

Name : _____

Kite Rider

by Guy Belleranti

I was bored. I'd finished my chores, homework, and even two library books. I called my friend, D.J., but he couldn't come over. I couldn't ride my bike either 'cause I had a flat tire.



I stomped outside. The weather was great — 70's and breezy. I love breezes. They cool you down, make neat sounds in the leaves, and are great for flying kites.

Flying kites! Yeah, that's what I'll do. I ran back in the house and dug my rocket kite out of my closet. This will be fun.

In no time, the breeze whipped up and pulled my kite high into the sky. I gripped the string and it soared up pulling...pulling. Suddenly, I felt nothing under my feet but air. Yikes! My kite and I flew over the people down below.

We sailed higher, above trees, above buildings, even above downtown skyscrapers. I held on tightly. Soon, the city became a tiny toy town. The Earth was just a blue and white ball behind me. I was outer space bound!

Mars came and went. The same with Jupiter, Saturn, and Uranus. I'd read about each in school. Now I was seeing them with my very own eyes. But how much farther would we travel? I was hungry and tired.

"Turn around, Rocket!" I called.

My kite partially turned. Straight toward Neptune!

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"No," I cried. "Turn more."

Rocket tried, but Neptune's gravitational pull was stronger. Would I ever see Mom, Dad and D.J. again? Tears stung my eyes and rolled down my cheeks. There was nothing I could do. Nothing at all.

I wiped away the tears and set my jaw. No, there was something I could do. I could be brave. I could not give up. "Try again, Rocket," I yelled. "Turn."

Then I saw a flash and felt a tug so sharp that I almost lost my hold on the kite string. We were being pulled back into space, away from Neptune. Rocket had hooked on to an asteroid!

"Giddy-up, asteroid!" I shouted. "Giddy-up, Rocket!"

Past Uranus we zoomed. Past Jupiter. I saw Saturn a second time and then Mars.

"Yippee!" I shouted as we sped toward Earth. Then I sucked in my breath. Would we crash into it? I shut my eyes.

I kept them closed until I heard a voice call out. I blinked when I saw who it was. The Man in the Moon!

"Hope you had a great ride!" he called.

Suddenly, the asteroid zipped in another direction. We broke free and headed straight back to Earth. Rocket and I landed safely in the soft sand of our neighborhood playground. We were immediately surrounded by Mom, Dad and D. J. What a ride I had taken! I brushed myself off and began to tell them about it — until a breeze whipped up again.

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1) Why does the boy love breezes?

- a) They cool you down.
- b) They make sounds in leaves.
- c) They make kite-flying easy.
- d) All of the above.

2) There was a moment when the boy shuddered at the thought of not being able to see Mom, Dad and D.J again.

True False

3) Why was the boy bored?

4) List out the planets the boy came across while traveling in space.

5) If you were the boy in the story, would you enjoy the whole thing, or would you be frightened?

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Mars, Jupiter, Saturn and Uranus

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Answers may vary.
