COMET COLLISION!



Frank Pedersen

Gaston Vanzet

Nelson Literacy Directions

Meet the Characters



Mila Shovetzka

A Russian space scientist.



Dr Xerxes

A mad scientist.



A Comet

An icy visitor from outer space.



Rosco Fortescue

A greedy billionaire.



President Sternov

The Russian president.

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POST CARD

Dear Reader

Where did all the water on Earth come from? Earth started out as a hot, rocky planet, but most of it is now covered by water. Some astronomers think that billions of years ago, icy comets hit Earth and melted to form water. Now there's an idea for a story!

Frank Pedersen
Author

The Solar System



LOCATION: MOON ORBIT TIME: 0735 HOURS

No one blinked!

No one dared to speak!

Onboard the hidden spaceship, it grew cold. The ship flew in shadow, behind the Moon. Lights came on, as it grew dark outside.

The only sounds were the footsteps of the evil Dr Xerxes. He paced up and down, waiting for his spaceship to reach its destination.

One more orbit, and his spaceship would be just where he needed it. In seconds, a white-hot laser would shoot at his target.



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The spaceship's crew knew not to speak. Dr Xerxes waited. His eyes looked scary. His bony finger was above the red "FIRE" button.



LOCATION: MOSCOW TIME: 0737 HOURS

In Moscow, 385 000 kilometres away, a month of snow and ice had frozen the city. But inside one building, no one cared. Everyone's eyes were on a large

space screen with a moving map of the solar system.

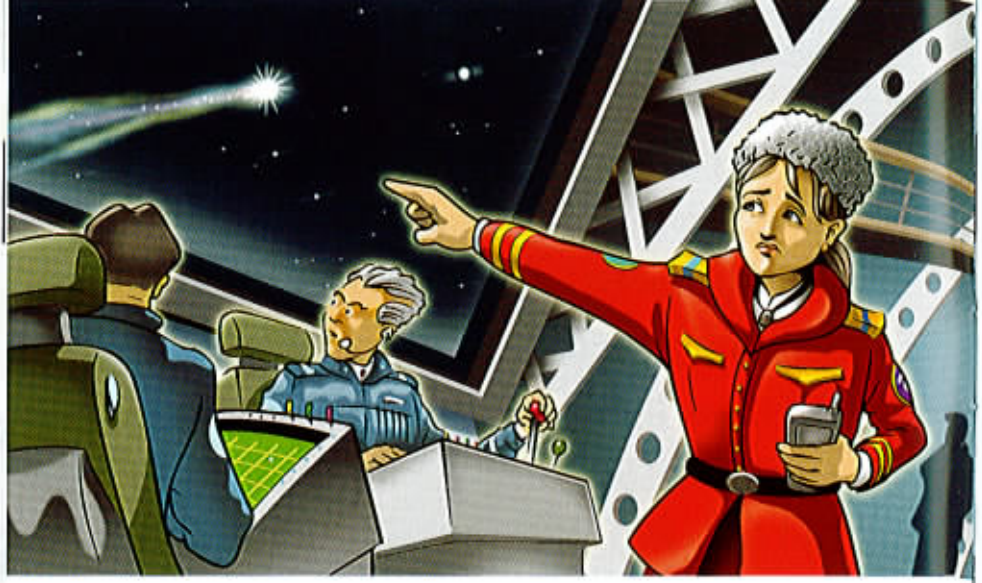
Mila Shovetzka kept her eyes on the giant screen. Then, from one side, a flashing light appeared.

"There! There it is! Comet Halo 103," said Mila in an excited voice. "Get ready!"

LOCATION: MOON ORBIT TIME: 0740 HOURS

Five hundred kilometres above the Moon, Dr Xerxes' spaceship swung around. The spaceship shook, as huge doors slid apart and a laser pointed out into space.

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LOCATION: MOSCOW TIME: 0741 HOURS

In Moscow, everyone grew tense.

"Ready!" called Mila, pointing.

LOCATION: MOON ORBIT TIME: 0741 HOURS

Suddenly, the silence in the spaceship was split by a loud alarm. They were in position!

"Ready!" ordered Dr Xerxes. "Fire!"

The spaceship lurched! A mighty burst of energy shot into space. A split-second later, deep within the solar system, an explosion flashed!

In a fiery instant, the journey of Comet Halo 103, which had begun in the icy space beyond Neptune, ended.



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