



Rocket Cards

Use with:

The Way Back Home

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1. Pick a Rocket Card to focus on today.



2. Watch the matching video on the Language Launchpad You Tube channel.



Rocket Card
Use with 'The Way Back Home'

Get ready

When? Before reading

Find a **special place**, which is comfortable and free from distractions such as TV or phones.



Pick a **time** when you and your child are **calm**, but **alert**.



Watch the '**Find a special place**' video

Watch the '**Introduce story time**' video



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Get them involved



When? Whilst reading

In this story there are **lots of things happening in the pictures** that aren't said in the text.

How about: **agree with your child that you will say the words that are written down, and they can say the parts that happen in the pictures.**

Remind them that this is a very important job, and praise them often for doing well.



Watch the '**Get them involved**' video



Rocket Card

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Ask questions



When? Whilst reading

Ask these questions while on the appropriate page (you don't need to say the words in brackets).

Focus on the questions that are **suitable for your child**. You can miss out ones that you think are not appropriate. They get more difficult as you go down the page. **Remember to think of your own questions too.**

What can you see? (On any page.)

What else do you think there is in the cupboard? (On the second page.)

What is happening/What is he doing? (On any page.)

What is the same/diferent about the boy and the Martian?

How do they talk to each other?

Do you think they ever see each other again? (Remember this is an opinion question, there is no right or wrong).



Watch the '**Ask questions**' video



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Retell the story together



When? After reading the story at least once

- Download the The Way Back Home story cards from the website.

Support your child to put our story cards in order and use them to help tell the story again.

Encourage your child to **be the storyteller** by asking them questions, giving sentence starters and language demonstrations. **We've given you some ideas** for how to support your child. Please use your own ideas too.

Remember! **Pause regularly** to allow them to give their ideas, and **respond positively** to what they say and do.

Try to focus on these three main events:

- 1. The boy and the Martian get stuck on the moon together.**

Unfinished sentence: "Uh oh, they're ___"

- 2. They work together to solve the problem.**

Question: "What does he do?"

- 3. They both fly away back to their homes.**

Unfinished sentence: "They both ___"



Watch the '**Retell – The Way Back Home**' video



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Focus on important words from the story



When? After reading the story

Pick out a **word or phrase** from the story and **play a game or have a discussion** to **help your child understand** the word. Here are some of our ideas, for understanding some phrases but don't forget to **pick out your own words** and add your own ideas.

Make sure you **repeat** the word lots of times in different sentences.

Ideas:

Feared the worst: Explain that this means the same as 'scared'. "*What did the boy and Martian fear would happen?*" When has your child been scared? What did they think would happen? Remember to be non-judgemental, we all fear the worst sometimes.

In trouble: Explain that sometimes this means there's a problem (like in the story), but it also has another meaning too. "*What kind of trouble was the Martian in?*"

Stuck: Talk about how this can mean stuck as in with glue or tape, or stuck as in trapped or unable to move. Together, think of as many examples as you can. Play a game where a teddy or toy gets 'stuck' in lots of different places (e.g. behind the sofa, in a cupboard, in a door etc.). Or, play a game of 'stuck in the mud'.

Other words you could pick to focus on: engine, climb, alone, together, help.



Watch the '**Focus on important words**' video