

Week beginning: 18-5-20

Class and Subject: **English**

SEN Teacher: Ms. Hogan



ST. PATRICK'S GIRLS NATIONAL SCHOOL  
GARDINER'S HILL, CORK

**The suggested work below is to be carried out over a week. Don't worry if you don't get it all done. Uncompleted work could be carried on to the following week. Try your best.**

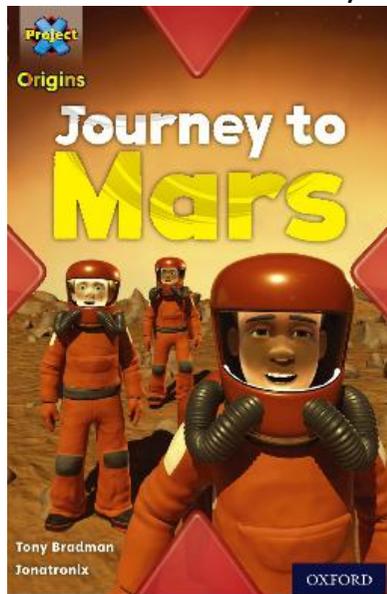
**Week  
8**

### **Phonics**

In the poly pocket I gave you, you will find some worksheets with phonics activities. Continue working on these. One page a day.

### **Reading**

Read the book 'Journey to Mars' at the end of page



**Comprehension questions to ask your daughter:**

**Before Reading:**

- Have you been to a science museum? What did you see and do there?
- What do you know about travelling in space?

**Read the blurb**



**After Reading**

1. Why were the children at the science museum?
2. What was Aunt Aisha worried about?
3. How did the children help her?
4. What did the children forget to do when they 'hurried' back to the spaceship?
5. Did you like the book? Why? Why not?

- **Predicting-** Before starting the book, discuss the cover and title- What do you think the story is going to be about?
- **Connecting-** Does that remind you of anything?
- **Comparing-** How is this different to when...?
- **Creating Images-** Draw a picture of your favourite scene so far. Draw a picture of your favourite character. Write a sentence under each picture explaining why you liked that event/character.
- **Skimming** – Have a quick look and tell me what you think the story is going to be about?
- **Scanning** – Can you find where it says Biff's friend's name? Can you find a word that means big?
- **Re-reading-** We're going to read this page again and watch out for all the full stops. We will try to read with expression.

**Things to do if we are stuck on a word**

- **Sounding out-** let's sound out the letters
- **Reading on-** Let's skip that word for a minute and see if the rest of the sentences helps us figure out what it is.
- **Chunking-**Let's break this word into parts e.g. to-get-her – together.

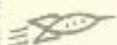
**Reading Response**

**Sentence Starters**



- I began to think of .....
- I love the way .....
- I can't believe .....
- I wonder why .....
- My favourite character is .....
- That reminded me of .....

## Chapter 1 — Ant's surprise



Max, Cat and Tiger were waiting for Ant in the lobby of the Greenville museum.

"This is so cool," said Tiger, blinking in surprise. "The museum has changed completely since I was last here."

"It is amazing," agreed Cat. "I can't wait to do the real science experiments. But I'm dying to know why we're here before the proper opening next week. Ant's text message didn't say much. What do you think he's got planned?"

"We're about to find out," said Max. "Here's Ant now ..."



Ant was just coming through the museum doors. He turned to wave goodbye to his parents then hurried over to meet the others.

"Hi, guys!" he said. "I hope you haven't been waiting long?"

"No, we've only just arrived," said Max.

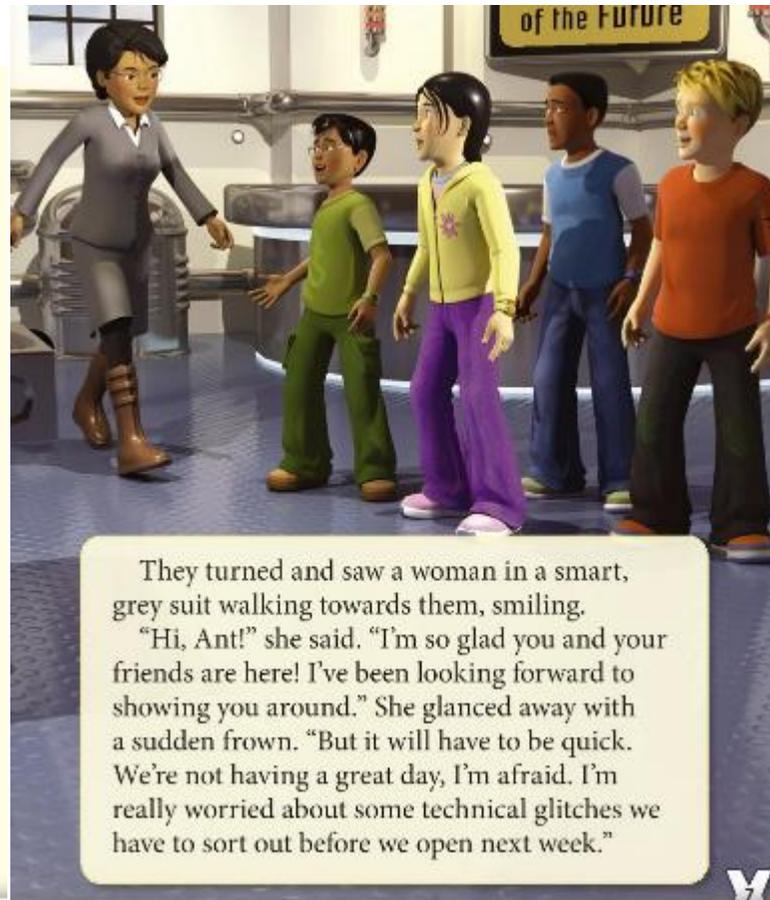
"So, Ant," said Tiger. "What's our surprise?"

"Well, guess who has a new job running the museum?" said Ant. "It's my Aunt Aisha. She's really cool. It was her idea to transform the old Greenville museum into *The Museum of the Future*."

"So, what's our surprise?" prompted Tiger.

