

Search for Water

It was about 9:00 AM when I woke up. The others were still asleep, so I quietly stepped out of the bedroom. I then went to the main room to search for something that I can eat. I found some jelly beans inside one of the drawers, so I started chewing them. When I was on my fifth or fourth one, I saw Jake coming out of the bedroom. When he figured out what I was eating, he asked where I found them.

“They’re in one of those drawers,” I told him.

About 20 or 30 minutes later, everybody was in the kitchen eating what they found. In total, there were seven of us. Me, Jake, Reina, Bart, Noah, Kate, and Dave.

It’s been about eleven months since we took off into space in this spaceship. We are currently on a very important mission in space, but we aren’t astronauts. We’re actually kids. Now at this point, you might be wondering what seven kids were doing in a spaceship. It’s a long story, but I guess there’s plenty of time to tell you.

So, the year is 2049. The world is currently struggling with the “Freshwater Crisis”. People have tried to stop it, but there is always a limit to everything. The world has tried to create a replacement for freshwater, find more freshwater sources, and stop everything related to the problem, but it didn’t work. The human population kept on growing uncontrollably with a higher demand for water. Right now the amount of freshwater is almost reaching its limit, and scientists expect it to run out after about five years or so, which means we need to complete our mission within that time.

They came up with a final solution: get fresh water from space. I know. It sounds pretty crazy, but those researchers think that there's a possibility that this plan might work and be the solution to saving the world. They have researched and found a new moon pretty close to Jupiter. They were excited when they realized that the moon was covered with fresh water. The moon was named "Consilium," which literally means "policy" or "plan." They then built a really long but skinny tube that can reach there. It was made to be really strong so that it could protect itself against anything. One end of the tube was going to stay on earth, attached to this weird-looking machine. The other end was going to be in Consilium.

The problem here is, how do we get the other end of the tube to Consilium? That's where the scientists decided to create a spaceship. A really fast and robust spaceship that was never invented in the past. It took about four or five years, but they finally created one. The spaceship was small and the shape of the ship was supposed to move it faster using the least amount of energy possible. Scientists expected the trip to Consilium to take about a year in this spaceship, which is, I guess, short.

After having all their plans set up, the scientists now needed the people to go on the spaceship. They rounded up astronauts, but soon, they realized they had a problem: the astronauts were too heavy to go on the ship. They needed people who weighed below 90 pounds, which technically meant no adults. The scientists came up with the difficult decision that the riders boarding the spaceship would have to be 12 years or older since they would need to be smart enough to control the ship and go on the mission.

When they first sent out the news that they were recruiting kids to go on aboard a spaceship, nobody - literally nobody - cared. People thought that it was too much of a risk to go to outer space. The scientists realized this and came up with a solution. The solution was...

MONEY! The scientists said that they will give 1,000 dollars to whoever comes to ride the spaceship. At that time, 1,000 dollars was a lot because as the amount of freshwater decreased, the price of all the items related to water rose. Because of this reason, hundreds and thousands of people volunteered. Including me

The scientists made all of us take a test. They told us that we will get to ride the ship and get the money *if* we passed the test. We first took the external strength test. The external strength test tested our physical strengths. For the external strength test, we started with the speed test, where we had to run a mile in seven minutes. If you didn't succeed, you were automatically disqualified. Next, we took the strength test where we had to do stuff like 30 push-ups, a 3-minute plank, and 200 squats. Like before, whoever failed, were disqualified. We took more tests like the balance test, the reflex test, and the endurance test. Basically, we took all the tests that were related to physical strength.

Then, we took the internal strength test. The internal strength test tested our mental strength. For the internal strength test, we first took the fear test. In this test, we experienced how it would be like in space through a simulation. We had to experience dangerous events that might actually happen in space. The scientists took notes of how we reacted to those events. Kids who reacted back calmly with the determination to find a solution passed the test. The kids who passed took the next test, which was staying inside a model spaceship for 72 hours. There were 24 of us left, and we were separated into six groups with three of us in each. Each group was assigned to be in the same model spaceship as the others.

I was in the same group as Jake and Reina. We talked with each other about why we came here and about ourselves. As we were talking, we realized that we were all 13.

“Do you guys have any clue where we will go if we get past the test and get to ride the spaceship?” Jake asked.

“I’m not sure,” I told him honestly.

