*Speck of the Stars by Henry Boffin* Trish Buckley

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|  | Question | Answer | Page number and points allocation |
| 1 | What is the name of the home planet of The Keepers? What did they name their spectacular spaceship orbiting this planet? | Varillis  Grand Orbital Library | Prologue  ½ mark for name of planet  1 and ½ marks for the name of the spaceship |
| 2 | Who and why was Speck excited to see on the spaceship at the beginning of the book? | Members of the Guild of the Night Eaters. They were explorers who travelled to the most exciting and dangerous corners of the known Universe. They were rumoured to be bringing something miraculous. | pp. 5-6  up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of response |
| 3 | What is the name of the Keeper who found Speck, and what is his position? | Vergel Pren, who is the High Librarian, found Speck | pp. 7-8  1 mark for his name  1 mark for his rank |
| 4 | Who is U-T and how does he show surprise? | U-T is a robot (bot) (also called a droid), and Speck’s brother, and he reverses slightly when he’s surprised. | p. 3 (droid)  p. 5 (robot or bot and brother)  p. 8 (shows surprise)  ½ mark for bot  ½ for Speck’s brother  1 mark for how he shows surprise |
| 5 | When Speck gets caught spying on the Guild visit what two reasons is M-T angry with him? | 1. Speck has embarrassed her and all the droids. 2. She’s worried he might get hurt | p. 15  1 mark for each correct reason |
| 6 | What did the Keepers prefer to playing or listening to music? | They preferred pre-recorded sounds of wildlife from their home planet (Varillis) – gentle birdsong or clicks and clacks of swamp creatures | pp.20-21  Up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of response |
| 7 | What does Speck expect when he is summoned to the High Librarian quarters? What actually happens? | Speck expects to be punished. Instead Vargel Pren asks Speck to act as the personal assistant of Giddius Monk while the Night Eaters remain on the spaceship. | pp. 26-29  ½ mark for punishment  1 and ½ marks for the rest |
| 8 | Name any 4 tasks that Speck initially does for the leader of the Night Eaters? | Choose from  Collected laundry  Did ironing and pressed garments  Tidied his office  Organised books and translation tablets alphabetically  Fetched dinner  Cleaned plates  Sent and brought messengers | p. 45  ½ mark for each correct answer |
| 9 | What makes Speck seek out the Starchild? | Speck wakes up from a dream and hears crying, like a very sad child. He starts to look for the origin of the crying and finds the starchild | pp. 49—53  up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of response |
| 10 | What name does Speck pick for the droid that is following him around? How does this droid try to stop Speck from releasing the Starchild? | Nuisance – Nuis for short p. 49  Firstly he tries to stop by bleeping loudly at him, then he bombards the sleeping Night Eater guard with a cacophony of beeps and binary code to try to wake him pp. 58-59 | 1 mark both name and nickname  1 mark for Nuis’s actions |
| 11 | Speck tells U-T he is responsible for the Starchild escaping. What does Speck do next? Why does he think he will be able to get away with doing this? | Speck jumps aboard (stows away on) the Imperator’s ship before it sets out to locate the Starchild. He finds out the Imperator’s ship don’t use droids as support workers, so this means he will be able to remain hidden. | pp. 71 -73  up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of reponse |
| 12 | As soon as he is on the Imperator spaceship, Speck is discovered. He is twice rescued. Name both rescuers and how they help. | 1. Nuis who has stowed away with Speck emits an anti-grav net to encapsulate the Imperator so Speck can run away p 75 2. One of the Gutterlings, the famous Yabba from the Gumu tribe steals Speck away and hides him in the service tubes of the ship p. 78 | 1 mark for each correct rescue description |
| 13 | In what two ways is Yabba different from other Gutterlings? | 1. Yabba can speak many languages including the common tongue which is how he can communicate with Speck 2. He considers himself a scientist as well as an engineer which is what most Gutterlings are | p. 82  1 mark for each correct response |
