

Reading text:



The Martian: a book review

The Martian tells the story of Mark Watney, an astronaut on the Ares 3 mission to Mars. After a terrible storm almost had destroyed the ship and the base, the crew of his ship believe he was dead. 1) Alone on the red planet, he had to survive until the next mission to Mars arrived. While this novel is fiction, in some ways it feels like non-fiction. It is very scientific and packed with details about survival on Mars. Watney was a botanist and engineer, and he began to grow food and produced water in his artificial camp. How had he done this? 2) The author is Andy Weir, and this is his first published book. In it he has created a realistic character. There was a lot of humour in the story, and the reader can identify with the emotions (although no one can really imagine what it's like to be on Mars). Watney admitted at the beginning that he was in deep trouble, but he never gave up. 3) Instead, what The Martian gave us was a realistic look at an intelligent person alone on a planet and trying to survive.

The majority of the plot took place on Mars and was written in the form of Watney's journal entries. 4) Unfortunately, the other characters in the book (his fellow crew members, the scientists at NASA on Earth) did not get much development and so they often feel one-dimensional. I should also mention that the book is thrilling to read. You will be on the edge of your seat until the very end. 5) It's good not only for space travel fans and scientists but for anyone who is looking for a unique and exciting story. The Martian was so popular that it was made into a film starring Matt Damon in 2015, but I recommend reading the book first.

Task 1

Match the missing sentences (a–e) with the correct place in the text (1–5). **(Write the correct letter in the space)**

- a. The answers are explained with lots of very convincing calculations.
- b. But Mark does not die in the storm, and he has been left behind.
- c. I would recommend this book to all audiences.
- d. Without the character of Mark Watney, this book would only be a scientific look at survival on Mars.
- e. This diary style makes the character of Watney very real.

Circle the best definitions for the words in CAPITALS. **(Write the correct letter in the space)**

1. It is very scientific and PACKED with details about survival on Mars. _____

- a. filled
- b. ready for a trip
- c. empty

2. ... he begins to grow food and produce water in his ARTIFICIAL camp. _____

- a. from the military
- b. not natural
- c. imaginary

3. Watney admits at the beginning that he is in deep trouble, but he never GIVES UP.

- a. stops trying
- b. escapes
- c. begins

4. The majority of the plot takes place on Mars, and is written in the form of Watney's _____ JOURNAL ENTRIES.

- a. things you write in a diary
- b. newspaper articles
- c. types of transport

5. Unfortunately, the other characters in the book (his fellow crew members, the scientists at

NASA on Earth) do not get much development and so they often feel ONE-DIMENSIONAL.

- a. complicated
- b. not deep, not realistic
- c. interesting

6. I should also mention that the book is thrilling to read. You will be ON THE EDGE OF YOUR

SEAT until the very end.

- a. bored and sleepy
- b. confused and lost
- c. very excited, wondering what is going to happen

