

DAILY RECORD OF ACTIVITIES FOR WEEK 5

★ **SUNDAY** ★

→ 260 DAYS UNTIL MARS.



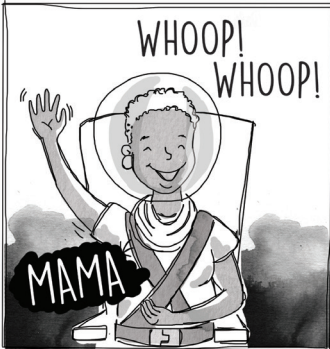
... 3, 2, 1 **BLAST OFF!**
WAHOOOO!

Somebody pinch me, because this can't possibly be real. Thirty days ago I was literally a nobody, and now I'm Thabo, the Space Dude, off to inhabit Planet Mars along with my family and Ganymede, my little chick.

I know, it's crazy, right? But undeniably true.

Blitzem 500, our space shuttle, rattled and rumbled, shook and vibrated as it lifted off the launch platform.

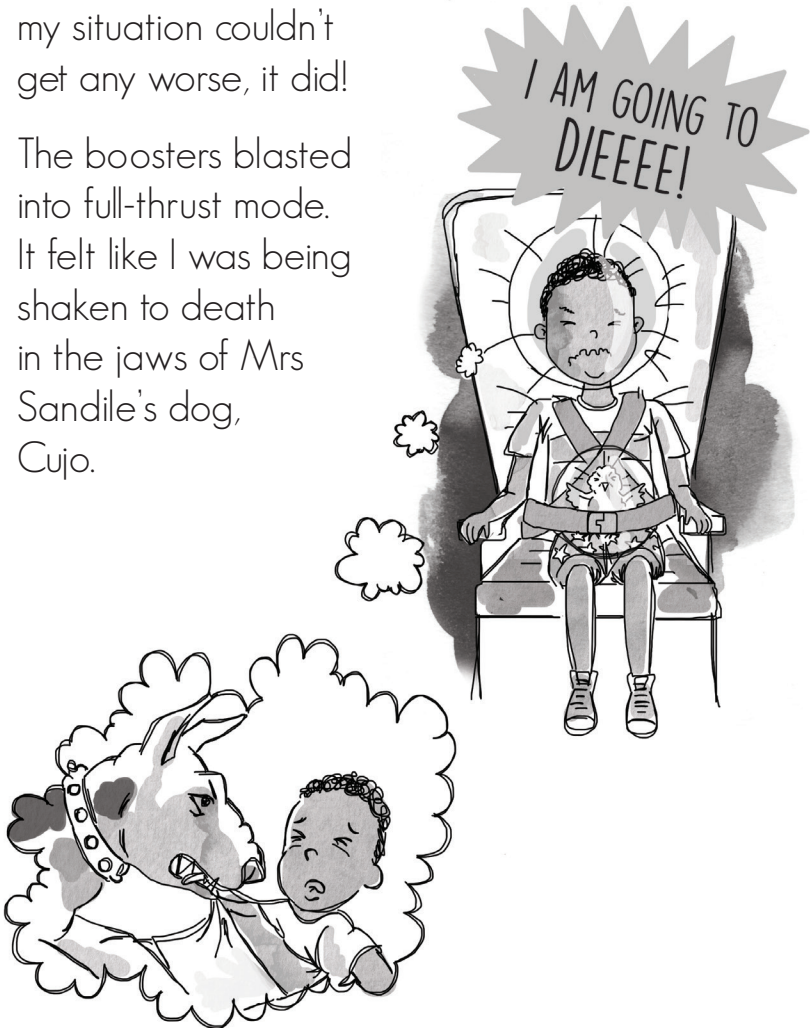
There were so many emotions flooding through me all at once: joy, terror, nervousness, and excitement. It was totally INSANE!

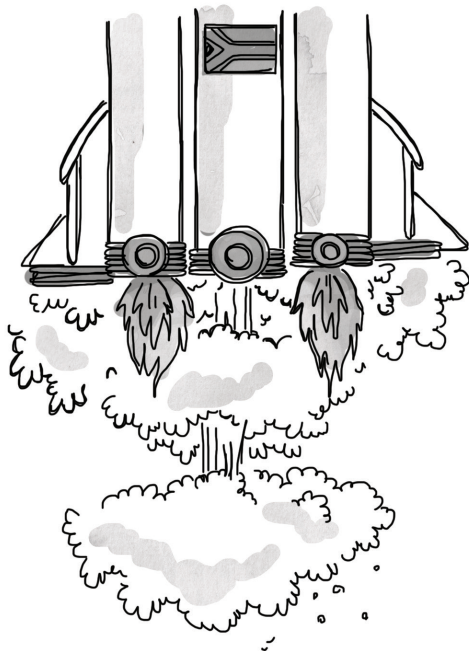


Suddenly, I felt this unbelievable pressure on my body. It was like 20 bull elephants were lying on top of me and I was pinned to my seat.

Just when I thought my situation couldn't get any worse, it did!

The boosters blasted into full-thrust mode. It felt like I was being shaken to death in the jaws of Mrs Sandile's dog, Cujo.





Okay, I'm not afraid to admit it, but I was seriously **FREAKING** out.

All I could do was hope beyond hope that I'd pass out.

After nine minutes of pure torture, the engine **FINALLY** shut off. The pressure on my body ended immediately. Phew! That could've ended badly.

My family and I successfully survived the launch. We were beyond Earth's atmosphere and officially in space. Hooray!

Finally, it was time to relax. I was understandably EXHAUSTED. In just the past month, I have:

1. Survived Mars Boot Camp.
2. Put Loyiso, the Jerk in his place.
3. Adopted a pet chicken. (I still don't know whether it's male or female.)
4. Got up to some wicked last-days-on-Earth mischief.

A N D

5. Kissed the girl of my dreams, Mbali.
(SIGH!)

My only regret was that my two best chommies, Kurt and Zen, couldn't come up with a plan to sneak aboard the Blitzem 500 with me. I'll miss those guys.

Anyway, for some reason or other, I couldn't keep my eyes open. It could also have been the insane height at which we're flying.

It was definitely time to catch a few **ZZZ**'s.