


Ellie explores the planets




“Don’t look at the Sun!” cried Ellie at the top of her voice!

Mags, sometimes a slightly naughty teddy bear, did what she was told today and looked away immediately, although a little unsure as to why.

Ellie had been learning about the planets, the Moon and the Sun at school, and had been telling her bear all about them. She had just been talking about the Sun and how it could hurt your eyes very badly if you looked at it directly. Ellie loved her favourite teddy, Mags, and could not bear the thought of Mags damaging her eyesight.





“You could go blind!” she told her teddy bear. “Can you imagine never seeing anything again?”

Mags’s little forehead wrinkled up into a frown. She couldn’t imagine it at all, but she knew it was important that she look after her eyesight.

Mags cuddled up to Ellie more. Ellie returned the hug and kissed her bear’s button nose.

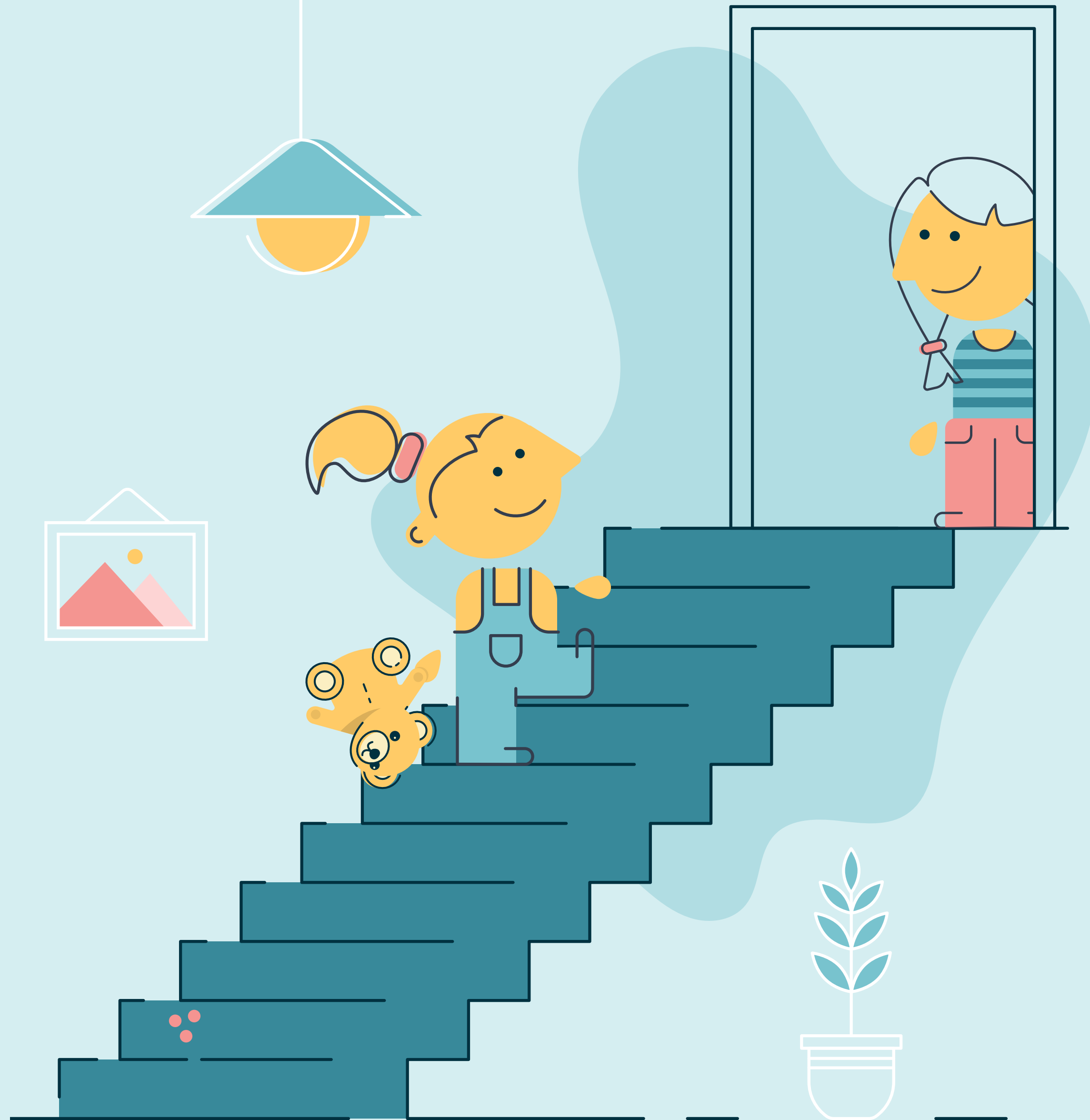


“I’m going to ask Manchi to tell us some more about Space later. I wonder if she knows how big the Earth is?” Ellie’s thoughtful gaze went towards the house and the little girl wondered if her stepsister was home yet.

Picking up her bear, Ellie ran inside to see if Manchi was back from her after-school Coding Club.

She was! The little girl ran upstairs to her stepsister’s bedroom to see if she’d help her.

Manchi was so much older than Ellie – she was 14 years old. And so clever! She knew something about everything!



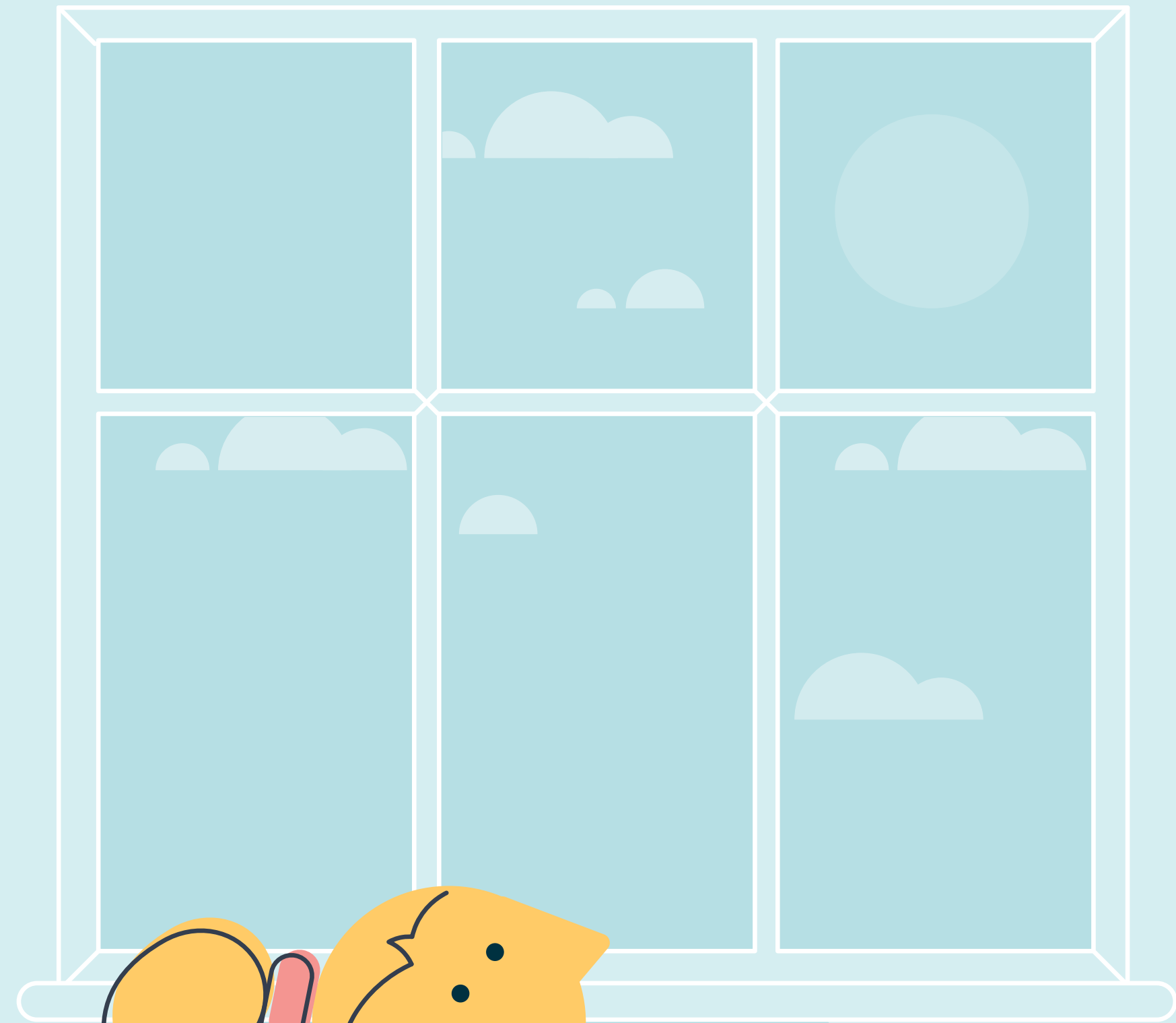
“Space!” Manchi exclaimed.
“Do you know that there are
eight planets?”

