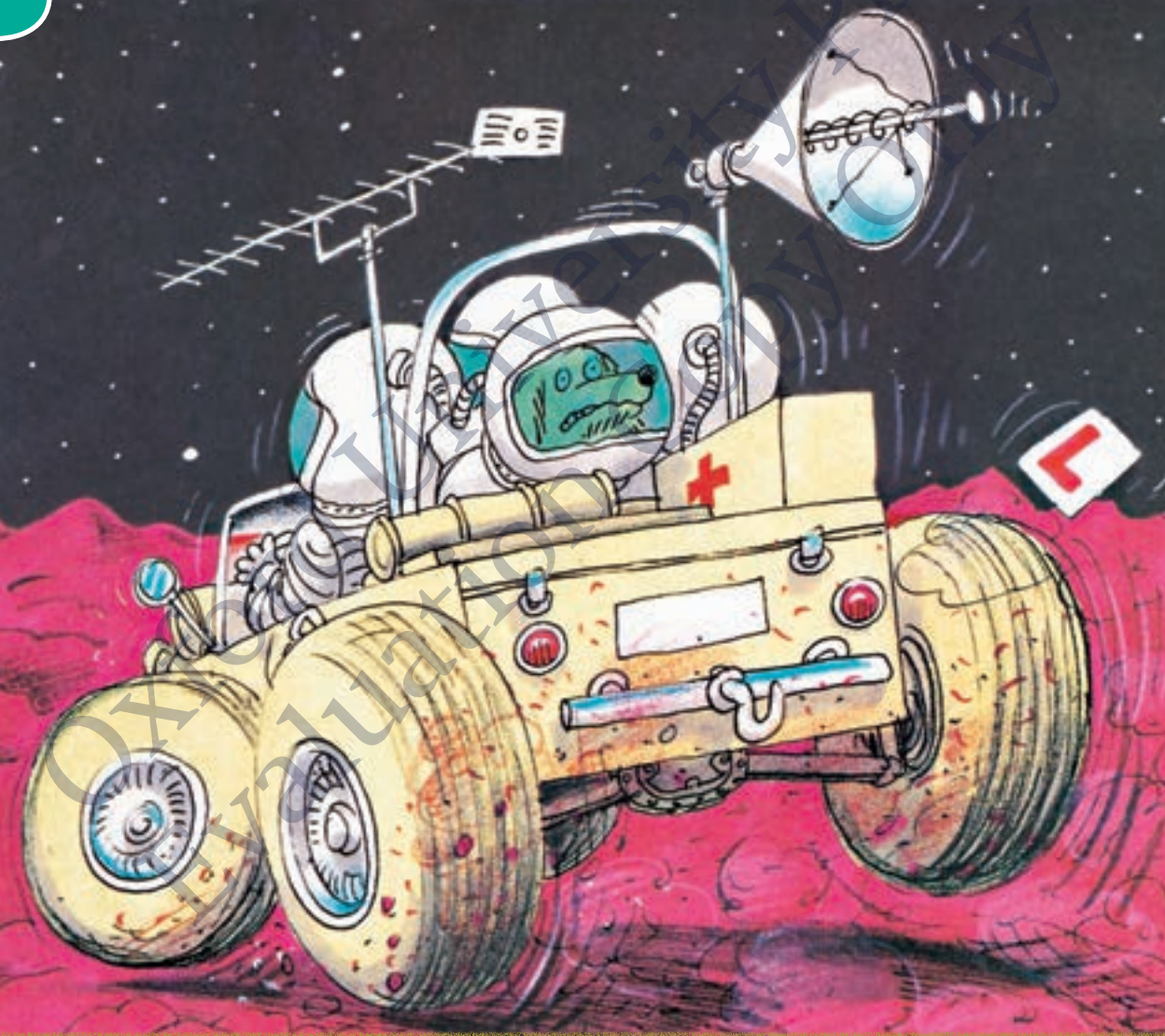


Red Planet





Written by Roderick Hunt
Illustrated by Alex Brychta

BEFORE READING

Talk together

- Look at the cover and read the title together. Talk about how Mars is sometimes called the *red planet*.
- Explain that Earth is a planet. Ask: *Do you know the names of any other planets?*
- Look through the book and talk about the pictures.

About the words in this book

- Your child will probably be able to read most of the words in this book. Encourage your child to sound out and blend any challenging words, such as those below. If necessary, model the blending or read the words for your child.

creatures pieces
spacesuits mountains

DURING READING

Enjoy the story together.
If your child needs support to read the story:

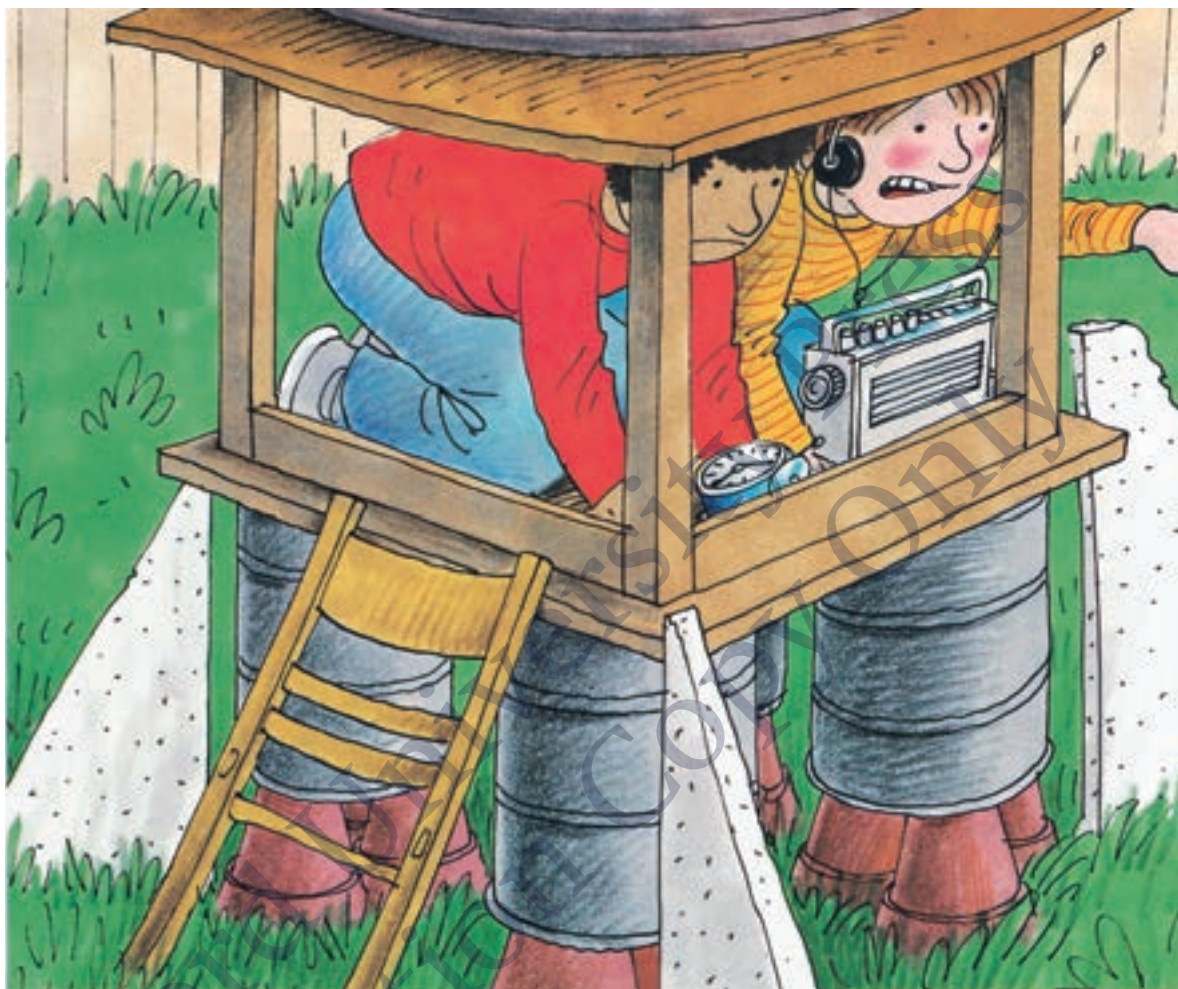
- Remind your child to blend unfamiliar words from left to right.
- If a word is still too tricky, simply say the whole word for your child.
- Re-read sentences to focus on their meaning where necessary.



See the inside back cover
for more ideas.

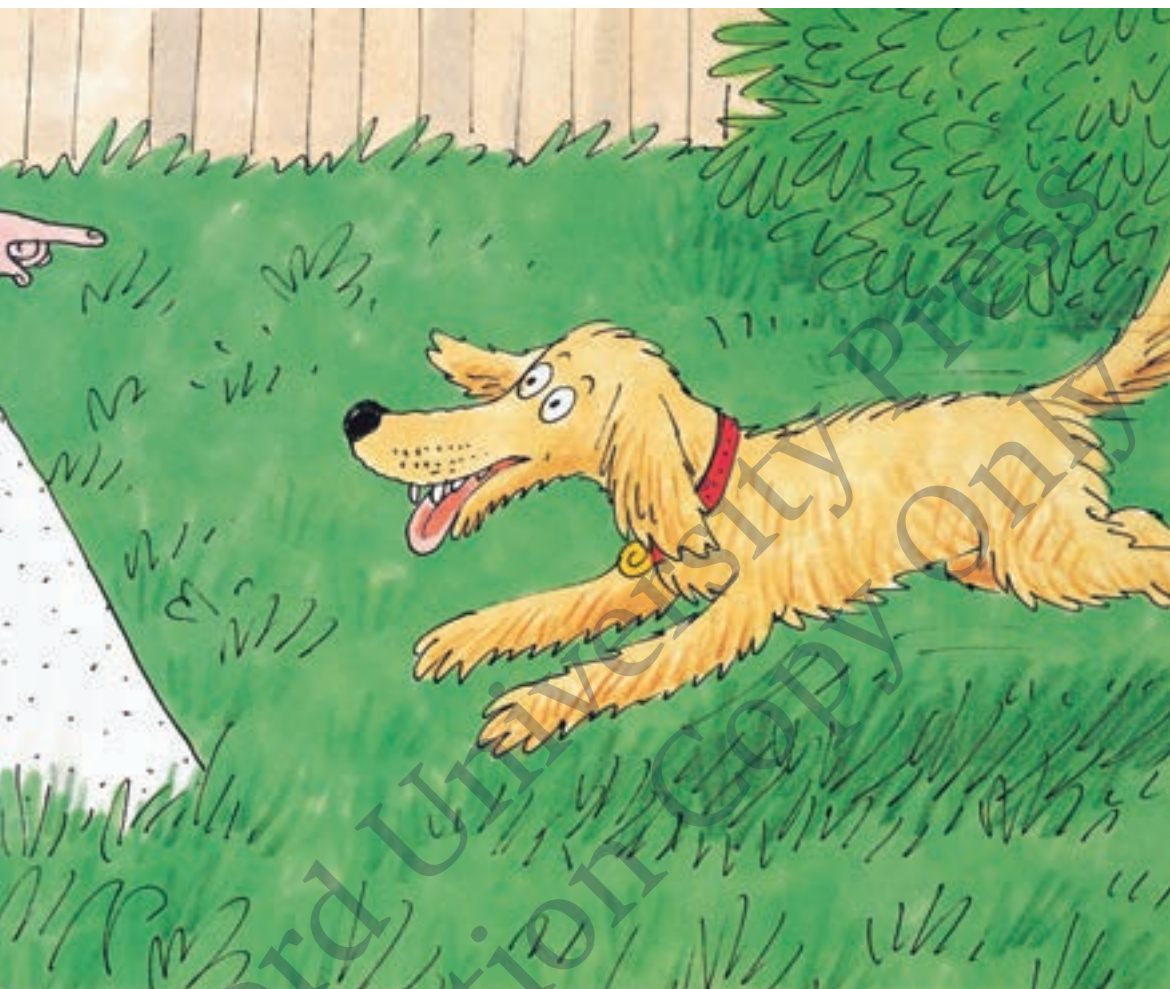


Wilf came to play with Chip. They made a rocket ship out of bits and pieces. The rocket ship looked quite good.



