

Submission #1

By [Renee](#) / 12 April 2023

I have always dreamed of questing to a distant galaxy, seeking and discovering the mysteries of the universe. Today, I am going to fulfil those dreams- I have been sent to a distant galaxy in search of new life forms. A fascinating journey awaits before me. I know I will find something worthy for my legacy to be engraved into the history of space exploration.

A kaleidoscope of colours filled the galaxy- magenta, fuchsia, agate, and amber. My stomach lurched relentlessly as the ^{space craft} aircraft travelled like lightning. The journey was monotonous with endless sights of comets and asteroids. After what felt like an eternity, I reached my destination- Galaxy Asterix.

As I gazed at the vast expanse of stars and planets, a sense of wonder and excitement settled deep in my heart, combating the twinkle of fear that fought to control me. With a detecting robot, I tackled my first task—locating any signs of life. ^{Good description, but is it referring to the planet? galaxy?} The atmosphere dipped below ^{sub-zero degrees}. Seconds turned into minutes; minutes turned into hours; hours turned into days. Eventually, the robot located promising readings of a planet orbiting an agate dwarf star.

Bursting with ecstasy, I slowly manoeuvred the aircraft towards my destination. Upon arrival, I noticed that the planet was tinted a lilac shade. The planet was a desolate, rocky land with craters stretching out scarcely across the planet, each one full of a transparent liquid. After collecting some substance in a tiny bottle, I stumbled onwards. An eerie silence haunted me. The hair at the back of my neck pricked up.

^{this paragraph should be at the end}
I left Asterix with a renewed perspective of the galaxies and creatures waiting to be discovered. During my journey home, I felt grateful for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and knew that it would always remain engraved in my memory.

Out of the corner of my eye, I saw a flicker of movement. My heart pounded like a drum as I turned around. I was nonplussed. A foreboding sense engulfed me. The creature had three obsidian eyes, and its gaze was intense and drilled a sense of mystery into my brain. Covered in amber skin, the creature had four limbs and was akin to a thylacine- a Tasmanian Devil. It had a small snout and a pelican-like beak. Its tail froze as it stared at me with a somewhat interested glint in its eyes.

With my heart in my mouth, I retreated slowly back into the aircraft; the creature stayed frozen like a statue. I spent the next few weeks observing the creature and had a sinking suspicion that there were more creatures inhabiting unknown planets. I also discovered that the substance I had previously collected was acidic and burned soft materials. I also documented the creature's weird behaviour; it had a habit of shrieking (or squawking) like an untamed animal every second day, at the same time.

Feedback: Overall an engaging story that immerses the reader with vivid imagery. Some improvements could be made with transitions, especially towards the end.

Structure: Good introduction to set the context for the story, could be clearer in where the main character is currently. still on earth, already travelling, etc.

Narrative: Good tension within the story, some more description could be added to the build up and resolution so it doesn't rush through would improve it.

Grammar & Vocabulary: Good use of descriptive language and vivid imagery. Nice use of sensory imagery, but you could also add in some more taste and smell senses in to immerse the reader into the environment.