Now that he mentioned it, I was actually curious where we will go in the spaceship if we pass the test. Suddenly, we heard a crash at the spaceship model next to ours.

“Did you hear that?” Reina said.

She sounded kind of scared. Jake and I both nodded at her.

“What do you think it was?” I asked them.

Jake replied, “I don’t know, but it sure sounds like somebody’s mad.”

We quickly moved on to another topic to talk about.

“Why did you guys come here?” Jake asked. “I came here for the money.”

“Me too, I came here for the money. My family is kind of poor, so I wanted to help them.” I answered.

“I guess everybody came here for the money since I also came here for that too,” Reina said. “I also came here because being an astronaut is my dream. I really want to pass the test.” she added.

“I’m sure you will. I’m sure we can all pass the test.” I said. Reina smiled.

After several days, we were all let out by the scientists. The scientists explained to us that the purpose of this test was to see if we were capable of overcoming our stress and frustrations of being kept inside a limited and compacted environment. He explained that as time passed, some kids were stressed out and argued, and some even fought with others. After that, we took more tests.

The last internal strength test was over. The twelve people that were left waited to hear the scientists announce the people who have passed the test. A scientist came and asked for our attention. “I will announce the kids who have passed the test!” he said. “The people who have passed the test are Bart Smith, Jake Candid, Noah King, Kate Martinez, Dave Luther, Reina Johnson (When she heard her name, she squealed with excitement), and Nathen Williams!”

I was so happy when I heard my name. Jake looked at me and shouted, “Bro! We actually passed the test! Oh my Gosh!”

The people who passed the test got to know each other after the announcement. Dave is 15 years old (he’s skinny and tall), Bart is 14 years old (not to be mean, but he kind of looks like those guys you don’t want to mess with), Kate is also 14 years old (she is very kind), and Noah is 12 years old (he’s one of those people who always have a goofy smile on).

Fifteen minutes later, we were told about the plan the scientists had by an expert. We were shocked when we heard it and stared at them. “Wait, so we are supposed to go to a moon called Consilium, which is tons of miles away from here to just attach a skinny little tube?” Dave asked.

“Yes.” the scientist replied.

“Haha, that was funny. Now tell us the real plan.” Jake said.

“This is the real plan,” one of the scientists said. “You guys are going to go to Consilium to get fresh water.”

“But isn’t the plan close to impossible since kids are doing it?” I asked.

“That is why you guys are going to go through a six-month hard training before you guys go out to space.”

“Wait a sec here. Are you telling me right now that the vigorous test we’ve been through was not the training we were supposed to do at all?” Jake asked with a horror-filled face.

“They weren’t,” the scientist said with a sigh.

“At all?” Jake said with a disaster-struck face. The scientist gave Jake the *seriously?* face before he moved on in telling us the plan.

Six months later, we were ready to go to space. We did all sorts of training. The gravity test, I-forgot-what-it-was-called-but-it-was-related-to-riding-a-spaceship test, and other really hard tests. The scientists led us to the spaceship, which we named the “*Journey*”. The *Journey* looked pretty cool and awesome to me. Inside, there was the main room, bedroom, and bathroom. And yes. That was it. Just three rooms. In the main room, there was a round table in the center. There were five drawers on one side of the wall in the main room. On top of the drawers was a large window that allowed a perfect and clear view of the outside. On the wall adjacent to the one with the drawers, there was a giant screen. The opposite wall had the entrance and exit to the spaceship. The remaining wall had two doors. One door led to the bathroom, which looked different from the bathroom we use on earth. The other door led to the bedroom, where there was three sleeping-bag-ish stuff on one wall, and four on the wall next to the other wall. *I guess that is where we sleep*, I thought. On the wall on the opposite side of the wall with the beds was a big closet. The scientists told us that the foods were going to be in the drawers in the main room. They also told us that the space suits we are going to wear when arriving at Consilium would be in the closet in the bedroom. They told us that they will talk with us through the giant screen.

I was looking around inside when I noticed something. I asked, “Um... Where is the control Room? Like the room where we drive the spaceship?”

“*We* are going to drive the spaceship on earth. The spaceship is connected to our computers so that we know where it is and so that we can control it.” a scientist answered.

“WHAT?! What’s the fun in riding a spaceship if you can’t control it?!” Jake said. All the scientists gave him the scary eye, which made him silent.