Mags’s eyes widened. “Wow!”
she thought.

“Eight!” said Ellie. “Where are
they? Can you show them to
me? Show me where they are
and what they’re called?”

She ran to the window, but it
was still light and she could
only see the faintest outline
of the Moon.


Manchi was about to go out to
meet her friend, but promised
the little girl that she’d show
her later.





Ellie was beyond excited. She told her Mum whilst she was having her bath, and she couldn't wait for Manchi to get back home again.

Manchi came back in plenty of time and the two girls (and Mags) went upstairs to Manchi's room, to talk about Space and the planets. Manchi had recently been going over her school science notes for an exam, so she had plenty of facts in her head to share with Ellie (and Mags too, of course).




It was now dark and, with the lights off, Manchi showed Ellie the Moon. It was a full Moon and Manchi explained that the light from the Sun made it shine brightly.

“We were told never to look at the Sun as it could really hurt your eyes,” said Ellie.

“That’s right,” said Manchi. “Even though the Sun is an incredibly long way away, it’s really important always to remember never to look at it.”





Ellie said that she had heard some of her school friends in the playground saying that the Moon is made of cheese, but she didn't think that could be right.

“No,” said Manchi. “It’s not made of cheese, but of rock – and those dark circles are craters, where chunks of rock and metal called meteorites crash into the Moon.”



Getting up, Manchi went to the other side of her room and picked up her beach ball.

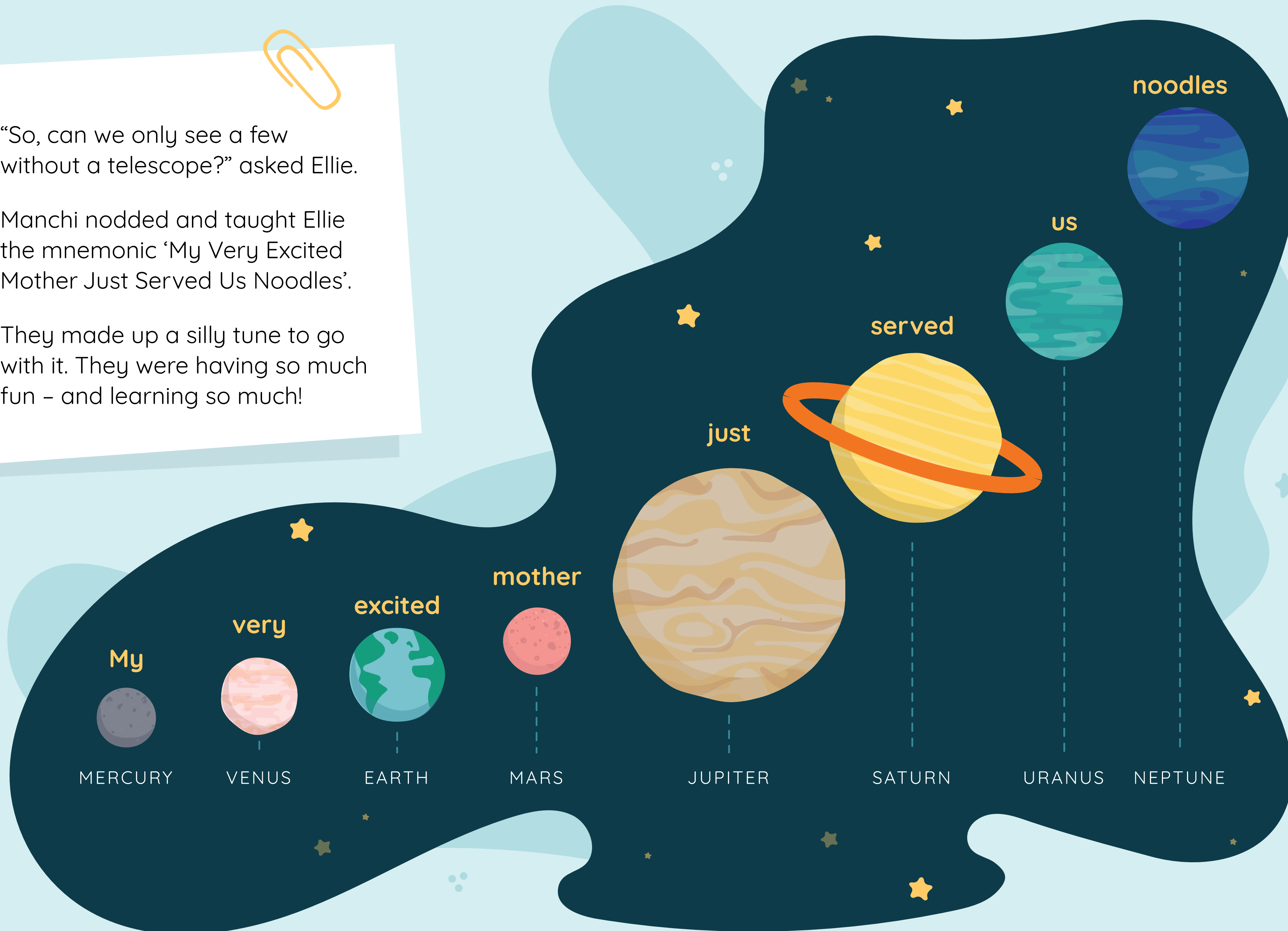
“Thinking about the Sun, did you know that if the Sun was this big, then the Earth would be this big?” She held up a small pea. “And they are 93 million miles away from one another!”