"Aisha is going to give us a sneak preview of the special exhibition. We'll get to know how it works behind the scenes before anyone else has even seen it!"

They heard footsteps behind them.



They turned and saw a woman in a smart, grey suit walking towards them, smiling.

"Hi, Ant!" she said. "I'm so glad you and your friends are here! I've been looking forward to showing you around." She glanced away with a sudden frown. "But it will have to be quick. We're not having a great day, I'm afraid. I'm really worried about some technical glitches we have to sort out before we open next week."



Aisha began a quick tour of the museum, talking as she walked.

“This is the main gallery,” she said, proudly. “It’s full of hands-on experiments.”

Cat headed towards a giant machine that had all sorts of different levers, pulleys, cogs and wheels. She had just reached up to pull a huge lever when Tiger cried:

“Is that where we’re going today?” He pointed excitedly to the double doors at the far end of the gallery. Above them the sign said: *JOURNEY TO MARS*.

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“That’s what I wanted you to see,” said Aisha. “It’s our star exhibition. I’m sure it’s going to be fantastic, but ...”

Just then Aisha’s phone rang. She answered it – then her eyes grew wide.

“Oh, no!” she groaned. “I don’t believe it! That’s really, really bad news ...”

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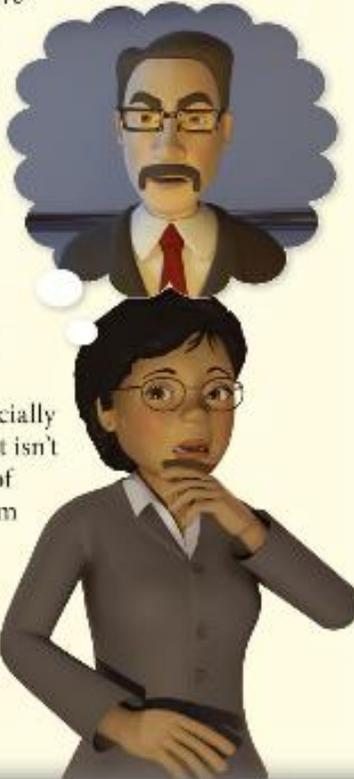
## Chapter 2 – Crisis

"What's wrong, Aunt Aisha?" asked Ant, worried. "Are you OK?"

"No, I'm not," sighed Aisha. "This is the worst thing that could possibly have happened to us – especially after we've all worked so hard. You see, we're funded by sponsors, SuperCorp. The boss of SuperCorp is a stern man called Mr Grey. He's about to visit us – he'll be here in less than half an hour!"

"I don't get it," said Max, puzzled. "Why is that such bad news?"

"Because he's coming specially to see *Journey to Mars* and it isn't working! We've spent a lot of money doing up the museum and he might think we've wasted it. If he takes our funding away the whole project will be doomed," Aisha said, desperately.



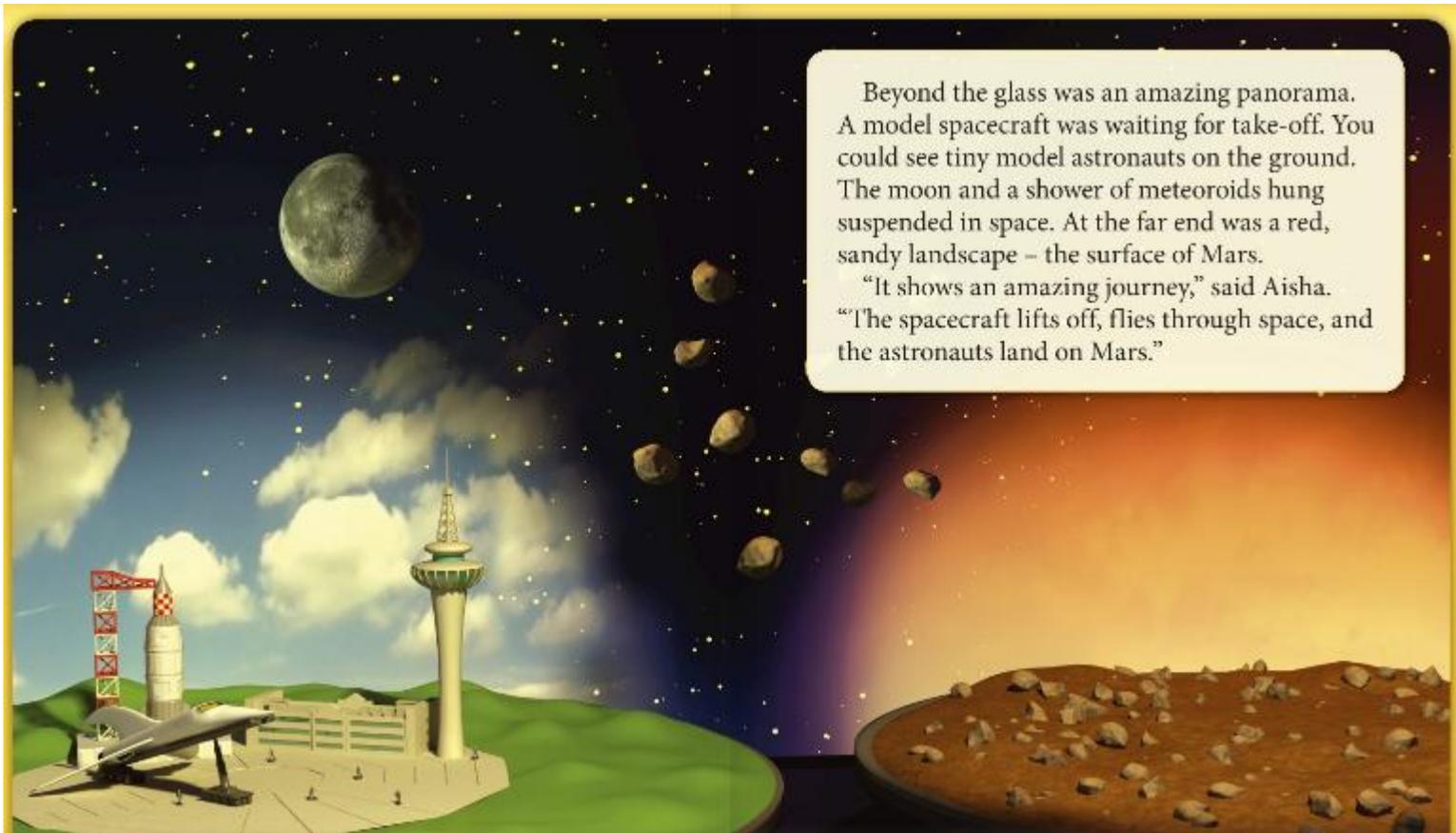
"What exactly is wrong with the exhibit?" asked Ant. "Can we still see it?"

