

Recall

Go back and re-read the first three parts of this story. Write down a (one sentence) summary for each part.

The Space-Being and the Iron Man (The Iron Man: part 4)

One day there came strange news. Everybody was talking about it. Round eyes, busy mouths, frightened voices – everybody was talking about it.

One of the stars of the night sky had begun to change. This star had always been a very tiny star, of no importance at all. It had shone up there for billions and trillions and sillions of years in the Constellation of Orion, that great shape of the giant hunter that strides across space on autumn and winter nights. In all its time this tiny star had never changed in any way.

Now, suddenly, it began to get bigger. Astronomers, peering through their telescopes, noticed it first. They watched it with worried frowns. That tiny star was definitely getting bigger and Bigger and BIGger. Each night it was BIGGER.

In the middle of the giant star, a tiny black speck had appeared. On the second night, this speck was seen to be wriggling, and much bigger. On the third night, you could see it without a telescope. A struggling black speck in the centre of that giant, red, gloomy star.

Each night, when the astronomers returned to their telescopes to peer up, this black flying horror was bigger. With slow, gigantic wing-beats, with long, slow writhings of its body, it was coming down through space, outlined black against its red star.

Barrump!

The shock of its landing rolled round the earth like an earthquake, spilling teacups in London, jolting pictures off walls in California, cracking statues off their pedestals in Russia. The thing had actually landed and it was a terrific dragon. Terribly black, terribly scaly, terribly knobby, terribly horned, terribly hairy, terribly clawed, terribly fanged, with vast indescribably terrible eyes, each one as big as Switzerland.

The next morning, early, its giant voice came rumbling around the world. The space-bat-angel-dragon was speaking. It wanted to be fed. And what it wanted to eat was – LIVING THINGS. The people of the world decided they would not feed it. They would fight it!

The noise of the battle shook the world almost as much as the landing of the dragon had done. Then the noise died down and the smoke cleared. The peoples of the world cried in dismay. The dragon was actually smiling! Now the peoples of the world were worried. They were all great fighters and had spent all their spare money on preparing for wars, but the dragon merely smiled. Human weapons had no effect on it.

And now the dragon spoke again. It gave the peoples of the world one week in which to prepare its first meal. They could prepare what they liked. But if the meal was not ready in a week, then he would start on the cities and the towns.

Everybody in the world was talking about it, worrying about it. The little boy Hogarth heard all about this. He was sure the Iron Man wasn't very big, of course. He visited the Iron Man in his scrap-yard.

The Iron Man became still. He seemed to be thinking. Suddenly his headlamps blazed red, green, blue, and white at once. And he stood up. Hogarth danced for joy. The Iron Man had had the most stupendous idea.

1. Why did the author use capital letters (LIVING THINGS) when describing what the dragon wanted to eat? What affect does this have on the reader?
2. What idea do you think the Iron Man has?
3. What will happen in the final part of this story?