Wilf and Chip played in the rocket ship.
They pretended to be spacemen.

“The rocket is going to take off,” said
Wilf. “Five ... four ... three ... two ...”

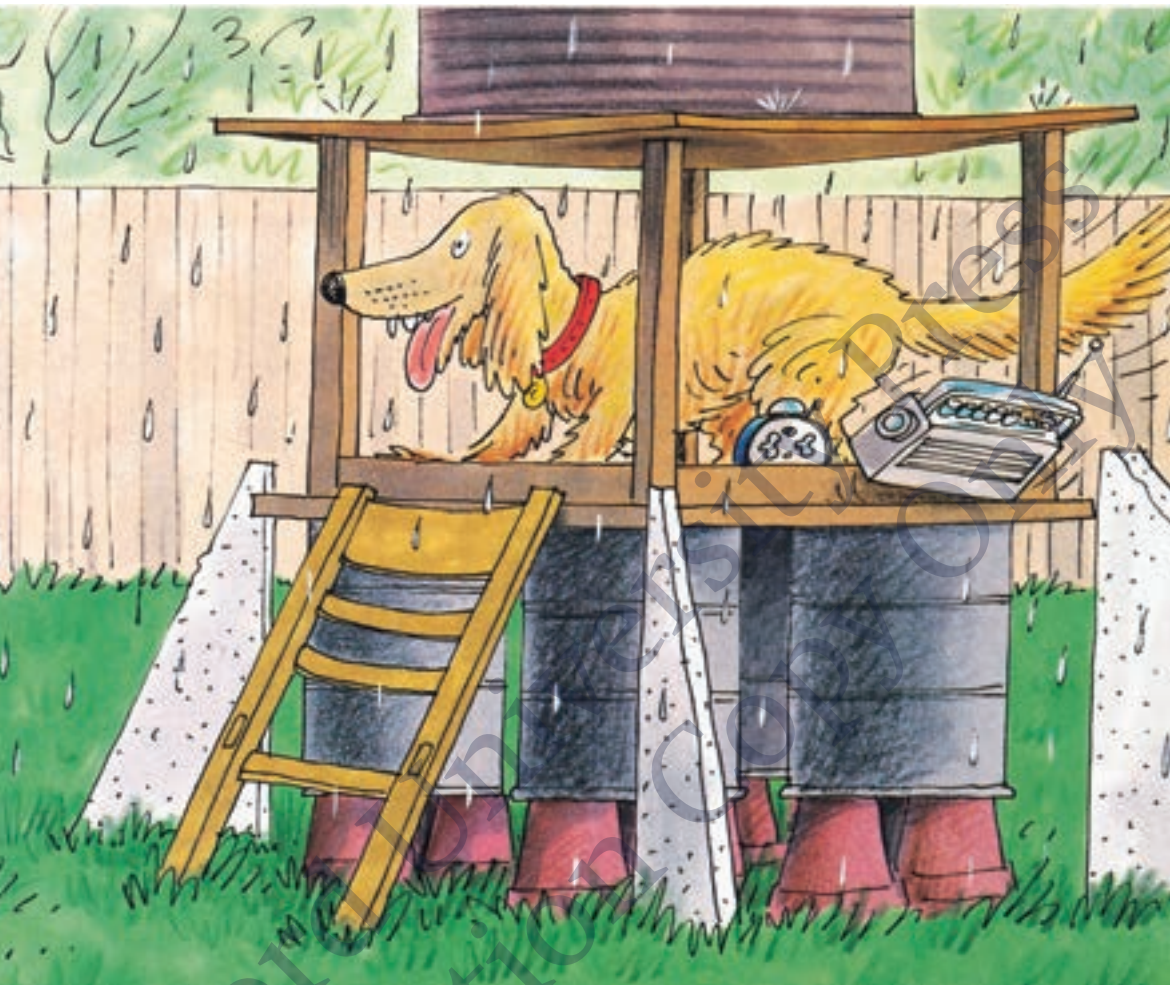


Floppy ran up. He wanted to get in the rocket ship with Wilf and Chip.

“Go away, Floppy,” called Chip. “The rocket is going to take off!”



Nadim came to play. He had his computer with him, but he liked the look of the rocket ship. He wanted to play in it too.



Just then, it began to rain.

“There’s not room for all of us,” said Chip. “Let’s go inside and play with Nadim’s computer.”

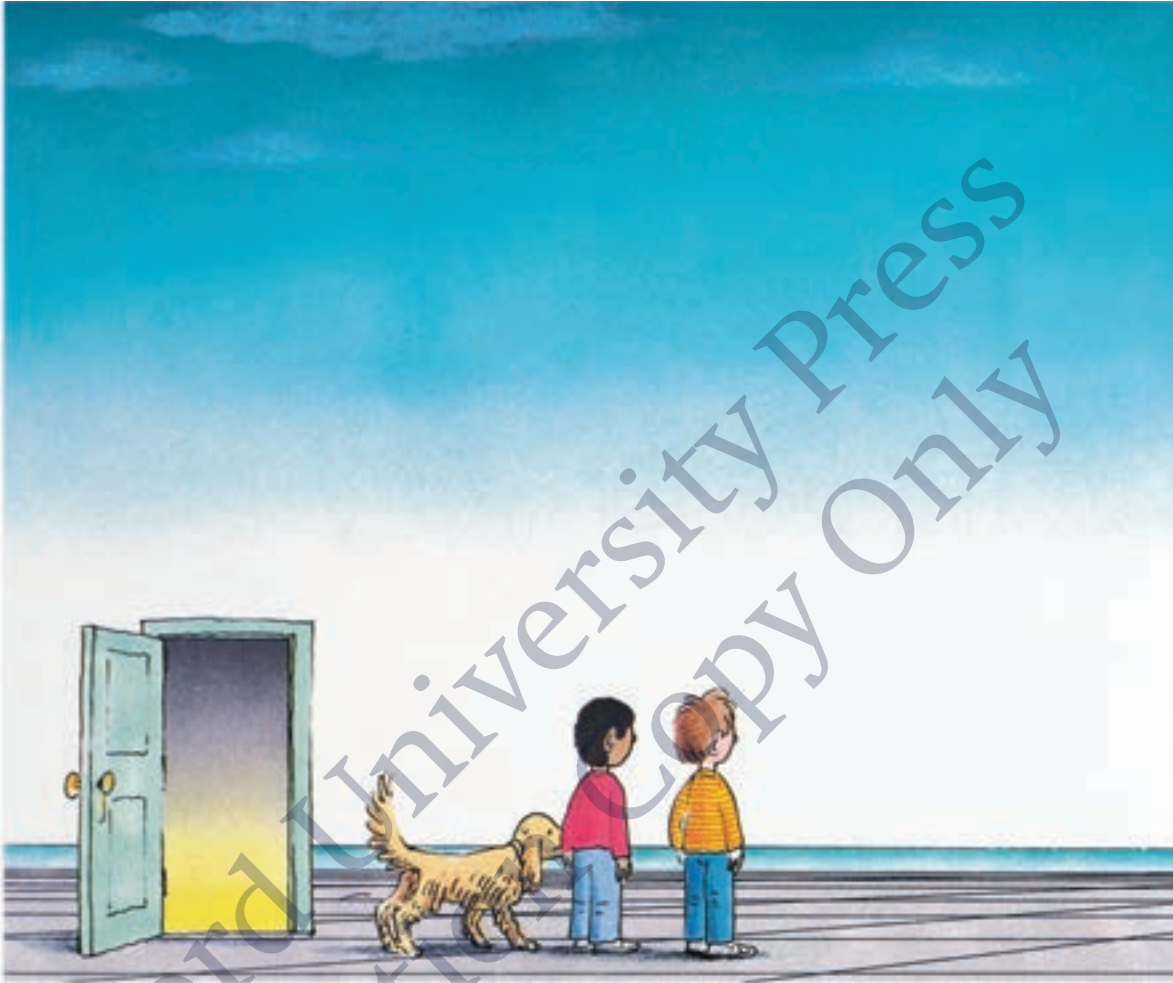


They played a game on the computer. It was called Red Planet. They had to land a rocket on the planet. Wilf and Chip crashed the rocket. Nadim didn't. He was good at the game.

