? ABOUT US BEING EXPELLED?

I DON'T KNOW, ASTRO. YOU AND ROGER SURE BEHAVED LIKE A COUPLE OF SPACE-LOONIES!

WHAT DO YOU MAKE OF THIS, SIR?

I DON'T KNOW YET, CAPTAIN STRONG, BUT IT SURE LOOKS LIKE A SPACE CADET SQUADRON HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

ALL RIGHT, SPACE CADETS AT EASE... AND LET'S HAVE YOUR STORY!

I RECEIVED A FAINT SIGNAL ON THE RADARSCOPE, SIR. I THREW IN FULL VOLUME AUTOMATIC ASTROCATOR IMMEDIATELY—TO LOCATE THE SOURCE OF THE SIGNAL.

DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, SIR! ASTRO IS LYING!
IT WAS ALL MY FAULT, SIR! TOM AND ASTRO AREN'T TO BLAME! I PICKED THE FIGHT AND—-

CUT YOUR JETS AND DON'T INTERRUPT, CADET MANNING!

I'M NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR FIGHT! I WANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE SPACEGRAM CADET ASTRO RECORDED!

HERE IT IS, SIR. THE ORIGINAL CODE JUST AS I HEARD IT... AND CYBERNIC SALLY'S... I MEAN, ER... THE SPACE-DECODER MACHINE'S TRANSLATION!

THE MESSAGE DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, CAPTAIN STRONG!

BUT IT PROVES THE REPORTS OF STRANGE SHIPS IN OUTER SPACE WERE CORRECT!

ANY FURTHER REPORTS ON THE MYSTERIOUS SPACE SHIPS, LIEUTENANT?

FINAL REPORT IS IN, SIR! THEY HAVE DISAPPEARED IN THE DIRECTION OF THE STAR SIRIUS!

CAPTAIN STRONG... YOU WILL PREPARE YOUR SHIP AND CADET SQUADRON TO BLAST OFF AT ONCE! YOUR ASSIGNMENT—- TO INVESTIGATE THE MYSTERY SHIPS OF SPACE! YOUR DESTINATION —— SIRIUS!
COME WITH ME, CAPTAIN STRONG. I WANT TO CONSULT CYBERNIC SALLY—I...ER...MEAN THAT IS, OUR SPACE-DECODER MACHINE.

YES, SIR!

CADET CORBETT, SEE THAT THE POLARIS IS LOADED UP WITH ACCELERATION FUEL! THIS IS GOING TO BE THE LONGEST— AND MOST DANGEROUS—SPACE FLIGHT IN HISTORY!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

DO YOU BELIEVE THERE IS LIFE ON ONE OF THE PLANETS IN THE SIRIUS PLANETARY SYSTEM, COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT?

I'LL ANSWER THAT AFTER I FIND OUT WHAT CYBERNIC SALLY CAN DO WITH THIS CODE MESSAGE.

I WANT TO SEE IF OUR THINKING MACHINE CAN BUILD UP THE ORIGINAL LANGUAGE OUT OF THE LETTERS AND WORDS IN THIS CODE MESSAGE!

WHEN DO YOU THINK WE'LL BLAST OFF, TOM?

I GUESS COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT IS MIGHTY ANXIOUS TO FIND OUT SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE MYSTERY SHIPS—SO WE'LL PROBABLY BLAST OFF AS SOON AS THE POLARIS IS FUELED UP!
FUEL TANKS AT CAPACITY, TOM? REPORT TO CAPTAIN STRONG WE'RE READY!

WILL DO, ASTRO!

WHAT D'YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING HERE, ALFIE?

I'M GOING WITH YOU, ROGER! COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT'S ORDERS.

LOOK WHAT'S COMING WITH US, TOM!

PAY NO ATTENTION TO ROGER, ALFIE WE'RE GLAD TO HAVE YOU FOR A SPACEMATE!

EVERY TIME ALFIE THE SPACESHMO COMES WITH US---THERE'S TROUBLE!

GOLLY, FELLOWS, WHAT'S ROGER GOT AGAINST ME?

I'M ONLY HERE TO CONDUCT CLASSES IN THE NEW LANGUAGE CYBERNIC SALLY WORKED OUT FROM ASTRO'S CODE! THAT'S ALL.