"OK," said Aisha, trying to smile. "Come on, I'll show you."

Aisha opened the doors and they went into a large, dark hall. She pressed a switch and lights came on over a vast model that stretched right to the back of the room.

"Wow, it's brilliant!" said Tiger, as he pressed his face against a smooth glass panel.





Beyond the glass was an amazing panorama. A model spacecraft was waiting for take-off. You could see tiny model astronauts on the ground. The moon and a shower of meteoroids hung suspended in space. At the far end was a red, sandy landscape – the surface of Mars.

“It shows an amazing journey,” said Aisha.

“The spacecraft lifts off, flies through space, and the astronauts land on Mars.”

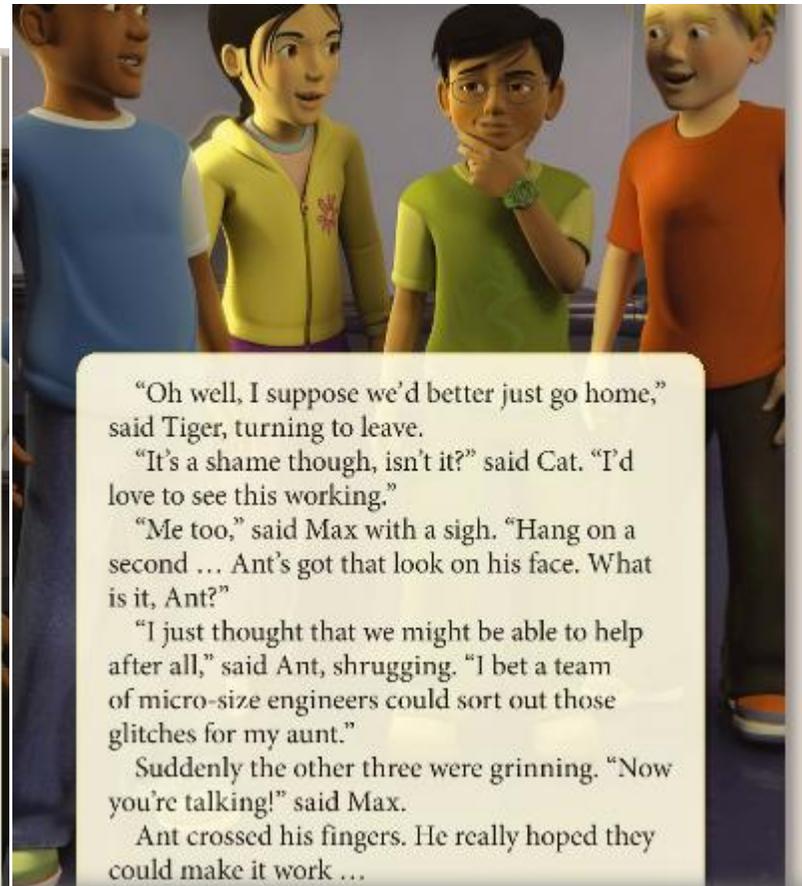
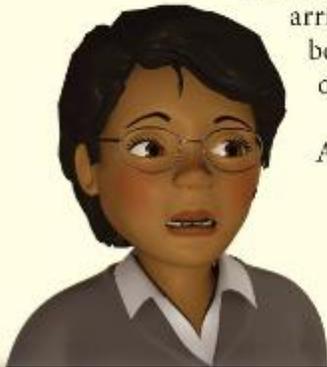
"Well, I think it looks really great," said Cat. "Surely Mr Grey will be impressed?"

"But it's full of glitches," sighed Aisha. "Nothing moves properly. The computer controls are all working but the spacecraft seems to be jammed – we just can't get it to take off. Some of the wires keep coming loose, too."

The children looked at her. "What are you going to do?" said Max.

"I've got no idea," replied Aisha, miserably. "Anyway, I'm afraid I'm going to have to go and sort some things out before Mr Grey arrives. I'm so sorry your day has been spoilt. Can you find your own way out?"

They said they could, and Aisha hurried off.



"Oh well, I suppose we'd better just go home," said Tiger, turning to leave.

"It's a shame though, isn't it?" said Cat. "I'd love to see this working."

"Me too," said Max with a sigh. "Hang on a second ... Ant's got that look on his face. What is it, Ant?"

"I just thought that we might be able to help after all," said Ant, shrugging. "I bet a team of micro-size engineers could sort out those glitches for my aunt."

Suddenly the other three were grinning. "Now you're talking!" said Max.

