

“Hazel & Wal's Space Adventure” written by Nora Chun, Age 10

“We’ve officially landed on Planet 3492941!” Hazel announced into the microphone.

“Wonderful! Have y’all found the yellow tablet yet?” asked Mr.S.

“Yes, sir,” replied Wal.

“Great! It’s for recording your observations. These observations are going to help mankind! Everything you write is immediately sent to me, so you can write down questions too.”

“Thank you, Mr. S.”

“I’m signing off now, so you can go explore. Remember to strap your emergency bag to your waist.”

“Yes, Mr. S.”

Beep.

“Alright, bro, ready to walk outside?” asked Hazel.

“I was born ready,” replied Wal.

“Have ya got your emergency bag?”

“Yep.”

“Then let’s go.”

They walk outside.

“Whoa,” said Wal, “the ground is so bouncy!”

“Such a beautiful shade of purple too,” remarked Hazel. The ground was a fantastic shade of magenta, but it was nothing compared to the sky’s breathtaking color.

“Wal!”

“Huh?”

“Look up! At the sky!”

Gasp!

“Isn’t it so-”Hazel started, but stopped as both siblings felt some invisible thing knock them over. Wal quickly jumped up to see their attacker, as Hazel sat there gaping at it.

Hazel got up just in time for Wal to bump into her, hit by another blast. There, in front of them was a cloud, if it could even be called a cloud. It was ball shaped, smooth, and green. It seemed like there were flashes of blue light inside of it.

Hazel and Wal looked at each other and came to an agreement.

“RUN!!!” they shouted at each other. They ran and ran and ran. At last they stopped when they couldn’t see the aliens anymore.

“Whew,” said Hazel, “I think we lost them.”

“Yeah,” agreed Wal. “We should record it on our yellow tablet.”

“Good idea,” said Hazel. “Do you want to type?”

“Sure, why not.”

We are outside right now. The ground is purple and bouncy. The sky is a beautiful bright turquoise. We have attached a picture. We have just escaped from some aliens. They resemble green ball-shaped clouds, crackling with blue lightning. We think they hit us with sound waves so deep that they knocked us over. We are also lost right now, having no idea where the ship is. Please advise.

Hazel & Wal

The answer came immediately.

Thank you for your photo and detailed description of the planet. As for your problem of being lost, push the settings button on your yellow tablet and tap the "Find my ship" button. It should open a compass to tell you what direction the ship is in.

Mr. S

"Alright, let's go home now. I mean, to the ship," said Wal.

After a while, a high screeching sound filled the air.

"What the heck was that?" asked Wal

"I think it was an-" started Hazel as another alien came into view.

"Alien!!!!" screamed Wal. This alien was quickly followed by several more. These aliens looked like dark blue balls covered in spikes, and they were zooming towards the twins.

"I thought we just ran away from aliens!" yelled Hazel. "Run and follow me to the ship!" To make matters worse, the aliens started shooting their spikes at the twins. As soon as one flew out, another spike moved in. The twins were quickly surrounded.

"Looks like we're going to have to fight!" shouted Wal. "Take the laser gun out of your emergency bag!" They both whipped their lasers out and started zapping. When the laser hit a spikeball, it froze.

"I really hoped we wouldn't need these," muttered Hazel.

Soon all the spikeballs were all frozen. The twins inched through a crack just small enough to squeeze through and run to the ship. Once inside, Hazel wheezed, "Whew, we're safe." Were they though?

"I'm sooooo tired," said Wal. As he turned around to go to bed he came face to face with a third type of alien. This one was oddly humanlike. The alien reached out an arm to touch his shoulder, and used some kind of telepathic power to lure Hazel forward. Hazel suddenly remembered that the door had been ajar when they walked in. The alien must have slipped in while they were exploring! Then it touched her shoulder, too.

The alien spoke in a language that the twins had never heard before, yet they still understood somehow.

"We are the Juniflos," it communicated. "I go by the name of Zhoswalde. You can just call me Oswald. I am one of the thirty Juniflos that live on this planet. There used to be over two thousand. You see, you are not the first to visit this planet. Long ago one of your kind by the name of Zack Smack came here. He was actually supposed to be exploring Planet 3492940 but his spaceship veered and crashed here instead. He killed almost all of us Juniflos, just because he didn't understand us."

"Oh my," murmured Hazel.

"We've wanted to get revenge ever since. We've been spying on Zack for a while now. We've learned that on Earth, he goes by the name Mr.S." At this point the twins gasped.

“Could it be...?” whispered Hazel.

“Yes. I had long foreseen you two coming along. I sent my Coluzhes to find you and drive you away from the ship so I could get in. I sent my Gnales to find you and bring you back in. Their spikes should have knocked you out just long enough to bring you back to the ship. Apparently this step was unnecessary, as you were already returning to the ship. Anyways, I need you two to bring Zack back,” said Oswald as he took them outside and into some kind of house they hadn’t noticed before.

“Wow, I’m so sorry. But how the heck are w-” started Wal.