I KNEW IT! I KNEW IT! INSTEAD OF A NICE LONG TRIP IN SPACE, WE'LL HAVE TO STUDY STUDY... STUDY... STUDY...?
IF YOU DON'T LIKE TO STUDY, CADET MANNING... WHAT IN A COMET'S TAIL ARE YOU DOING AT SPACE ACADEMY?

WHY, I... THAT IS... ER... I LIKE TO STUDY!

YES, SIR. I LIKE TO STUDY!

VERY GOOD, MANNING! I'LL SEE TO IT THAT YOU GET PLENTY OF STUDYING ON THIS TRIP. NOW, CADETS, TAKE YOUR STATIONS! WE'RE BLASTING OFF!

CHECK STATIONS, TOM!

CONTROL TO RADAR DECK
CHECK IN, ROGER! CONTROL TO POWER DECK. CHECK IN, ASTRO!

CADET MANNING, RADAR DECK: SPACEWAYS CLEAR!
ASTEROID VECTOR, BEAMED IN!

CADET ASTRO, POWER DECK: ENERGIZER ON! STANDING BY ALL ACTIVIZERS!

COURSE IN THE DIRECTION OF SIRIUS IS CHARTED, CAPTAIN STRONG!

VERY GOOD! CADET CORBETT -- BLAST OFF!

AT BLAZING SPEED, THE POLARIS BLASTS SPACEWARD. OUTWARD BOUND ON THE LONGEST SPACE VOYAGE IN THE HISTORY OF THE SOLAR ALLIANCE... TO THE PLANETARY SYSTEM AROUND THE STAR SIRIUS!
NOTHING TO DO EXCEPT TAKE IT EASY FOR THE NEXT COUPLE OF WEEKS? THIS IS THE PART OF SPACE LIFE I LIKE BEST?

THAT'S RIGHT, ROGER. WE'LL HAVE FUN STUDYING THE SIRIAN LANGUAGE...

IF YOU MENTION STUDY AGAIN, ALFIE... THERE'S GONNA BE A GALACTIC COLLISION BETWEEN MY FIST AND YOUR NOSE?

BUT, ROGER, COMMANDER ARKWRIGHT HIMSELF ORDERED US TO LEARN THE NEW LANGUAGE AND...

THAT'S JUST WHAT I SAID, ALFIE!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I SAID, ALFIE, OLD SPACEMATE. WE'RE WASTING TIME. WE SHOULD BE STUDYING!

HUU? BUT YOU JUST SAID

GLAD TO SEE YOU SPACE CADETS! BUCKLING DOWN TO SOME HARD STUDYING! I'LL SET UP OUR SPACEWATCH SYSTEM--- YOU BOYS GET BUSY ON YOUR LESSONS!

AYE, AYE, SIR!
PUSHED BY THE SPECIAL SUPER-ACCELERATION FUEL, THE POLARIS SPEEDS THROUGH THE VASTNESS OF COLD, SILENT SPACE AT A SPEED FAR GREATER THAN LIGHT!

IN THE QUARTERS OF THE SPACE CADETS, A SILENCE AS DEEP AS THAT OF SPACE PREVAILS. WHILE THE STUDY MACHINE POUNDS THE NEW LANGUAGE INTO THEIR MINDS!

ATTENTION, SPACE CADETS! SIRIUS IN SPACESPECTRO RANGE? STAND BY YOUR STATIONS! STAND BY YOUR STATIONS!

SCRAMBLE, YOU SPACECRAWLERS! WE’VE ARRIVED!

RADAR TO CONTROL DECK. SPACESPECTRO CHECK SHOWS THERE ARE FOURTEEN PLANETS IN SIRIUS SOLAR SYSTEM. PLANETS NUMBER 14, 13, 12 HAVE ATMOSPHERE CLOSE TO THAT OF OUR EARTH!

CONTROL TO POWER DECK! ASTRO, SET CRUISING SPEED. WE’RE GOING TO CIRCLE THIS PLANET AND LOOK IT OVER!

AYE, AYE, CAPTAIN STRONG!
WE'VE CIRCLED PLANET FOURTEEN TWICE, CAPTAIN STRONG. THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT SAND AND ROCKS!

SET COURSE FOR PLANET THIRTEEN, TOM!

THIS PLANET IS ALSO SAND AND ROCKS, CAPTAIN STRONG. EXCEPT FOR SEVERAL ROUND LAKES.

ALFIE, CHECK TO SEE IF WE NEED SPACESUITS TO LAND HERE!