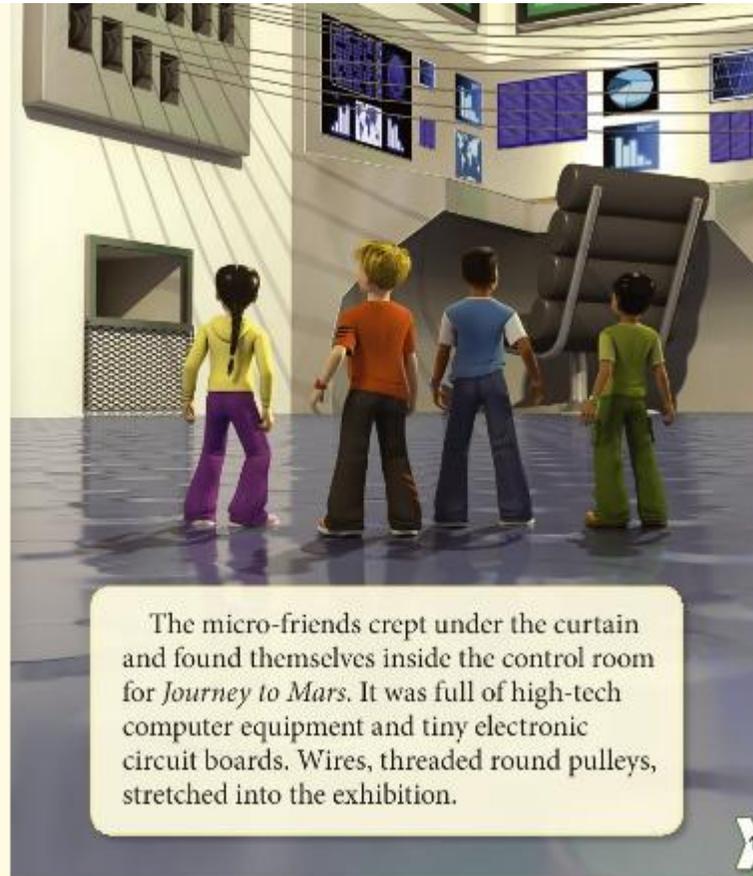
Ant crossed his fingers. He really hoped they could make it work ...

## Chapter 3 – Loose connections

Seconds later, the children turned the dials on their special watches and were soon micro-sized.

Max scouted round to find a way to get inside the display. “Quick, over here,” he said.

Off to one side of the floor-to-ceiling glass panel was a thick, heavy curtain.



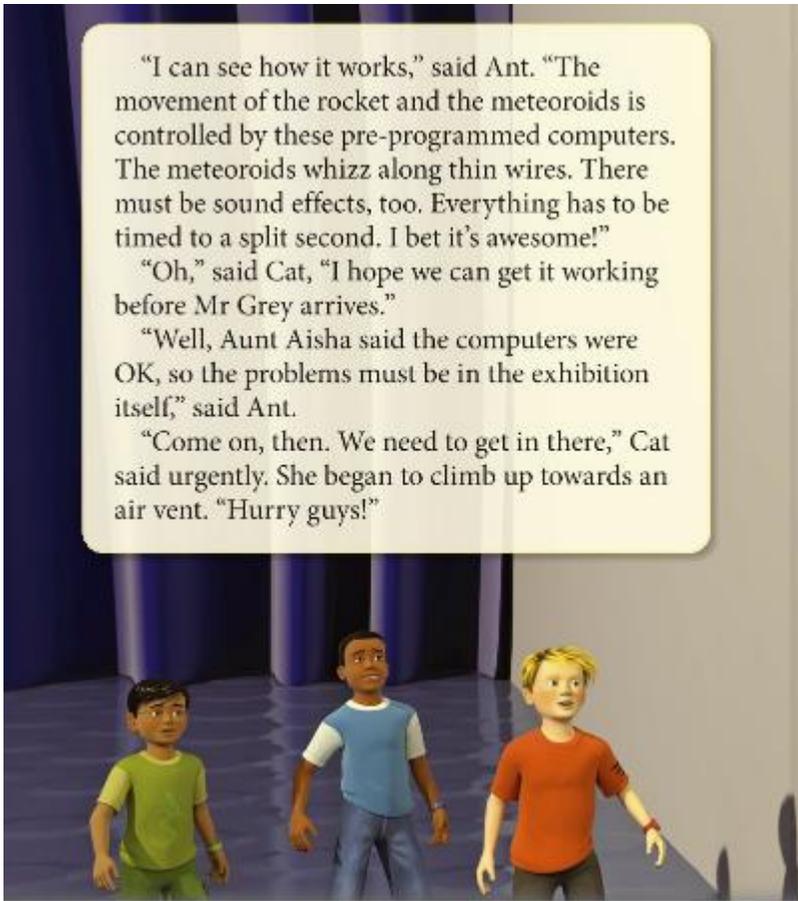
The micro-friends crept under the curtain and found themselves inside the control room for *Journey to Mars*. It was full of high-tech computer equipment and tiny electronic circuit boards. Wires, threaded round pulleys, stretched into the exhibition.

"I can see how it works," said Ant. "The movement of the rocket and the meteoroids is controlled by these pre-programmed computers. The meteoroids whizz along thin wires. There must be sound effects, too. Everything has to be timed to a split second. I bet it's awesome!"

