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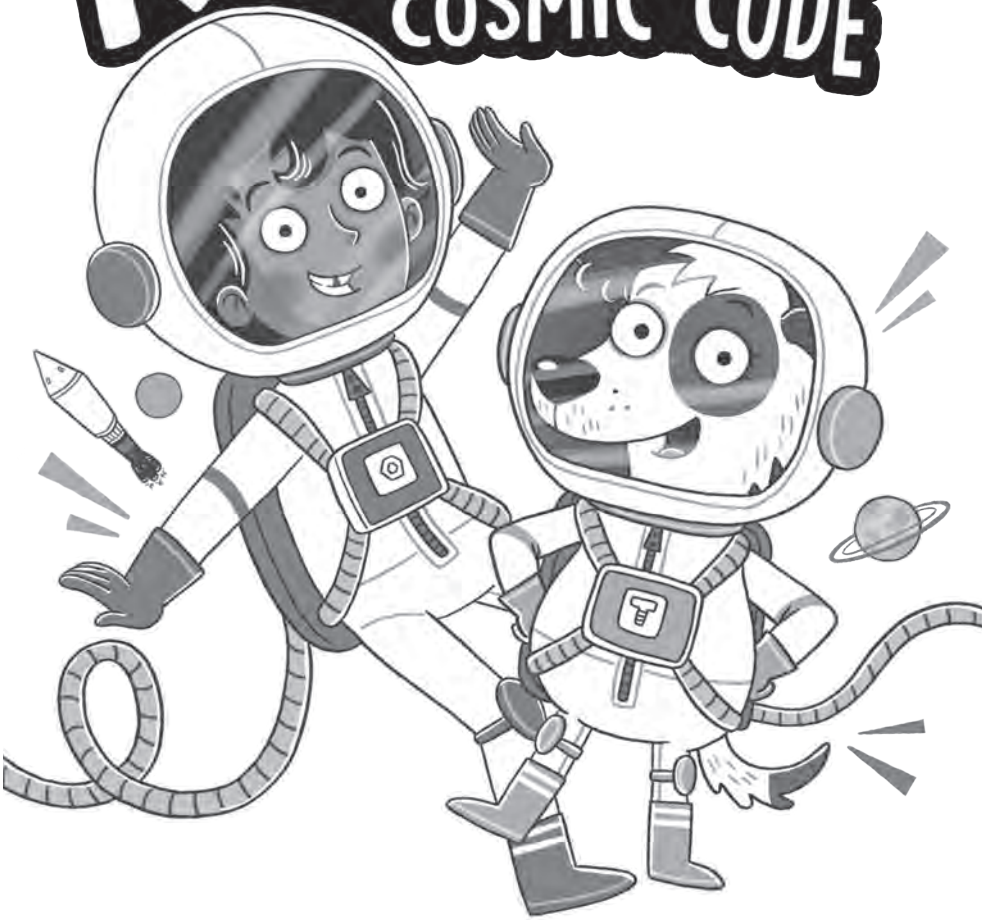




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KNUTZ + BOLTZ and the COSMIC CODE