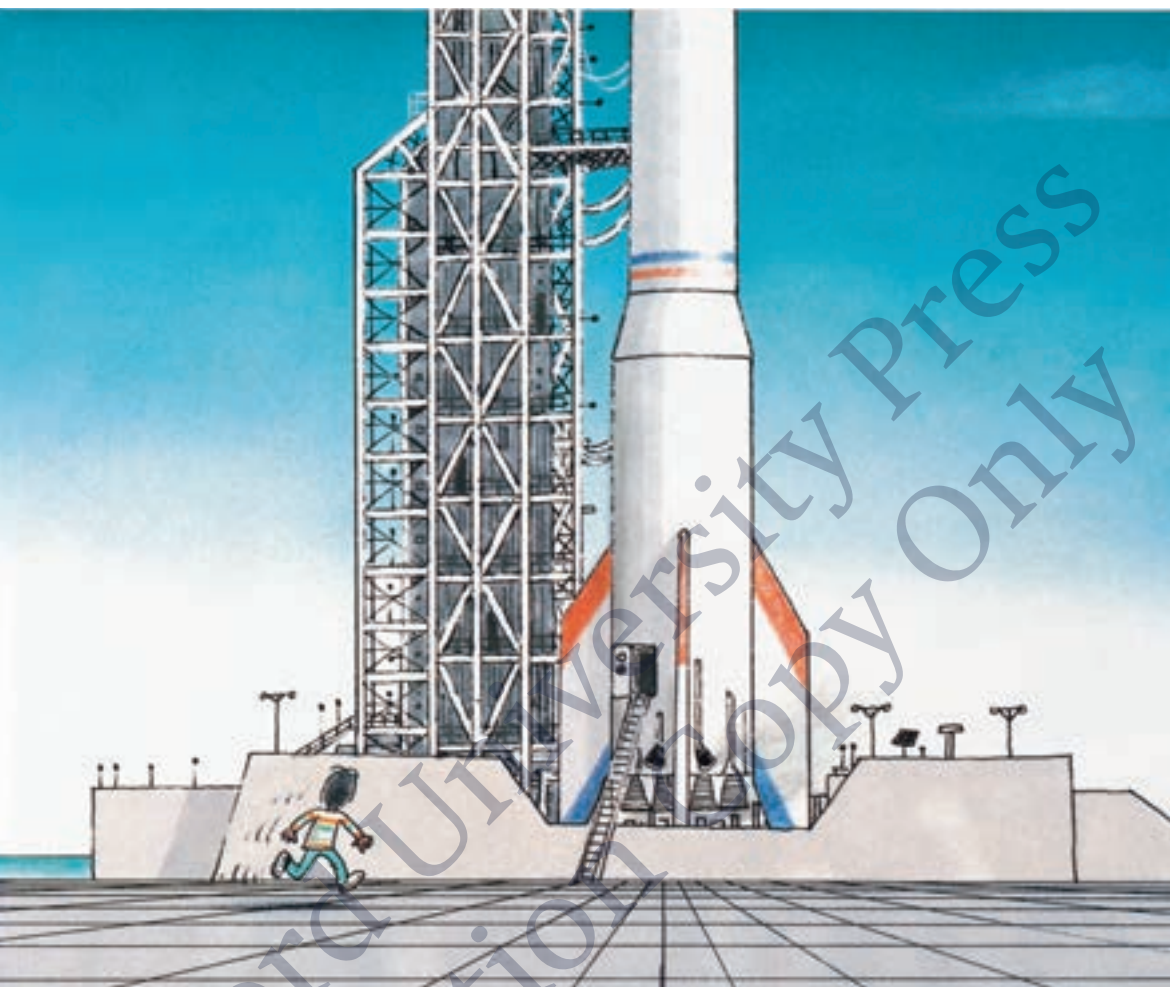


Suddenly, the magic key began to glow. Chip and Wilf pulled Nadim away from the computer and ran into Biff's room.

"Come on," called Chip. "It's time for an adventure."



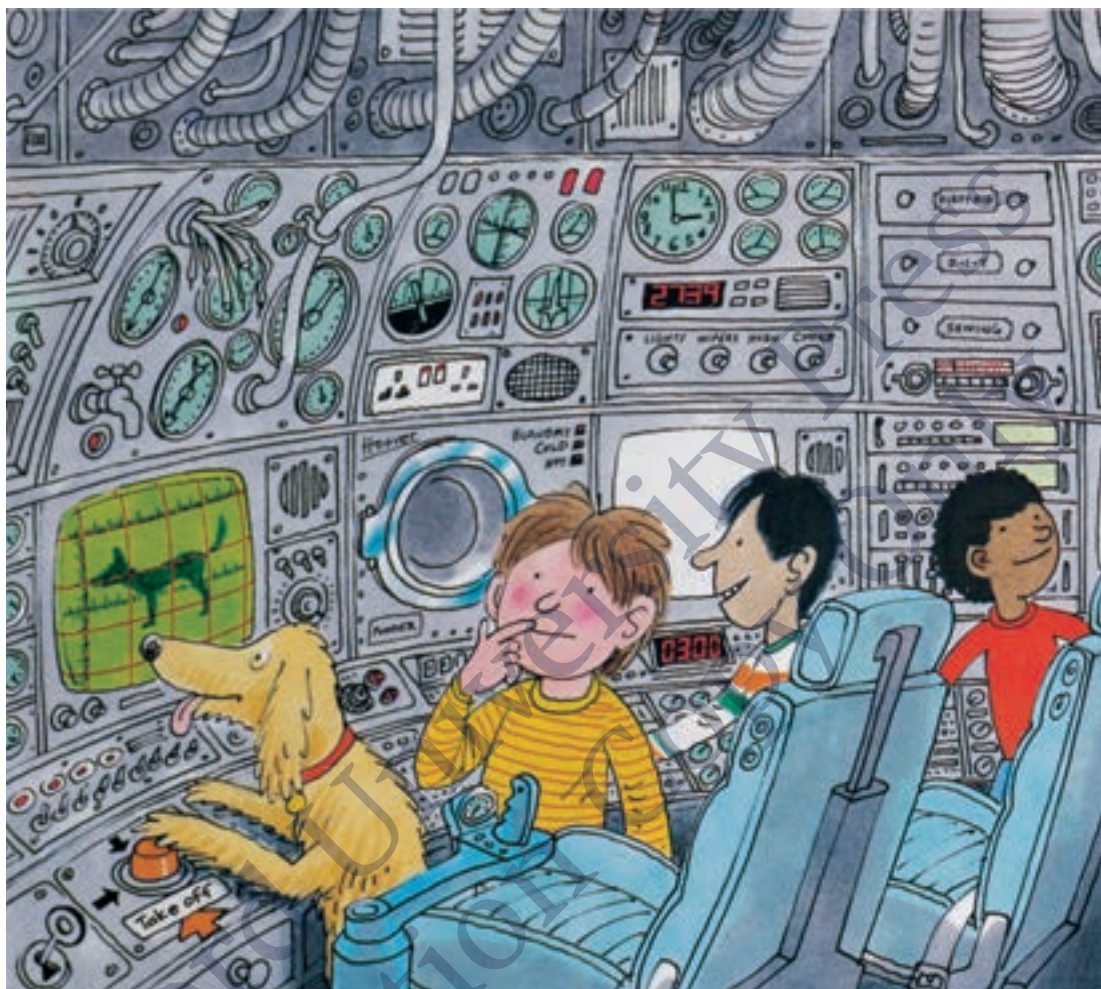
The magic took them to a rocket ship. It took Floppy too. The rocket looked as if it was about to take off, but the door was open. Nadim wanted to look inside the rocket.



“Come on,” he called.

Chip didn’t want to go inside. “It may not be safe,” he said.

“Why not?” said Nadim. “This is a magic adventure.”



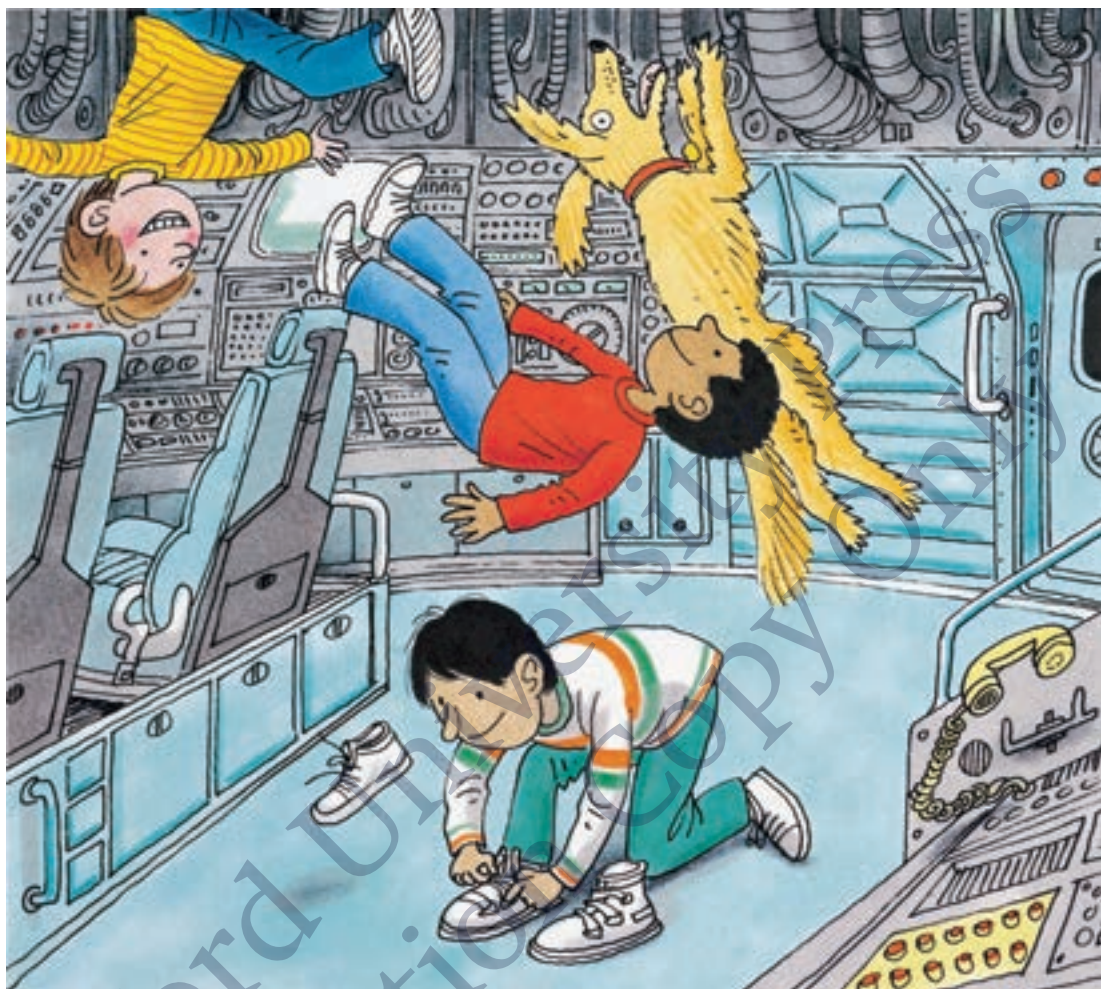
They went inside the rocket. There was nobody there.

“Look at this computer,” said Nadim. Floppy jumped up and put his paw on a button.