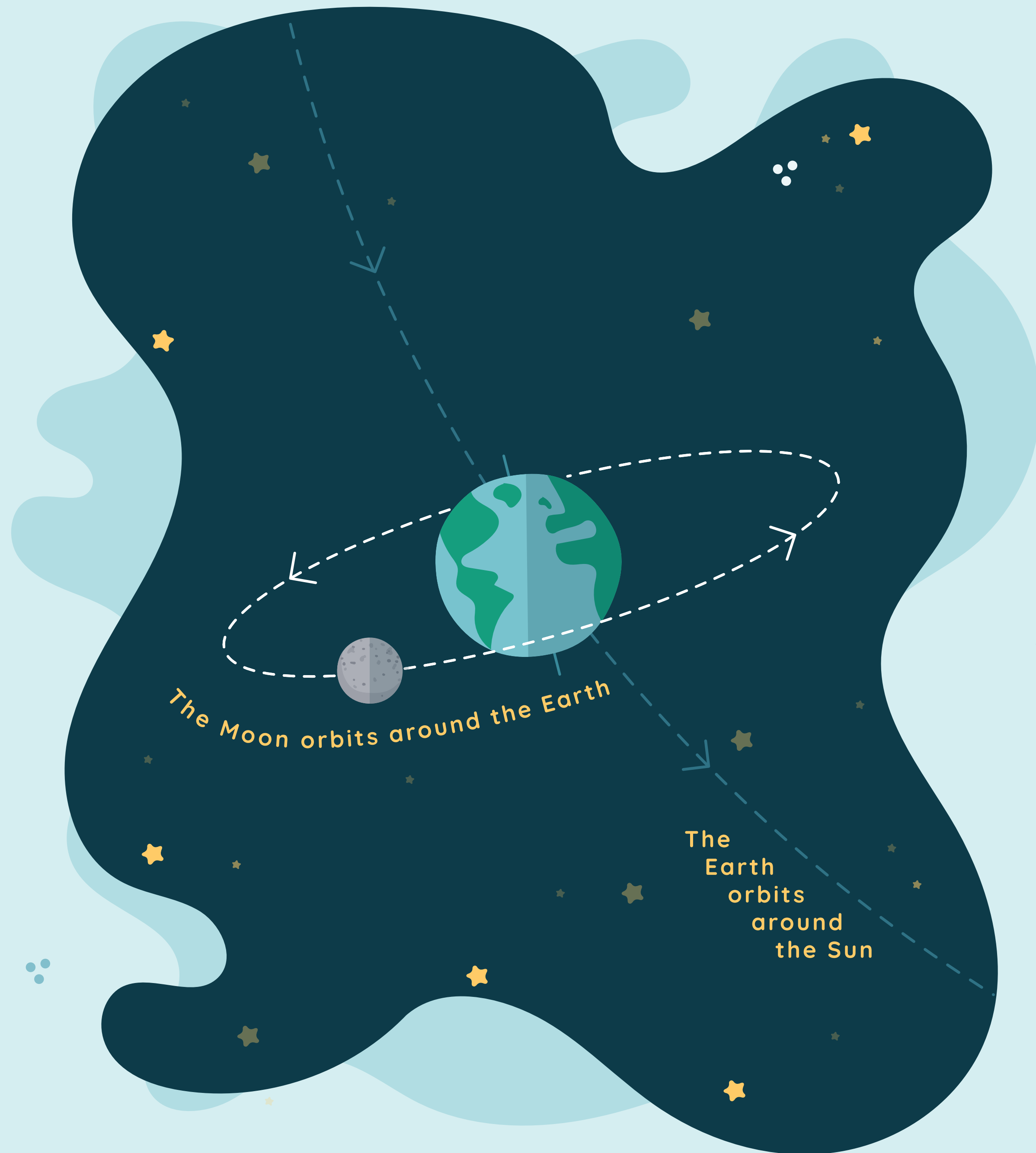
She went on to tell Ellie that Saturn has rings around it and that Jupiter has a red spot. Each planet was so different!

