

Astronaut in the Making

by Barnaby Lucas



"Jill, it's time to come in and set the table," Jill's dad yelled from inside the house.

"Roger that," Jill answered. "We're just 150 miles from Earth. We'll be landing in thirty seconds."

Jill was doing what she often did after school. She was daydreaming. In her mind she was able to fly to the moon and back every day before supper. Jill is just eight years old, but she knows what she wants to be when she grows up. She's going to be an astronaut. She has read all the books her school library has about space.

Jill has a plan. She knows astronauts have to be in good shape. She eats healthy foods. She runs as fast as a deer, jumps as far as a frog, and rides her bike. She also sleeps for ten hours each night.

Jill also knows that astronauts have to be smart. She studies every day. She always does her homework. In school, she listens carefully. Jill asks questions when she does not understand.

Jill is working hard. Someday Jill will talk to her dad from space for real.

COMPREHENSION

A Choose the best ending for each sentence. Write *a* or *b*.

- 1 This story is about a girl who
a dreams.
b wants to be an astronaut.
- 2 When Jill said she would be landing, she was
a flying a space shuttle.
b just pretending.
- 3 Jill is already like an astronaut because she
a takes care of herself.
b rides a bike.

- 4 One way that Jill is different from an astronaut is that she is
a only eight years old.
b a girl.
- 5 Someday Jill will talk to her dad from space because she
a still will be pretending.
b will be a real astronaut.

LEARN ABOUT WORDS

B *Newspaper* is a word that is made from two words, *news* and *paper*. *Newspaper* is called a compound word. Put each set of two words together to make a compound word. Write the word.

- 1 in + side = _____
- 2 day + dream = _____
- 3 home + work = _____
- 4 count + down = _____
- 5 after + noon = _____

C Read the words you wrote. Which one best fits in each sentence below? Write the word.

- 6 Jill's space shuttle will take off after the _____.
- 7 Jill was outside the house, but her dad was _____.
- 8 Before Jill goes out to play after school, she does her _____.
- 9 Jill likes to _____ about flying in outer space.
- 10 Jill's school lets out at three o'clock in the _____.

THINK ABOUT IT

- D** The bird's **song** was as **sweet** as **honey**.

This sentence helps you understand how sweet the bird's song was. The phrase "as sweet as honey" is a figure of speech. It is a different way of saying that the bird's song was very lovely.

Choose the word from the first two sentences that best fits in the blank. Write the word.

- 1** The school is close. The moon is far.
Jill wants to fly as far as the _____.
- 2** A cannon is loud. A mouse is quiet.
Jill's dad yelled as loud as a _____.
- 3** A frog jumps far. A grasshopper jumps high.
Jill jumps as _____ as a frog.

- 4** The night sky is dark. The afternoon sky is blue.
Jill's eyes are as _____ as the afternoon sky.
- 5** Glass is smooth. Sandpaper is rough.
Jill's landing was as smooth as _____.

- E** Read each set of words. Write the word that comes first in alphabetical order.

- | | | |
|------------------|---------|--------|
| 6 Jill | just | jumps |
| 7 what | working | where |
| 8 studies | stays | she |
| 9 that | the | this |
| 10 school | scatter | scrape |