NO SPACESUITS NEEDED, SIR! AIR IS GOOD AS ON EARTH!

STAND BY FOR LANDING, TOM!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

TOM AND ROGER WILL COME WITH ME. ASTRO AND ALFIE, STAND BY ON SHIP!

THERE WAS NO SIGN OF ANY KIND OF LIFE ON THIS PLANET, SIR! BUT STILL... I FEEL THAT THERE'S SOMETHING WRONG...

I KNOW, TOM! THOSE LAKES ARE TOO PERFECTLY ROUND TO BE NATURAL! I'VE ALSO GOT A HUNCH THAT THE LAKES WERE MADE BY SOMEONE!
These lakes look like storage tanks for water?

Aw... you're having a spacehunch! The lakes might've been formed by a crater or something like that.

This bank is made of an alloy-plastic material, Roger! Someone made it... and that's no space mirage!

No doubt about it! But who made it? And why?

Look down there! Look carefully! Way, way, way down below!

Far below, in the murky depths of the water, shimmering, mysterious. A great city! Is it real—-or a mirage?
A dead... drowned city?

Well, now we know that living, intelligent beings have been on this planet!

But why build a city... and then hide it in an artificially-formed lake?

That's easy to figure out! They put it in storage! That's how they made sure no one can use the city! When they come back to this planet---they drain the water... and the city is good as new!

Maybe Roger's explanation is right... maybe not! We'll blast off at once for Planet Twelve. The answer might be there!

Start checking conditions on Planet Twelve, Alfie? Tom, blast off!

Control deck to radar! Locate landing, Roger!

I've been bouncing radar beams off Planet Twelve, Captain Strong. The strangest thing's happening! I can't find any land on this planet! None at all!
CHECK CHEMICAL SPECTROPICTO, ALFIE. WHAT'S THE PLANET MADE OF?

I'VE BEEN CHECKING, SIR ROGER'S RIGHT. THIS PLACE IS ONLY WATER... ALL WATER?

GET DOWN AS LOW AS IT IS SAFE, TOM. ORBIT AROUND THIS PLANET! WE'LL CHECK EVERY FOOT OF IT!

AYE, AYE, SIR?

WATER... WATER! THIS IS WORSE THAN THE SWAMPLANDS OF VENUS!

AND NOT A LIVING THING ON IT!

NOTHING ALIVE? LOOK! LOOK DOWN THERE... COMING OUT OF THE WATER!
THEY'RE BUZZING US ON THE SPACEPHONE, SIR!

MAKE CONTACT, TOM!

I AM TADOR QUITZAKL. BY COMMAND OF THE SUPREME THREE OF SIRIUS, I ORDER YOU TO LAND PEACEFULLY AT OUR SPACEPORT.

-BLOW ME DOWN WITH A SPECK OF SPACEDUST. I UNDERSTAND HIS LANGUAGE!

NATURALLY, ROGER. CYBERNIC SALLY WORKED IT OUT PERFECTLY... AND WE HAVE SPENT WEEKS LEARNING IT!

WE SHALL LAND. BUT WHERE IS THE SPACEPORT, TADOR QUITZAKL? WE DON'T SEE IT!

YOU CAN'T SEE IT. WE ARE ABOVE THE ATMOSPHERE. YOU SEE IT WHEN WE GET LOWER DOWN TO LAND!

THERE IS NO LAND, SIR! WHAT SHALL I DO?

YOUR INSTRUMENTS ARE LIMITED, VISITOR. FOLLOW MY SHIP DOWN INTO THE ATMOSPHERE!

THIS SIRIAN IS SPACE-GOOFY, CAPTAIN STRONG! WE'RE ALMOST SCRAPING THE SURFACE OF THE PLANET NOW! WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT GOING DOWN INTO THE ATMOSPHERE?

I THINK EVERYTHING IS CLEAR NOW, ROGER. WE HAVE DISCOVERED A NEW AND PERHAPS THE STRANGEST WORLD IN THE WHOLE GALAXY!
IT'S AS CLEAR AS VENUSIAN MUD TO ME, CAPTAIN STRONG!

THERE'S SOMETHING FAR AHEAD! MIGHT BE ONE OF THOSE DROWNED CITIES WE SAW ON PLANET 13?

THOSE WERE NOT DROWNED CITIES, CADETS. THEY WERE SPACE COLONIES SET UP BY THESE PEOPLE?