“So, can we only see a few without a telescope?” asked Ellie.

Manchi nodded and taught Ellie the mnemonic ‘My Very Excited Mother Just Served Us Noodles’.

They made up a silly tune to go with it. They were having so much fun – and learning so much!





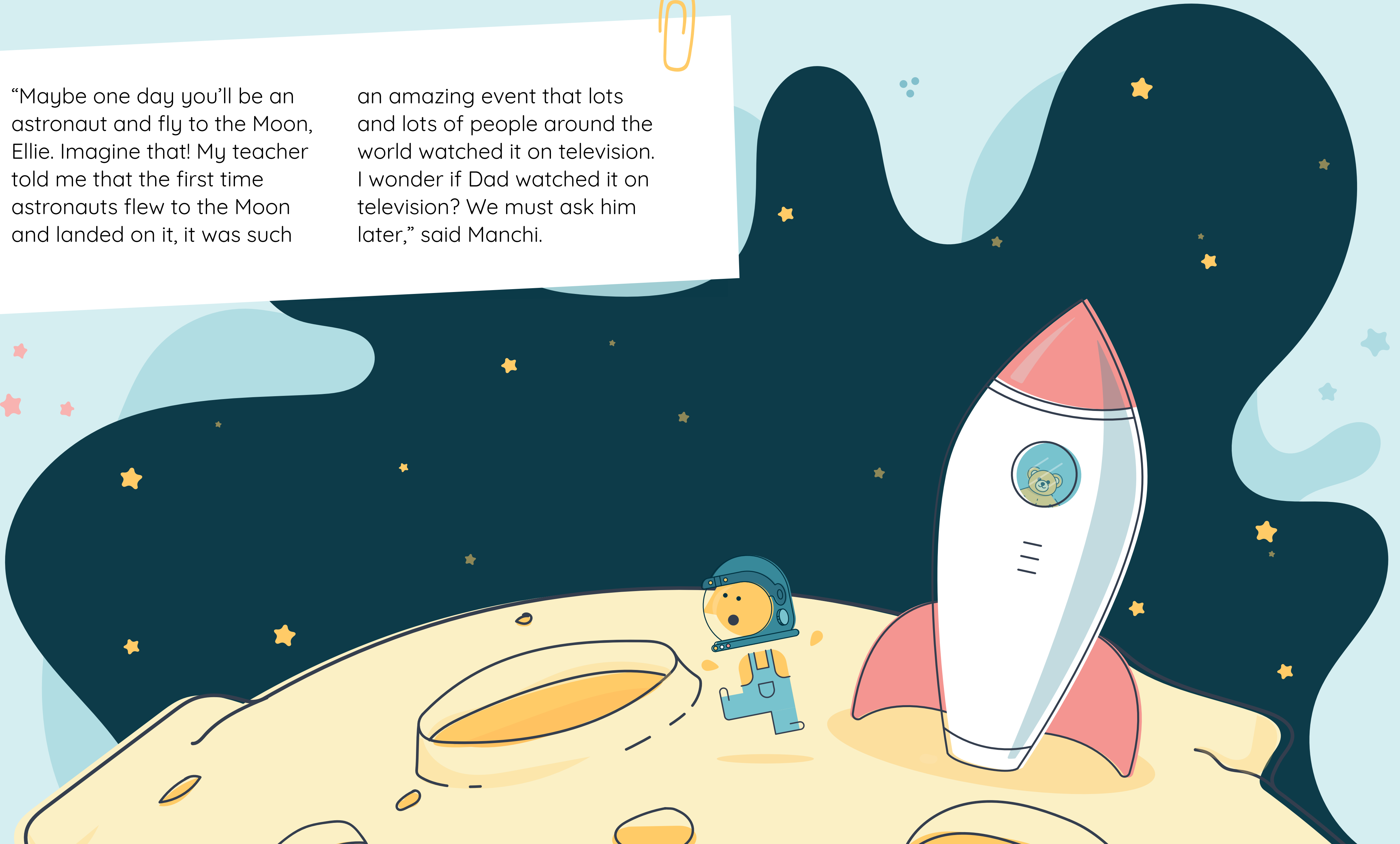
"Where's the Moon in our song?" asked Ellie.

