

Henry and the Crayon Spaceship



by David Parsons

*For every little explorer
who looks up at the night sky.*



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The stars through the window
were twinkling bright,
as Mommy bent down
to kiss Henry goodnight.





"Sleep well, little man,"
said Dad from the door,
as Cecil the pug
curled up on the floor.

But Henry couldn't sleep.
His mind full of space,
imagining worlds
in a faraway place.

He grabbed all his crayons —
red, silver and blue —
and drew a fine spaceship
with engines that flew.



It shimmered and sparkled,
then started to grow,
filling his room
with a magical glow.

Bigger and bigger
and BIGGER, and more!
Up to the ceiling
and over the floor.



Its walls gleamed like mirrors.
Its doors clicked undone.
"Let's go!" cried Henry.
"The adventure's begun!"



Inside they both climbed
and buckled in tight.
The seats felt like clouds
made of warm glowing light.
The engines went WHOOSH!
The controls gave a BEEP!
And out through the window
the stars seemed to leap.





Their very first stop
was the Sun's glowing face,
a giant bright star
at the heart of our space.

It bubbled and fizzed
with great ribbons of flame,
twisting and dancing
and never the same.

"It's much too hot
for a pug to go there!"
Cecil stepped backwards.
"Good thinking. Take care!"

*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*





Mercury waited,
all rocky and grey,
with craters and bumps
that never went away.

"It's closest to the Sun,"
said Henry with pride.
"Too hot in the daytime,
too cold outside!"

Cecil sniffed once,
then gave a small sneeze.
"Let's find somewhere nicer,
with trees and a breeze!"

*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*





Venus was hidden
by billowing cloud,
swirling and twirling,
all puffy and proud.

"You can't see the ground,"
said Henry. "Not there.
The clouds wrap around it
through all of the air."

Cecil looked puzzled.
"Then what's there to see?"
"Not much," laughed Henry.
"Keep travelling with me!"

*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*





Earth spun below them,
blue, green and white,
sparkling with oceans
in bright sunlight.

"That's home!" shouted Henry.
"Our rivers and seas!
Our forests and mountains,
our flowers and trees!"

Cecil barked proudly
and wagged with delight.
Home looked so beautiful
from up there that night.

*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*





Mars was glowing,
all rusty and red,
with dusty wide valleys
in the darkness ahead.

"It has giant volcanoes,"
said Henry with awe.
"The biggest volcano
that anyone saw!"

Cecil stood taller
and lifted his chin.
"I think I'd climb that,"
he seemed to grin.

*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*



Jupiter loomed,
great striped and round,
with swirling storms
spinning round and round.

A giant red whirlwind
whirled through the sky,
while moon after moon
went drifting by.

Cecil stared upwards,
his eyes open wide.
"So many moons!"
Henry laughed by his side.



*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*



A vibrant, colorful illustration of a young boy with blonde hair and a pug dog sitting inside a small, white rocket ship with red and blue accents. The rocket ship is flying through space, with the planet Saturn and its glowing, multi-colored rings dominating the background. The scene is set against a deep blue night sky filled with numerous stars. The boy is wearing a blue and white striped shirt and is looking out the porthole with a wide-eyed, joyful expression. The pug dog, wearing a red collar with a gold tag, is also looking out. The rocket ship has a transparent dome and several windows. The planet Saturn is a large, yellowish-brown sphere with prominent, swirling bands of orange, red, and white. Its rings are composed of many small, dark rocks and ice particles, creating a shimmering, multi-layered effect. The overall atmosphere is one of wonder and adventure.

Saturn appeared
with its glittering rings,
like a king dressed up
in magnificent things.

The rings shone brightly
with ice and with stone,
circling Saturn
as it sailed on alone.

Cecil sat staring,
his eyes full of light.
The rings seemed to sparkle
all through the night.

*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*



Uranus rolled by,
pale greenish-blue.
"It spins on its side —
that's a funny thing to do!"

Cecil rolled sideways
to copy it too.
Henry laughed loudly.
"You'd fit right in, you!"



*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*



Neptune was deep blue,
stormy and cold,
with powerful winds
and clouds that rolled.

The spaceship gave
a wobble and sway.
Cecil held tight
all the way.

"Don't worry," said Henry.
"We'll soon be through."
And off they sped
through the dark blue.



*Come on, Cecil,
look over here —
can you guess
which planet is near?*



A young boy with blonde hair and blue eyes, wearing blue and white striped pajamas, sits in a spaceship cockpit. He is holding a small, shaggy pug dog with a red collar. They are both looking out a large circular window at the Earth, which is partially covered in ice. The cockpit has various controls, buttons, and a red joystick. The background is a dark space filled with stars.

Far out in the darkness,
where sunlight grew small,
Pluto sat quietly,
the smallest of all.

Covered in ice
and shivering cold,
it drifted through space
so silent and old.

Cecil gave a shudder.
"I'm glad we're in here."
Henry smiled warmly.
"Me too, my dear."

A child and a dog are sitting in a small, blue and red rocket ship, flying through space. The rocket has two large, glowing yellow lights at the front. The background is a vast, dark blue space filled with countless stars and the colorful, swirling bands of the Milky Way galaxy. The Earth's horizon is visible at the bottom of the frame.

Beyond all the planets
they drifted awhile,
watching the Milky Way
stretch mile after mile.

Billions of stars
filled the velvety sky,
like glittering diamonds
scattered up high.

Henry sat quietly.
Cecil sat too.
Some sights are so wonderful,
words simply won't do.

At last Henry yawned.
"It's getting quite late."
The ship turned for home
at a comfortable rate.
It shimmered and sparkled.
It shrank bit by bit.
Back into the drawing
where Henry had sketched it.



He climbed into bed.
Cecil curled at his feet.
The stars through the window
still twinkled so sweet.

Mom peeked through the
doorway.
Dad smiled with delight.
As Henry and Cecil
dreamed all through the night.

