





Gul in Space

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# Let's Read



The Asia Foundation



Tomorrow is my birthday, A day of  
special fun I want the stars to wish me  
The moon too, and the sun.





I wake up in the morning And look at  
what I see! A rocket waiting outside; I  
try and hide my glee. The rocket is all  
fired up, My bags are packed and full.  
'Whoosh!' it roars and shoots up, I'm  
Astronaut Madam Gul! My cat, she  
shakes and trembles, My head spins

round and round. In just a few minutes, We are way above the ground.







Six hours later, here it is My new home in outer space They call it Space Station; Hello, you beautiful place!



Boing! we go from step to step, I  
hardly feel my legs. Before we even  
know it, We turn down on our heads!  
And then begins the floating, To the  
left and to the right. Drifting through  
the air we go, And twisting to the  
side.



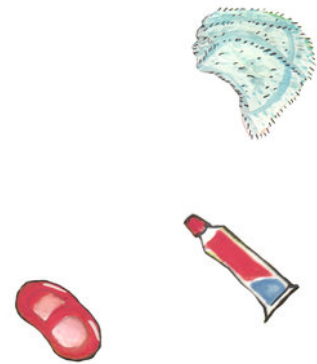




Oops! My bag turns upside down  
And out come two jalebis. Samosas

that I packed so well, I think they've  
all gone crazy! They bump around  
and float across, The crumbs and icky  
juice. I'll stick to labelled packets, Of  
these special space foods.





My hair is all so sticky, The clothes  
are such a mess. My cat, she tries to  
lick me clean; A bath will work the  
best. But here's a little secret, There  
are no taps in space. I wet this towel  
just a bit And wipe it on my face.  
Then squeeze some shampoo in my

hair And rub it through and through.  
A final proper wiping, My hair looks  
clean and new.





I get into my space suit For a very  
special day. Come and join me in the  
fun, It's space walk all the way! Step  
by step I go outside, A slow and  
dangerous crawl. It's dark and cold  
and quiet, I'm connected to the walls.  
The stars are shining clear and bright

They look so big and near. The moon  
just smiles and seems to say 'Happy  
Birthday, Gul dear.'







It's time for me to head back in And  
get some cosy rest. The space walk  
was so tiring; That was scary, but the  
best.



This is where I need to sleep, My bed  
for next few days. What fun it is to  
squeeze right in And strap myself in  
place. I wake up after some time, No  
minute we can waste But first I go and  
brush my teeth And swallow all the  
paste!



I want to speak to Ammi, My laptop's  
strapped in place. 'Hello, who's that?'  
she screams from there, 'I'm Gul from  
outer space!' I tell her of the things  
I've done, Of magic that is space. Of  
how the earth looks far from here, Of  
this Station's funny ways.





I live in space for two full months,  
It's time to head back soon. Far away



we hear some child Wish for journeys  
to the moon. Raise your hand if that  
is you And keep your bags all  
checked. My cat and I return tonight,  
It'll soon be your turn next.



Did You Know? - You need to sit inside a rocket to go into space. There are different kinds of rockets, but the most common one is the kind that Gul and her cat go in. The rocket takes them to the International Space Station (ISS), which is Gul's home in

space for two months. They use a spacecraft called Soyuz to return to Earth from the ISS. - There are spacecraft that go from Earth to ISS carrying specially packed food and water, and other things that astronauts need to live there. Gul has to be careful with the use of water inside the space station. Every drop is precious.



- Gul and the other objects inside the ISS float like balloons. Anything that is not strapped down will float because they appear to become weightless in space. This happens because the space station itself and everything inside it are falling very

fast towards Earth all the time. It is this falling with speed that makes Gul feel weightless. But if they are falling, why doesn't everything not crash on to Earth? That's because our planet is round, and as the ISS and everything inside it falls down, down, down, the Earth's surface curves away from them and they never reach the ground.

- There are no taps inside the ISS because water cannot flow down in a weightless environment. So Gul has to use a special shampoo that does not need to be rinsed off, and she also swallows her toothpaste. If Gul leaves a water bag open by mistake, drops of water will start floating all over the



space station and combine to form a  
big ball of water.



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