

Back to Earth with a Bump!

It's evening and Hal needs to go up to bed.

He brushes his teeth and he brushes his head.

The big hand's on twelve and the small hand's on eight.

Quick, into your bedroom – it's really quite late!

Hal closes his curtains and turns out the light,

Curls under his blanket and snuggles up tight.

But just when he's starting to snuffle and snore...

...his small bed takes off from the ground with a roar!



A whoosh! And it's out of the window they go.

His house soon becomes just a dot down below.

He soars through the clouds and the dark moonlit sky

And straight into space in the blink of an eye.



"It's Earth calling Hal! Can you hear me? Come in!"

We've a mission for you – when can you begin?"

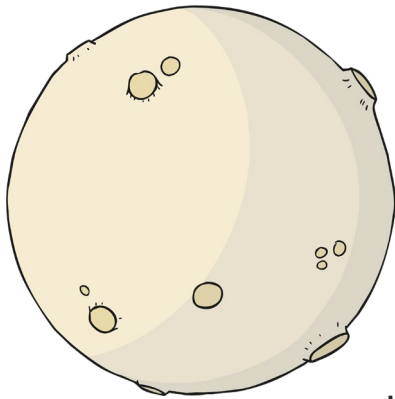
"You're loud and you're clear, now just tell me the plan.

Please give me my mission - I'll do what I can."



"Please find us the Sun – it has gone from the sky.
It's vanished completely; we just don't know why."

"OK," agrees Hal with a nod of his head,
"I'll track down the Sun in my space-travelling bed!"



"What's that up ahead?"

Hal squints hard as he sees

A shape that is pale, round, and looks
like a cheese!

There are **craters** and **mountains** and **dust**
that is **grey**;

Could this be the Sun that we see in the day?

"No way!" chuckles Hal with a shake of his head,

"I know what that is!" and he stands on his bed.

"There's just no mistaking: that sphere is the moon!

I see it each night from my bed in my room!"

"We must find the Sun!" Hal commands with a jump,

"Before we go straight back to Earth with a bump!

I must not give up – it's important to try.

I'll keep up my quest for the Sun in the sky."



“What’s that up ahead?”

Hal jumps up as he spies

Some bright twinkling shapes far ahead in the sky.

They **sparkle** and **dazzle**; they **glow** with white light.

Could this be the Sun that we lost in the night?



“Oh no!” giggles Hal with a wink of his eye,

“I know those small diamonds up in the sky.



Those beautiful, twinkling space dots are stars!

I’m perfectly certain that that’s what they are!”

“We must find the Sun!” Hal commands with a jump,

“Before we go straight back to Earth with a bump!



I must keep on trying, although it is hard.

I know if I try I can reach for the stars.”

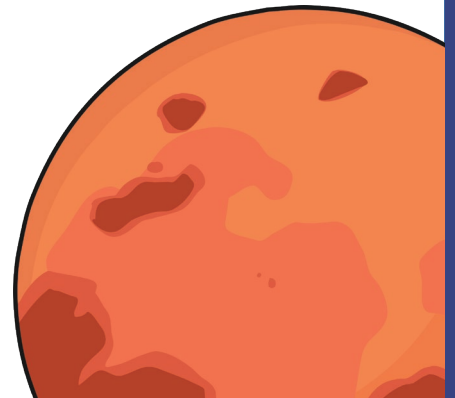
“What’s that up ahead?”

Hal stands up on tiptoes

To see a vast shape: it is red and it glows.

There are **mountains** and **valleys** and
deserts so dry;

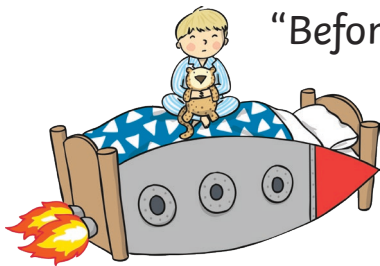
**Could this be the Sun that has gone from
the sky?**



"It can't be!" says Hal as he scratches his head,
"I know what that is – it's so round and so red.
It's perfectly clear that this planet is MARS!
I've heard it's the planet that's found next to ours."

"We must find the Sun!" Hal commands with a jump,

"Before we go straight back to Earth with a bump!



This mission is hard – it's a difficult test;
But if I have tried then I've given my best."

Just then, Hal turns back to look at the Earth, and

WHAT DOES HE SEE?