We went inside the spaceship and the scientists told us to go inside the sleeping-bag-ish stuff, which I decided to call “slag”. Get it? “Sleeping” plus “bag”, “slag”? So we all went inside the slags. It was really comfortable in there.

“Why do we go inside here?” Bart asked.

“To prepare you guys for the blastoff,” one of the scientists said.

“Wait. We are already lifting off? Already? Without even saying bye-bye to my mommy and daddy? That is just so harsh!” Jake said. He quickly went inside his slag when the scientists sent him the scary looks.

“We hope you enjoy your ride,” one of the scientists said. The scientists then closed the door.

“Are any of you guys scared?” Noah asked. “I’m actually pretty scared now that we are riding an actual spaceship.”

“It’s gonna be okay, Noah,” Kate said. “It’s just going to be like those simulations we did.” Suddenly, the spaceship began to rumble and shake. I felt all the slags shaking and bumping on the wall.

“WHAT THE HECK! THEY DIDN’T EVEN DO A COUNTDOWN!” Jake yelled, dangling in his slag.

“Calm down, guys. Just relax and let’s just think of this as a good experience.” Bart said. However, when I looked at him, he looked like he was going to pee on his pants.

The ship stopped rumbling. I looked at the others and they also realized that the rumbling stopped. Slowly, Dave came out of his slag. Then, one by one, we all came out of ours.

“Did the spaceship fly? Cause if it did, it didn’t feel like it.” Bart said. I nodded. We went to the main room and to the window on top of the drawers. When I tried to walk, I was amazed because I wasn’t walking, but FLOATING IN ZERO-GRAVITY. Everybody noticed that too and was having a fun time. “Oh my GOSH! I am floating! Like people in movies! My family is gonna be so jealous of me!” Jake exclaimed. We looked at the window, and in front of us was space. The sight of space awestruck me. Everybody seemed dumbfounded by its spectacular sight. “WHAT! Oh my gosh! That looks amazing! It is just so cool how the spaceship just came here! I LOVE IT!” Jake screamed. Everybody ignored him.

“Is that guy safe?” Bart asked me, pointing to Jake. I nodded, but he didn’t seem convinced.

Back to the present now. Like I said, we were in this ship for eleven months. At first, we were so amazed and excited to be in a spaceship and look at space everyday. We also loved floating around the spaceship. However, as time passed, we were all bored and felt homesick. We all missed our family so much. “That endless dark space makes me barf!” Jake yelled, throwing his jelly beans at the window.

“I never want to be an astronaut now. *Never.*” Reina said. She sighed, looking sadly at earth outside the window.

“I regret volunteering,” Kate said in a gloomy voice. Staying in the spaceship for months made us all go weird. Now Noah was just creepily murmuring gibberish under his breath.

“It’s okay, guys. Let’s think about the positive side,” Dave said. “We have each other. We are going to save the world, and we are going to get money!”

“We’re gonna all die here.” Bart said.

“No we are going to save the world, Bart. We are going to be heroes, everybody. Let’s have our hopes up about this!” Dave replied.

“Stop LYING! You also know that we will die, Dave! You’re just denying the truth. Stop acting like a leader and just look at the reality!” Bart shouted. That got Dave really mad.

“Stop it Bart! Stop it! You are making us all hopeless!” Dave said while trying to control his anger.

“No! I am just telling everybody the truth, unlike you!” Bart shouted back.

“SHUT UP, BART FART!” Dave yelled. Everybody became silent. It was the first time Dave was mad. There was an awkward silence for a moment. Dave started sobbing and weeping. “I’m so sorry guys. I just wanted to be a great leader, but it has been hard on me these days.” Dave said.

“I’m sorry, Dave. I went out of line. I’m so sorry.” Bart said to Dave. Dave and Bart apologized to each other, and we all just stopped talking for a while. Suddenly, the screen turned on, and we saw a scientist’s face.

“How ya all doin?” he said happily. He noticed the gloomy atmosphere, and looked at us nervously and said, “Oh. Uh... I see. Um... So I’m here to tell you guys about something. Drumroll Please?” he looked at us and just continued on. “We are now at Consilium! If you guys look outside the window, you guys will see a moon that’s blue.” Sure enough, like he said, there was a blue moon outside the window.

We all gathered around the window, looking at the beautiful moon. For a moment, it seemed like there was no fighting at all just a while ago as we all oohed and aahed at the moon.