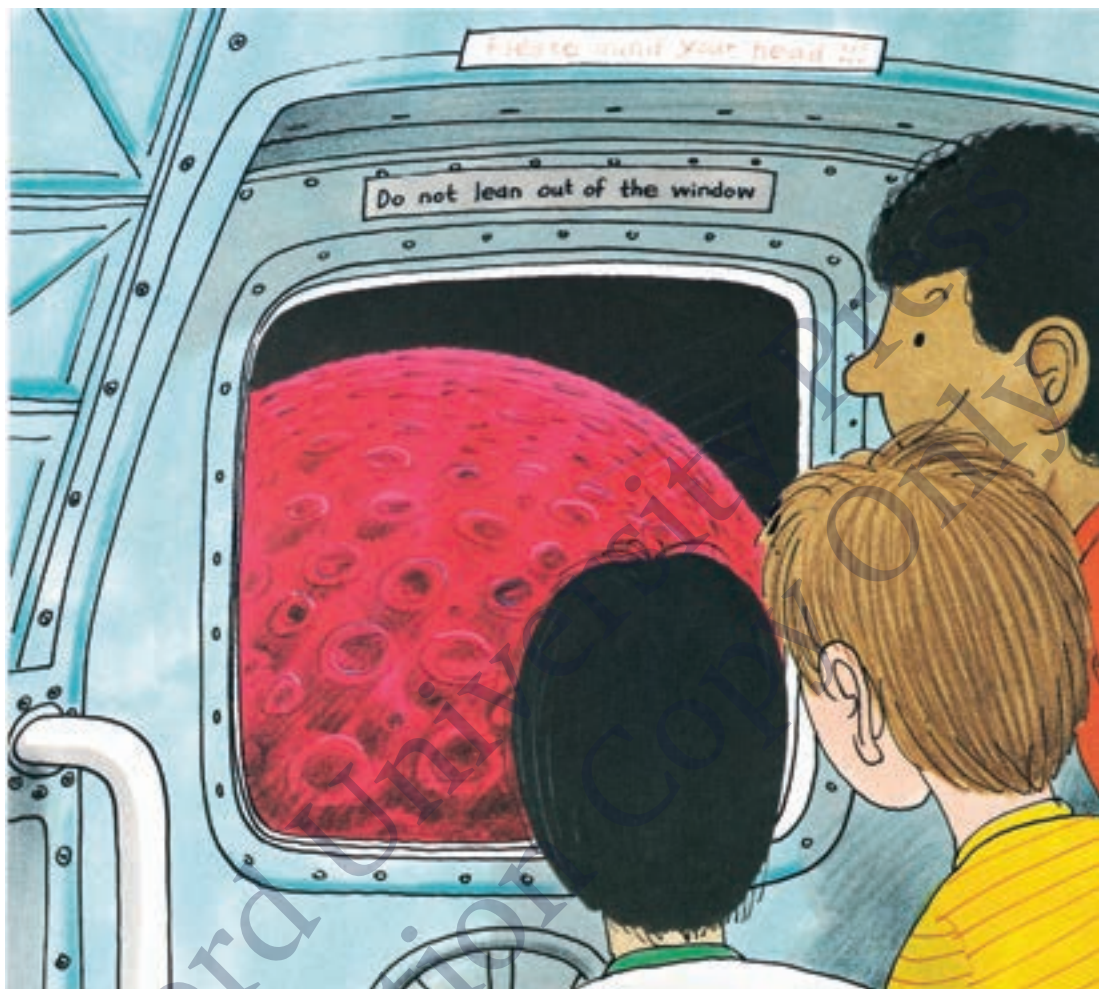
Five ... four ... three ... two ... one. The rocket began to take off. Up it went and out into space.

“Oh no!” said Chip. “I don’t know where we’re going.”



They began to float about inside the rocket. Nadim found some boots. He put them on.

“We must put these boots on,” he said.
“They will keep us down on the floor.”



They went to the window and looked out. They saw a big red planet.

“We are going to land on that planet,” said Nadim. “We will soon be there.”



Nadim made the rocket land.

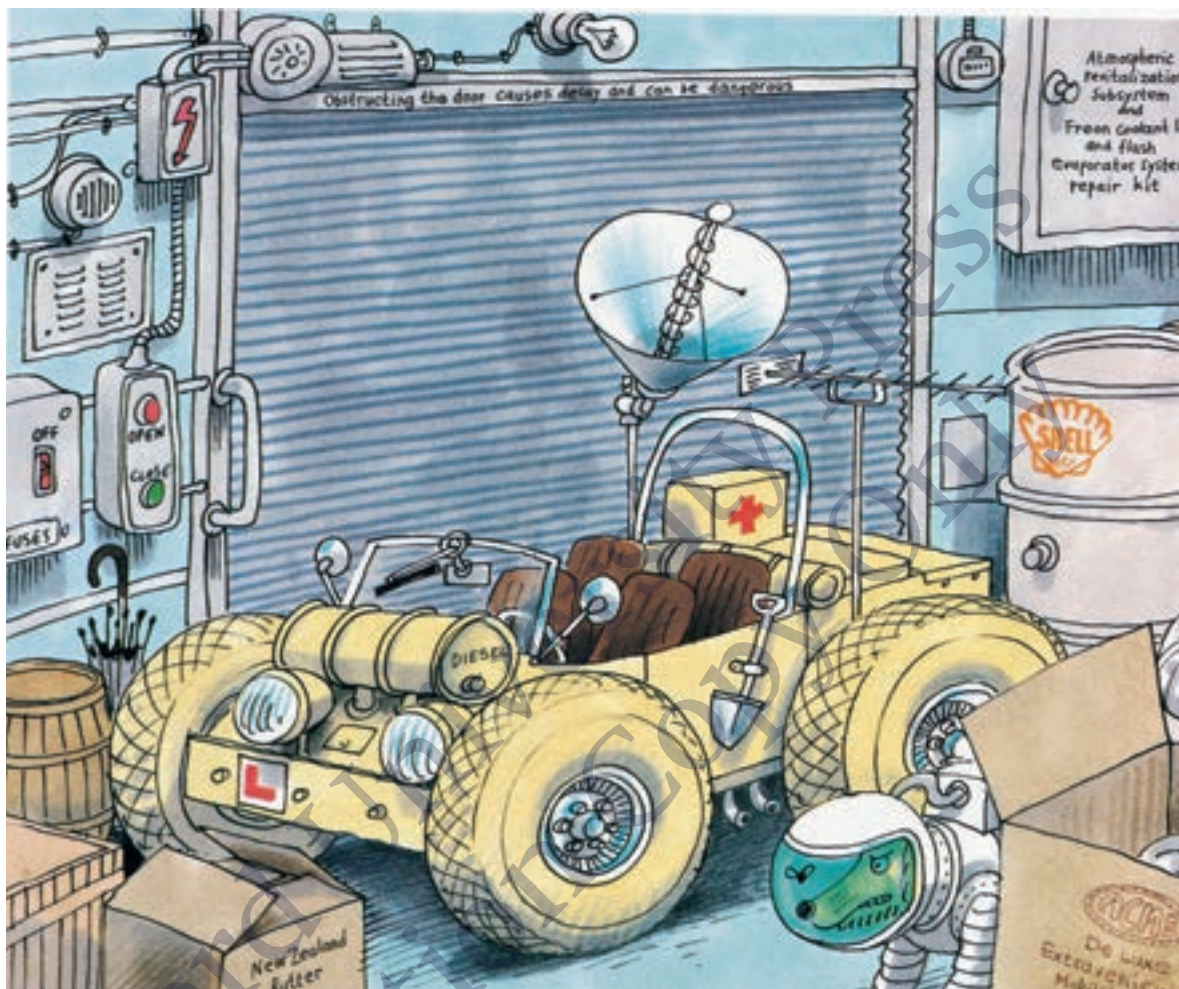
“I wouldn’t like to do that again,” he said.

“It’s a good job Nadim knows about computers,” thought Wilf. “I wouldn’t like to crash here.”

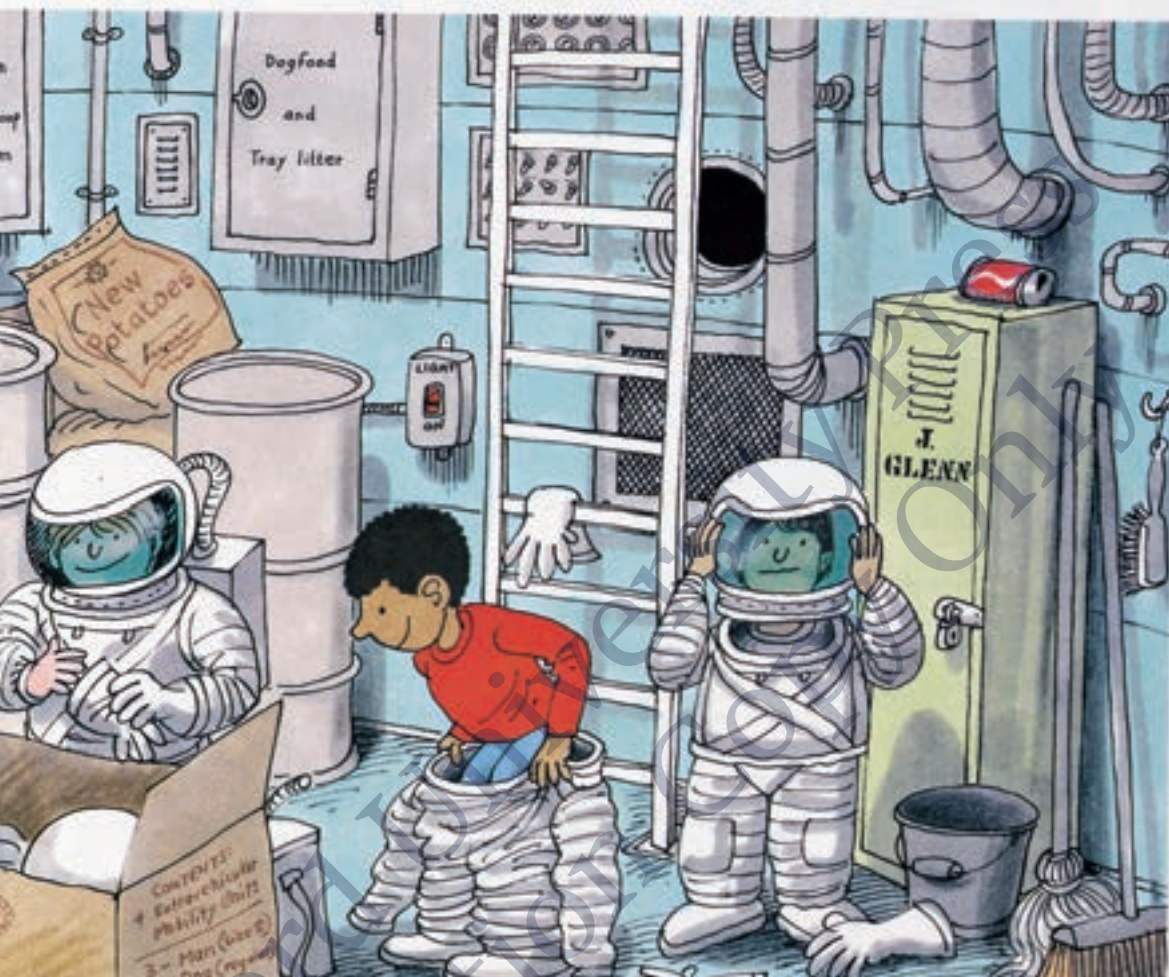


There was red dust all over the planet.
There were red rocks and red mountains.
Floppy didn't like the look of it. He began
to bark and bark.

“There are no trees,” he thought.



