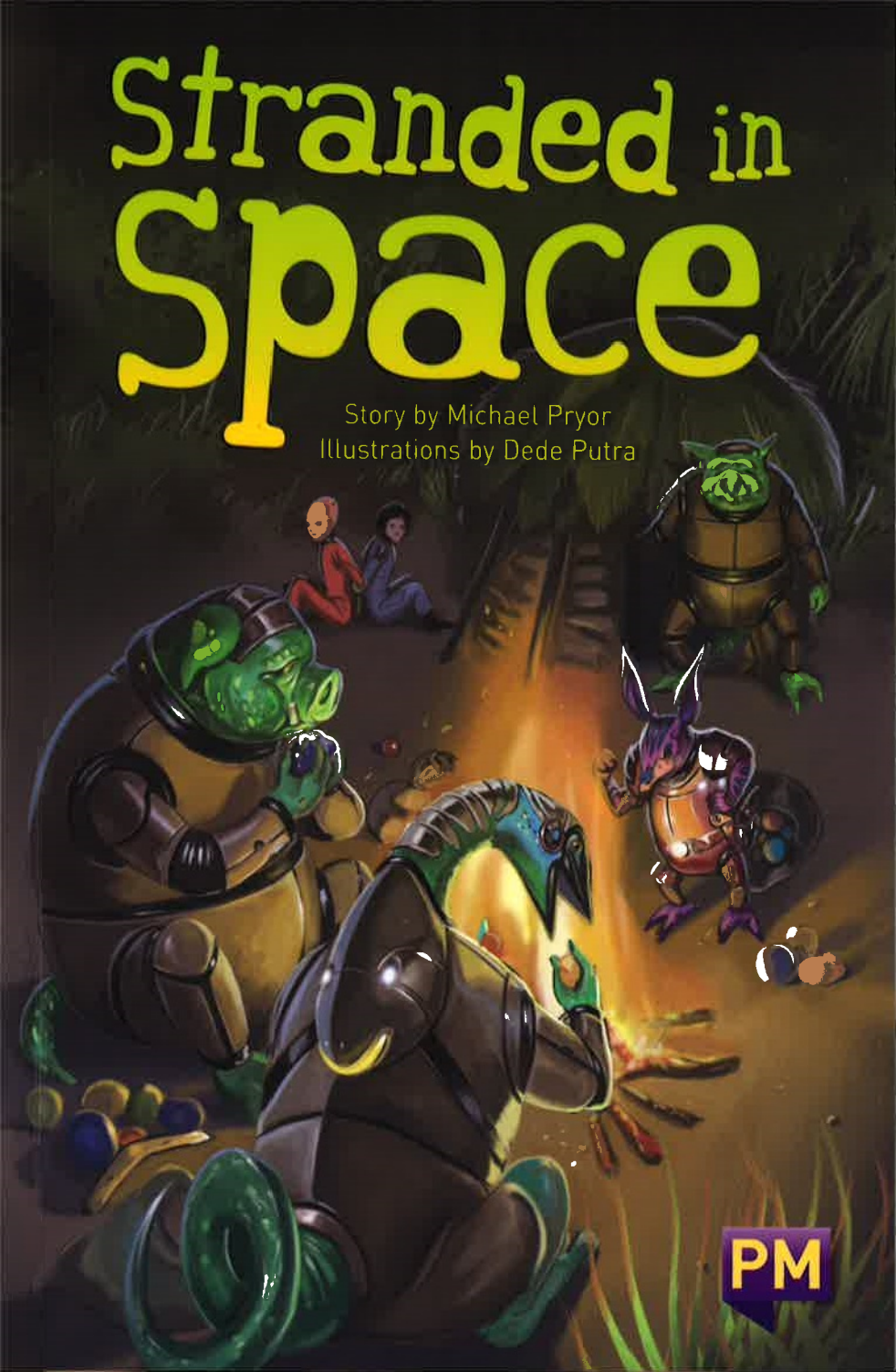
Stranded in Space

Story by Michael Pryor
Illustrations by Dede Putra



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Stranded in Space

Level 29

Running Words 5777 **Text Type** Narrative (Imaginative)

Curriculum Areas Literacy; Science Fiction

Oral Literacy Focus for Students

Key issues from the text to encourage critical thinking and stimulate group discussions:

1 Discuss why Trina was put into Safety Sleep for such a long period of time after the explosion.

2 Explain why the data stream from Trina's pod had a one-kilometre limit

3 Develop a new space-survival kit and give reasons why each item has been included.

4 Select an incident from the narrative. Present as a reader's theatre play to your group for appraisal.

5 Create a different ending to the story. Assume Sia's parents weren't on board the Space Navy rescue ship. What became of her?

