
Henry and the
Crayon Spaceship
David Parsons

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

Henry and the Crayon Spaceship
Henry's Crayon Adventures · Book 1
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The stars through the window
were twinkling bright,
as Mummy 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.
He was counting the stars.
“I want to see ALL of them.
Right out past Mars!”



He grabbed some crayons:
red, silver and blue,
and drew a fine spaceship
with a seat made for two.



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

Bigger and bigger
and BIGGER it rose,
Cecil jumped back
to save his poor toes!



Its walls gleamed like mirrors.
A door opened wide.
“What do you think, Cecil?
Should we go inside?”



They climbed in together
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,
the star that our planets
all circle in space.

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

Cecil lifted a paw
to shield him from the glare,
then scrambled behind Henry
to hide under his chair.

Come on, Cecil,
look over here.

Something small
and grey is near!





Mercury waited,
all rocky and grey,
so close to the Sun
that it bakes every day.

“It’s scorching by day,
then freezing at night!”
Cecil looked at his tummy.
That didn’t seem right.
One minute a sausage,
the next frozen peas?
He’d rather stay warm
with his biscuits and cheese!

Come on, Cecil,
look over here.

Something cloudy
is hiding near!





Venus was hidden
by billowing cloud.
“I can’t see the ground!”
Henry said out loud.

He squinted to see.
“What could there be?
A monster? A dragon?
A giant pink bee?”

Cecil looked at Henry
and let out a buzz,
then flapped both his ears
like a bumblebee does.

“That’s the strangest bee
I’ve ever seen!”
Cecil sneezed so hard
he fogged up the screen!

Come on, Cecil,
look over here.

Something blue
and green is near!





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

Far below were mountains,
flowers and trees,
and forests that swayed
in the warm summer breeze.

Cecil looked down
and let out a groan.
He'd travelled through space
and forgotten his bone!

Come on, Cecil,
look over here.

Something red
is glowing near!





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

“That’s the biggest volcano
around our Sun!” Henry said.
Cecil thought of the sofa
and tilted his head.

He couldn’t jump up it,
not even half-way.
So a mountain that big?
He shook his head. No way.

Come on, Cecil,
look over here.

Something ENORMOUS
is coming near!





Jupiter loomed,
so big and so wide
that the ship felt as small
as a crumb by its side.

“Look, a moon!” said Henry.
“And another! And more!
Six... seven... eight...”
Cecil got up to four.

“Look at that red storm!”
Henry said with a grin.
“It’s been swirling for years,
round and round in a spin!”

Cecil’s eyes widened.
He knew what he’d found!
The biggest red ball
he’d ever chase round!

Come on, Cecil,
look over here.

Something with rings
is sparkling near!





They floated past Saturn,
its rings shining bright,
like ice crystals sparkling
in soft starlight.

“It’s like winter in space!”
Henry said with a grin,
and Cecil remembered
when snow had blown in.

He’d stood at the door
and curled up his toes,
then sneezed as a snowflake
fell onto his nose.

He’d stayed on the sofa
with crumbs on his chin,
while Henry threw snowballs
and begged him to join in!

Come on, Cecil,
look over here.

Something's rolling
sideways, near!



Uranus rolled by,
pale greenish-blue,
spinning on its side
the whole long way through.

“Uranus spins sideways!”
Henry said as they flew.
Cecil rolled sideways
to copy it too.

He ended upside down
without a care,
with his ears flopped down
and his bottom in the air!



Come on, Cecil...
look over here.

Something cold
and blue is near.




Neptune was deep blue,
stormy and cold,
with the fastest of winds
and clouds that rolled.
Then the wind caught the ship
and it wobbled and swayed.
Cecil squeezed his eyes shut.
He was just a bit afraid.
Henry put his arm round him.
“I’ve got you. Hold tight.”
And he steered them out gently,
back into the night.

Come on, Cecil,
snuggle up here.

One last world
is drifting near.





Far out in the darkness,
where the Sun's just a spark,
sat Pluto, a dwarf world,
icy and dark.

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

Cecil looked out
at the ice far below,
then shook his head firmly.
Absolutely no!

He stole Henry's blanket
and curled up inside,
with just one little paw
poking out of the side.



“That’s all of them, Cecil,”
said Henry. “We’re done.
One last stop on the way home:
the loveliest one.”


Henry sat quietly.
Cecil sat too.
Just the two of them, watching,
the way best friends do.



Henry yawned a big yawn.
“That’s plenty for tonight.”
Cecil yawned a small yawn
and snuggled in tight.

Henry steered them towards home,
one hand on Cecil’s head.
Cecil dreamed of his bone,
and his spot on Henry’s bed.



The spaceship touched down
on the bedroom floor.
Henry carried Cecil
out through the door.

It shimmered and sparkled
and shrank, bit by bit,
till there on the carpet
lay the drawing of it.



He climbed into bed
and pulled up the sheet.
Cecil curled, with a smudge
of blue crayon, at his feet.

Mummy peeked through the doorway.
Dad turned out the light.
And Henry and Cecil
dreamed all through the night.

The End.

Can you name every world?



S _ N



M _ _ _ _ _ _ Y



V _ _ _ _ S



E _ _ _ _ H



M _ _ S

Henry and Cecil visited ten. Say each name out loud; the first and last letters are there to help.



J _ _ _ _ _ _ R



S _ _ _ _ _ N



U _ _ _ _ _ S



N _ _ _ _ _ E



P _ _ _ O

Sun · Mercury · Venus · Earth · Mars · Jupiter · Saturn · Uranus · Neptune · Pluto