

A Mission to Mars

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The astronauts had been in space for quite a long time and now, it was finally time to land their space shuttle, the Space Venturer on the rocky surface of Mars.

"Prepare for landing!" announced Alexander.

The Space Venturer's engine whirred as it shot into the atmosphere. Clank!

"What was that?" everyone whispered in shock.

Bang!

"We've crashed on Mars!" answered Tiana, "Look at this!" She pointed to the emergency control panel. Everyone gathered around the panel to see what had happened.

"The engine has stopped working because it's clogged up with ice!" announced Emma, "The temperature outside is minus one hundred and twenty degrees Celsius."

"So we're trapped on Mars." concluded Ben.

"I'll inspect the damage." offered Tiana.

"No, I'll do that. You go and collect some rocks. Ben told everyone. "That was our mission, to collect rocks from Mars and bring them back to Earth."

All four members of the crew got to work instantly. Ben, the crew's mechanic knew exactly how to repair the Space Venturer and started straight away. Everyone else was taking loads of rocks and minerals to analyse at Earth. But little did they know, a strange creature was watching them...

Emma was about to pick up a rock when suddenly, a little red creature with a large chubby head appeared

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behind her.

"Farra betsie pop Lawl Himpa," muttered the alien.

Emma grabbed her translator attached to her spacesuit and called the rest of the crew.

"I've found an alien and it says that its name is Lawl. It also said that it comes from the alien species betsie, it speaks the language Himpa and it needs help!" she declared.

"What does it need help with?" questioned Alexander.

"That's what I'm going to ask Lawl," responded Emma.

She took out her translator and typed in a message. The translator then changed it into Himpa.

"Homp Farra latour sue?" bellowed the translator.

Suddenly, there was a crash! Ben hadn't finished fixing a wing of the Space Venturer! The sound from the translator had made it unstable.

"Watch out!" Alexander alerted everyone.

The Space Venturer's left wing fell down, creating a strong gust of wind that blew everyone's translators far away.

"How will we find out what Lawl needs?" cried Tiana.

"Finding our translators will be like finding a needle in a haystack!"

"We're trying to find our translators," Alexander told Lawl.

He thought it was a silly thing to do, but it wasn't! Lawl seemed to understand him! They all worked together and Ben found the translators stuck in a deep, narrow crater.

"We can't go in!" he cried, "It's too narrow!"

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Just then, Lawl crawled in and retrieved the translators. "Hurray!" everyone cheered.

Emma held out her translator and Lawl spoke into it. The translator then changed it into English and the words popped up onto the screen. All living things need water, but it is so cold here, the water has frozen into ice! Emma read aloud.

"Our friend Ben has an ice melter," she told Lawl through her translator, "You can keep it."

Ben got the ice melter and gave it to Lawl. "This is how it works. It runs on solar energy so it will never run out of power. If you're thirsty, press this green button, point it at the ice and it will start melting. It will also activate this vacuum cleaner, which will suck the water into this cup. When the cup is full, press this red button and it will stop filling up with water," instructed Ben.

Just then, Lawl said something into Ben's translator. "Lawl said thank you!" Ben told everyone. "You're welcome," everyone replied.

After Ben had fixed the Space Venturer, they waved goodbye to Lawl and they returned back to Earth. As soon as they landed, a huge crowd was gathered around them! Apparently, they got famous for discovering the betsie. The next day, people were so impressed, they sent them on another trip. They were going to Saturn!