

Dewey and the Alien

This is a made-up story to explain how Melvil Dewey organised his books.

One day, while Dewey was walking in the park, he saw a spaceship land. He was terrified and ran to hide behind a tree. Then an alien stepped out of the spaceship.

Dewey went up to the alien and said “Who are you?” The alien replied, “Who are you?” They were thinking about themselves – which is *Psychology and Philosophy* that we find in the 100s.

Dewey and the alien were puzzled when they looked and saw how different they were from each other. They wondered to themselves, “Where did he come from?” This wondering is *Religion and Mythology* that we find in the 200s.

Dewey decided to take the alien to the government so they could learn how to get along together. This is *Social Sciences* that we find in the 300s.

Dewey and the alien knew they needed to learn each other’s languages so they could communicate. We will find *Languages* in the 400s.

Dewey and the alien went for a walk and Dewey explained all about life on planet Earth. Learning about the world around us is *Natural Sciences* that we find in the 500s.

Then Dewey explained to the alien that humans have changed nature to make life easier. How we can invent things to make nature useful is *Applied Science* that we find in the 600s.

Dewey explained to the alien that technology has made life easier on planet earth. This gives us more free time to do what we want. We will find *Art, Sports and Hobbies* in the 700s.

Dewey told the alien that, with all this spare time, humans have written poems, stories and plays. This is *Literature* that we find in the 800s.

Finally, Dewey told the alien all the interesting things about the places on planet Earth and what had happened in the past. This is *History and Geography* that we find in the 900s.

Dewey and the alien made a scrapbook about their day together. The alien asked where the scrapbook should go as there was so much different information in it. Dewey said it should go with encyclopedias in *General Works* that can be found right at the beginning in the 000s, as it told the whole story of their day.