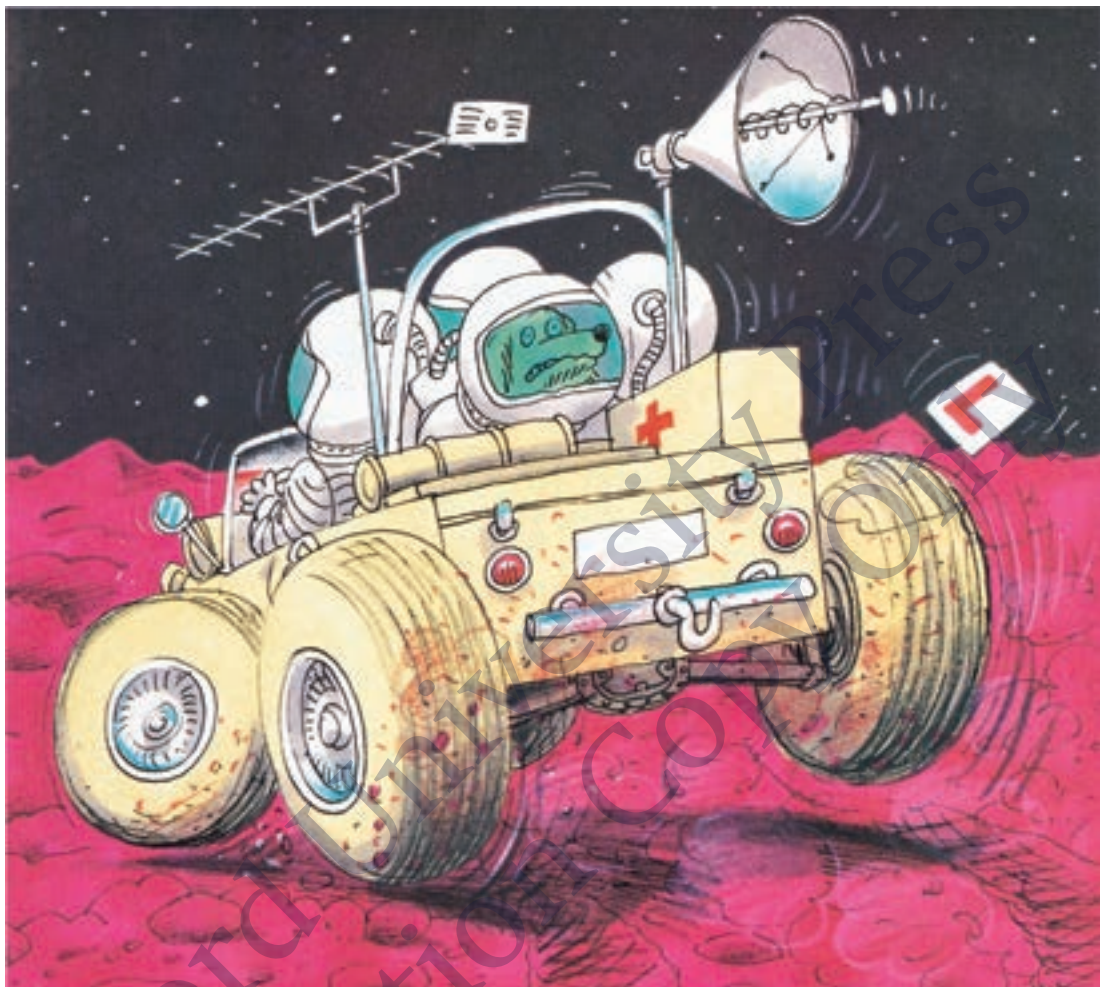
They wanted to go outside and look at the planet. They found a space buggy. They looked in the space buggy and found some spacesuits.



“Let’s put these spacesuits on,” said Wilf. “Then we can go outside.”

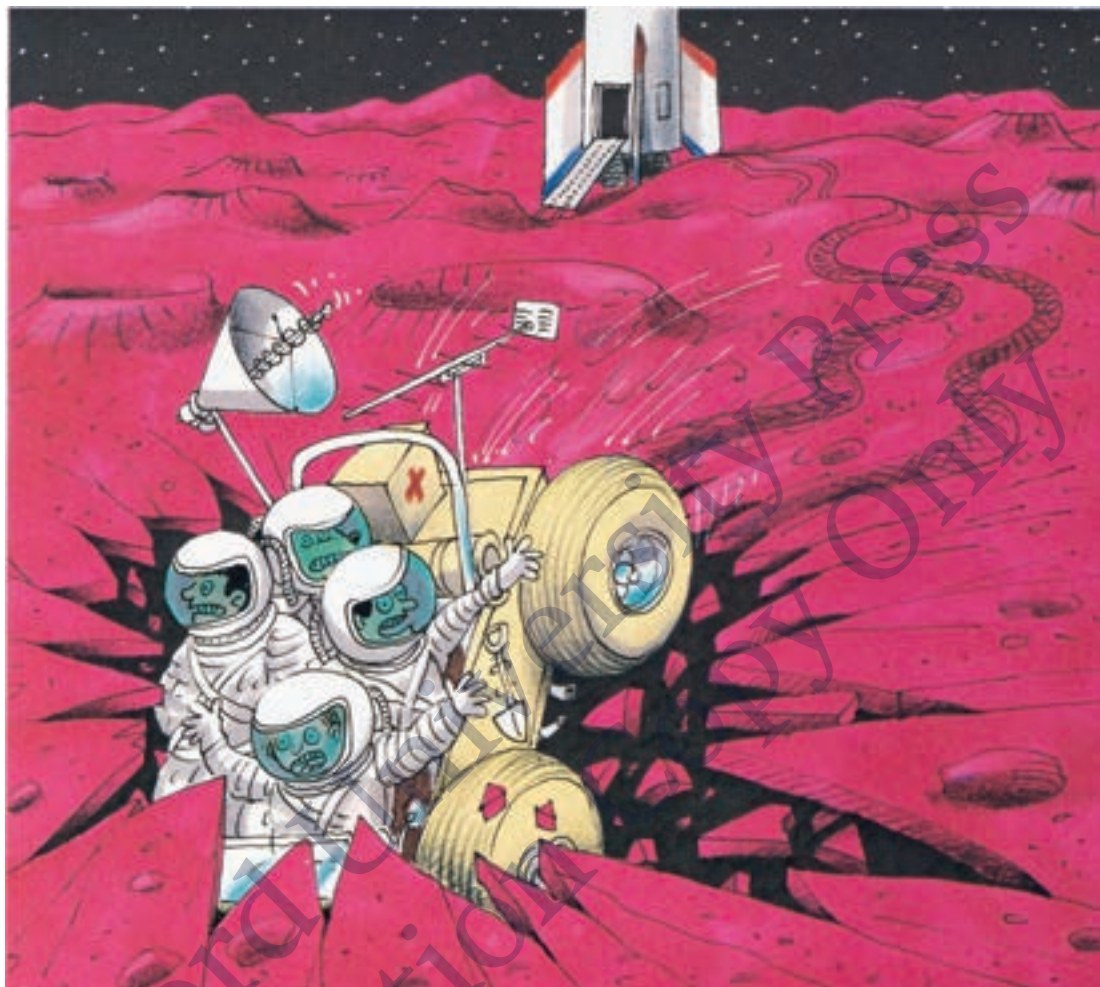
“Do you think it will be safe outside?” asked Chip.

“I don’t know,” said Wilf.



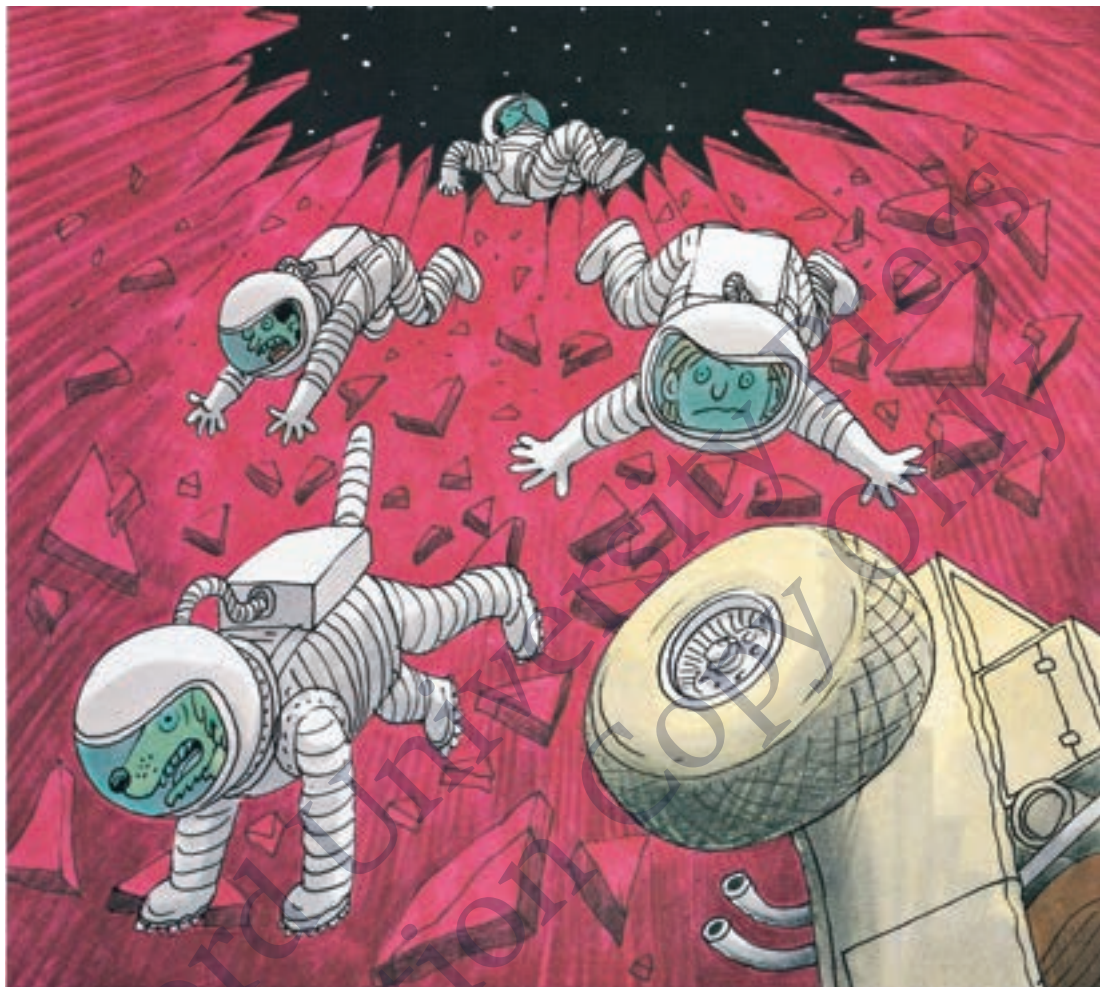
They went out on the planet in the buggy. The buggy bumped over the rocks and the red dust flew up.

“I don’t like this,” thought Floppy. “I’m not made for space adventures.”