SPACE COLONIES? BUT WHY PUT THEM IN A LAKE, SIR?

NOT A LAKE AS WE KNOW A LAKE, ASTRO! THEY PUT THEM AT THE BOTTOM OF AN ARTIFICIALLY BUILT ATMOSPHERE! THESE PEOPLE LIVE AT THE BOTTOM OF AN OCEAN OF WATER --- AS WE LIVE AT THE BOTTOM OF AN OCEAN OF AIR?

AND THERE'S THEIR CITY!

DEEP WITHIN THE DEPTHS OF THE OCEAN SPREADS THE GREAT CITY OF THE WORLD OF SIRIUS!
There's the spaceport. And Tador Quetzakl is landing his ship!

Land beside him, Tom!

He's motioning for us to come out!

Get into your spacesuits, cadets. They're airtight and will be as good as any diving suit!

Say, this isn't bad! We don't have to climb down... we just drift down!

These people can't have any fire... or explosive engines. I wonder how they run things here!

From what I've seen of this car, I would guess they power everything with magnetic force!

Naturally, young visitor. We use magnetic power. There is no other possibility. We have never heard of this thing "fire", you speak of, nor of "explosive engines"!

I'd think I was back on earth from the way things look here?

Me, too! If we didn't have to wear these suits!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US, TADOR QUETZAKL?

MY ORDERS ARE TO BRING YOU TO THE SUPREME THREE!

YOUR COMING HERE HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A GREAT GOVERNMENT CRISIS...

WE HAVE DONE NOTHING, TADOR. WHAT IS IT ALL ABOUT?

YOU SHALL SOON KNOW THE SUPREME THREE AWAIT INSIDE. ENTER!

LOOK AT THEM! THEY ARE OBVIOUSLY INTELLIGENT... AND HIGHLY CIVILIZED? WHY DID OUR EXPEDITION TO THE SOLAR SYSTEM SAY THERE COULD BE NO LIFE THERE?

IT IS A NATURAL MISTAKE. THESE PEOPLE LIVE IN A VERY RARE ATMOSPHERE, ALMOST A VACUUM. HOW COULD OUR SCIENTISTS KNOW THAT LIFE CAN EXIST ON A PLANET WITHOUT THE KIND OF AIR WE ARE USED TO?

WE ARE WASTING TIME! OUR MILITARY EXPEDITION SHOULD START AT ONCE!

THAT MAN DOESN'T SOUND FRIENDLY, ASTRO? I THINK WE'RE IN FOR TROUBLE!
YOU ARE HASTY, GENERAL! WE WANT FRIENDLY RELATIONS WITH OTHER CIVILIZATIONS. WE DON'T WANT TO ATTACK AND CONQUER THEM!

WE CAME HERE ON A FRIENDLY EXPEDITION... AND FIND THAT SOME OF YOU ARE PLANNING TO ATTACK OUR WORLD. THE PEOPLE OF EARTH AND THE SOLAR ALLIANCE WILL NOT BE CONQUERED...

LIKE ALL HUMAN BEINGS, WE'LL FIGHT TO REMAIN FREE!

YOU'RE ANIMALS... NOT HUMAN BEINGS? YOU LIVE WITHOUT A NATURAL ATMOSPHERE SUCH AS WE NEED!

THEY'RE ANIMALS AND SHOULD BE PUT IN THE ZOO!

I DISAGREE, GENERAL. THERE ARE FORMS OF LIFE AMONG THE DIFFERENT WORLDS OF THE STARS. WHY SHOULD WE SAY WE ARE HUMAN... AND THEY ANIMALS?

I AGREE WITH SCIENCE, GENERAL. WE SHALL FORM A FRIENDLY TREATY WITH THESE PEOPLE...

NO! I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS DECISION! IT IS A BETRAYAL OF SIRIUS!

SINCE YOU DO NOT AGREE WITH ME, I ORDER THE MILITARY FORCES TO TAKE OVER THE GOVERNMENT! FROM NOW ON--- THERE IS NO LONGER A SUPREME THREE! THERE IS ONLY A SUPREME ONE!
ARREST THESE TWO! TAKE THEM TO JAIL!
STOP THEM, SPACE CADETS!
AND THESE ANIMALS WILL GO TO THE ZOO!

I'LL SHOW YOU WHO'S AN ANIMAL... YOU... YOU SIRIAN FISH?

THE NEXT MAGNETIC BLAST WILL PASTE YOU TO THE WALL!