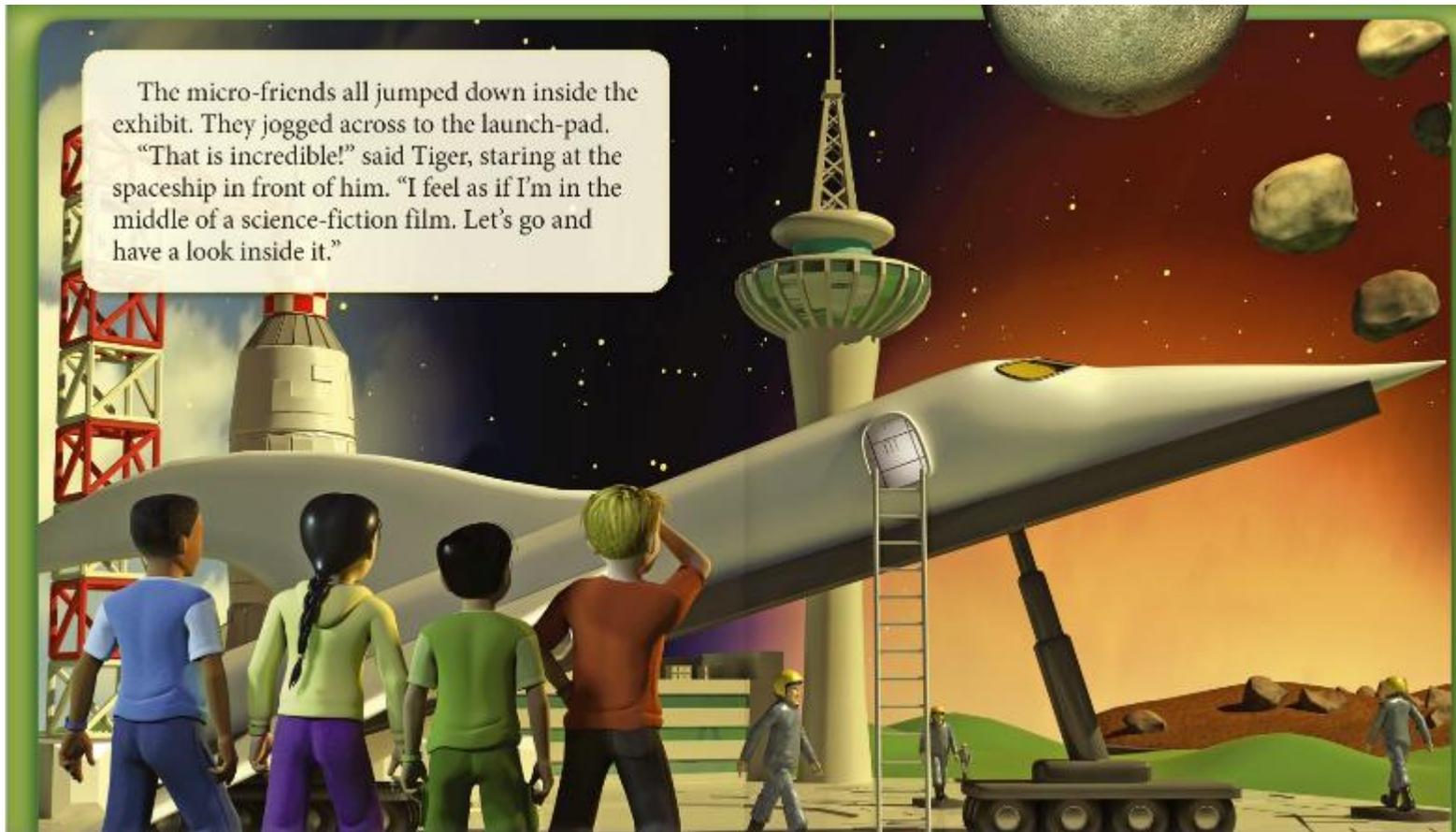
"Oh," said Cat, "I hope we can get it working before Mr Grey arrives."

"Well, Aunt Aisha said the computers were OK, so the problems must be in the exhibition itself," said Ant.

"Come on, then. We need to get in there," Cat said urgently. She began to climb up towards an air vent. "Hurry guys!"



The micro-friends all jumped down inside the exhibit. They jogged across to the launch-pad.  
“That is incredible!” said Tiger, staring at the spaceship in front of him. “I feel as if I’m in the middle of a science-fiction film. Let’s go and have a look inside it.”



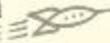
“First things first, Tiger,” said Max. “We’ve got an important mission to complete – Operation Blitz Those Glitches. We need to split up and inspect every area of the display. Then we’ll know exactly what we have to do.”

Tiger rolled his eyes but didn’t argue. They headed off. After a while they came back to report. Most of the glitches were pretty minor, but they were all things that full-sized people would find hard to reach – tiny loose connections, a hidden cable chewed by a mouse, crumbs from a sandwich that a careless workman had dropped.

Max divided up all the jobs among the four of them, and they set to work.



## Chapter 4 – Surprise on the control deck



It wasn't long before Max had finished his jobs. He went to find the others. Cat had finished too and so had Ant.

"Where's Tiger?" said Max, frowning. "I hope he has been doing his jobs properly."

"The last time I saw him he was heading for the spaceship," said Cat.

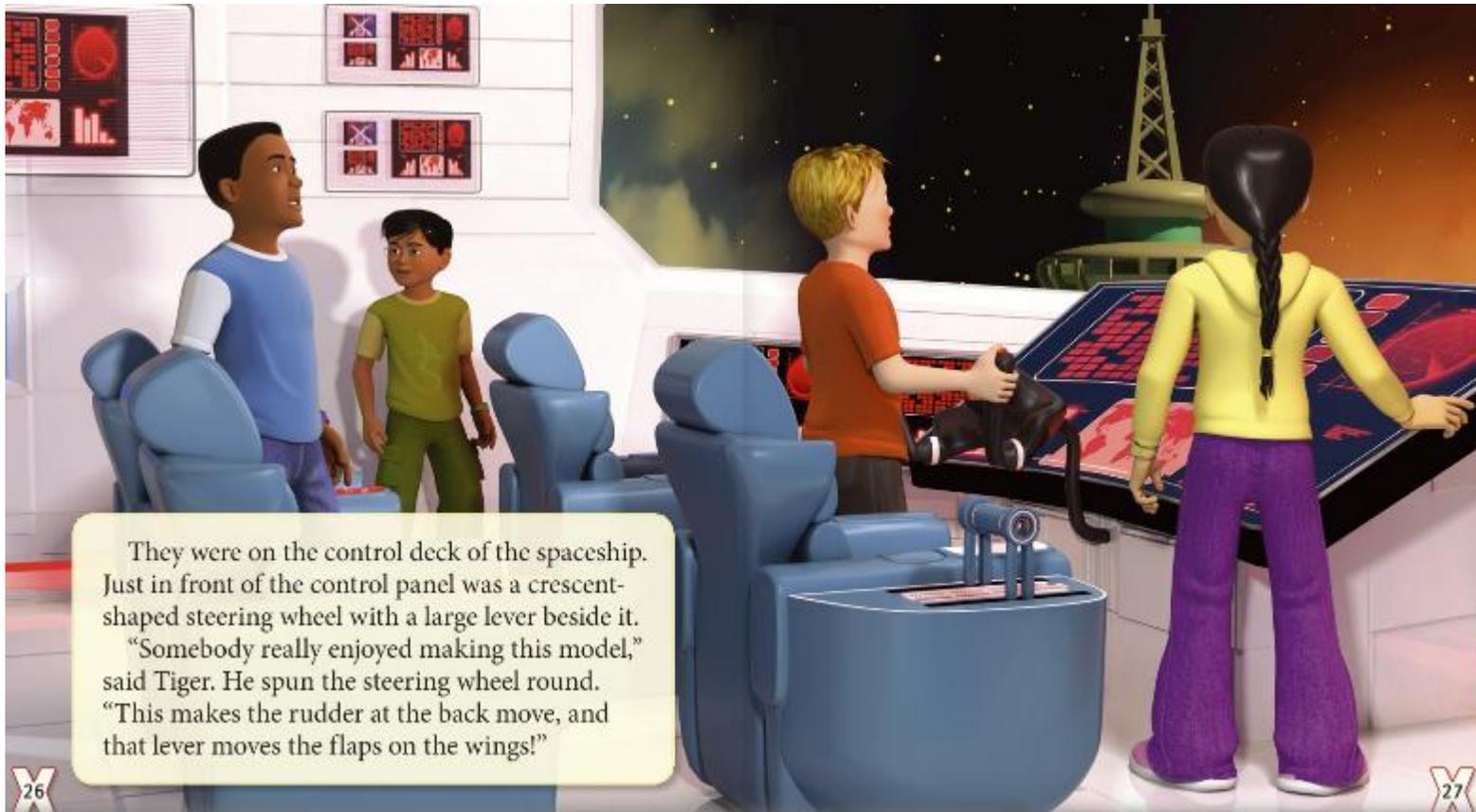
"Oh, was he now?" said Max. "I'll bet he hasn't done any of the things he was supposed to."