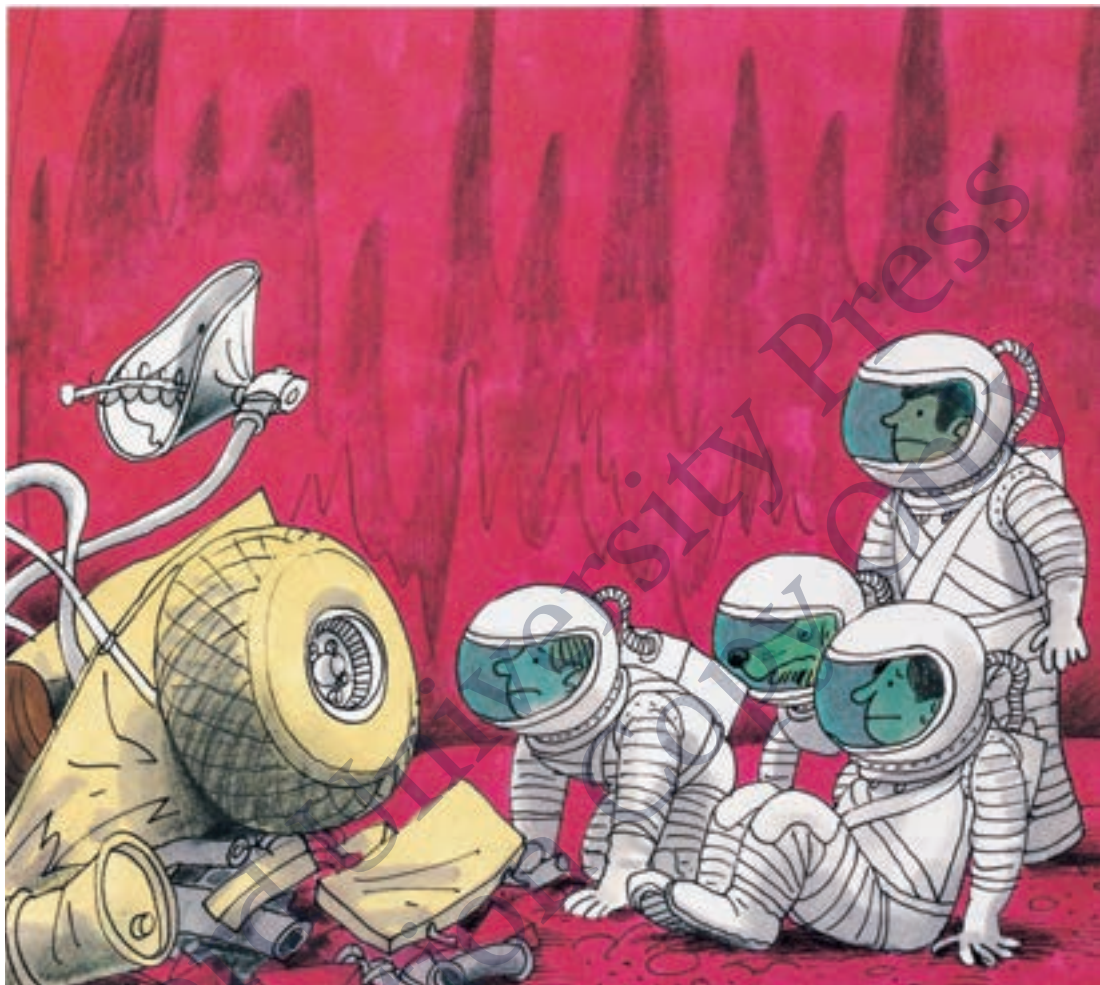
Suddenly the ground cracked and a big hole opened up.

“Oh help,” said Chip, Wilf, and Nadim as the buggy fell into the hole.

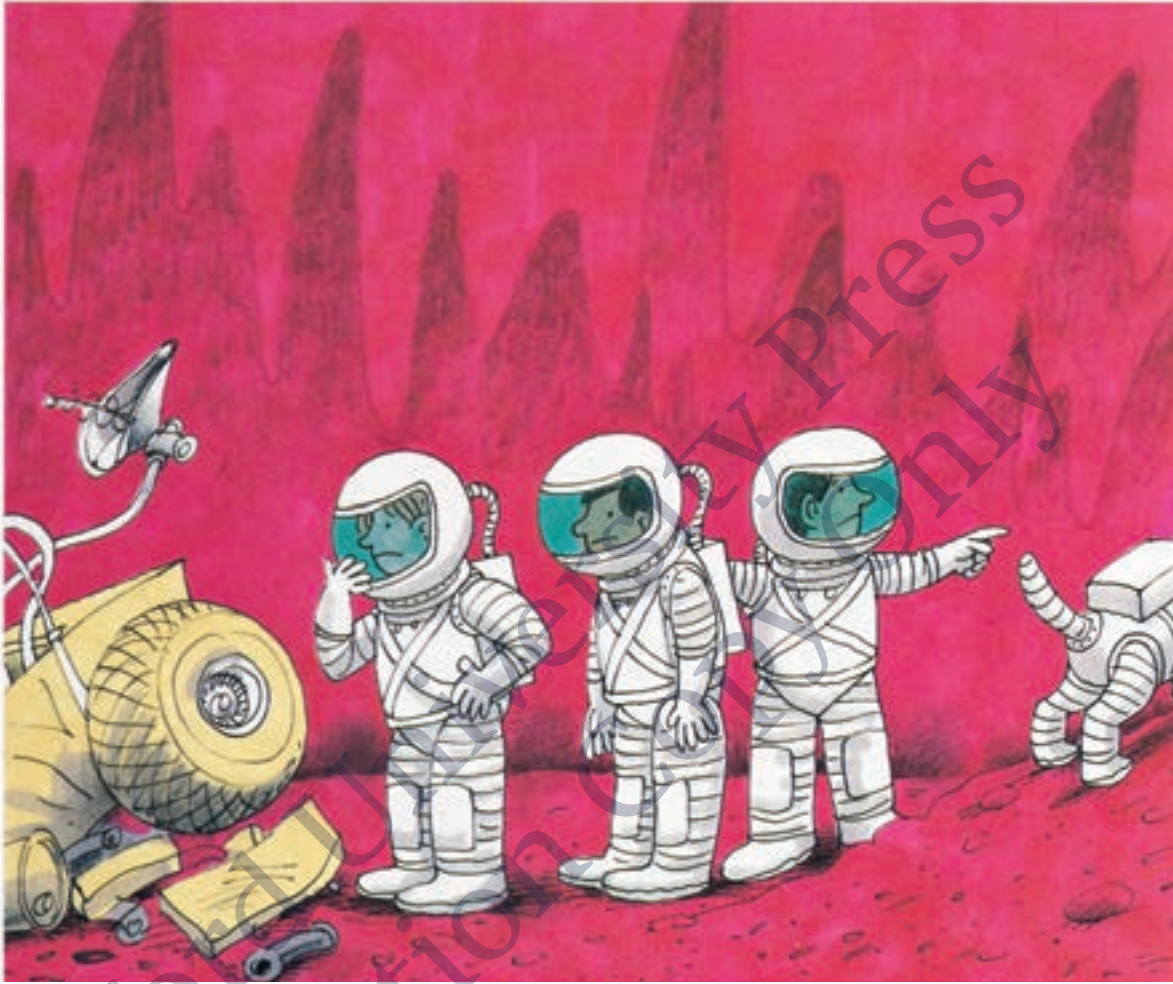


They fell down and down inside the planet.

“I don’t like this,” thought Floppy. “I want to go home.”



They all landed with a bump. The buggy landed with a crash and broke in two. They were inside a big cave.



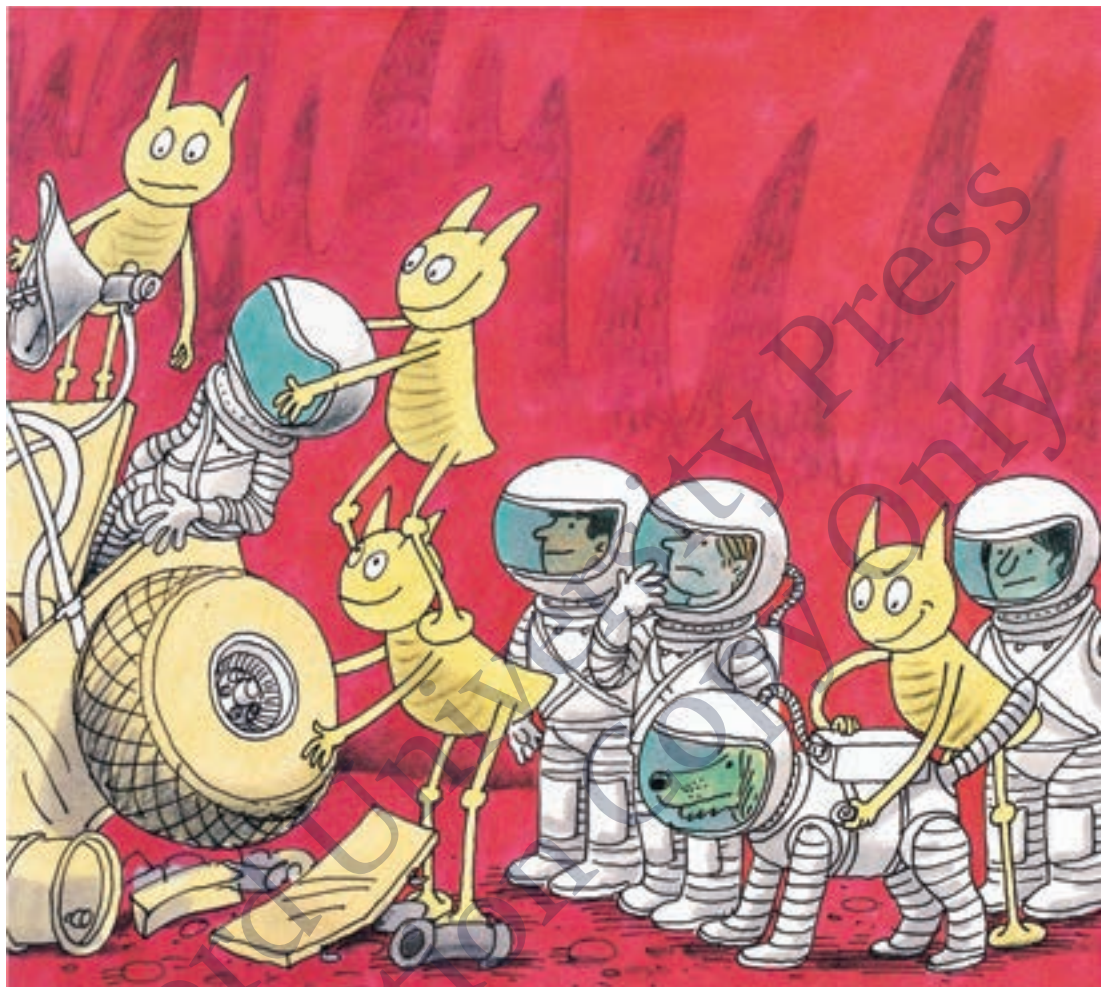
“What a place!” said Wilf. “Look at it.”
Chip looked at the buggy.

“It’s broken,” he said. “It’s had it!”
“How will we get back to the rocket?”