BUSTER BOOKS

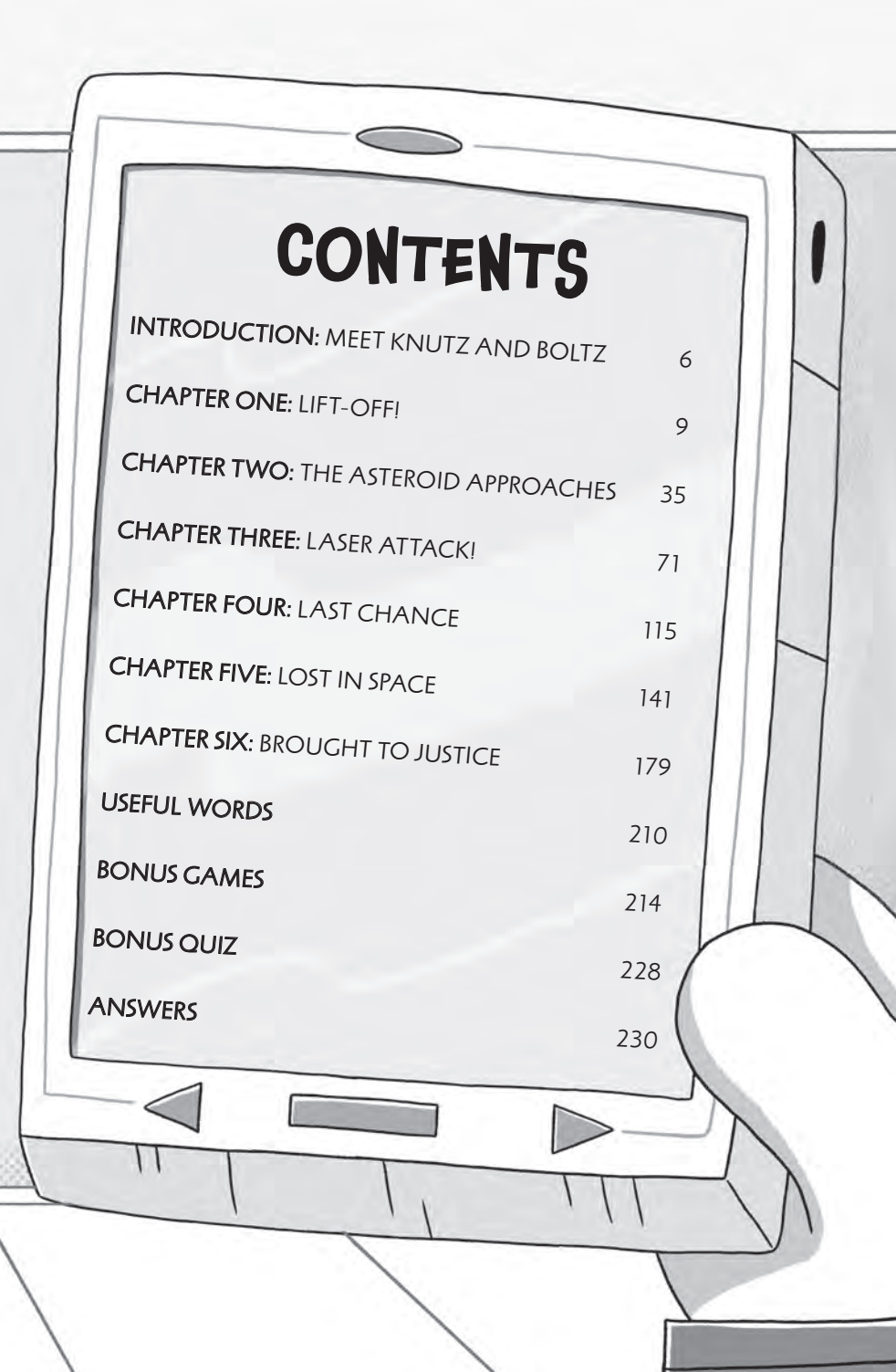
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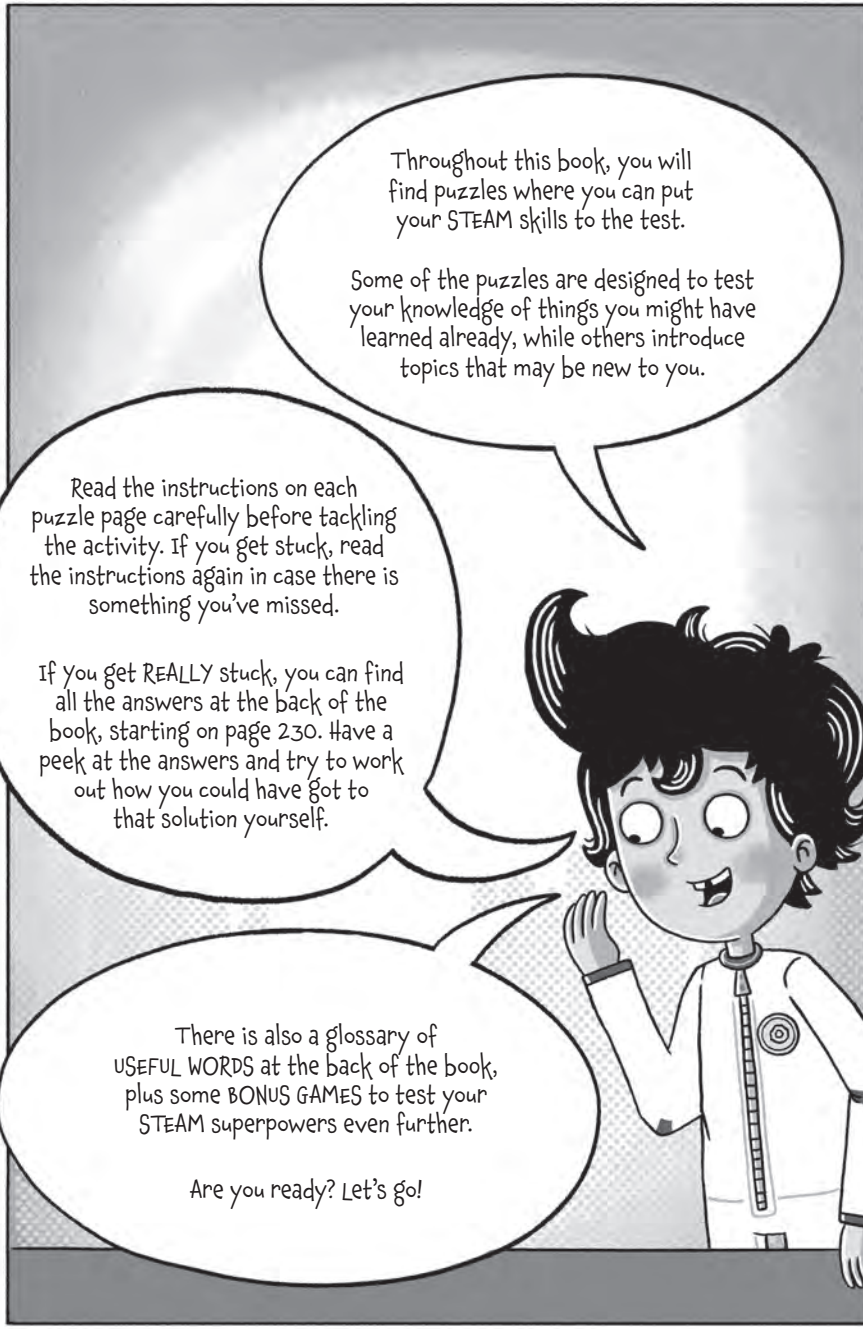
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INTRODUCTION:
MEET KNUTZ AND BOLTZ