Max strode off toward the spaceship with Cat and Ant hurrying after him. The main hatch of the spaceship was open, and they climbed up the ladder.



"Hi, Max!" said Tiger, grinning. "I finished the jobs you gave me, so I didn't think you'd mind if I came in here for a while. It's great, isn't it?"

"Er ... no problem, Tiger," said Max, feeling a little guilty. "And yes, it is great. I didn't realize it would have so much detail. It looks as if we could actually fly this thing!"



They were on the control deck of the spaceship. Just in front of the control panel was a crescent-shaped steering wheel with a large lever beside it. "Somebody really enjoyed making this model," said Tiger. He spun the steering wheel round. "This makes the rudder at the back move, and that lever moves the flaps on the wings!"

Ant opened a door at the rear of the cockpit. He yelped as a figure in a spacesuit toppled out.

"Relax, Ant!" said Cat, laughing. "Anyone can see it's just another model astronaut."

"That door leads to the hold," said Tiger. "There are three more figures in it and some scientific equipment. I think that when the spaceship lands, the model astronauts slide out of the hold doors on to the surface of Mars."

"Then will they do anything?" asked Max.

"No, they're not wired up or remote-controlled."

"Oh well," said Max. "Come on then, guys, I think we've probably done everything we can here. Time for us to make tracks –"

"Freeze everybody!" Cat hissed suddenly.

The doors of the gallery had just opened. In walked three grown-ups.



## Chapter 5 – *Blast Off!*



One of the grown-ups was Aisha. The second grown-up was Mr Grey. The third was a photographer who had come to take photographs for publicity posters and for the museum's new website. They came right up to the glass wall. The children could see Mr Grey peering at the display.



"Psst, do you think they can see us?" whispered Cat. "They're very close!"

"We should be OK," Max whispered back. "As long as we stay still."

After a few moments Tiger hissed, "Please hurry up ... I've got to move soon."

"It's all right, they're not looking this way any more," said Ant. "Phew!"

The four friends unfroze and quickly ducked behind the seats to hide.

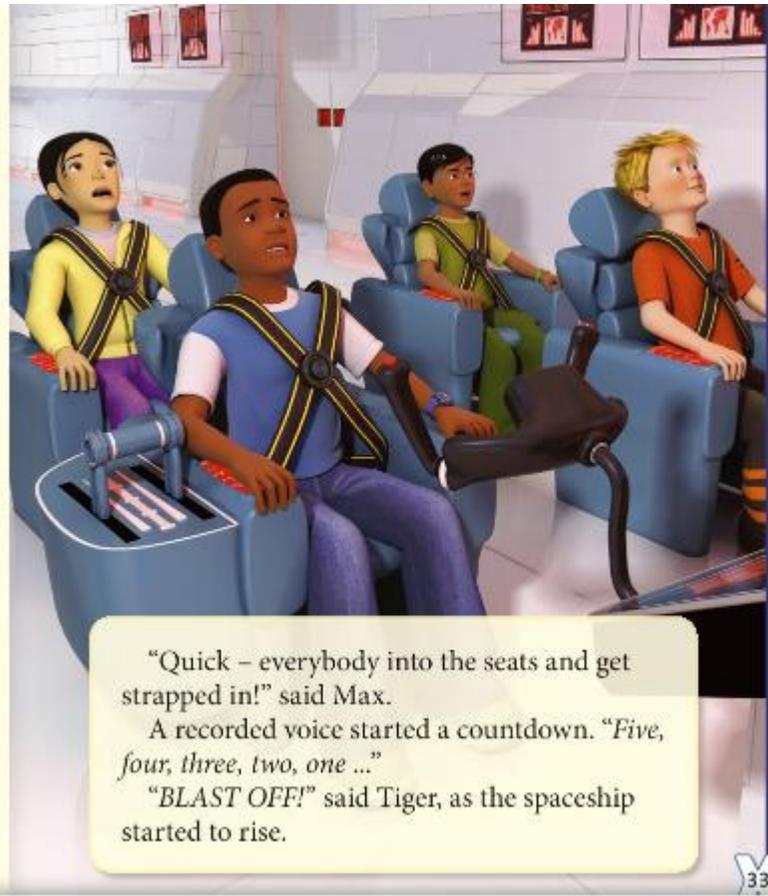
“What do we do now?” said Cat. “We can’t try and get out of the display while they’re in the gallery. It would be a disaster if they saw us micro-sized.”

“Well, we can stay here for now,” said Max. “We’ll be able to escape when they leave.”

“I like it ...” grinned Tiger. “I’ve always wanted to be an astronaut.”

“Hey, what’s that?” murmured Cat. “I can hear something humming.”

“Aunt Aisha must have turned on the power for the display!” said Ant.



“Quick – everybody into the seats and get strapped in!” said Max.

A recorded voice started a countdown. “Five, four, three, two, one ...”

“BLAST OFF!” said Tiger, as the spaceship started to rise.



