This is the book of the world-famous movie, directed by Steven Spielberg. An alien, E.T., short for The Extra-Terrestrial, is left behind on earth when his spaceship has to leave suddenly without him. He is all alone at night on a strange planet. He understands nothing. He is outside a family’s house, and the children know ‘something’ is out there. One of the children, Elliott, goes out to look but E.T. runs away. It is a dangerous place for him, there are scientists in the wood nearby who are looking for him.

He makes friends with Elliott, who brings him into the house, without his mother knowing. His brother, Michael, and sister, Gertie, teach him to speak English. They take care of E.T. They help him learn to speak English, to send messages home by making a transmitter. He leaves the house during Halloween, when everyone is dressed up and looks different. But E.T. gets sick. Elliott feels sick too. He knows E.T. must get back to his planet or he will die. The scientists catch up with them and there is a chase with the police too. E.T. finally leaves Earth on Elliott’s bicycle which E.T. can make fly up into the sky away from everyone. Then they see E.T.’s spaceship arrive to take him home. Elliott is happy for E.T. and his heart and E.T.’s are full of love for each other.

William Kotzwinkle was originally an actor. When he discovered that the lines he made up were better than the ones he had to learn, he left acting and took up writing instead. At first he wrote plays, then fiction. He has written many books, eighteen of them for children, including E.T.: The Book of the Green Planet, a very imaginative story of E.T. back on his own planet. Most of his books contain some fantasy, though they are not all science fiction.

Steven Spielberg adapted Kotzwinkle’s story for the movie, and Melissa Mathison wrote the screen story, for which she was nominated for Best Screenplay Academy Award. She was married to actor Harrison Ford after they met on the set for the movie Apocalypse Now.

It was first shown in 1982 and was a great success with children and adults. It made $701 million dollars worldwide and won four Oscars.

The video sold 22 million copies too. In the year 2002, its twentieth anniversary, the director Steven Spielberg wanted to let a new generation see it. So it has been re-released with new computer special effects and some new scenes. New technology allowed Spielberg to go into the original and change certain things. There is new sound, E.T. moves better and he can run. In the 1982 movie the police are holding guns, in the new movie, they hold phones. The movie was re-released for its twentieth anniversary, in 2002. People are enjoying the story all over again.

The main theme is of an outsider. In the early part of the story, E.T. is alone and frightened because he doesn’t know anything about the place he is in. He doesn’t speak the language, has never been in a house. He is quite different from humans. He can speak to plants for example. An alien is someone who feels alone and is different from people around them.

The development of friendship is perhaps the main theme. E.T. and Elliott become such close friends that each feels whatever the other feels. When E.T. falls ill, Elliott also becomes ill. They are brave when they finally separate. Not all friendships can last forever.

One of the ideas in the story is that friendship can develop unexpectedly. E.T. looks different and is unlike anyone else. He is much older and comes from a place that no one knows anything about.

What makes E.T. and Elliott friends? One reason is that Elliott, in his own way, also feels like an outsider. He is too young for his older brother, his mother is busy all the time, and his father is not around.

The children’s attempts at being independent of adults is a theme that appeals to children, who like the idea of being in control and not being told what to do. They manage to get E.T. safely back to his own planet themselves, without the grown-ups helping, and stop the grown-ups, such as the scientists and police and government agents, from catching him.
ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK

Background knowledge

As a broad introduction to the theme of E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial, ask the students if they have been to an English speaking country. How did they feel when they first arrived?

Ask the students if they know the story of E.T. or have seen the movie. Build up a picture of the movie from the students. How does it start? What was the part they remember best? How does it end? Involve those who have not seen the movie. What do they know about it? Some students may be prepared to draw the character E.T. from memory.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING A SECTION

Chapters 1–4

1. Students work in pairs or small groups. Taking a few pages or a chapter each, depending on the number of groups, the students should find anything that the extra-terrestrials did that was strange. For example on page 1, the extra-terrestrials spoke to plants.

As an extension activity, the students could also make a list of the things that the extra-terrestrials found strange on Earth, for example, how hard the road was.

2. Chapter 4 describes both how E.T. and Elliott feel. After the students have read this, ask partners to rewrite some lines from the chapter – then from E.T.’s viewpoint. For example, the six lines at the top of page 11 can become: ‘Suddenly the closet door opened. The boy spoke, but I did not understand. Then he took my hand. I slowly walked out of the closet and looked around.’

Chapters 5–7

Students work in pairs.