MY EXPEDITION WILL TAKE OFF FOR THE SOLAR SYSTEM WITHIN A FEW DAYS! I WON'T-bother conquering the animals living there — I'LL DESTROY THEM!

YOU AND YOUR SPACE MESSAGES! YOU SURE GOT US INTO A SPACE MESS!
WHERE ARE YOU TAKING US, SOLDIER?

TO THE ZOO, AS OUR SUPREME ONE HAS ORDERED!

WE'VE PREPARED THIS AIR BUBBLE FOR YOU! PEOPLE CAN SEE YOU... AND YOU'LL BE LIVING IN YOUR OWN KIND OF ATMOSPHERE!

AT LEAST WE CAN GET OUT OF OUR SPACESUITS HERE...

YES... BUT NOW I KNOW HOW A GOLDFISH FEELS LIVING IN A GLASS BOWL!

THEY COULDN'T HAVE INVENTED A BETTER PRISON FOR US, SIR! EVEN IF WE BREAK OUT... WHAT GOOD IS BEING FREE AT THE BOTTOM OF AN OCEAN.

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT THE GENERAL WILL SUCCEED IN HIS PLANS!

BUT HE'S ALREADY SUCCEEDED, CAPTAIN STRONG?

THESE SIRIANS SEEM LIKE A GOOD SORT... I DON'T THINK THEY'LL LIKE MILITARY DICTATORSHIP!

LOOKS LIKE WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A VISITOR...

HE'S CARRYING A BOX... LOOKS LIKE ONE OF OUR FOOD SUPPLY PACKAGES...
I am Trixl. I have been ordered to bring you food. It comes from your spaceship.

Thank you. We've been wondering if you people would ever bring us any food.

I have also brought you a message...

The people will revolt against the general. You must be ready in your spacesuits within one hour. Tador Quetzakl leads us.

But Quetzakl is a military man. Many of the military officers refused to join the general! I must go now. Remember... be ready!

Come on, spacelover! Wake up... and dish out those food pills! I'm hungry!

I've got something else besides food for you! We're getting out of here!
The hour will be up in sixty seconds! I'll -- give the signal -- and you'll have just thirty seconds to get into your spacesuit!

Just in time! Everybody all right?

Slow-motion astro is all right... so I guess all of us are!

Quickly! Follow me!

This whole thing sounds fishy to me: She might be leading us into a trap!

You talk like a spacegoof, Roger! We were in a trap... so this can't be worse!
WE'RE GOING TO THE SPACEPORT! TADOR QUETZAKL HAS SET UP HEADQUARTERS THERE!

QUICKLY! GET INSIDE THE CONTROL TOWER!

YOU ARE SAFE! I HAD TO BE HERE... SO I TRUSTED MY SISTER TRIXL WITH YOUR RESCUE!

WHAT IS HAPPENING, QUETZAKL? CAN WE HELP YOUR PEOPLE?

EVERYTHING IS GOING WELL... ALL OVER OUR PLANET WE HAVE BEEN VICTORIOUS. THE GENERAL'S FORCES ARE BEING DEFEATED!

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR OFFER OF HELP... AND ARE GLAD WE HAVE NO NEED OF IT!

SEE FOR YOURSELF?

RETURN TO YOUR OWN WORLD AND TELL THEM THEY HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR FROM US. WE SHALL ALL BE FRIENDS!
AT THE ORDERS OF THE GENERAL, WE ARE CUTTING IN ON ALL COMMUNICATION LINES! ATTENTION! THE GENERAL HAS AN IMPORTANT MESSAGE FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD!

WHAT'S HE UP TO, SIR? I FEAR SOME TRICK... BUT WE SHALL SOON KNOW!

MY SOLDIERS HAVE BEEN DEFEATED EVERYWHERE... BUT I HAVE NOT BEEN DEFEATED! I HAVE TAKEN CONTROL OF THE CENTRAL-MAGNETIC-POWERHOUSE!

UNLESS THOSE WHO OPPOSE MY RULE SURRENDER AT ONCE... I WILL DESTROY ALL MAGNETIC POWER THROUGHOUT THE WORLD!

ALL IS LOST!

WHY CAN'T WE RUSH THE POWERHOUSE, SIR?

HE HAS WEAPONS... WHICH WILL WORK... BUT IF HE SHUTS OFF THE POWER, OUR WEAPONS WILL BE USELESS!

