



**in the picture:**  
"a state of being fully informed or noticed"  
The Concise Oxford Dictionary

Time to get equal

**scope**

About cerebral palsy.  
For disabled people achieving equality.

# Rory and Stella Save the Earth

One day, Stella and Rory were visiting an adventure park. They had just been on the giant water slide. Stella forgot to take off her shoes and they got soaking wet. Then they saw a rocket ship, behind a big fence.

‘Let’s sneak on!’ said Rory

A man in a bright yellow uniform was guarding the rocket. He turned around to talk on the phone and Stella and Rory quickly squeezed through a hole in the fence, rode up a little lift and slipped in through a metal door into a round echoey room.

Suddenly the door clanged shut and it was very dark. The rocket started to rumble, then whine, then roar. ‘Hold on tight!’ said Rory.

They could see hear voices through the door. Stella pressed her ear against the door to listen. The door swung open and she fell with a squelch into the control room.

A red faced pilot in a big padded space suit swung around and started to yell at them. ‘What are you doing here! We’re on a vital mission to save Earth from being hit by a giant asteroid and you stowaways are going to ruin our flight path! We’re going to have to throw you out of the ship!’

Erin the engineer looked up from her console. ‘Wait a minute Hank – don’t throw them overboard yet. The hatch got jammed as we blasted out of the atmosphere. The little one might be small enough to creep out of a porthole and open the hatch from the outside’.

Stella got into the smallest space suit and popped out of the porthole. She opened the hatch and everyone let out a loud cheer. But then suddenly Erin shouted ‘Look, we can see the asteroid on the long range scanner!’ The

astronauts all rushed off. Only Rory could see Stella was stuck in the airlock.

As the rocket got further and further from Earth, Rory felt himself getting lighter and lighter. He lightly touched the wall with his fingers and he whizzed across the room. He moved his head and started to somersault over and over. One little kick and he was hanging upside down with his hair brushing the ground.

Rory pushed on the floor and floated over to the airlock release button. With a touch of his finger, the airlock opened, and Stella sailed in. Behind her trailed what looked like a wisp of smoke.

All at once, the wisp of smoke turned into a swarm of tiny stinging creatures. They buzzed around Rory and Stella's ears, zoomed up their noses and danced in front of their eyes until they sneezed and coughed and tears ran down their faces.

The pilot roared 'I can't see where we're going! We're drifting off course'.

The scientists whimpered 'What are these horrible creatures?'.

Rory said 'Help! Now how will we get home to Earth - we're lost!'

All at once the buzzing stopped. The little alien creatures came out of Stella's ear and Rory's nose and cleared away from the instrument panel. They started to make shapes in the air.

'They're lost!' said Rory. Then he said to the aliens, 'Maybe we can help you find your way. What is your home like?'

The alien swarm swirled and jiggled and made a new shape. It wasn't a smooth round ball like planet Earth. It was a jagged lumpy shape like a giant warty nose.

Stella pointed towards the console, and everyone turned to see. On the screen was a jagged lumpy shape like a giant warty nose – the asteroid!

The swarm of tiny creatures the picture of the asteroid on the screen. They seemed to mumble amongst themselves, then they poured out of the hatch.

A minute later, Hank said 'The asteroid – it's changing direction! It's moving away from the Earth'

Rory and Stella looked out the window and saw the jagged, warty asteroid zoom into sight. Now it wasn't just a rock: it flashed with colourful lights and they could see the swarm of aliens leaping and dancing, glad to be home. As they watched, the asteroid disappeared out of sight behind the Moon.

They landed in the adventure playground just as the sun was going down.

'Where have you kids been?' said Dad

'Were you lost?' said Mum. Stella shook her head.

'What happened?' said Dad.

'Nothing much' said Rory

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