1. Divide the class into pairs. In each pair one is E.T. and the other, Elliott. The one who is Elliott mimes an action for the partner to guess. Examples are eating/drinking/going to sleep/writing a letter/brushing teeth or hair. Elliott starts by naming the objects they use, for example for eating, knife and fork; for drinking, a cup; for brushing teeth, a toothbrush, and so on.

2. Tell the students to imagine that they have just found an alien. They are going to tell their brother or sister what has happened. They should use sentences from chapter 5 to help them.

Chapters 8–11

1. Ask students what they know about Halloween. If any student has taken part, ask them to describe what they did and what it was like.

2. Start a debate. Elliott has a terrible problem. E.T. is sick and needs help. If Elliott gets a doctor, the scientists will find out about him. If Elliott doesn’t get a doctor, maybe E.T. will die. What should Elliott do?

You can be Elliott, and the rest of the class divided into A: those who think Elliott should tell, and B: those who disagree. Ask each group a question to direct the debate. Should I tell? Who should I tell? Are all the doctors and scientists bad?

What will happen if I tell (ask this to both A and B).

Glossary

It will be useful for your students to know the following new words. They are practiced in the ‘Before You Read’ sections of exercises in the back of the book. (Definitions are based on those in the Longman Active Study Dictionary.)

Chapters 1–4

Earth (n) the planet we live on
Extra-terrestrial (n) someone who does not come from Earth
Space (n) the place outside Earth where there are stars and other planets
Forest (n) a large number of trees together
Million (n) 1,000,000
Plant (n) a living thing, but not an animal. It is usually green with leaves and flowers.
Key (n) we use it to open a door
Scientist (n) someone who tests ideas and in this way learns about the world
Van (n) a type of car. We carry things in it.
Fork (n) we use a fork when we eat. It has four points.
Heart (n) the part of the body that pushes the blood around the body
Hide (v) to put something in a place where no one can see it
Point (v) to show someone where something is with a finger
Record-player (n) a machine that plays music from a record
Stars (n) we see stars in the sky at night – they look like very small bright lights.
Touch (v) to put your hand on something to feel it
Toys (n) things for children to play with; for example, a ball
Chapters 5–7

Transmitter (n) an electrical machine which sends out signals

Chapters 8–11

Plastic (n or adj) a light material made by man into many shapes and colors
Ride (v) to travel on a bike or horse
Student’s Activities

E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial
by William Kotzwinkle
Based on a screenplay by Melissa Mathison

ACTIVITIES BEFORE READING THE BOOK
1. What do you think ‘extra’ and ‘terrestrial’ mean in the title?
2. Why does the front cover show two hands touching, do you think?
3. Choose one photo from pages 3, 7, 13, 14, 16, 20, 25, 26, 34, 36, 37. Describe the photo. Later, when you have read the book, look at your description again. Was your description the same as the book or very different?

ACTIVITIES WHILE READING THE BOOK

Chapters 1–4
Chapter 1
1. From the text, decide whether each sentence is a description of Earth beings (E.B.) or extra terrestrial (E.T.).
   (a) They speak kind words to plants. (page 1)
   (b) They are small and fat. (page 1)
   (c) Warm red lights shine from their hearts. (page 1)
   (d) They can’t understand their children sometimes. (page 2)
   (e) They drive cars very fast. (page 2)
   (f) He had a big nose, big ears, and small eyes. (page 8)
   (g) He was very old. (page 12)
2. Answer the questions.
   (a) Who were the men who heard the spaceship come to earth?
   (b) How old was the extra-terrestrial who pulled up a plant?
   (c) What color were the lights of the town?
   (d) Who is Mary?
   (e) On page 3, who is the ‘he’ in the sentence below the picture?

Chapter 2
1. Add the right name.
   (a) ________ walked to the town.
   (b) ‘Go’ said the ________.
   (c) ‘Help! Mom! Help!’ ________ shouted.
   (d) ‘What did you see?’ ________ asked ________.
2. Change the sentences by using ‘more than’ to make one sentence.
   E.g. E.T. felt afraid. Elliott was afraid. E.T. was more afraid than Elliott.
   (a) Elliott walked slowly. E.T. walked slowly.
   (b) E.T. threw the orange angrily. Elliott threw it back.
   (c) Some Earth people were beautiful. Mary was beautiful.
   (d) Elliott spoke quietly. E.T. spoke quietly.

