

Gravity

Zuri and Friends

Made for Tlaloc

With love from the Faust book maker

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Zuri, Teo, and Juno were friends. Pip, their owl, joined. “Gravity pulls things toward each other,” Zuri said. “Earth pulls us down.” Their pretend rocket circled Earth. Juno's sunrise picture needed stickers. Zuri called, “Let's find them before sunrise!”



Juno's sticker sheet was empty. No star stickers! Zuri checked beside her. "Where did they go?"



Teo scooped beneath a bench for stars. "Find the stars! Finish the sunrise picture!" He released his scoop to reach farther.



Bonk! The scoop bumped Teo's nose. Teo giggled. Zuri caught it. “It kept moving after you let go.”



Juno released her pencil past Teo. "No gravity?" Teo asked. "Earth's pull stayed strong!" Zuri answered. "Find the stars! Finish the sunrise picture!"



Juno pointed. “Teo, you're floating beside my pencil!” Sunrise drew nearer. Pip flapped toward the ceiling.



Pip pointed at the stickers. “Okay… let's look closer. Everything fell together with our rocket,” Zuri said.



Squeak! Zuri grabbed a higher wooden loop. "Earth pulls us. Flying forward keeps us circling." Teo and Juno followed.

Did you know? Astronauts grow a little taller in space.



Almost! Zuri pulled gently to another wooden loop. The stars bobbed just beyond her fingers. "Find the stars! Finish the sunrise picture!"



Pip nudged one star into Juno's hand. Zuri gathered four more. One spare star drifted away.




A clip held Juno's picture by the window. Juno added four stars. The fifth slipped free... Teo barely breathed.

Juno caught it, finishing her picture! Sunrise came! "Found the stars! Finished the sunrise picture!" they cheered. The spare stuck to Teo's nose.

> **Did you know?** Some space travellers see sixteen sunrises daily.



For grown-ups

Gravity is a pull between things with mass. Earth pulls us, and we pull Earth. At the International Space Station, about 400 kilometres above Earth, gravity is still about 90% as strong as on the ground. Astronauts float because they and their spacecraft fall around Earth together. The spacecraft moves forward fast enough that its falling path follows Earth's curve instead of reaching the ground. Each trip around Earth takes about 90 minutes, bringing roughly sixteen sunrises a day.