The Secrets of Room 209



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TCM Teacher Created Materials

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For Review Only

Chapter One

The Mind Reader

"Arun, did you know it takes Saturn almost 30 years to circle the sun?" asks Ms. Deng. "Isn't that amazing? Plus, it has those beautiful rings around it. It's definitely my favorite planet."

I lean over to my best friend, Marisa. "She did it again!"

That was the third time Ms. Deng read my mind today. We just learned that it takes Earth one year to circle the sun. I was wondering how long it takes Saturn when she answered my question before I asked!

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"Maybe she just wants you to stop staring out the window and pay attention," whispers Marisa.

Marisa is really smart. She can explain almost anything. But this time, I think she is wrong.

"OK, class," says Ms. Deng. "Break into your teams to work on your Space Day projects. I can't wait to see what you create."



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Space Day was Ms. Deng's idea. We'll be making projects about space that will be on display in the gym. Marisa is my teammate, which is great because we both love the planets. When she grows up, she wants to bring pieces of Mars back to Earth and study them. I just want to live on Mars. I also want to spend some time on Venus, Jupiter, Uranus, and all the other planets, too!



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"Ms. Deng knows so much about space. It's like she has been there," I say. A scary thought hits me. "What if she is an alien spy who can read minds?"

"What?" Marisa asks.

"Maybe she is pretending to be a teacher so she can study us humans," I say. "This might be part of the perfect alien plan to take over Earth!"

"I don't think so, Arun," says Marisa. "We need to decide what we are going to do for Space Day." She taps her desk for a moment. Then, she says, "I have an idea! We could…"

Before Marisa can finish, Ms. Deng comes up behind us. She says, "How would the two of you like to make a large painting of Saturn? I want to make sure at least one group presents my favorite planet."

For Review Only

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When Arun and Marisa suspect that their teacher is an alien spy, they hatch a plan to save the planet. But will they get to the truth in time?

For Review Only

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