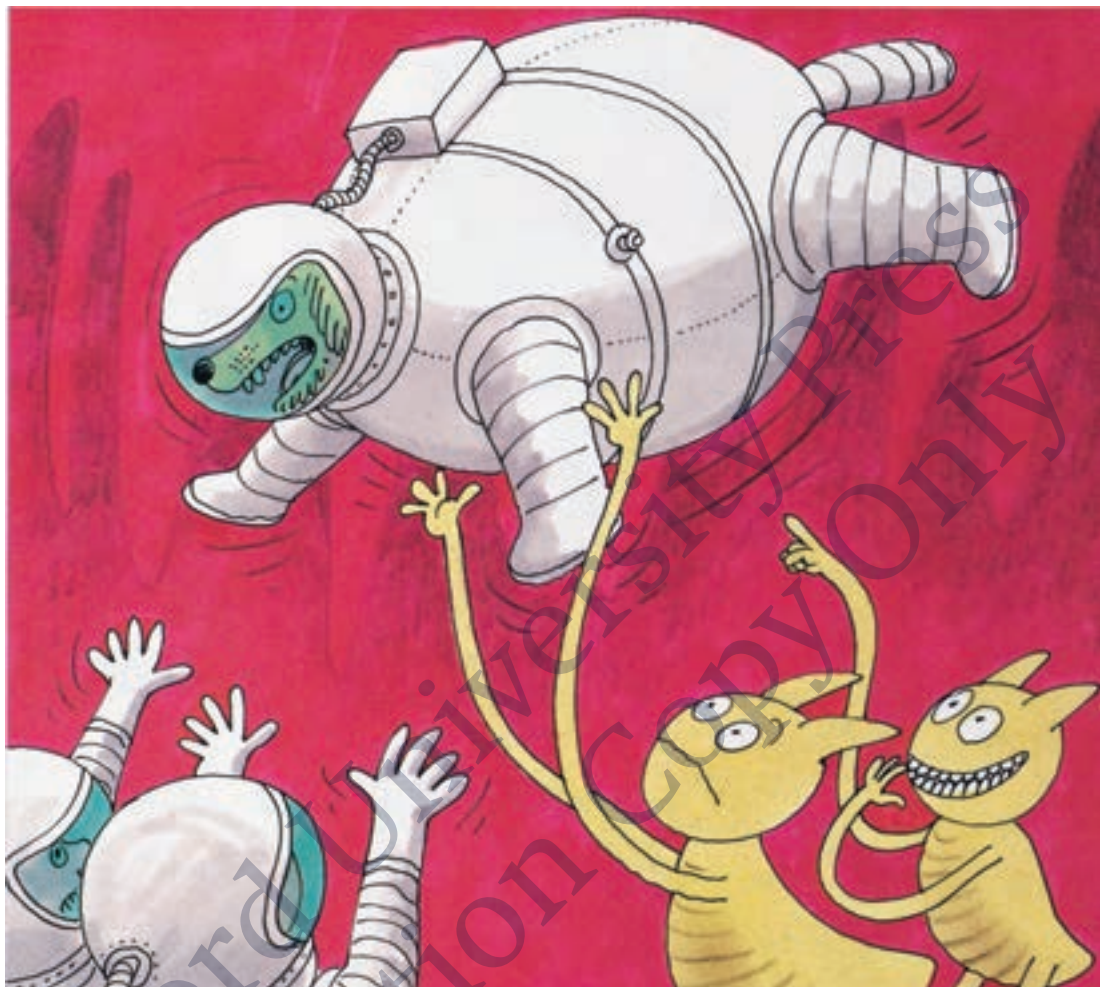


Floppy began to bark. There were some creatures in the cave. They looked like funny little people.

“Oh no!” said Nadim. “Look at them! I hope they like us.”

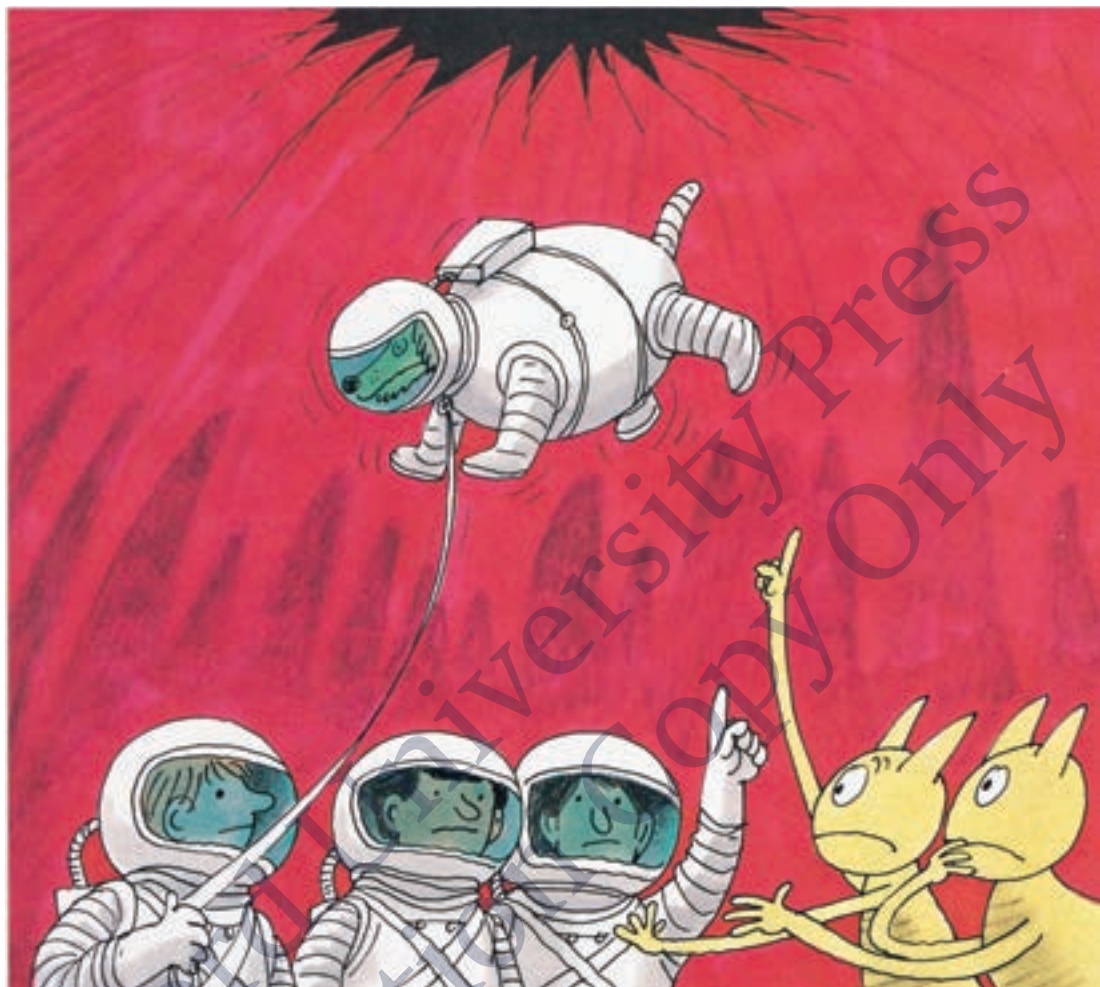


The creatures looked at the boys. They climbed on the broken buggy and pulled out a spacesuit. One of them turned a tap on Floppy's spacesuit.

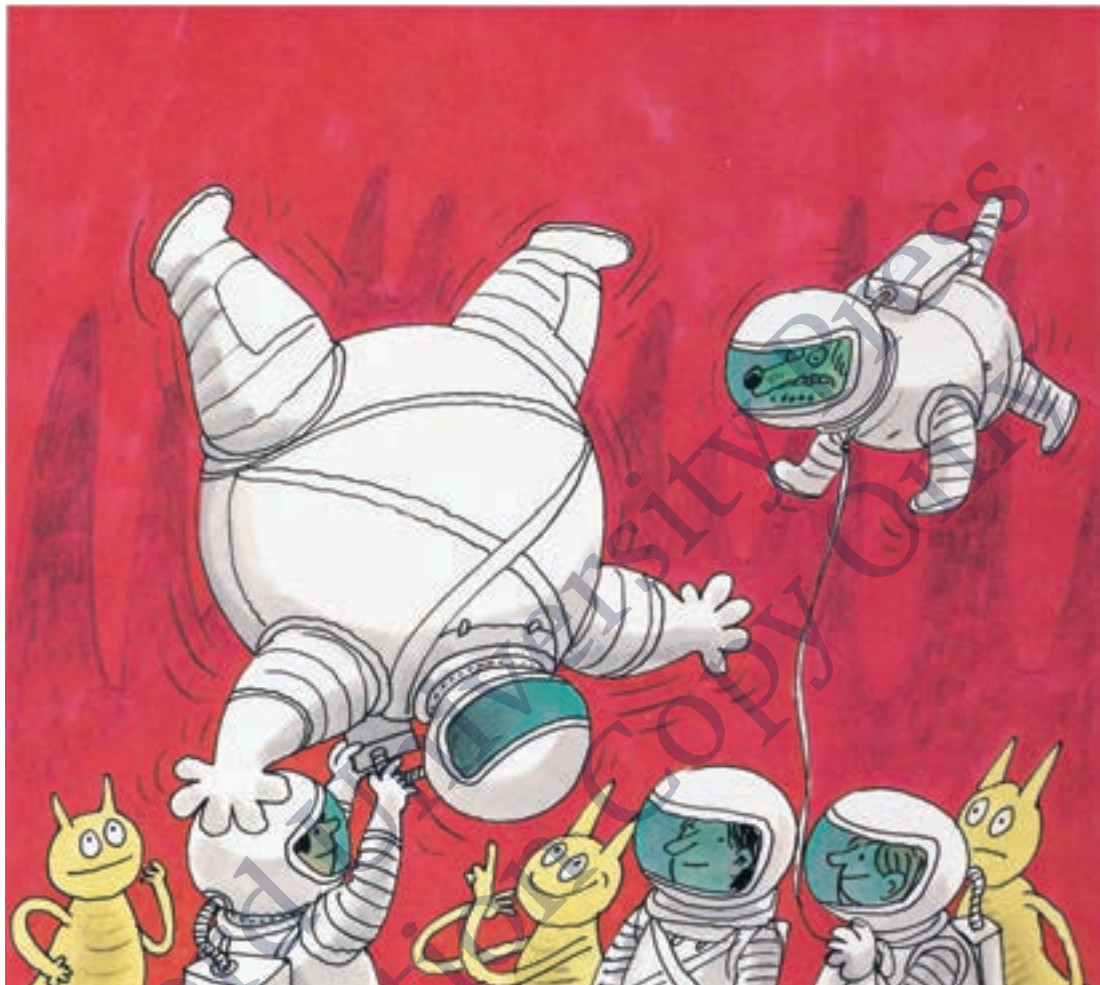


Floppy's spacesuit began to fill with air. It got bigger and bigger. Then Floppy began to float.

