

Section 2 - Feathered Friend

1. Why did Sven keep the bird a secret from his colleagues ?

Although there were no rules against pets, Sven did not want to part with his pet. So he tried to hide her.

2. How was the presence of the bird discovered?

Claribel was discovered when the narrator was working at his cubbyhole and he heard a musical whistle. He thought it was a radio transmission but was surprised to find a yellow canary.

3. Why did the crew want to hide the bird from the VIPs from Earth? How did they deal with the issue?

Finding a canary at a space station would have been odd, so the crew decided to hide Claribel from the VIPs. There was no dearth of hiding places in the station and when Claribel became noisy, they made up excuses for the whistling sounds.

4. What was the alarm meant for? What caused its failure?

The alarm was meant to indicate the presence of any toxic gas in the air or a reduction in oxygen levels. Due to an eclipse part of the air purifier had frozen up. The alarm that had been working failed to go off and the other alarm had not been connected yet.

5. How was the space different from life on Earth?

On Earth, there is gravity so we can walk on the ground. There is enough oxygen in the air for us to breathe without the help of masks. This makes it easy for us to work without having to wear heavy spacesuits. In space, there is neither gravity nor oxygen, which makes a space suit mandatory. Working in a spacesuit is cumbersome.