

We built a rocket to the moon

Ben and Maya had a big idea.

It all began on the first day of the summer holidays. The sun was shining, the birds were singing and the garden seemed full of possibilities. As they sat beneath the old apple tree, Ben looked up at the bright blue sky.

"I wish we could go to the moon," he sighed.

Maya smiled. "Why don't we build a rocket?"

Ben laughed at first, but then he noticed the empty cardboard boxes stacked beside the shed. There were old cereal boxes, delivery boxes and even a large washing machine box.

"Maybe we actually could," he said.

The two children hurried around the garden collecting anything they thought might help. They found silver foil, empty tin cans, plastic bottles, paint, string and rolls of sticky tape. Ben drew careful plans on a notepad while Maya measured the cardboard with an old ruler.

Day after day, they worked together. They cut, folded, taped and painted until the rocket slowly began to take shape. It had shiny silver sides, three sturdy fins and a tall pointed nose covered in foil. They even painted stars around the windows and wrote in bold letters:

MISSION MOON

Their next-door neighbour, Mr Wilson, leaned over the fence.

"What are you two building?" he asked.

"A rocket!" Ben replied proudly.

"To the moon!" Maya added.

Mr Wilson chuckled kindly.

"Well, you'll need rather a lot of fuel for that."

The children grinned.

"We've got something even better," Maya whispered after he had gone.

"What?" Ben asked.

"Our imagination."

Soon, everyone on the street knew about the rocket. Some adults smiled politely. A few older children laughed and said cardboard rockets could never fly.

For a moment, Ben felt disappointed.

"Maybe they're right," he muttered.

Maya shook her head.

"They're only looking with their eyes."

"What do you mean?"

"We're looking with our imagination."

That evening, just as the sun disappeared below the rooftops, the children climbed inside their finished rocket. Ben counted down.

"Ten... nine... eight..."

Maya pressed an old torch like it was a launch button.

"Three... two... one... Lift-off!"

The garden disappeared.

At least, it did inside their minds.

They imagined the rocket roaring into the sky. The Earth grew smaller beneath them until it looked like a blue marble floating in space. Stars sparkled in every direction, and the moon grew larger with every passing moment.

They carefully avoided drifting asteroids and waved at an astronaut repairing a space station. Maya spotted Saturn's rings glittering in the distance, while Ben imagined friendly aliens waving from tiny silver spacecraft.

Finally, the rocket landed softly on the dusty surface of the moon.

They stepped outside.

There was no sound at all.

Together, they planted a small homemade flag that read:

"Dream Big."

They looked back towards Earth, glowing like a beautiful blue jewel far away.

"It looks so small," Ben whispered.

"But it's our home," Maya replied.

As darkness settled over the garden, Ben's mum called them inside for dinner.

The children climbed out of the rocket, laughing.

They had never really left the garden.

Yet somehow, they felt as though they had travelled millions of miles.

The rocket stayed in the garden for the rest of the summer. Other children came to visit, bringing new ideas and new adventures. One day they explored Mars. Another day they

searched for hidden planets. Sometimes they simply sat inside, talking about what they wanted to be when they grew up.

Years later, when Ben and Maya were adults, they still remembered that cardboard rocket.

It had never reached the moon.

But it had taken them somewhere just as wonderful.

It taught them that the greatest adventures begin with a single idea, and that imagination can carry you further than you ever thought possible.

Moral: *With imagination, teamwork and determination, even the biggest dreams can feel within reach.*

Comprehension Questions

1. When did Ben and Maya decide to build their rocket?
 - A. During the Easter holidays
 - B. On the first day of the summer holidays
 - C. During a school trip
 - D. At Christmas

2. What first gave Ben the idea that building a rocket might be possible?
 - A. A television programme
 - B. A book about astronauts
 - C. The cardboard boxes beside the shed
 - D. A science teacher

3. Which materials did the children use to build the rocket?
 - A. Metal sheets and wood
 - B. Plastic pipes only
 - C. Bricks and cement
 - D. Cardboard, foil, bottles and tape

4. Why did some older children laugh at Ben and Maya?
 - A. They thought rockets were boring.
 - B. They believed cardboard rockets could never fly.
 - C. They wanted to build their own rocket.
 - D. They didn't like the colour of the rocket.

5. What did Maya say was better than fuel?
 - A. Hard work
 - B. Luck
 - C. Imagination
 - D. Electricity

6. Which phrase best shows that Ben was beginning to lose confidence?

- A. "Let's paint more stars."
- B. "Maybe they're right."
- C. "Count down with me."
- D. "Let's make it bigger."

7. During their imaginary journey, what did the children plant on the moon?

- A. A tree
- B. A telescope
- C. A flag saying "Dream Big."
- D. A time capsule

8. Which word best describes Maya throughout the story?

- A. Confident
- B. Careless
- C. Forgetful
- D. Lazy

9. What does the sentence, *"The garden disappeared. At least, it did inside their minds."* suggest?

- A. The children fell asleep.
- B. They travelled through time.
- C. Their imagination made the adventure feel real.
- D. They became invisible.

10. Which statement best expresses the main message of the story?

- A. Only scientists can dream about space.
- B. Expensive equipment is needed to have adventures.
- C. Imagination, teamwork and determination can take you further than you expect.
- D. It is impossible to enjoy staying at home.

Answers

1. B
2. C
3. D
4. B
5. C
6. B
7. C
8. A
9. C
10. C