

Name: _____ Date: _____

Making Inferences

Making an inference means using clues from the text to figure out something the author doesn't tell you directly.

Directions: Answer the questions or follow the directions that appear in italics to fill in the chart. We completed the first row for you.

Clues	Inference
<p>1. On page 20, when Philip is naming the people in the conference room, he says:</p> <p>"There's Lauren, the director. Tessa, the psychologist. And Cheung, the engineer who oversaw some of my tests, including the one where I had to build an engine underwater."</p>	<p><i>From the detail Philip provides, what can you infer about the testing process for the mission to Mars?</i></p> <p>You can infer that the testing process for the mission to Mars was likely very difficult. Philip says that he had to build an engine underwater. This would not be an easy task for anyone—even a skilled engineer.</p>
<p>2. <i>Find two lines in the story that support the inference on the right.</i></p>	<p>Philip is insecure and fearful in social situations.</p>
<p>3. On page 22, Philip recalls his parents' reaction to the news that he had made it to the final round of evaluations:</p> <p>"I've never seen my parents cry, but when I told them I'd made it to the final round, there was a look in their eyes I never want to see again."</p>	<p><i>How do Philip's parents feel about the possibility of Philip going to Mars?</i></p>

Clues	Inference
<p>4. On page 22, Philip and Blythe are in the isolation cell when a loud fire alarm goes off:</p> <p>“ . . . Blythe keeps banging on the door and pressing the call button. ‘Let us out. Let us out!’</p> <p>‘Blythe,’ I say. ‘It’s all right. There’s no smoke. The door isn’t hot. It’s probably just a drill.’</p> <p>Now I do smell smoke. I walk around the tiny room, sniffing.</p> <p>‘Do you smell it?’ she asks.</p> <p>‘Yeah. But this is a new building. It’ll have state-of-the-art sprinklers and fire doors.’</p> <p>‘We’re going to die in here,’ she says, her voice breaking.”</p>	<p><i>What can you infer about Blythe from this exchange?</i></p>
<p>5. Find two lines in the story that support the inference on the right.</p>	<p>Philip admires Blythe.</p>

Name: _____ Date: _____

Would Philip Be a Successful Mars Colonist?

Directions: Read "The Mission." Then complete the activity below, which will prepare you to respond to the writing prompt on page 25.

Name three traits that a Mars colonist should have according to "The Mission." For each trait, provide text evidence and commentary. In other words, briefly explain how the evidence shows that the trait is considered important. Then explain whether or not Philip has that trait. We started one idea for you.

1. Trait: *scientific talent*

Text evidence with commentary:
Lauren, the director of the Mars mission selection committee, tells Philip, "... we're not just interested in your scientific aptitude" (20). Her comment reveals that one quality the committee is looking for in prospective Mars colonists is scientific aptitude (along with other qualities).

Does Philip have this quality?
Explain, using text evidence to support your conclusion.

2. Trait:

Text evidence with commentary:

Does Philip have this quality?
Explain, using text evidence to support your conclusion.

3. Trait:

Text evidence with commentary:

Does Philip have this quality?
Explain, using text evidence to support your conclusion.

Now choose three of the traits that are listed in "Could You Be a Mars Colonist?" and explain whether Philip has those traits. Provide text evidence and commentary.

4. Trait:

Does Philip have this trait?
Explain, using text evidence to support your conclusion.

5. Trait:

Does Philip have this trait?
Explain, using text evidence to support your conclusion.

6. Trait:

Does Philip have this trait?
Explain, using text evidence to support your conclusion.

7. Is there anything else about Philip that you think would or would not make him a successful Mars colonist? Explain.

Use the evaluation of Philip you have just completed to help you answer the writing prompt on page 25 of *Scope*: Based on "Could You Be a Mars Colonist?" and your own opinion, would Philip have been a successful Mars colonist? Support your answer with text evidence.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Close-Reading Questions

"The Mission"

1. What questions do the first two paragraphs raise in your mind? (author's craft, page 19)
2. What does this line help you understand about the narrator? (character, page 19)
3. When does this story take place? How do you know? (setting, page 19)
4. In what way is this line a hint about what Philip later reveals to Blythe? (text structure, page 21)
5. How do the ways Blythe and Philip sit help you understand their characters? (character, page 21)