Chapter 3
Put the words below into the sentences.
   carefully angrily sadly happily
   (a) The scientists wanted to find the extra-terrestrials. They looked ________ at everything in the forest.
   (b) The extra-terrestrial was unhappy. He looked ________ for his spaceship.
   (c) The extra-terrestrial found a chocolate on the ground. He ________ ate it.
   (d) The scientist was angry because he couldn’t see the spaceship. He turned around ________

Chapter 4
1. The verbs in italics are in the wrong sentences. Put them in the right sentences. Change them so that the sentences make sense.
   (a) Elliott ________ the extra-terrestrial into the closet. He ________ the door. Elliott ________ into bed. The extra-terrestrial ________ Mary.
   (b) ‘What am I going to ________ you? Elliott was. He ________ ________ into E.T.’s big, old eyes. You ________ an extra-terrestrial.’
   (c) They ________ downstairs. Elliott ________ breakfast. Elliott ________ the table with the fork. E.T. ________ Elliott carefully.
2. Find other verbs that you can put in the sentences. Use a dictionary to help you find as many as possible which make sense.

Chapters 1–4
Divide the class into four groups. Each group takes one chapter. Working together, and using the chapter title, they make a summary of what happens in the chapter in a few sentences. When the work is finished, copies are given to all the groups for them to read and check. If the class is very large, more than one group can take on a chapter, and the best summary is chosen.

Chapters 5–7
Chapter 5
Work with another student. One student is ‘Elliott’, one student is ‘Michael’.
‘Elliott’ explains that he has found an alien. ‘Michael’ must ask questions, and ‘Elliott’ must answer but not say ‘yes’ or ‘no’. If he does, then change roles. For example, Elliott asks: ‘Is E.T. gray?’ The answer is, ‘He is brown’ NOT ‘No, he is not.’
Chapters 5 and 6

1 One word will fit into all these sentences. What is it?
(a) _____ he talk?
(b) You _____ touch him if you want.
(c) We _____ 't tell anybody.
(d) Only children _____ see him.
(e) ET _____ teach the computer to talk.

2 Here are some sentences in E.T. ‘language’. Write the letters as words.
Example: B good = Be good.
(a) I can C you.
(b) R you happy?
(c) I like to drink T.
(d) I know Y Lance phoned Elliott.

Chapter 6

Who are enemies and who are friends of E.T.? The letters of the names are in the wrong order. Put them in the right order. When you have written the name, put ‘e’ (enemy) or ‘f’ (friend) next to it.

(a) Rtieg ___
(b) Aecní ___
(c) Chleami ___
(d) Lecottl ___
(e) Eevst ___

Chapter 7

1 Answer the questions.
(a) Why does E.T. want the computer?
(b) What language does the computer speak after E.T. has worked on it?
(c) How did E.T. hide from Mary when she came into the room?
(d) What did E.T. put on Mary’s pillow?

2 Change the verbs into the correct past tense forms.

ET to play the sounds on the computer. His finger to get very hot. Mom to come into the room. E.T. to hide with the toys. Mary went away. Later, when Mary to be asleep, E.T. and Harvey, the dog, to eat in the kitchen.

Chapters 8–11

Chapter 8

1 Match the words with the sentence.
(a) Halloween
(b) garage
(c) candy
(d) transmitter
(e) stomach
(i) A machine that can send signals
(ii) On the night of October 31, children wear strange clothes and go out.
(iii) A building where people keep their cars.
(iv) Sweet things, which children like to eat.
(v) Where food goes in the body.

ACTIVITIES AFTER READING THE BOOK

1 Why do you think the story is so popular? Talk about the story, the characters, and the idea of space.

2 Write a story to explain what happens after the end of the movie. Choose between what happens to E.T. on his planet, and what happens on Earth to Elliott, Michael and Gertie.
E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial is a movie like "The Wizard of Oz," that you can grow up with and grow old with, and it won't let you down. It tells a story about friendship and love. Some people are a little baffled when they hear it described: It's about a relationship between a little boy and a creature from outer space that becomes his best friend. That makes it sound like a cross between "The Thing" and "National Velvet." It is filled with innocence, hope, and good cheer. It is also wickedly funny and exciting as hell. "E.T. The Extra-Terrestrial" is a movie like "The Wizard of Oz," that you can grow up with and grow old with, and it won't let you down. It tells a story about friendship and love. E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial (also referred to simply as E.T.) is a 1982 adventure video game developed and published by Atari, Inc. for the Atari 2600 video game console. It is based on the film of the same name, and was designed by Howard Scott Warshaw. The objective of the game is to guide the eponymous character through various screens to collect three pieces of an interplanetary telephone that will allow him to contact his home planet.