“As to how,” interrupted Oswald, “We Juniflos have the power to conjure what you humans call ‘portals’.”

“Awesome,” breathed Wal.

“But,” asked Hazel “how’re we gonna get back?”

“Good question. I have set it up so that you have a limited time to go to Earth and back. Twenty seconds to be exact.” Hazel gasped.

“But that’s such a short time!” She complained.

“Actually, you will be teleported straight to Zack, so I think it is a good amount of time if not too long.”

“Oh, well of course we’ll do it.” said Wal. Oswald lifted his hands from the twins’ shoulder and shot a spark of light out of one of his hands. The spark stopped in midair and started spinning, faster and faster until it turned into a portal.

“Go!” shouted Oswald.

When the twins jumped in, they were surrounded by a blinding pink light so bright they could not see. They called for each other, but the deafening sound of waves drowned their voices out. For some reason, the smell of rose filled the air, or water, because just now the twins noticed that the ‘walls’ around them were actually made of water.

The whole process seemed to take forever when it actually took less than five seconds.

Finally out of the portal, the twins started to dizzily stumble around. After catching their balance, they tackled an unsuspecting Mr. S, and teleported back. As soon as Oswald saw Mr. S, he shot out a web of an unknown material and captured Mr. S - and the twins.

“Hey!” yelled Wal. Oswald had trapped them in some kind of magical bubble.

“Have you ever wondered how I can talk in your language? Have you ever wondered how I can cleverly trick you like this? Have you ever wondered why I’m so human? When I was young my ‘parent’ abandoned me. I spent my life suffering from sadness. I finally tracked him down only to find out he was dead. When I was young, I was always the brightest Juniflo. Everyone around was dying because they didn’t have the smart ideas of Oswald. I was clever; I abducted humans! I took them from their happy little homes that I lacked, and stole their knowledge. This is how I’ve been surviving, off of your brains. Now I intend to execute this process on you three.”

“W-w-why m-me?” stuttered Mr. S

“Because,” answered Oswald, “I need the knowledge to build big spaceships and drive them. It would make abducting so much easier. I need to outsmart all the Juniflos that copied me. The other twenty-nine that I told you about are all copycats and that’s why they’re alive. Now, I must go find my brain sucker, a clever machine I made to make brain sucking easier,” Oswald said and left.

“I can’t believe it,” said Mr.S, rubbing his forehead.

“How many lies did he tell us!” asked Wal. “Mr. S, what’s your real name?”

“Somerset. David Somerset.”

“What a pack of lies he told us!” complained Wal. “Oswald said your name was Zack Smack! I wonder if Oswald is even his real name.”

While all this was going on, Hazel was brainstorming how to get out of this bubble.

“Mr. Oswald!” she called out in a sweet singsong voice. “What is this bubble made of?”

“Now, why should I tell you that?”

“Why shouldn’t you? I mean, you’re going to kill us aren’t you?”

“Yes, that’s true, but if I tell you, you might get out.”

“This alien is clearly lacking brain cells ‘cause he just told us there’s a way out.” she whispered to Wal and Mr. S. Just then, Oswald passed by muttering, “I should have taken their bags away. They might escape.”

“A lot of brain cells. Again, a giant clue. I’m gonna use my laser to try and punch a hole in the top of the bubble,” said Hazel. The laser punched a hole in the top of the bubble but the rest of it remained intact.

“I’ve got an idea!” whispered Wal. “Make a tiny hole in the side and next time Oswald passes by-”

“We zap him!” finished Hazel. “Genius.”

ZAP! Oswald froze. Hazel and Wal worked on getting the hole big enough to crawl through.

When they succeeded, the three of them ducked under Oswald's arm - they had frozen him in a strange position - and left the house. They went to the spaceship, and climbed in.

Once inside, Wal sat down. “Now what?” he asked.

“Tap the button that says ‘EMERGENCY BLASTOFF - DO NOT PUSH’.” said Mr.S

“Uh, it says don’t push,” said Hazel. “Just push it,” said Mr. S in a weary voice.

Epilogue

“And we have decided to name the planet ‘CocoNut’ in honor of Hazel and Wal Nut, the best astronauts the world has ever seen!” Everybody claps as the twins emerge from behind the curtain. Hazel steps up to the microphone.

“Mr. S, I’m so honored to have a planet named after our family! Although I think you should have named it Hazel Nut instead, since I was the one who first thought of a working escape plan,” she says with a wink,

“Hey!” complained Wal. “Well, I think that it should be named Wal Nut, because I told you to take your laser gun out!”

“Haha, very funny. Also, ‘hey’ is for horses. Anyways, thanks to Chess and Cass Nut, they’re our parents and helped us reach our dreams.”

“Yeah,” agreed Wal.

“So,” said Mr. S. “I heard that you guys wrote a book on this adventure. Would you like to read it out loud to us?”

“Sure,” they replied.

“‘We’ve officially landed on Planet 3492941!’ Hazel announced to the microphone,” started Wal.