6. Explain what Blythe means. (inference, page 21)

7. What does the scene with the fire alarm reveal about Philip? (text structure, page 23)

8. What is VidHub? (inference, page 23)

9. How does the idea of not living in fear apply to both Philip and Blythe? (theme, page 23)

10. What are Philip's reasons for wanting to join the mission to Mars? (character, page 23)

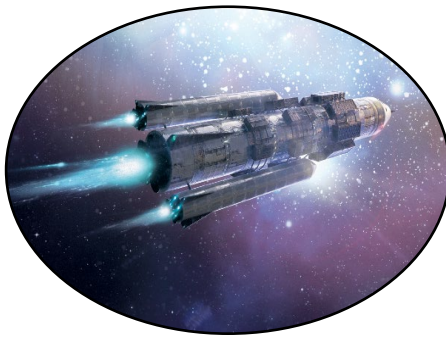
11. How has Philip changed over the course of the story? What caused this change?
(character, page 24)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Critical-Thinking Questions

"The Mission" and "Could You Be a Mars Colonist?"

1. Did Lauren and the other committee members treat Philip fairly?
2. What effects do you think the decision to speak to viewers on VidHub will have—on others and on Philip himself? Why?
3. Do you think Philip has good reasons for wanting to go to Mars? What about Blythe? Explain.
4. Choose one of the traits on page 25. Explain how author Kass Morgan shows in “The Mission” that this trait is important.
5. Based on what you read in the informational text and the story, would you apply for a mission to Mars? Explain.



"The Mission"

Respond to each statement by checking "agree" or "disagree." Be prepared to justify your responses.

	Agree	Disagree
1. The most rewarding experiences come from doing things you're at least a little afraid to try.		
2. Confidence is contagious.		
3. Social media can be bad for your emotional well-being.		
4. Having someone else believe in you can help you believe in yourself.		
5. The best way to gain self-confidence is to do what you are afraid to do.		
6. Growing up is full of awkward and uncomfortable moments.		
7. It's better to try and fail than to not try at all.		
8. Avoiding your problems is easier than confronting them.		
9. We can learn a lot from people who have very different personalities from us.		
10. "Why not go out on a limb? That's where the fruit is." —Mark Twain		

Name: _____ Date: _____

“The Mission” Quiz

Directions: Read “The Mission” and “Could You Be a Mars Colonist?” Then answer the questions below.

1. Which pair of words best describe how the author characterizes Philip at the start of the story?
 - (A) confident and bright
 - (B) self-conscious and insecure
 - (C) rude and outgoing
 - (D) quiet and sad
2. Which line best supports your answer to question 1?
 - (A) “She puts her hand on my arm, melting something inside me.” (p. 22)
 - (B) “I’ve never been to a concert, and if I’m chosen for the mission, I probably never will.” (p. 22)
 - (C) “‘You can do this,’ I tell myself.” (p. 19)
 - (D) “Just the *thought* of dancing in front of another person makes my heart race . . .” (p. 21)
3. On page 20, Philip describes James’s shirt as “the kind of immaculately pressed shirt I am sure you only get from having a team of house elves dress you every morning.” What can you infer from this comment?
 - (A) Philip thinks wrinkled shirts look fine.
 - (B) Philip believes in elves.
 - (C) Philip’s shirts never look as nicely ironed as James’s shirt.
 - (D) James is a wizard.
4. On page 24, Philip says, “My heart cramps as I imagine all the things we’ll never do together.” This line tells you that
 - (A) Philip likes Blythe and feels sad that he will never see her again.
 - (B) Philip is angry that Blythe was chosen instead of him.
 - (C) Philip is worried about Blythe going to Mars.
 - (D) Philip has a medical problem with his heart.
5. Which detail would be LEAST important to include in a summary of the story?
 - (A) The name of the girl Philip asked to prom is Ava.
 - (B) Blythe is chosen to go to Mars.
 - (C) A video of Philip’s embarrassing prom proposal went viral.
 - (D) Philip is applying for a one-way trip to Mars.
6. Which ideas are supported by both the story and the informational text? Choose TWO answers.
 - (A) It’s better to face your problems than to run from them.
 - (B) Mars colonists must be able to get along with one another.
 - (C) The first people sent to Mars will be teenagers.
 - (D) One challenge of becoming a Mars colonist is that you must say goodbye to people you love on Earth.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. What is Philip’s attitude toward social interactions and situations? Use details from the story to support your answer.
8. According to “Could You Be a Mars Colonist?” a Mars colonist must have tolerance. In “The Mission,” how does author Kass Morgan show that a Mars colonist should have tolerance?