“So that’s the moon we need to attach the tube to?” I asked.

“Yessir!” the scientist said.

“So we just go to that moon and attach the tube, and it’s all over right? We go home and get money, right?” Dave asked.

“Correct!” the scientist said. I smiled at the moon. *That is our way home. That is our exit ticket*, I thought.

“Now, the instructions on what to do once you get on the moon.” the scientist said. “First, we will land the ship safely somewhere on Consilium. Then, you guys will get off the ship with your space suit on. Take the tube with you when you come out the ship, ok? As you know, one end of the tube is in earth, and the other is attached to the back of the ship. Detach the tube and put the tube under water. The space suit will let you go underwater. The tube will start sucking freshwater once it touches the water. Then, go back inside the spaceship and you will be off! Remember, you will need to succeed on this task in order to save the world! You fail the task, you fail the world. No pressure, bye!” and just like that, he left and the screen turned off.

“I never knew that the other side of the tube was attached to the ship.” Jake said.

“The task sounds easy,” I said, “Land ship. Get off with tube. Go underwater and put tube. Go back on ship, and we are done!” I said happily.

“That sounds kind of complicating for me,” Noah said, “What if there are like monsters, or what if it’s too cold?”

“There are no monsters, Noah,” Kate said, “and the suit will protect us from the temperature out in the moon.”

“Guys, I’ve been thinking about the plan,” Dave started saying, “And I think we have a problem.” we all looked at Dave. “What if there’s no ‘land’ on Consilium? Like it’s just *water*?”

OOF, I thought. *We are doomed if that is actually true.*

“No way. That’s not possible. Uh-uh. I bet there are plenty of lands on Consilium.” Jake said.

“Look at Consilium. It’s all blue. All blue, meaning that there might be no land at all.” Dave said. Now that I think about it, Consilium is all blue.

“NOOOOOOOO! THIS CAN’T BE! THERE MUST BE AT LEAST A SMALL, TEENY STRIP OF LAND! NOOOOOOO! THERE MUST BE A WAY!!!” Jake screamed.

“Oh no, guys. I hate to say it, but I think Dave’s right.” Kate said. Just when Kate said that the screen flickered to life again.

“Hiya, Guys!” the scientist said. “We’ve been studying about Consilium and we just found out that it was completely covered with-”

“Water.” Dave finished the sentence. “We just figured that out too. What are we supposed to do now? How are we suppose to save the world?”

“Water? Oh no. Consilium is not completely covered with water.” the scientist said. When he said that, relief flooded through all of us.

“Whew! I knew it! Told ya all that there was land!” Jake said as he did a happy dance.

“Land? There aren’t any land in Consilium.” the scientist said with a confused face. Jake’s happy dance stopped.

“Wait, what? The moon isn’t completely covered with water, it has no land. Then what does it have?” Dave asked.

“It is completely covered with ice,” the scientist said. We all looked around each other in schocked faces. “The water is underneath the layer of ice. You guys are going to land soon on the ice. Bye!”

“How do we break the ice?” Reina asked. However, before he could even reply, the screen went dark.

“HE DIDN’T TELL US HOW TO BREAK THE ICE! THAT WAS RUDE!” Jake yelled. “That was just RUDE, man!” He shouted at the blank screen.

Suddenly there was a shaking and a rumble. “Everybody back to their slags!” yelled Dave. We all went inside our slag and waited for the landing impact. There was a big *Thud* and the *Journey* stopped moving.

“Did we land on Consilium?” Kate asked.

“I think we did,” Dave said. We all came out of our slags and floated to the window.

“Oh, wow,” I said under my breath. Consilium looked like those places in a movie. Everything was just ice.

We all went to the bedroom to wear our suits. They were heavy, but we helped each other wear the suit. When we were done, we looked at each other and were pretty impressed by how the suits looked on us.

“I feel like a hero now!” Jake said. We all laughed, and then headed towards the door.

The door creaked open as we pushed it. When we went outside, we were astonished by how beautiful it looked. It looked really cold, but thankfully, the suit made us all warm.

“Guys! Search for thin ice or a crack!” Dave said through the mike we had in the suit. We all nodded and looked around the *Journey*.

“Uh... Guys? Nevermind. I just thought I heard something.” Noah said. We kept on searching, but we couldn’t find any crack. When I touched the ice, I realized that it was hard. I didn’t think that there would be any crack.