"The Moon isn't a planet, but it's the Earth's friend and circles it, giving it a big wrap-a-round hug every month," explained Manchi.

"A bit like this," and she ran around Ellie until they were both dizzy!

“Maybe one day you’ll be an astronaut and fly to the Moon, Ellie. Imagine that! My teacher told me that the first time astronauts flew to the Moon and landed on it, it was such

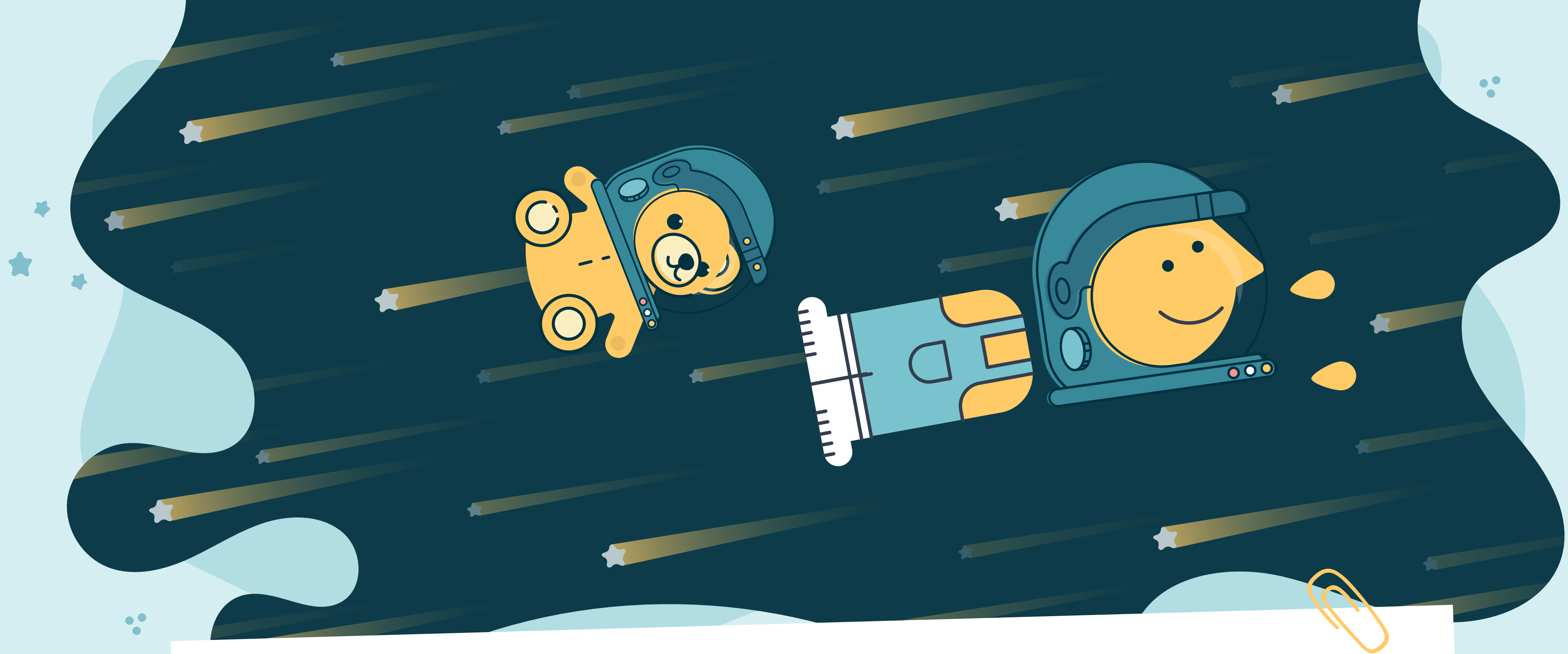
an amazing event that lots and lots of people around the world watched it on television. I wonder if Dad watched it on television? We must ask him later,” said Manchi.