Name: _____ Date: _____

“The Mission” Quiz

Directions: Read “The Mission” and “Could You Be a Mars Colonist?” Then answer the questions below.

1. Which word best describes how the author portrays Philip at the start of the story?
 - (A) confident
 - (B) self-conscious
 - (C) rude
 - (D) sad
2. Which line best supports your answer to question 1?
 - (A) “She puts her hand on my arm, melting something inside me.” (p. 22)
 - (B) “I’ve never been to a concert, and if I’m chosen for the mission, I probably never will.” (p. 22)
 - (C) “‘You can do this,’ I tell myself.” (p. 19)
 - (D) “Just the *thought* of dancing in front of another person makes my heart race . . .” (p. 21)
3. On page 20, the author describes James’s shirt as “the kind of immaculately pressed shirt I am sure you only get from having a team of house elves dress you every morning.” What does *immaculately* mean?
 - (A) magically
 - (B) sloppily
 - (C) perfectly
 - (D) slowly
4. On page 24, Philip says, “My heart cramps as I imagine all the things we’ll never do together.” How does Philip feel in this moment?
 - (A) sad
 - (B) angry
 - (C) worried
 - (D) hopeful
5. Which detail would be MOST important to include in a summary of the story?
 - (A) Philip is applying for a one-way trip to Mars.
 - (B) Blythe likes ’80s music.
 - (C) Philip had to build an engine underwater.
 - (D) The name of the girl Philip asked to prom is Ava.
6. Which ideas are supported by both the story and the informational text? Choose TWO answers.
 - (A) It’s better to face your problems than to run from them.
 - (B) Mars colonists must be able to get along with one another.
 - (C) The first people sent to Mars will be teenagers.
 - (D) One challenge of becoming a Mars colonist is that you must say goodbye to people you love on Earth.

Constructed-Response Questions

Directions: Write your answers to the questions below on the back of this paper or type them up on a computer.

7. What does Philip say that shows he has a negative attitude toward social interactions and situations?
8. According to “Could You Be a Mars Colonist?” a Mars colonist must have tolerance. In “The Mission,” how does author Kass Morgan show that a Mars colonist should have tolerance?

Name: _____ Date: _____

"The Mission"

Character Thinking Tool

The questions in this activity are about

Philip and Blythe

1. A. After you read the waiting room scene on page 19, what was your impression of Philip? List a few words or phrases to describe him.

B. What led you to form this impression of Philip? List things about his appearance or behavior that made you see him the way you did.

2. How does your initial impression of Philip compare with your initial impression of Blythe? Explain.

3. Philip says, "It's not the most fun thing in the world, being analyzed like this, but it's got nothing on those 534,656 views on VidHub." How can social media make a person feel "analyzed?"

4. Do you think most people would have the same attitude as Philip about going into an isolation chamber? Why or why not? How would you feel about going into an isolation chamber for 24 hours with no phone, tablet, or TV?

5. A. After Blythe tells Philip he can tell her what happened to him, he says, "And to my surprise, I do." What does he mean?

B. Why do you think Philip opens up to Blythe?

C. What does Blythe's response to Philip's story reveal about the type of person she is?

6. Is Philip a static character or a dynamic character? Give your reasoning.

A **static character** does not change in any important way over the course of a story.

A **dynamic character** undergoes an important internal change over the course of a story.

Note: *Scope* does not accept Google Docs. If you are e-mailing your entry, please send a .pdf or .doc file.

Mars Contest

Based on “Could You Be a Mars Colonist?” and your own opinion, would Philip have been a successful Mars colonist? Support your answer with text evidence. Five winners will get *Last Day on Mars* by Kevin Emerson.

Entries will be judged on:

- ⇒ a clearly stated central idea
- ⇒ use of supporting text evidence
- ⇒ good organization and transitions
- ⇒ grammar, spelling, and punctuation

My name: _____

My home phone number: _____ My grade: _____

My teacher's name: _____ My teacher's e-mail: _____

School name: _____

School address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

School phone number: _____

My parent or legal guardian consents
to my participation in this contest.

Parent's or legal guardian's signature: _____

Include this form with your written entry and send both to: scopemag@scholastic.com
or mail them to: Mars Contest, c/o *Scope*, P.O. Box 712, New York, NY 10013-0712

ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY October 15, 2018!