

Introduction

The mummy was in front of him. Its ugly mouth was open and its hands came towards him. He felt them pressing on his head.

When the Doctor and his companion Clara Oswald arrive on the Orient Express, Clara is very excited. She thinks they are taking a short holiday. The Orient Express is the world's most famous train, and this one is travelling through space! But there is an alien on the train and it has already killed one of the passengers. Can the Doctor and Clara solve the mystery of the mummy? What does it want? How does it choose who to kill? Why can only the victim see it?



The mummy joins a long line of aliens that the Doctor has tried to stop. *Doctor Who* first appeared on television in 1963 in black and white, and it was the first science fiction programme for children in the UK. It was a great success, with its new electronic sounds and crazy stories in outer space. The programmes were shown until 1989. Sixteen years later, *Doctor Who* returned with a new writing team. The stories became funnier, and more adult, but the central idea is the same. The Doctor travels through space in the TARDIS, his time machine, fighting aliens. Since 1963, the BBC has made more than 800 *Doctor Who* programmes. Today they are shown in many countries around the world.

Peter Capaldi played the Twelfth Doctor. The Doctor always has the same history, but each actor brings something new to the part. Capaldi has always loved *Doctor Who*. When he went into the TARDIS for the first time, he felt at home. 'I know how to work the TARDIS,' he said. 'I've known for a long time!'



The Mummy

Nobody noticed when the lights went dim for a second.

'Start the clock,' said a voice, but nobody heard. The clock started counting. 66 seconds, 65, 64 ...

A train was travelling at high speed. But this was no ordinary train. It was travelling through space, and it was the Orient Express, the King of Trains. Many years ago, the Orient Express was Europe's favourite train, taking rich people from Paris to Istanbul. This wasn't the *real* Orient Express, of course, but it was a perfect copy.

Inside the train, the passengers were all in the dining carriage. They were enjoying a fine evening meal, expensive wine and a view of the stars, while they passed through the universe. It was a very special trip, calling at a different planet every few days. Everyone was dressed for dinner – dinner in 1925. The men wore black dinner suits and the women wore beautiful dresses.

A waitress walked between the tables, carrying bowls of soup. At one end of the dining car, an old lady sat in a wheelchair, opposite a much younger woman. Neither woman smiled when the waitress put down their soup. Then the old lady looked up, and suddenly her face changed.

... 50, 49, 48 ...



'Is there some sort of silly party this evening, Maisie?' she asked, looking towards the other end of the car in surprise.

'I don't think so,' said Maisie Pitt, the younger woman. 'Why do you ask, Mama?'

'Look at that person at the end of the dining car,' said the old lady. 'He's dressed as a mummy ...'

The mummy was very tall. It looked straight at her while it moved slowly down the car towards her. Dirty old bandages covered its body, with bits hanging from its arms and legs. It had black holes in place of eyes, and its mouth was full of broken teeth.

... 40, 39, 38 ...

The old lady waved her hand at the head waiter, keeping her eyes on the mummy.

'You!' she called angrily to the waiter. 'Throw that ... man ... that thing ... out of this dining car! It's not amusing!'

The mummy pulled one of its feet along the floor behind it as it came closer and closer.

'Which man, madam?' the head waiter said, quietly and politely.

He looked along the empty space between the tables to the end of the car. He couldn't see a man or a mummy.

'Which man?!' repeated the old woman, almost screaming.

... 30, 29, 28 ...

'That man!' she cried. 'There – dressed as a mummy! Can't you see him?' She



turned to the young woman. 'Maisie, tell him.'

The old lady wasn't angry now; she was afraid. Other passengers turned to look at her white face and frightened eyes.

'Mama!' said the younger woman, looking around. 'There's nobody there.'

... 20, 19, 18 ...

'Don't you lie to me, girl,' said the old lady. Then she shook her finger at the mummy. 'Stop it!' she cried. 'Stop it immediately!'

To the other passengers, she seemed to be shaking her finger at the empty air.

... 10, 9, 8 ...

The mummy was very close to the old lady now, but still only she could see it. It moved its ugly dead head towards her, with its broken teeth and bad smell. She tried to disappear into her wheelchair.

'You're not well, Mama,' said the younger woman. 'Shall I get your medicine? Would you like to go back to your room?'

'Get it off me!' cried the old lady.

... 3, 2, 1 ...

