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opening extract from

Henry's House: Space

written by

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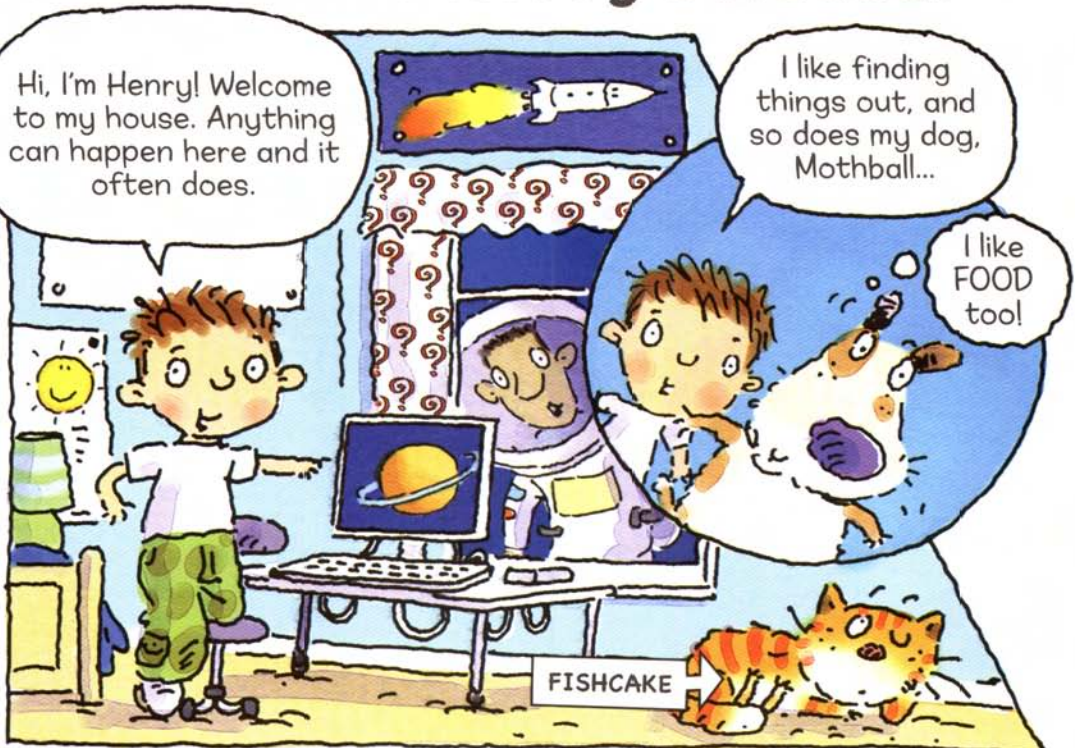


Philip Ardagh and Mike Gordon are regular visitors to Henry's House. Philip (the one with the beard) keeps a note of everything that's going on, and even reads a mind or two. Mike (the one without the beard) sketches whatever he sees, however fantastical it may be ... and together they bring you the adventures of Henry, an ordinary boy in an extraordinary house!

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Welcome to Henry's House!


Henry is in his room, which is decorated with a rocket picture and a window with question marks. He is standing next to a desk with a computer monitor showing a planet. A dog named Mothball is jumping in the air, and a cat named Fishcake is on the floor.

Hi, I'm Henry! Welcome to my house. Anything can happen here and it often does.

I like finding things out, and so does my dog, Mothball...

I like FOOD too!

FISHCAKE

Henry is talking to Jaggers, a man in a white lab coat and glasses, who is standing in a doorway. Jaggers is holding a green alien.


You never know what's behind the next door or just around the corner, but Jaggers the caretaker usually keeps an eye on things.

That's true! I do.

Then there are the guests ... and not all of us are human.


No wonder every day is such a big adventure!

Starry, starry night




I love staring up at the stars, Jagers. There must be thousands of them.

More than all the grains of sand on all the beaches in all the world...




...but you'd need a very strong telescope to see most of them.



Henry, meet Jim the astronaut.

Hello.

Hi there, Henry!



On a clear night, you can see around 2,500 stars from Earth.

The light from some stars takes **BILLIONS OF YEARS** to reach here.

Our Sun is a star. It is a small star compared to some of the stars out there. It seems so big because it's the closest star to Earth.



Stars are huge, glowing balls of burning gases.

Stars don't really "come out at night". They shine just as brightly all the time.

We can't see them in the daytime because of the brightness of the Sun.

Stars only look tiny because they're billions of miles from Earth.

They're also billions of miles apart. In between the stars is what we call SPACE.

Come on. Slip these spacesuits on!