The planet is moving – it's turning around!
It's slowly rotating without any sound!
Hal zooms round to find where his bedroom
has gone
And what does he find? He discovers...



the SUN!



“The Sun doesn’t budge, but the Earth moves instead!”

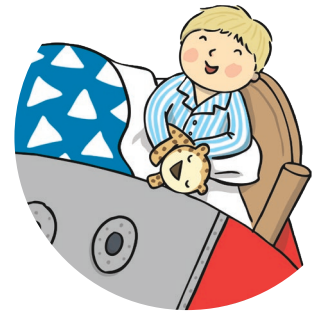
Hal widens his eyes as he clings to his bed.

“When night comes we see the bright Moon in the sky;
In daytime, the Sun is the thing that we spy.”

“I knew I could do it if only I tried!”

Hal smiles with delight as he looks at the sky.

“I did not give up and I did not give in,
And I found the Sun!” Hal shouts out
with a grin.

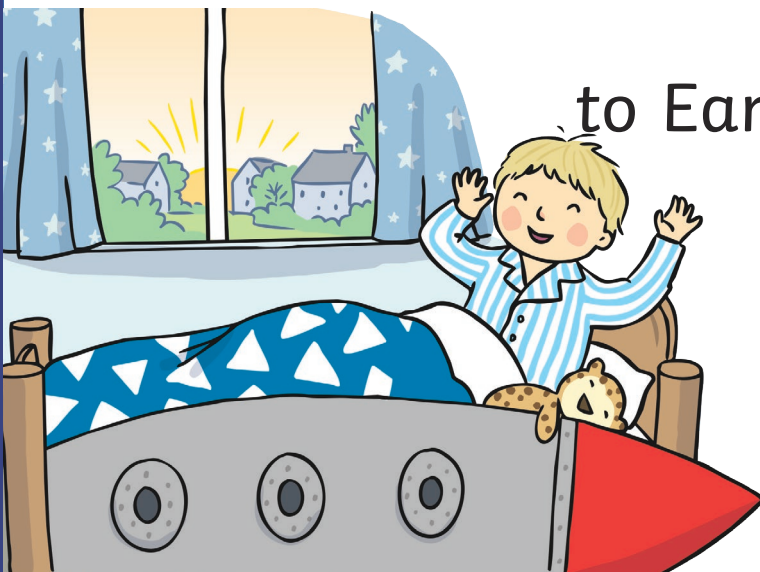


The mystery is solved! Now his mission’s complete,
Hal’s suddenly tired and in need of some sleep.
His bed heads for home while he snuggles down tight
And drifts off to sleep for the rest of the night.

He soars to his country, his home town, his street,
Then straight through the window, first head and then feet.

With barely a rustle, a bustle or thump,
He slowly drifts straight back

to Earth
with a
bump.



Questions

1. What time of day is it when Hal goes up to bed? Circle one.

morning

evening

lunchtime

2. What does Hal need to find to help Earth? Circle one.

the Moon

the stars

the Sun

3. Hal finds something that is 'pale and all round, like a cheese'
What is it? Circle one.

a star

the Moon

Mars

4. Complete this sentence: "In daytime, the Sun is..." Circle one.

awake

the thing that we spy

hiding behind a cloud

5. What does Hal do at the end of the story? Circle one.

He goes to school.

He eats his breakfast.

He wakes up with a jump.

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1. Which two things does Hal brush when he goes up to bed? Circle one.

his teeth and his clothes

his head and his nails

his teeth and his head

2. What does Hal need to find to help Earth? Circle one.

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3. Complete this sentence: 'His small bed takes off from the ground with a...' Circle one.

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whoosh!

screech!

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an asteroid

a new planet

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5. Complete this sentence: "The Sun doesn't budge, but the Earth..."
The sun doesn't budge, but the earth moves instead!

Questions

1. What time is it when Hal goes up to bed? Circle one.

8 o'clock

10 o'clock

7 o'clock

2. What colour is the dust that Hal can see on the Moon? Circle one.

white

grey

yellow

3. Choose the right word to complete this sentence: There are mountains and _____ and deserts so dry.

valleys

oceans

hillsides

4. Use the story to help you put these sentences back together correctly.

"We must find the Sun!"

with a bump!"

But if I have tried

it's a difficult test;

This mission is hard -

then I've given my best.

"Before we go straight
back to Earth

Hal commands with
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5. Hal does not give up on his mission. Can you think of a time when you did not give up? What happened?

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Varied answers.