Written Literacy Focus for Students

Key issue from the text to present in visual and written form to an audience:

1 Research the topic 'Future Space Exploration'.

2 Record 10 safety problems astronauts would have to prepare for during a space flight.

3 Edit and revise the text

4 Present the text as a 'Safety Alert' list to be displayed in a spaceship.

5 Critically evaluate the text and the visual layout of the list.

Links with other PM Guided Reading Books and Cards

Level 29	Book	Narrative	*Rosamund Zeph: Futuristic Chef*
Level 30	Book	Information Report	*Space Technology in Space and on Earth*

For Review Only

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Chapter 1

Evacuate!



"Emergency! Emergency! Everybody evacuate the spaceship!"

Trina nearly dropped her book pad as the deck under her feet shook. A loud thumping noise sounded from far away, and Trina was thrown out of her bunk.

The door slid open. "Quickly, Trina," her mother said, over the sound of the alarm. "The ship is damaged. We have to go!"

Trina scrambled off the floor. She didn't want to leave the room she'd known nearly all her life. It was tiny, but she'd done her best to make it hers.

She had hung the drawings she had made. She'd strung paper cranes from the ceiling. On the desk was the crystal paperweight her grandmother had given her before they left Earth.

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Trina could hardly remember Earth. They'd left it years ago with hundreds of other families, all bound for a new home on the recently discovered planet, Bounty.

They had another five years before they would get there. Trina's parents had promised her the long journey would be worth it in the end.

"Your father's waiting at the escape pods," her mother said. She was calm, as usual, but Trina could see that she was worried.

"Is it the space pirates?" The captain had warned them that space pirates were in the sector they were crossing.

"The ship is horribly damaged, that's all I know," her mother responded. "Now, it's just like we practised." They had rehearsed evacuation once a month since they'd left Earth.

"Leave everything," Trina said. "Go straight to the escape pods. Activate the beacon after the pod leaves the ship."

Her mother shot Trina a smile. "Right. Let's get out of here."

The deck shook again, and Trina had to catch herself on the doorway. She hurried after her mother, who was halfway down the corridor.

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All the doors she passed were open. Trina was glad about that, as it meant that her neighbours had already left. She didn't like to think that Perona or Treetop would be left behind.

Her father waved frantically as they approached the escape pod bay. "Hurry!" he shouted. "The ship is breaking up!"

The pods were in racks, ready to go: long, silver capsules full of life support.

Trina's father made sure they were safely in their individual pods.

"As soon as you close the hatch, your pod will shoot well away from the ship," he said.

Trina rolled her eyes. "I know, Dad. Rehearsal, remember?"

He grinned, then he squeezed her shoulder. "See you soon, kiddo."

Trina grinned back and closed the hatch. Lights came on inside the pod. Webbing shot out and wrapped around her snugly.

A clang came from outside, then a loud hissing sound.

Suddenly, Trina's stomach was left behind as the pod shot out of the crippled spaceship with a starburst of light.

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A huge explosion rocked the pod. There was nothing Trina could do but close her eyes as the webbing tightened around her. One hand crept to the pocket of her overalls. She found her crystal paperweight, which she hadn't been able to leave behind. She closed her fingers around it.

The pod spun end over end into space until Trina blacked out.



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Chapter 2

Safe



When Trina came to her senses, the pod wasn't moving.

She lifted her arm and tapped the back of her wrist. Her data display popped up in front of her eyes. "Where am I?" she asked.

"You are on the planet Epsilon Gamma," the display read in bold, black letters.

Trina had never heard of that planet. "And where is Epsilon Gamma?"

A complicated star chart appeared. A red dot pulsed. It didn't help at all.

She frowned. "How long did it take me to get here?"

"It has been six months and four days since the Generation Ship *Minerva* was destroyed," the data display informed her.

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Trina and her family are on a long journey through space to their new home on the planet Bounty, when they have to evacuate their damaged ship. Trina's escape pod spins off course, and she finds herself stranded on Epsilon Gamma, a planet made up of tropical islands. All by herself, Trina has to make a shelter, find food and keep out of danger ... but is she really alone?



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Text Type:
Narrative (Imaginative)

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