

Fantasy

A Space Race



**by Janine Scott
illustrated by Julia Gorton**

Read to Find Out

How will Rick and Rose get back to Mars?

STRATEGIES & SKILLS AT A GLANCE Comprehension

- Strategy: Monitor Comprehension: Reread
- Skill: Make Predictions

Vocabulary

- bears, birds, Earth, fooling, guess, helmets, space, table

Phonics

- variant vowel /û/oo

Word count: 677

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Chapter 1

The Plan

Rick and Rose's friendship began as soon as Rick moved next door. He had moved with his family to Mars, the red planet, from Pluto.



“Let’s have a space race,” said Rose. “I want to test my new Saturn 5000 bike.”

Rick worried that he couldn’t go as fast as Rose could go.

“My Pluto 3000 will never keep up with your new bike,” said Rick.

“You’ll just pedal faster,” said Rose. “Anyway, I would never leave you behind. Friends don’t do that.”

“Let’s bring along some lunch for the trip,” suggested Rick.

There were delicious things on the table to choose from. They took some bottles of orange water that were on the table, too.

“We better put our roam-from-home beepers on our shoes,” said Rose. “Better safe than sorry,” she added. “Then if we get lost, our families will be able to find us.”

“And don’t forget your bike light,” said Rick.

“Of course not,” said Rose. “We can’t go anywhere without bike lights.”

The two friends put on their safety helmets.

“Let’s race to Earth. There are beautiful birds and enormous bears there,” said Rick.

“Birds and bears are fine,” said Rose. “But I want to see the Great Red Spot of Jupiter that I’ve always heard about!”

“This time Jupiter, next time Earth,” said Rick, planning ahead.

“For sure,” said Rose.



Chapter 2

Off They Go

Rose pushed the rocket booster button on her Saturn 5000. She shot off like a comet. Rose headed toward Jupiter. The space race was on!

“Wait for me!” Rick cried out.

Rick pushed his rocket booster. When Rose turned left, Rick followed. When she went up, Rick did too.





They had a lot of fun space racing. But they forgot to keep an eye on their rocket boosters. Suddenly they felt their bikes losing power!

“How will we ever get home?” Rick called out. He was very worried. “Without power from the rocket boosters, we have no lights. Without lights, we’ll never find our way back to Mars. I guess there’s only one thing to do.”

Rick and Rose slowly pedaled down to the moon's surface. It was just below them. The glow from the moon lit the way.





Once on the moon, Rose and Rick talked about what to do. They agreed that they were not ready to use their roam-from-home beepers just yet.

Then they heard a deep but gentle voice.

“Hello,” said a man wearing a silver suit and a small black hat.

The friends were speechless. They had heard about the man in the moon, but never expected to meet him!

Chapter 3

A Little Help

The man in the moon asked if Rose and Rick were lost.

“We’re not lost,” said Rose. Then she explained what had happened.

The man listened patiently, then he said, “I’ll run and get just what you need.”

In a few seconds, he returned with two white balls, about the size of oranges.

“These will help you get home,” said the man.

Once again, Rose and Rick were speechless. “Well, hurry now and try them,” said the man, smiling.

“Please, stop fooling,” said Rick, politely. “We have a serious problem, and no time to bounce balls.”



“No!” said the man. “You are mistaken. These are not balls, they are mini-moons.”

“Mini-moons?” asked Rose.

“Yes,” said the man. “I always keep some for emergencies. They will light your way.”

The man put the mini-moons on their bikes. Then he showed Rick and Rose how to turn on the mini-moons.



After their lesson, Rose said, “I think we should go now. Thanks for your help.”

Rose and Rick waved as they started off. Without rocket booster power, they had to pedal with all their might. The man was right. The mini-moons lit the way.



“There’s no place like home,” said Rick when they finally landed back on Mars.

Rose agreed. Then she said, “So this time it was the moon. Next time Jupiter?”

“No,” said Rick. “This time it was the moon, next time Earth,” said Rick.

“We’ll see,” Rose said.



Comprehension Check

Retell the Story

Use a Predictions Chart to check out your predictions about the story.



What
I Predict



What
Happens

Think and Compare

1. What do you think Rick and Rose will do the next time they race in space?
2. What are some details about the future included in this story that you liked?
3. Why do writers like to write fiction about the future? Why do readers like to read it?

Literacy Activities

Write a Journal Entry

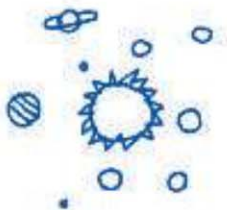


Pretend you are Rose or Rick. Write an entry in your journal telling about your adventure racing in space.



Describe a New Planet

Pretend you discovered a new planet. Make up a name for it. Write what makes it special. Tell where it is compared to Earth. Draw a picture to go with your description.





1.6 Week 2

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