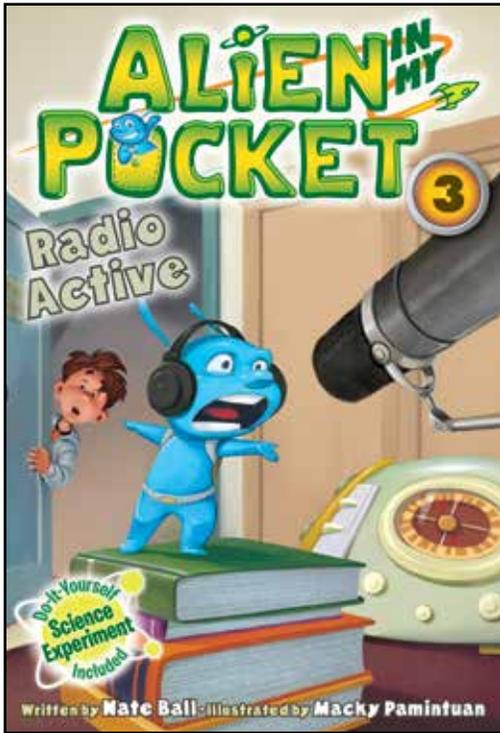


# ALIEN IN MY POCKET

## Discussion Guide

### ALIEN IN MY POCKET: **RADIO ACTIVE** by Nate Ball



### BOOK TALK

Amp, the four-inch-tall blue alien from planet Erde, really does it this time. Still trying to send a message home about stopping the invasion on Earth, Amp attempts to use the parts from Zack's walkie-talkie to repair the quantum radio in his spaceship. No one is expecting Amp's message to be broadcast over every local radio frequency. But when it does, people panic, and Zack and Olivia have to rescue Amp—again. The conclusion only means one thing—Zack is in big trouble.



### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why does Zack's mother enjoy having Olivia over for dinner? What is the advantage for the family when she is there?
2. How does Zack's plan to get even with Taylor backfire? How does Taylor react to the plan? Why does Zack consider it a partial win?
3. Why does Amp talking to the Erdian Council irritate Zack and Olivia? Why does Amp turn his back on them while he talks to the council?
4. How does Zack feel about lying to his parents? What are his other options? Who is affected by his lies? Would the truth be less damaging to those involved?
5. What is Zack's punishment for the broken walkie-talkie? How does he react to the news? Who does he blame for his trouble?
6. What is Amp's response to the huge mess he created with the broadcasting of his announcement to stop the invasion?

*The above questions correlate to CCSS (Writing & Speaking): SL.3.1, SL.4.1, SL.5.1; CCSS (Reading Literature): RL.3.1, RL.4.1, RL.5.1; CCSS (Language): L.3.1, L.4.1, L.5.1 and L.3.3, L.4.3, L.5.3*

**HARPER**

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

[www.alieninmypocket.com](http://www.alieninmypocket.com)

# ALIEN IN MY POCKET

## Discussion Guide

### ALIEN IN MY POCKET: **RADIO ACTIVE** by Nate Ball

#### EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

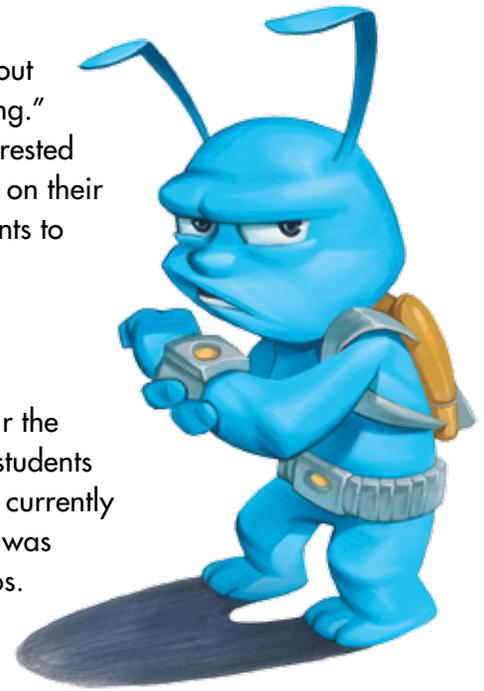
##### Curiosity Can Lead to Creativity

On page 47, Zack lists Olivia's interests and says, "Olivia was curious about practically everything.... That made her kind of fascinating—but exhausting." Ask students to make a list of everything they are curious about or are interested in. Then ask students to find out two or three facts about the top three items on their lists and write a short paragraph detailing what they discover. Ask students to also include in their paragraph how their interests relate to science.

##### Quantum Radio? Really?

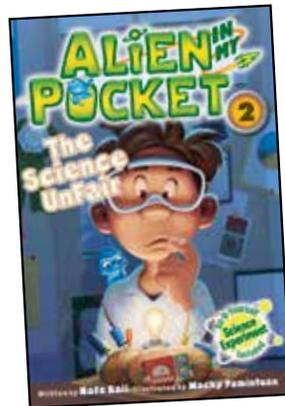
Amp's plan to send a message to planet Erde rests on his ability to repair the quantum radio in his spaceship with parts from Zack's walkie-talkie. Ask students to investigate quantum radios and discover how they work and if they are currently in use. Then, with a partner, ask students to solve the puzzle whether it was possible for Amp's announcement to be broadcast over all the local radios.

Students' explanations should be written and, if necessary, a visual representation should be used.



CCSS (Writing): W.3.2, W.4.2, W.5.2, W.3.7, W.4.7, W.5.7; CCSS (Language): L.3.1, L.4.1, L.5.1, L.3.2, L.4.2, L.5.2; and L.3.4, L.4.4, L.5.4;

Read all the books in the **ALIEN IN MY POCKET** series



COMING SOON!

HARPER

An Imprint of HarperCollinsPublishers

[www.alieninmypocket.com](http://www.alieninmypocket.com)