Just then, Mum came upstairs with some pieces of paper and colouring pens. On the paper were drawn the planets and they all started to colour them in.

Kai was downstairs making a space-themed dinner – what would they be having for that, Ellie wondered? Perhaps it would include a salad with some rocket leaves.





That night, tucked up in bed, Ellie thought about all that she had learned, which led to many more questions forming in her head that she wanted to ask the next day.

Snuggling up to Mags, Ellie felt very small living on Earth, but very loved. As her eyelids started to droop, she began to imagine that she was able

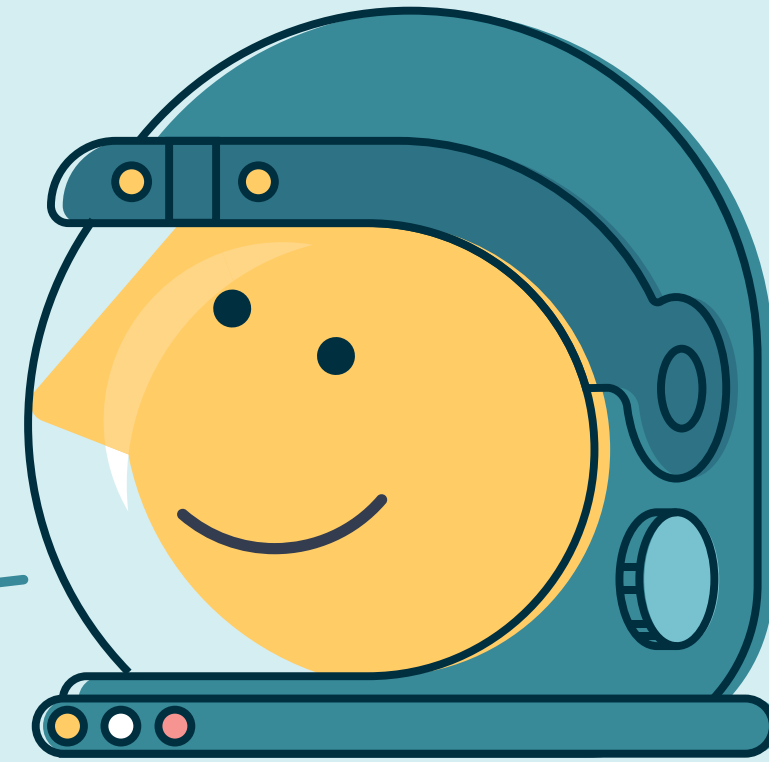
to fly and that she shot off up into Space with her teddy bear flying beside her. The two of them swooped around the Moon, dodging a meteorite, before flying off deeper into Space to explore Saturn's rings. Very soon, the little girl was fast asleep as she enjoyed a wonderful dream all about Space and the planets.



For more stories featuring Ellie,
her family, friends and teddies,
as well as accompanying
teaching resources, visit:
www.abpischools.org.uk



BYE —



Designed by tothepoint

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