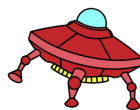




The story of the play

Written by
Nicola Sangster & Tina Williams



Zoom!

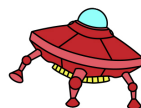
It was a normal Friday night. Dad was trying to get Molly to go to bed. Molly was looking through her telescope, and filling in her Star Diary. Molly's Star Diary was very important. It was the book where she wrote down all the stars that she saw each night.

Molly knew a lot about stars and planets because when she grew up she was going to be a very, very, serious and famous scientist, astronomer and astronaut.

'Even the most very, very serious scientist-astronomer-astronauts need their sleep', Dad said. 'They've got to rest those mega brains.'

The phone rang and Dad went off to answer it. Molly was about to go to bed when she suddenly saw something in the sky. She ran to her telescope. What was it? A shooting star? A meteor? Whatever it was, it was going to land in the back garden. Molly grabbed her coat.





★ The back garden was dark and full of shadowy shapes as Molly crept outside. There was a loud banging sound and she ran to hide behind the biggest tree. Then the bushes rustled, someone...or something...was there!

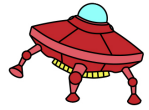
The something was walking and talking, but it didn't look or sound like anything Molly had ever seen before. It was a space creature visiting from another planet!

The space creature had a special button that changed between hundreds of languages and at last they found English. The creature's name was Leelo, and it came from the planet Luniper. Molly had never heard of Luniper. It must be very far away; she knew all the planets in our solar system.

Leelo was carrying a broken part of a spaceship. It was the steering stick. When the spaceship crashed down to Earth, it had broken off. So had Leelo's most important spacesuit button...the ignition button to start the whole spaceship.

Leelo was very upset and began to cry; with the spaceship broken there was no way of getting home again. Molly said she would help Leelo find a way to fix it in the morning.





★ The next morning was Saturday and after gobbling down her breakfast Molly told Dad she wanted to play in the garden. She couldn't wait to get outside and find Leelo.

She found Leelo talking to a tree. Molly wondered what Leelo was doing. Leelo seemed very excited. Molly couldn't understand...it was only a tree.

'Tree?' asked Leelo. 'This is what you call your air cleaners?'

On Luniper they had many names for trees: Oxygen makers, Air cleaners, Life givers. Molly had never really thought much about trees, but Leelo thought they were very important.

Leelo spotted the wheelie bin. Leelo was really excited to find the rubbish inside, and tipped it out all over the lawn.

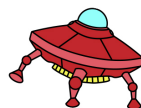
'Treasure!' Leelo said, picking up cardboard boxes and old milk bottles.

'Dad's not going to like this', Molly thought.

Leelo couldn't understand why we throw so many useful things away. On Luniper things were reused.

'Otherwise Luniper will run out of resources', Leelo explained. 'There would be nothing left!'





Molly thought hard about that. Was there stuff that she threw away that could be reused to help save Earth's resources? Suddenly she had a brilliant idea. Perhaps there was something that she could reuse to help mend Leelo's spaceship!

Molly rushed to the shed and came back with her rusty old scooter.

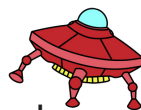
Leelo had never seen a scooter before. Molly rode it and then Leelo rode it; whizzing around on the scooter was fun. But that wasn't why Molly had found it.

'Leelo,' she said, 'I've got an idea. My scooter's old and rusty. It comes apart and...look! This top bit looks just like your steering stick.' Leelo's remaining buttons lit up with joy.

Leelo tied the bit from the scooter onto the spaceship with string. It was wobbly...but it worked. Now Leelo could steer the ship back to Luniper; but without a start button the spaceship would never get off the ground.

Molly had an idea. When Leelo had been sorting through the rubbish they'd found a milk bottle; maybe they could use the top for the start button? They tried attaching it but it was too small. Leelo was downhearted.





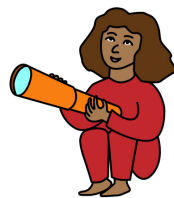
★ The stars were beginning to come out. Molly looked up at them. The North Star was shining brightly, lighting Leelo's way home if only she could find a way...

'First find the North Star then you'll know where you are,' she thought. 'That's what I always say when I look through my telescope'. Her telescope! An idea flashed into her head. She dashed into the kitchen.

On the side of her telescope was a round button. The focus button. The button you had to turn to bring the night sky into focus so you could see the stars. Molly took the milk bottle top from her pocket. The focus button was just a little bigger. The perfect size for Leelo's spacesuit.

Molly picked up the telescope and headed outside to tell Leelo the good news, but just before she got to the door, something stopped her. She looked at her telescope again. Without the focus button the telescope wouldn't work. Molly hugged the telescope to her; it was her favourite thing in all the world; but without the button Leelo wouldn't be able to go home.

She had to help. She pushed the focus button onto the spacesuit; it fitted perfectly.





★ Leelo was delighted. Soon the spaceship would be zooming toward Luniper with its clean air, three moons, Zaazoo fruit, Zikzak nuts and, most importantly of all, Leelo's family and friends.

Leelo's favourite part about exploring was always the journey home.

'One day' Leelo said, 'Molly will fly back from a space mission. She will see the Earth getting bigger and bigger as she flies towards beautiful blue waters and green forests. She will know she is home. Look after your planet Molly.'

It was time for Molly and Leelo to say goodbye; they would never forget each other.

Molly watched as Leelo's spaceship flew off into the sky, getting smaller and smaller.

The stars were shining brightly. It was a perfect night for star gazing.

