A STORY IMAGINED BY HENRY

Henry Goes to the Moon

Windows of Starlight

A little boy. A very big dream.

Henry loved his family. He loved his school, too.

He loved big hugs, little rocks, and asking very big questions.

One night, Henry had a dream.

Where did everybody go?

In his dream, the school bus was empty. His classroom was empty, too.

No chatter. No footsteps. Not even a whisper.

But something was waiting in his cubby.

Calling Astronaut Henry!

A spacesuit. A helmet. Two enormous boots!

Crackle! The school speaker came to life.

"Henry, we need a brave explorer for a top-secret mission. Someone who collects rocks and follows directions. Will you go to the moon?"

One very important promise.

"Yes!" said Henry. "But please bring me home safely, in time for dinner."

"That is a promise, Astronaut Henry."

Suit on. Boots on. Helmet on. Henry was ready.

The coziest spaceship.

In the cozy corner, Henry lifted a cushion.

Underneath were a harness and buckles. Click. Click. Snug and safe.

The room began to hum. Three… two… one… BLASTOFF!

Goodbye, little blue home.

First he saw his school. Then his town. Then the great sweep of the continent.

Soon he could see the whole Earth, blue and green and beautiful.

Henry waved. Then he made a heart with his hands.

A million little hellos.

The sky grew dark. The stars came out.

Henry was far from home, but he did not feel alone.

A million little lights seemed to say, "Hello, Henry. Hello!"

Something to leave with love.

With a soft little bump, the spaceship landed on the moon.

Before he stepped outside, Henry made a flag: rainbows, his family, a giant blueberry, and a raspberry for Mama to eat.

"Now a little bit of home can stay here," he said.

One small step. One giant hop.

Henry stepped onto the moon. Hop! Float! Hop!

He planted his flag and drew a big heart around it in the soft moon dust.

Even on the moon, there was room for love.

A friend from an old story.

Behind a silver rock, two long ears appeared.

Henry remembered an old Chinese story about the Jade Rabbit who lives on the moon.

"Is that you?" he whispered. The little rabbit twitched its nose. Then it hopped beside him.

The very best rock collector.

Now for his mission. Henry looked carefully, just as he had been asked.

One round rock. One bumpy rock. One rock that glittered like a tiny night sky.

Into his pouch they went. Mission complete!

A promise is a promise.

Henry buckled up again. He waved to the rabbit, the flag, and the moon.

"Goodbye! I have to help Mama with dinner!"

The stars slipped past. The Earth grew bigger. Home was getting closer.

Well done, Astronaut Henry.

Whoosh! Henry was back in his classroom. Everyone was busy, just as usual.

He placed the moon rocks in his teacher’s basket. "Well done, Astronaut Henry!" she said.

She tucked his spacesuit into a special hiding place, ready for another mission.

Home, just in time.

The bus took Henry home, just in time to help Mama make dinner.

"Did you have a big day?" she asked.

Henry smiled. "Out of this world."

And outside the window, the moon shone down.

First, Henry had an idea.

A round helmet. A star on his suit. Big boots. A flag full of family. Henry's drawing was the spark for this adventure.

Story concept and original drawing by Henry. Text adapted and illustrations created with AI assistance.

ABOUT THE MOON RABBIT

Henry's dream nods to the Jade Rabbit of Chinese folklore. His meeting is an original imagined scene, rather than a retelling of the traditional tale.

Explore the tradition at The Metropolitan Museum of Art.

THE NEXT ADVENTURE

Next time, bring your friends.

Henry and his classmates fly to the moon together. He shows them his special flag. And then… they play!

A sequel idea from Henry

Big dreams begin with little dreamers.

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