Throughout this book, you will find puzzles where you can put your STEAM skills to the test.
Some of the puzzles are designed to test your knowledge of things you might have learned already, while others introduce topics that may be new to you.
Read the instructions on each puzzle page carefully before tackling the activity. If you get stuck, read the instructions again in case there is something you've missed.
If you get REALLY stuck, you can find all the answers at the back of the book, starting on page 230. Have a peek at the answers and try to work out how you could have got to that solution yourself.
There is also a glossary of USEFUL WORDS at the back of the book, plus some BONUS GAMES to test your STEAM superpowers even further.
Are you ready? Let's go!



CHAPTER ONE: Lift-Off!

The time had come. We were actually going into **space**. It had all happened so fast, and we'd been so busy training, that it hadn't really sunk in.

The guard drove the buggy up to the launch pad, and I stepped out. I hoped she couldn't see how much I was quaking inside my spacesuit.

My dog, Boltz, leapt out after me. She didn't seem nervous at all. Her tail was wagging, and she looked more like she was about to fetch a tennis ball than embark upon a dangerous **secret mission**.

"You two have a great journey," said the guard.

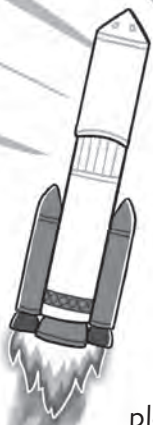
"We will," said Boltz. "See you when we return."

The guard drove away, smiling and waving.

"She wouldn't look so cheery if she knew what we were going into space for," I said.

"Quiet, Knutz!" hissed Boltz. "Someone might overhear."

I looked around us. There were still a few engineers walking around the huge metal frame that supported the rocket. It didn't look like they were close enough to hear, but I supposed we couldn't take any chances.



Our mission was so top-secret that the only others who knew about it were the World Space Agency and the three other astronauts waiting for us in the space station.

That's because the truth would have been too much for everyone to bear.

We were going into space to **save Earth**. An asteroid was heading directly for the planet, and it was going to wipe out all life. The heads of the World Space Agency had come up with a plan to knock it off course, and they'd chosen us for the mission.

If everyone on Earth knew the danger they were in, the world would descend into **chaos**. Humans would scream, dogs would bark, cats would destroy sofas, and there would be panic in the streets. They couldn't know about their peril, for their own sakes.

We stepped into the elevator at the bottom of the metal frame, and Boltz pressed the button with 'crew' marked on it. This would take us to the section at the top of the rocket containing ***Spacecraft 2***, which we would fly to the World Space Station.

We rose up through the frame, passing the three stages of the rocket, before reaching the top level.

The elevator stopped and Boltz dragged the metal door aside. She got out and strolled down the gangway to the crew hatch. For a moment, I couldn't force myself to move. The thought of blasting into space had drained all the strength from my body.

"Maybe we should ask them to put the journey off," I said. "The other astronauts might sort everything out without us."

"Too late," said Boltz.

She pointed down to the ground far below, where the last of the engineers were leaving the metal frame. They looked like **tiny specks** from so high up. My stomach flipped as I realized that soon entire cities would look like tiny specks as we circled around the Earth.

"Besides, I don't want the others to have all the fun of saving the planet without us."



Boltz was right. I'd achieved plenty of things in my life as a scientist and inventor already. But everything, even my one-hundred-metre swimming certificate, would pale in comparison to **rescuing** Earth.

I followed Boltz down the gangway on trembling legs.


Those are our seats?
Of course. We need to face the way we're going.