LET'S USE OTHER KINDS OF WEAPONS... NON-MAGNETIC ONES!

IT IS MORE THAN THAT, SPACE CADET. IF HE DESTROYS THE POWERHOUSE... ALL OUR INDUSTRY WILL STOP... OUR SHIPS AND CARS AND FARMS WILL BE DESTROYED. OUR WORLD WILL DIE OF STARVATION!
IT IS DECIDED THEN? WE SHALL SURRENDER!

LET US HOLD OUT A LITTLE... LONG ENOUGH TO LET OUR EARTH FRIENDS BLAST OFF!

TAKE YOUR BRAVE SPACE CADETS AND GO GO QUICKLY! AND BEWARE OF THE ATTACK THE GENERAL WILL SOON LAUNCH AGAINST YOUR WORLD!

I... I FEEL LIKE A DESERTER! WE'RE SAVING OURSELVES AND LEAVING QUETZAKL AND HIS PEOPLE IN THE HANDS OF THAT CRAZY GENERAL!

AW, CLOSE YOUR JETS, YOU SWAMP MONKEY! HOW DO YOU THINK WE ALL FEEL?

IF THERE WAS ONLY SOME WAY TO FIGHT THE GENERAL... SOME WAY WE COULD FIGHT FIRE WITH FIRE!

STOP MAKING NOISES LIKE A BAG OF SPACE-GAS, ALFIE. HOW CAN THERE BE FIRE IN A WATER-WORLD?

ALFIE'S RIGHT! WE CAN FIGHT THEM WITH FIRE! THESE PEOPLE OF THE WATER WORLD NEVER SAW FIRE! IT WOULD PARALYZE THE GENERAL WITH FEAR!

MAKING SOMETHING BURN IN WATER WOULD SURE SURPRISE ME, TOO! ONLY WHAT?

BUT THERE IS SOMETHING THAT WILL BURN IN WATER!
YOU MEAN A CHEMICAL, TOM?

YES, SIR. POTASSIUM, FOR EXAMPLE?

TOM'S PERFECTLY CORRECT. POTASSIUM WILL NOT ONLY BURN ON CONTACT WITH WATER... IT WILL EXPLODE!

WE'VE GOT PLENTY OF IT IN OUR CHEMICAL STORAGE LOCKER!

ASTRO AND ALFIE, GET BUSY AND MAKE POTASSIUM BOMBS! PUT THE CHEMICAL INTO WATERTIGHT BOTTLES. WE'LL BREAK THE BOTTLES TO EXPLODE THE BOMBS!

RIGHT, SIR!

I'M GOING BACK TO THE CONTROL TOWER TO CONVINCE QUETZAKL AND HIS MEN NOT TO SURRENDER. WHEN THE BOMBS ARE READY, MEET ME AT THE POWERHOUSE!

AYE, AYE, SIR!

WHERE IN SPACE ARE THOSE TWO GUYS?

THEY'LL BE COMING ALONG WITH THE BOMBS, ROGER. JUST HOLD YOUR SPACE HORSES!

ROGER AND I ARE GOING, ALFIE. YOU AND ASTRO GET INTO YOUR SPACESUITS AND FOLLOW US!

RIGHT, TOM!
COME ON, TOM! WE DON'T NEED ASTRO AND ALFIE. WE CAN DO THIS JOB OURSELVES! AT LEAST, I KNOW I CAN!

YOUR SPACEHELMET IS BULGING, ROGER?

MY SPACEHELMET'S BULGING? WHAT'S THE MATTER?

THERE'S A SWELLED HEAD IN IT!

HEY! HERE COMES TRIXL! WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?

CAPTAIN STRONG SENT ME HERE WITH ORDERS FOR YOU... AND TO SHOW YOU WHERE THE MAGNETIC POWERHOUSE IS!

GOOD! HERE COME ALFIE AND ASTRO!

ALL RIGHT, TRIXL? TAKE US THERE AND TELL US WHAT OUR ORDERS ARE WHILE WE'RE ON THE WAY.

CAPTAIN STRONG AND MY BROTHER HAVE MEN READY TO RUSH THE POWERHOUSE THE MOMENT YOU EXPLODE THOSE FIRE-BOMBS OF YOURS!

WE'LL ATTACK AS SOON AS WE GET THERE, STAND BY, SPACE CADETS!
ALL RIGHT, YOU SPACEDEVILS! THIS IS IT! GET CLOSE UP AND START PITCHING!