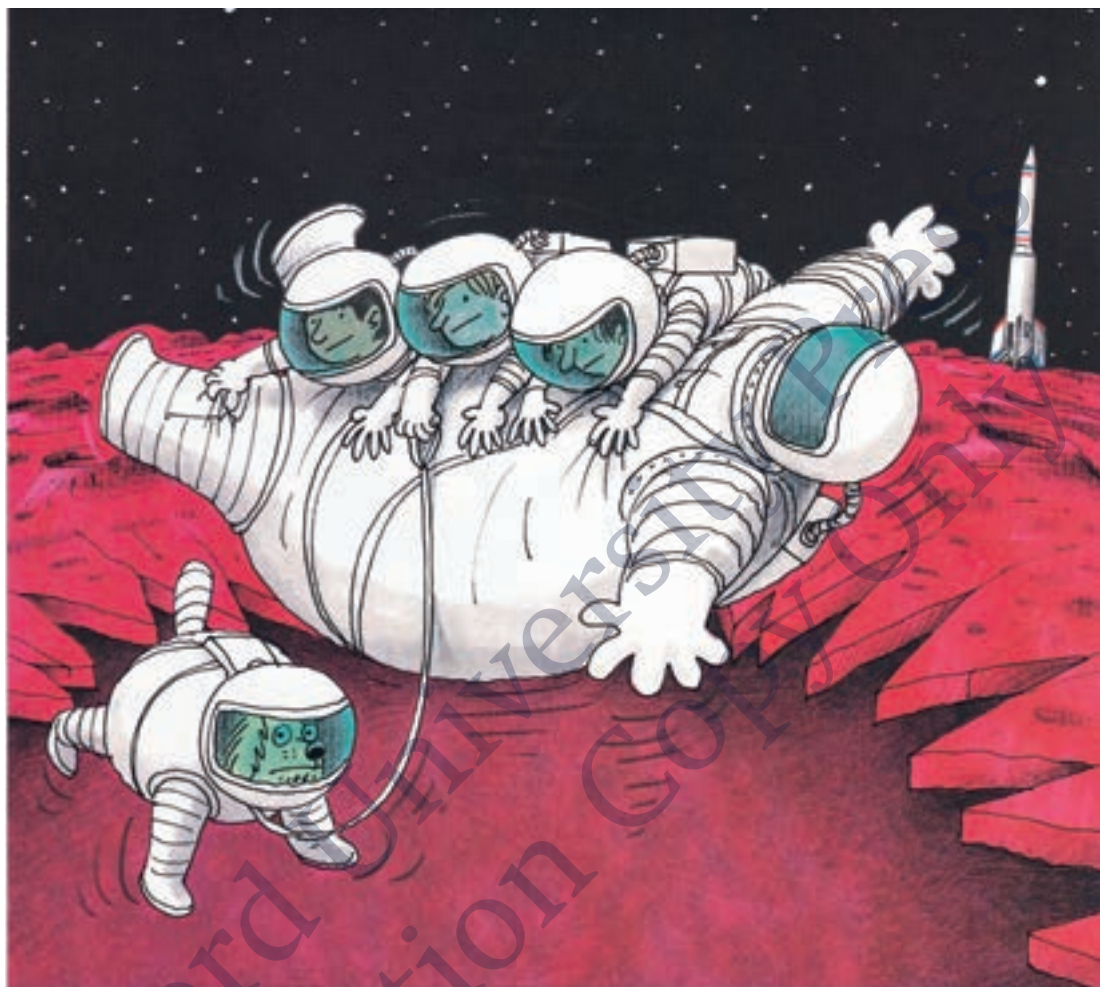
"Get Floppy!" yelled Chip. "Don't let him float away!"



Wilf asked the creatures how to get out of the cave. They told him that there was no way out. They said that they had never been outside.



Wilf had a good idea. He took a spacesuit out and he filled it with air. The spacesuit got bigger and bigger. It began to float up and up.

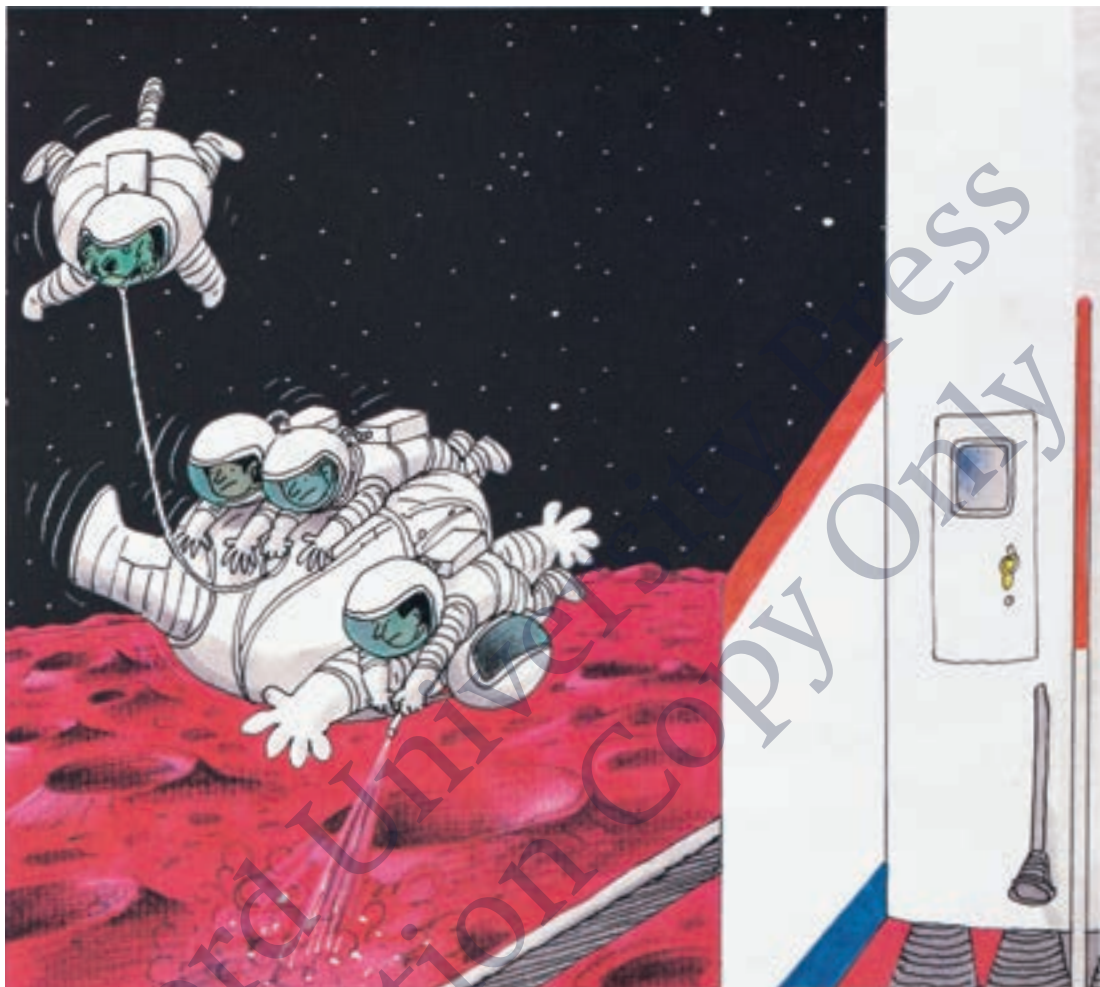


“Hold on,” called Wilf, “and don’t let go!”

The spacesuit floated up out of the cave.

“We can float back to the rocket,” said Chip. “What a good idea!”

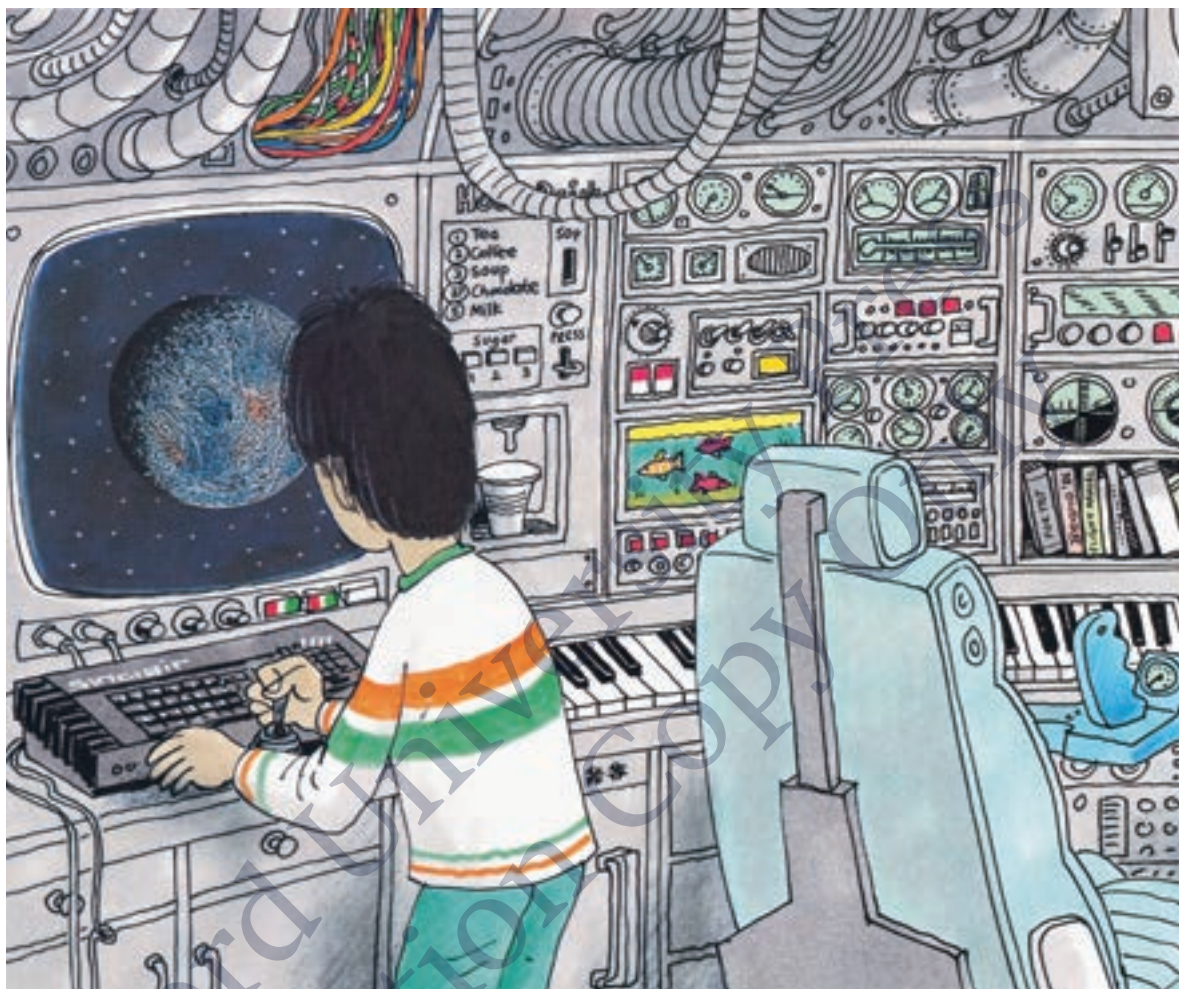
“I hope it won’t go pop,” thought Floppy.



They floated back to the rocket. Wilf let the air out of the spacesuit and it came down to the ground.

“Good old Wilf!” said Nadim.

“I don’t like floating,” thought Floppy.



They went inside the rocket and it took off. Nadim turned on the computer and looked at the screen.

“We’ll soon be home,” he said.



Just then the magic key began to glow.
“That’s good,” thought Floppy. “They
won’t have to land the rocket. Dogs don’t
like space adventures.”



The magic took them back home.

“I liked that adventure,” said Wilf.
He looked at the little spacesuit.

“So did I,” said Nadim, “but I’m glad I
didn’t have to land that rocket again.”

AFTER READING

- Turn to page 9. Ask: *Why wasn't Nadim worried about going on the rocket?*
- Ask: *Were the aliens friendly or unfriendly?*
- Discuss with your child the reasons why the characters liked or disliked the adventure. Ask: *Would you have liked the adventure? Would you have been scared at any point? Why?*

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First published 1987

This edition published 2011

ISBN 978-0-19-848309-0

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The key takes Chip, Wilf, Nadim and Floppy into the computer game.



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ISBN 978-0-19-848309-0