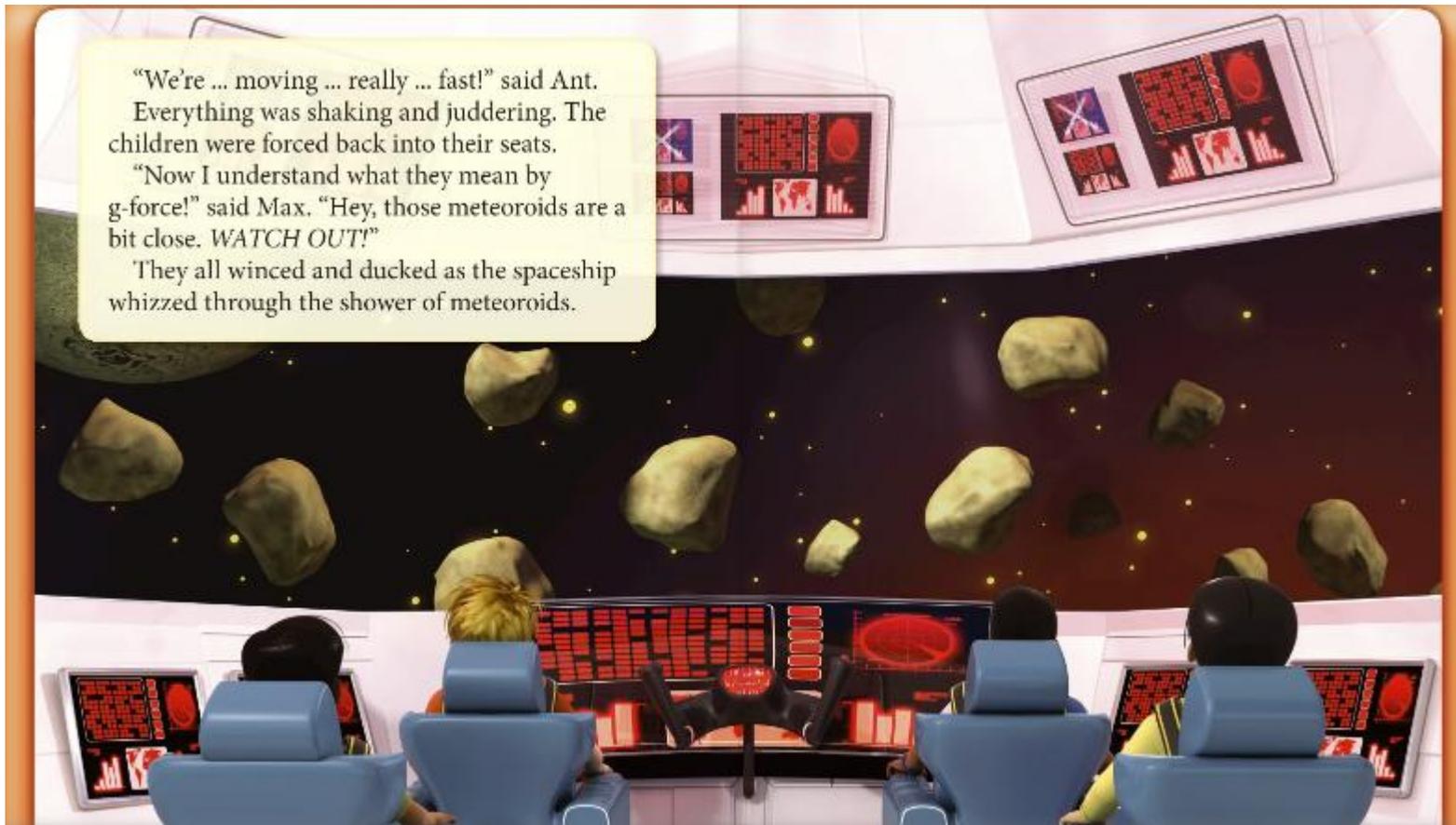
X 34

X 35

"We're ... moving ... really ... fast!" said Ant.  
Everything was shaking and juddering. The children were forced back into their seats.

"Now I understand what they mean by g-force!" said Max. "Hey, those meteoroids are a bit close. *WATCH OUT!*"

They all winced and ducked as the spaceship whizzed through the shower of meteoroids.



The spaceship stopped shaking quite so much, and soon the surface of Mars loomed up in front of them – they were about to land.

“Hey, I’ve got an idea!” said Tiger. “Why don’t we really pretend to be the crew? It would be a lot better than having those dummies standing around doing nothing, wouldn’t it?”