The mummy reached its hands out and pressed them hard against the old lady's head. She shut her eyes tight. And then she fell back into her seat and stopped moving.

... zero ...

The younger woman jumped up and screamed. The other passengers stood up too. They wanted to see what was happening.

'Is there a doctor on the train?' cried the young woman. 'We need a doctor!'



Further along the train, there was a sudden strange noise and a bright light. A blue police box arrived from nowhere. The door of the box opened and a man stepped out. He was followed by a young woman. They were dressed like the other passengers, in clothes from the 1920s.

The box wasn't a police box; it was the TARDIS. It was a machine that could travel through time and space. The man wasn't a man; he

was a Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey. He was called the Doctor. The young woman really *was* a young woman, from Earth. Her name was Clara Oswald. Back on Earth, she was an English teacher, with a boyfriend called Danny Pink. Clara was also the Doctor's companion on his adventures in space.

'Our last journey together, Clara,' said the Doctor.

And this *was* the last of those adventures. Clara was angry with the Doctor, and she wanted to stay on Earth now with Danny. This trip was a surprise gift from the Doctor before they said goodbye.

She looked around, puzzled. This wasn't a beautiful planet full of strange aliens. It was a small, dark room full of suitcases.

'Er ... wonderful,' she said, not meaning it. 'But Doctor, where are we? Why has the TARDIS brought us here?'

'This carriage is for the suitcases,' said the Doctor. 'It's not very wonderful. But thank you for saying so!'

He took Clara to the door to the next carriage, and opened it.

'*This* is the wonderful part,' he said. 'Welcome to the Orient Express!'



Writing

- 31 Imagine that you meet an alien. The alien seems friendly. What questions will you ask it? Write a list of twenty.
- 32 You are in the TARDIS with Clara and the Doctor. You can choose to go anywhere in time and space. Choose a year. Choose a place. Explain your reasons.
- 33 Many people are needed to work on the Orient Express in space. The train has a captain, guards, a head waiter, cooks, an engineer, a doctor. Choose one of the jobs. Describe a day's work on the King of Trains.
- 34 Choose one of the pictures in the book. Write a description of it: Who is in it? What is happening? What has just happened? What is going to happen next?
- 35 Clara arrives back on Earth. She meets Danny and they talk about Clara's mummy adventure. Danny asks questions and Clara answers them. Write their conversation.
- 36 Imagine Clara stops travelling with the Doctor. The Doctor needs a new companion. Write a job description. Use this title: *Companion Wanted!*
- 37 You work at the BBC and you are going to show a group of people around the TARDIS. What will you tell them? Write your talk.
- 38 You are the Doctor. Write to a friend from another planet. Your friend has never met a human. Tell your friend what humans are like.

Answers for the Activities in this book are available from the Pearson English Readers website. A free Activity Worksheet is also available from the website. Activity worksheets are part of the Pearson English Readers Teacher Support Programme, which also includes Progress tests and Graded Reader Guidelines.

For more information, please visit:
www.pearsonenglishreaders.com



Word List

alien (n) a fictional being from another world.

bandage (n/v) a long, narrow white cloth that is tied around a broken arm, for example.

captain (n) the officer who gives the orders on a ship or a spaceship, for example.

carriage (n) one of the parts of a train that carry passengers; some carriages are also called **cars**.

dim (adj) **go dim** to become less bright.

energy (n) something that makes movement possible. Energy can come from the sun, for example. Food gives us energy.

engine (n) the machine that drives a car or train; an engineer is someone who looks after engines.

flag (n) a piece of cloth, often tied to a stick. Each country has a national flag with its colours on.

human (n/adj) a person from Earth.

malfunction (v) to fail to work correctly.

mummy (n) a dead body protected by oils and bandages.

planet (n) something, like Earth, Mars and Jupiter, that moves around a star through space.

professor (n) a teacher with an important position at a university.

puzzle (n) something that is difficult to explain or solve. If you are **puzzled** by something, you don't understand it.

scanner (n) a piece of equipment that you pass over something or someone in search of full information.

surrender (v) to stop fighting because you cannot win.

technology (n) modern machines and equipment that come from scientific ideas. **Hi-tech** machines use the most recent technology.

teleport (v) to disappear from one place and appear in another, using your mind or special **technology**. A **teleporter** is an imaginary machine in which you can travel very, very fast.

universe (n) all of space and time and everything in it.

victim (n) someone who is killed or hurt.