| 14 | What can Yabba’s phantom suit do? What does it do for Speck? | It creates a hologram around the person wearing it, allowing them to take on the image of any creature they want. It turns Speck into an ugly short pirate so he can move around the pirate in his quest to find the Starchild | p. 89  up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of response |
| 15 | What are the words of friendship Yabba tells Speck to use. Who must he find to help him? Where will he find this creature? | Chimi Choro Yoko  He must find Shegga who will help him. She works at the Eternal Eclipse Tavern | p. 93  1 mark for each correct response |
| 16 | What is the name Oran’s spaceship and name any two of his crew | The *Dawnchaser*  Choose from  Quilch  Vart  Randall Dink  Thrugg | pp. 119-121  1 mark for the name of the ship  ½ mark for each correct crew member |
| 17 | What does Speck tell the captain to do when the ship starts getting sucked into the Black Hole? Why does he suggest this? | Speck advises Oran to move toward the Black Hole instead of trying to run away. He says this because he remembers the High Librarian’s words – the only people to survive a black hole are those who are not afraid of it. | pp. 122-123  Up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of response |
| 18 | Pick one of the pirate crew and relate the story of how they came to be as they explained it to Speck | Choose from  Vart – because her skin didn’t settle on one colour which tells the Ureyans to which tribe they belong, Nephora felt like she didn’t fit in, so she found her own tribe p. 134  Quilch – used to be a slave in the great asteroid mines p. 135  Dink – comes from a long line of pirates, thieves and cutthroats p. 135  Thrugg – searching for his princess whose royal family were overthrown. She escaped but ended up sold as a slave in the great fighting pits where she met Thrugg , but then they were separated pp. 135-136  Oran – is a mystery and no one really knows his story, except the one Dink tells about him p. 137 |  |
| 19 | What do the pirates find to help them get across the bridge to the cave where they think the Starchild is? What stops them? How do they finally cross? | Clamper boots  Large Shrieking bird-like creatures that attack them  Some of the pirates run across in the boots, but when Speck gets caught behind, Thrugg rescues him and sacrifices himself to let the others avoid the birds | p. 148-154  ½ mark for each correct response  1 mark for how they get across the bridge |
| 20 | What is Captain Oran’s secret? What do the pirates decide to do next? | He is also wearing a phantom suit and he’s actually Princess Juni! Dink persuades then to take the Princess back to her planet to collect the bounty | pp.162-166  Up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of response |
| 21 | How does Speck get into the secret base in the cave when he is abandoned by the pirates? | He recognises the V as a symbol for a Gutterling tribe. He remembers Yabba’s friendship words and Nom from the Ogga Tribe lets him in. | pp. 168-170  up to 2 point for detail and accuracy of response |
| 22 | Once Speck gains control of the *Dawnchaser*, what is his destination? And why does he want to go there? | Speck believes the Starchild is heading for the Night Eater’s headquarters, which is the planet Arkanius where the Emperor of the Galaxy resides. He wants to talk the Starchild out of destroying this planet. | pp. 195-196  up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of response |
| 23 | How does the crew of the Dawnchaser try to assist Speck’s quest to stop the Starchild at the end of the book? How helpful are they? | Princess Juni asks all and any spacecraft that can, to join together to intercept the Space Wyrm. At first they don’t make a dent in the Wyrm’s journey. But through Yabba, Princess Juni gets the coordinates of Nom’s location and secret base, so the ships can plummet into the Windy Valley to catch the Wyrm’s attention. The Shriekers attack the ship but Thrugg is alive! And comes to the rescue. The ship then starts getting under the wyrm’s skin and distracts him for a while to allow Speck to talk to Ardulus | pp. 223-224 pp. 230-235  up to 2 marks for detail and accuracy of response |
| 24 | Where does Ardulus say he will be if Speck ever needs his help? | He will be on the third moon of Zor | p. 245  2 marks for exact answer |
| 25 | What happens to Randall Dink? | He escapes from the containment field, steals the phantom suit and disappears, since he could pretend to be anybody | p. 247  up to 2 mars for detail and accuracy of response |