THAT FIRE SHOULD STOP THE GENERAL AND HIS MEN LONG ENOUGH FOR CAPTAIN STRONG AND THE OTHERS TO CHARGE IN!

TOM! WHERE ARE THEY? WHY AREN'T THEY CHARGING?
MAYBE THEY GOT COLD FEET AT THE LAST MINUTE.

TRIXL! WHAT'S THE MATTER? YOU HAVE GOT TO FIND YOUR BROTHER AND TELL HIM TO CHARGE THE POWERHOUSE NOW!

I CAN'T SEE, TOM! THIS FIRE THING--IT HURT MY EYES!

LOOK! THERE'S CAPTAIN STRONG GOING IN...ALONE!
ALL THE SIRIANS MUST BE BLINDED TEMPORARILY. COME ON! FOLLOW CAPTAIN STRONG!
THERE'S CAPTAIN STRONG!

WE'LL TAKE THIS JOINT IN NO TIME! THESE SIRIANS ARE HELPLESS!

DISARM THE SOLDIERS, SPACE CADETS. THEN BRING YOUR PRISONERS INTO THIS ROOM! ON THE DOUBLE!

AYE, AYE, SIR?

THAT ABOUT CLEANS THEM OUT! WHERE'S CAPTAIN STRONG?

I'M IN CONTACT WITH HIM BY SPACEPHONE, TOM. HE'S GOT THE GENERAL AND THE BIG SHOTS!

EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL, SPACE CADETS! THE SIRIANS ARE BEGINNING TO SEE AGAIN!

ROGER, GO OUTSIDE AND TELL QUETZAKL TO BRING HIS MEN IN. HE MUST BE WONDERING WHAT HAPPENED TO US!

YES, SIR!

YOU BETTER, TRIXL? WELL, NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT ANY MORE. I'VE ROUNDED UP THE GENERAL AND HIS WHOLE GANG!

YOU DID? OH, YOU'RE WONDERFUL, ROGER!
OF COURSE, I'M WONDERFUL! I'M THE BEST SPACE CADET IN THE ACADEMY!

HOW LUCKY MY WORLD IS THAT YOU CAME HERE!

WELL, PIPE THAT SPACEHERO!

THAT'S OUR SPACEMATE ROGER! ALWAYS THERE WHEN IT COMES TO TAKING CREDIT FOR WHAT OTHERS DID!

GOOD-BYE, EARTHMAN. FROM NOW ON, THERE WILL BE ONLY FRIENDSHIP BETWEEN OUR DIFFERENT WORLDS!

WE SHALL SEND OUR AMBASSADOR HERE AS SOON AS I REPORT TO OUR SOLAR COUNCIL!

LATER, AS THE POLARIS SPEEDS HOMeward THROUGH SPACE...

SAY, WHAT'S COME OVER ROGER? I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM STUDY SO HARD IN HIS LIFE!

HE'S TRYING TO TRANSLATE A SECRET CODE MESSAGE TRIXL GAVE HIM BEFORE WE LEFT!

PERHAPS I CAN BE OF ASSISTANCE IN DECODING THE MESSAGE, ROGER!

ON YOUR WAY, JUNIOR! IF I NEED HELP... I'LL HAVE CYBERNIC SALLY TRANSLATE IT FOR ME WHEN WE GET BACK TO SPACE ACADEMY!
AND WHEN THE POLARIS AT LASTS LANDS AT THE SPACE ACADEMY FIELD...
WHERE'S ROGER OFF TO IN SUCH A HURRY?
HE'S GOING TO HAVE CYBERNIC SALLY DECODE TRIXL'S LETTER.

I'M CURIOUS ABOUT THAT MESSAGE?
ME, TOO!

I SEE YOU SPACE LUGS FOLLOWED ME HERE. WELL, I DON'T MIND YOU KNOWING WHAT TRIXL THINKS OF ME. CYBERNIC SALLY NEVER MAKES A MISTAKE—SO I'LL READ YOU THE MESSAGE.

“DEAR ROGER... YOU'RE A VERY SWEET BOY. BUT YOU'RE AWFULLY SWELL-HEADED... AND THE BIGGEST LIAR IN THE UNIVERSE...”

GULP!

CYBERNIC SALLY NEVER MAKES A MISTAKE, ROGER!
AND IT LOOKS LIKE TRIXL DIDN'T EITHER!