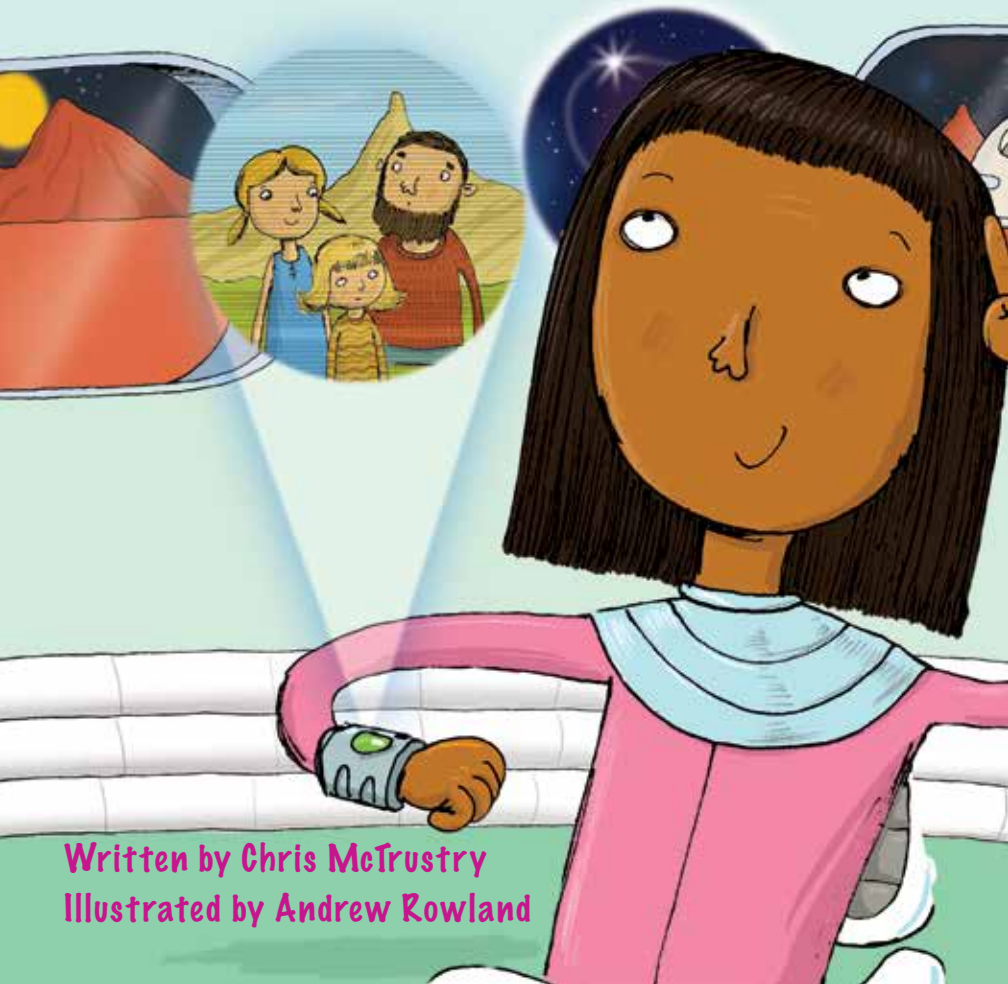
Cleopatra's Report



Written by Chris McTrustry
Illustrated by Andrew Rowland

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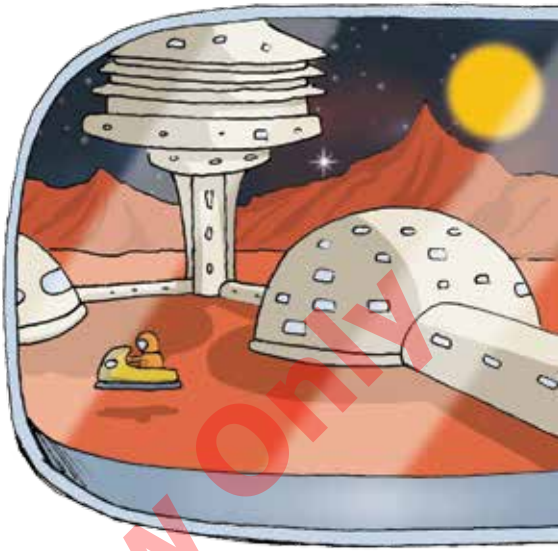
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Chapter One

Report Day

In Classroom 5A, Monday morning was report time. That's when students told the class about what they had done over the weekend.

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The school was near the Mars Research Station, and many of the students' parents worked there. That meant the students' reports were often *very* interesting.

Jay Bradbury's hand shot into the air the moment the teacher, Ms. Orwell, asked for volunteers. Jay's mother was a pilot. She flew different kinds of spacecraft. And Jay sometimes got to go on flights with her.

"On Saturday, we blasted off and went straight up ten-thousand miles into the sky! Then, we turned around and came back. And..." he added with a grin, "we made it home in time for pizza at lunch."

Hester Huxley raised her hand.

Ms. Orwell pointed to her. "Do you have a question for Jay, Hester?"

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"Yes, Ms. Orwell," said Hester. "How fast did you travel, Jay?"

Jay shrugged. "I don't know exactly, but it was pretty fast. Faster than a comet!"

"Whoa!" the class exclaimed.

"Thank you, Jay," said Ms. Orwell. "That was an interesting report."

Ms. Orwell turned to a girl sitting near the back of the room. "Perhaps the newest member of our class would like to give a report." Ms. Orwell smiled at the girl. Her name was Cleopatra Adams.

"Yes, Ms. Orwell," said Cleopatra. "But my report may take a while. It was a long weekend."

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