**Vocabulary:** cache, forebodings, foray, surround, impunity, uncouth, knoll, conglomeration, incoherent,deft, fabricate, invariable, ricochet, futile, implacable, inevitable, haste, apprehension, protuberance, inexorable, potent, calibrate, frenetic, precision, macabre,

Journal:

**Through advances in technology, we have many computerized and robotic products that perform “thinking” tasks. Could such inventions be harmful to people in any way? Support your opinion with specific reasons why or why not.**

Questions:

1. A short prologue precedes the main story. Describe the key events in the prologue. When do they take place?
2. How does the worried officer describe the planet on which the Type H-9 Ruum was mistakenly left?
3. What does Jim see that makes him “stiffen to a halt”? What realization makes him break out in perspiration?
4. Based on what happens at the end of the story, why is this fact significant?
5. Determine Jim's probable weight over the course of the story. Why is his weight significant?
6. Eventually the ruum catches Jim. Describe what the ruum does with him. What revelation that comes so neatly in the last line explains why it acts this way?
7. Evaluate how effective the author is in creating a terrifying pursuer. Support your opinion with examples from the text.

**8. Consider the following statements, and explain in a short multi sentence answer why you agree or disagree with them:**

**8A. Science fiction often echoes our own worries, and “The Ruum” clearly springs from these**

**8B. It is unnatural for Jim to give up as he does.**