“I don’t think we can find any crack,” Bart said. In frustration, he punched the ice.

“Wait! Guys! I have an idea!” Kate said. “If we can’t find any cracks, we can make one! We can punch the ice like what Bart did!”

We all started punching where Bart was punching. However, the ice was hard, and our punches did not affect the ice.

“We need another idea,” Reina said, “Punching isn’t going to work.” After she said that, we started looking for cracks again.

“Guys, did something just move over there?” Kate asked. “I think I saw something.”

“I didn’t see anything,” I said. “Maybe your hallucinating. Can we take a rest?” Everyone agreed and we all lied down around the *Journey*.

“This place is kind of creepy,” Noah said. “I want to find a crack and leave here.”

“Yeah. There’s something that bothers me in this place. I just don’t know what it is.” Reia said. I looked sideways while lying down, and that’s when I saw it: A crack underneath the *Journey*.

“Guys!” I shouted. “There is a crack under the *Journey*!” Everybody looked under the ship and gasped.

“Oh my gosh! Why haven’t I thought of that!” Dave said. “The *Journey* would have made a crack underneath it when it landed on the ice!” We were all excited. Dave detached the other side of the tube off the *Journey* and lied down to put the tube inside the crack.

“Got it!” he said. We all cheered. Since the other side of the tube was on earth, the tube was stretching across the sky and into the water. And that is when we heard the sound.

“Um... Did any of you guys hear that?” Jake asked. We all slowly nodded our heads.

And then we saw *it*.

We saw the *creature*.

The creature looked scary. It looked like a skinny and tall person with really white skin. It had no eye, nose, mouth, ear, hair, but worst of all, it had no arms but only two legs. We all screamed.

“In the ship!” Dave shouted. We all rushed inside the ship as the creature came running towards us. I don’t know how it sensed us, but it was creepy. We closed the door just in time to stop the creature from coming inside the ship.

“WHAT THE HECK WAS THAT?!” Jacob shouted. “WAS IT AN ALIEN?!” The creature kept on slamming itself onto the window. Then the screen was on and the scientist showed up.

“Hey, what’s up gu- WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THAT?!” the scientist noticed the creature.

“I DON’T KNOW BUT JUST LET US OUT OF HERE! FAST!” Jake shouted.

“Okay, Okay. Wait.” the scientist said. Then, the worse thing that could happen happened. More of them came and started slamming themselves on the window.

“AHHHHHHHHH!!!” we all shouted. The ship started moving, and the creatures slid off the window. We were happy to see them gone.

“I am never coming back to space again no matter what happens,” Reina said. We all agreed on that.

Eleven months later, we came back to earth. When we came back, the scientists all congratulated us. “You did it! Congratulations! You saved the world!” the scientists said. When we looked at the machine, we noticed that it was sucking freshwater fast. Even though we saved the world, it didn’t feel like it.

“Wow. The experience was just, it was just new. I am never, ever going to save the world again.” I said. When we were coming back to earth, we were thinking about the creatures we saw. I was really scared. I had nightmares every time I slept. I kept regretting deciding to volunteer for this mission. The scientists gave us the money and kept on congratulating us. News reporters came and interviewed us, and the person most excited to tell about our experience was Jake.

“We were on the ship for a long time, so everyone was mentally having a hard time. However, I knew that we needed to save the world, so I kept on telling them hopeful messages and never gave up. I was like the, you know, the leader of the team. I led them through...” Jake told the reporters. I remembered him throwing jelly beans at the window and tried not to laugh. I looked at the others and it seemed as if we decided to let Jake tell the story. When I went to the streets with the others except for Jake, I noticed the screens on the buildings having the news that we had a new and stabilized freshwater source.

When the people walking on the street saw the news, they started whooping and celebrating. Some people were even crying tears of joy when they saw the news. They hugged other people and laughed and were running around to tell others. When I saw this scene, all the bad feelings about this mission went away, and I felt happy. I realized that what I did wasn’t worthless, but that it made tons of people happy and joyful. I noticed that the other teammates saw this too. I soon realized that I was crying. Soon, I was with those people who were celebrating with the other teammates. Jake later came and joined us. We cried and laughed and realized that nothing can be compared to the happiness of the whole world. Not even money. Not even scary creatures. And not even a new source of water.