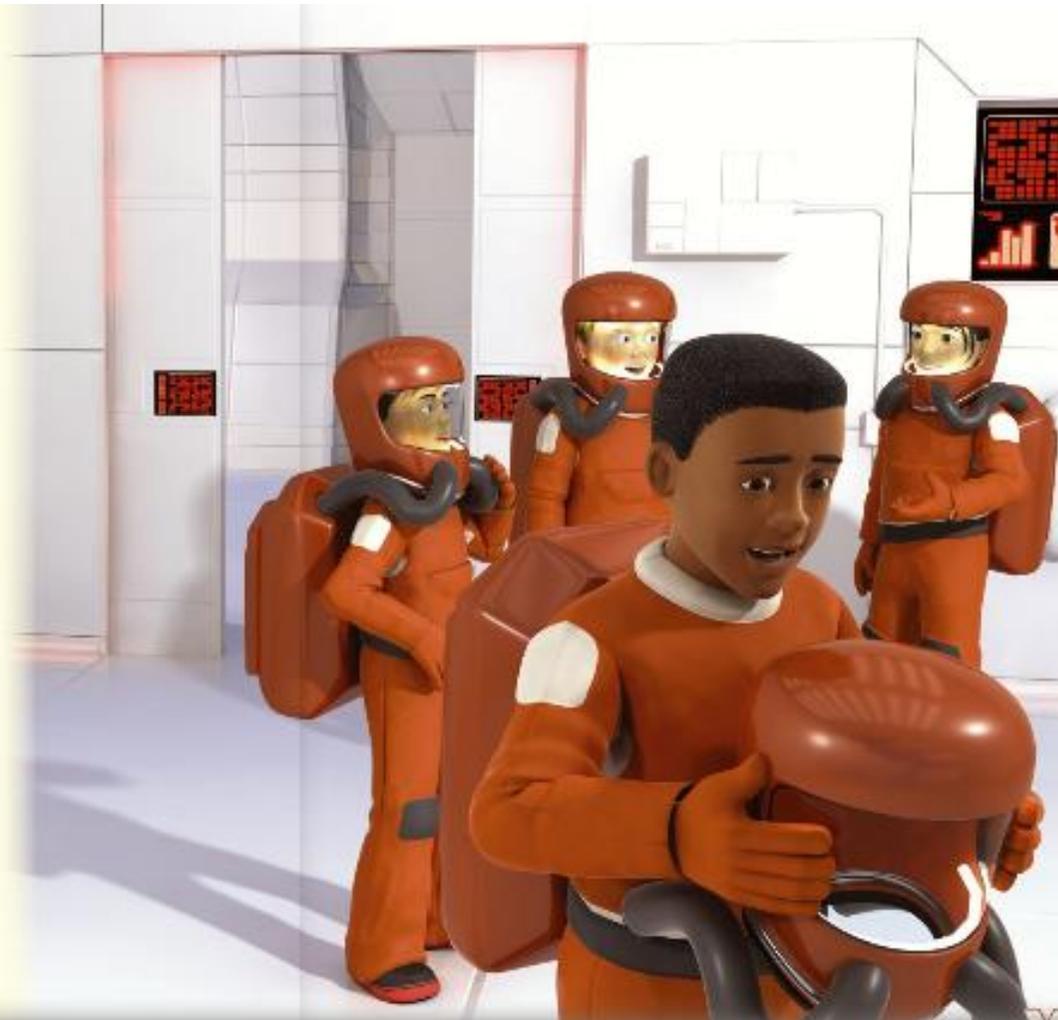
“Let’s do it,” said Max.

“Come on,” said Cat. “We need to get the spacesuits from the dummies quickly.”

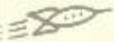
They just managed to pull the spacesuits on and hide the dummies in time. The spaceship came down with a *BUMP!* and the hold doors began to open.

“OK, everybody, remember you’re not real people,” Max whispered.

“And that we’re doing this to help Aunt Aisha,” said Ant. “Got it, Tiger?” He didn’t want Tiger to make things even worse for his aunt ...



## Chapter 6 – One giant leap



Ant needn't have worried. Tiger was the best at pretending. He climbed out of the spaceship and stepped on to the red sand of the pretend Mars. Then he slowly turned round to the others and gave them a big grin.

"That's a small step for a boy," he whispered. "But it's one giant leap for Tiger!"

"Remember, guys, the gravity on Mars is weaker than on Earth," Ant whispered back. "We all need to move slowly!"

They set up the scientific equipment round the spaceship. Ant had to admit that it all looked pretty authentic and everyone was moving in the right way.

"I think it's working, Ant!" said Cat. She nodded in the direction of the glass wall. "The boss from SuperCorp definitely looks very impressed."



Ant took a quick peek at the grown-ups. The boss was staring keenly at the display.

"That's amazing," they heard him say. "It's unbelievable."

"Yes, indeed," said Aisha, her eyes almost popping out of her head.



Suddenly the children heard the humming noise again. "Oh, no!" said Max. "We should have thought about that – the spaceship is programmed to make the return journey to Earth. Quick, everyone – we'd better get back on board."

They hurried on to the spaceship, and the hold doors slammed shut behind them. Then the voice started the countdown once more, "*Five, four, three, two, one ...*" They blasted off, leaving the surface of Mars behind them.

Once again the spaceship shook and juddered as they dodged meteoroids.

"Hold on tightly!" said Max.

Soon the blue and green land of Earth came into view.

"I don't want to worry anyone," said Cat. "But aren't we moving too fast?"

"Er ... yes, we are!" said Tiger. "At this speed we'll crash!"

"And that will ruin everything!" said Ant. "We have to slow down."

"I'll take control!" said Max.



Max grabbed the wheel with one hand and tried to pull the lever with the other.

"I can't move the lever. It's stuck!" Max said desperately. For a moment the spaceship continued to pick up speed. Max took a deep breath and pulled hard on the lever again. With a long creak the lever finally began to move.

“Come on, come on ... slow down!” said Max, pulling as hard as he could. At last the flaps on the wings were lowered and the spaceship gradually began to slow – just in time to land. They touched down and the engines switched off.



“Great job, Max!” laughed Tiger.

“Thank you, Max,” said Cat and Ant together.

Max sat still for a moment to catch his breath.

“That was close,” he said.

“Look, Aisha and the others are leaving,” said Cat.

“Good,” said Ant. “It’s about time we got out of here ourselves.”

They quickly put the spacesuits back on the dummies and made their exit through the same air vent where they came in. A few moments later they emerged, normal size, inside the lobby of the museum. Ant’s parents were waiting there to collect them. As they left, Ant looked around for Aisha but he couldn’t see her anywhere.

## Chapter 7 – Later that evening



Ant still felt worried about Aisha. What if the man from SuperCorp didn't think the exhibition was any good after all? He decided to ring her.



"Hello, Aunt Aisha," he said. "Did the boss enjoy the exhibition?"

"He loved it!" Aisha said happily. "He told me he can't wait to bring his son to see it. I guess our tech guys managed to fix all the glitches. I'll have to get them to work on the Mars section, though – those figures didn't look realistic at all – they were moving far too quickly!"

"Oh, I'm sure you'll make a really good job of them," said Ant.

Aisha agreed. But she never found out why Ant was laughing so much ...

### After reading

Talk with your child about the book. Ask them:

- Why were the children at the science museum?
- What was Aunt Aisha worried about?
- How did the children help her?
- What did the children forget to do when they 'hurried' back to the spaceship?
- Did you like the book? Why or why not?

Encourage your child to retell the story in their own words. This will build their reading confidence and help develop their understanding.

### Other things to do

Why not visit a science museum or another museum with hands-on exhibits? If your child wants to, they could write a story about their experiences at the museum. They could also try acting out the scene from the book where the children are walking on the surface of Mars.