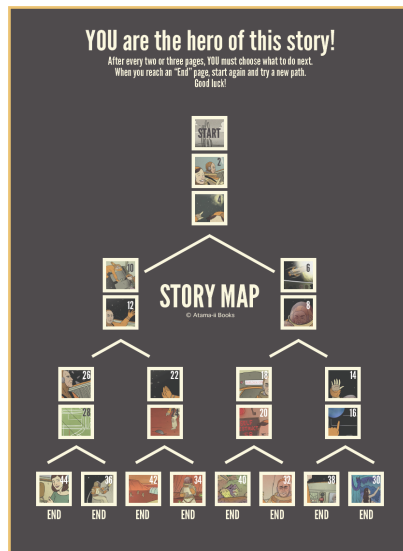
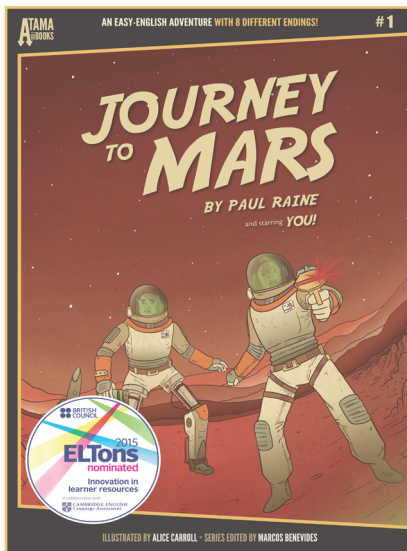


BEFORE READING



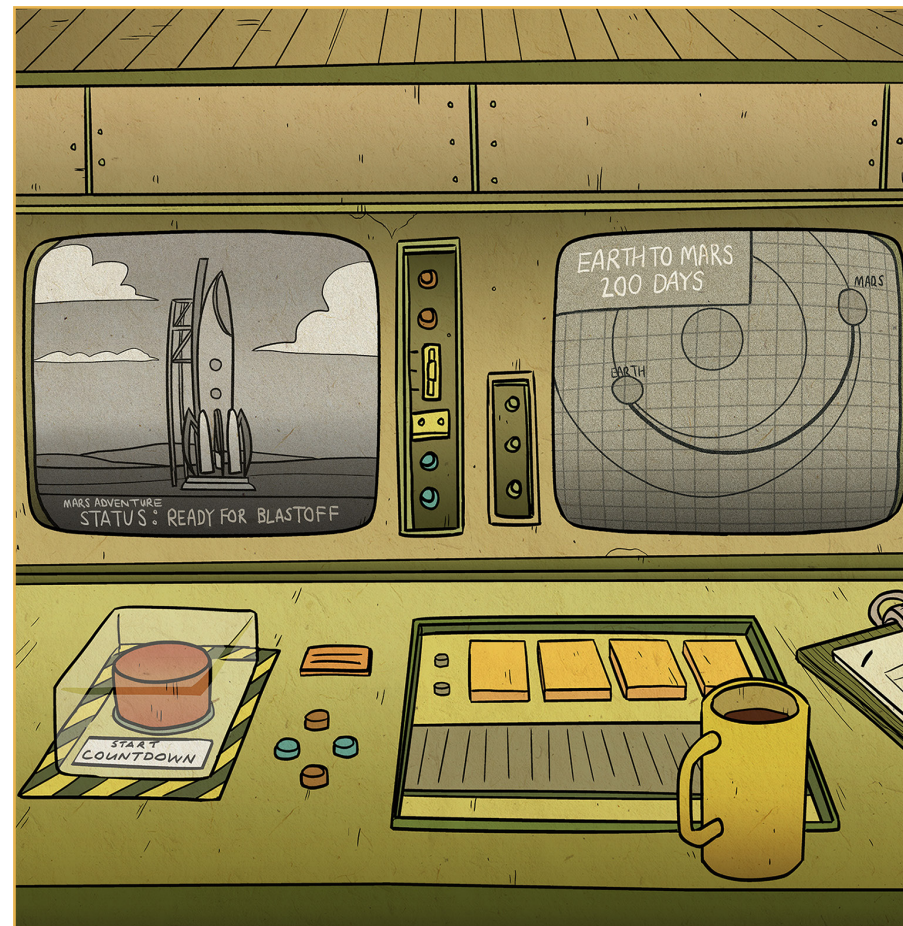
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JOURNEY TO MARS

This story is about a journey to the planet Mars. In the story, you travel through space as an astronaut.

Before you read, think about these questions:

1. What do you know about Mars?
2. What do you know about space travel?
3. Do you think there is life on other planets?



Look at the picture. Can you describe three things in it?

Next, learn the story keywords



KEYWORDS

Learn these important words before you read the story.
They will help you to read more smoothly.

asteroid (n.) a space rock that circles the sun

astronaut (n.) a person whose job is to go to space

blast (v.) to explode; (n.) an explosion or other strong force

blast-off (n.) when a space ship goes up into the sky

command (v.) to lead; to be in control of a team

commander (n.) a leadership position, like “captain”

communicator (n.) a machine used to talk with other people; e.g. a phone or a radio

control panel (n.) the part of a ship used for telling the ship where to go, how fast, etc.

escape pod (n.) a small ship inside a larger ship, used to get away in an emergency

fuel tank (n.) the part of a ship which holds the material used to move the ship

land (n.) the ground; (v.) to reach the ground safely

laser blaster (n.) a kind of gun that shoots strong light-energy blasts

KEYWORDS



navigator (n.) a person whose job is to check the map, and plan where a ship will go

pilot (n.) a person whose job is to keep a ship going the right way

planet (n.) a very large round body that circles a sun; e.g. Earth, Mars, Saturn

self-destruct (v.) to blow up one's own ship; i.e. so that an enemy can't take it

space (n.) the cold, black emptiness between planets, stars, asteroids, etc.

wormhole (n.) a hole in space that connects two far away places; scientists don't know if wormholes really exist, or what happens if we go into one...



AFTER READING

EXTENSION QUESTIONS

Reading a good story can make you think about new things. Here are some interesting questions. Talk about them with your friends or your teacher, or try to find out more online. Remember, not all questions have one clear answer.

1. In the story, one of the astronauts has no legs. Is this an advantage or a disadvantage in space, where there is no gravity?
2. What is it like to be on Mars? Is it cold or hot? Is there an atmosphere? How long can we survive without a space suit?
3. In the story, you travel through a wormhole. Do wormholes really exist? Could a space ship really travel through a wormhole?
4. In one of the endings, you and Maki find a blue planet where life is perfect, until one day you meet a 'snake'. What does it mean?
5. In the story, it takes 200 days to get from Earth to Mars. How long does it really take for a space ship to reach Mars?
6. In the story, one astronaut says that there is water on Mars. Is this true? What is the latest news about water on Mars?
7. In the story, you pass through asteroids on your way to Mars. Is this true? Are there really asteroids between Earth and Mars?
8. In the story, the astronauts use laser blasters. Is this true? Do astronauts carry weapons? Do laser weapons really exist?
9. In the story, the *Mars Adventure* has an escape pod. Do space ships really have escape pods? What happens in an emergency?
10. In the story, you find life on other planets. Is this true? What do we know about life on other planets? What do *you* believe?

BOOK REVIEW



1. Did you enjoy this story? Why or why not?

2. Who are the main characters? Can you describe them?

3. Where does the story take place? Can you describe it?

4. Which ending did you like the most? Why did you like it?

5. Which ending didn't you like? Why didn't you like it?

Email your review to Atama-ii Books (include your book's access code in the email) for a chance to win a new book every month!

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STORY MAP

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