

Submission #2

By gk5481665@gmail.com / 12 April 2023

Planet Orangutan, Galaxy 547836

Smoke surrounded the circular window as a thud hit our ears. Grey clouds emitted from the engine engulfed the surroundings as we finally reached the surface of our destination. Weeks of travel, through the inky black depths of space, to get here. An orange-yellow blob the size of our moon back at home. Rocky, bumpy, unsuitable for a comfortable life. But according to those scientists back at home, life lives here.

As our small team of four descended from our towering rocket ship, plumes of orange dust rose slowly from the land. First, we had to check if things could live here. If the scientists were right. Just in front of us, we found proof. A wide, tranquil, light orange lake. I've never seen anything like it. Tiny creature squirmed their way around others in the lake. It was as if the lake was moving. They looked like tiny orange squids mixed with some kind of octopus. They had round heads but straight tentacles. They also moved like a drunk person. But weirdly, even when they moved oddly, they formed some kind of highway, with some moving one way and others moving another.

Walking onwards, we didn't see much other than the spectacular scenery. Mountains three times higher than home's tallest skyscrapers. Wide seas of bright pinkish orange, full of more of those squids. Drooping, red willow like trees that swayed calmly in the Orangutanian wind. Lastly, volcanoes. Thin, towering volcanoes that spewed out... water? The same orange water we found in lakes. The dye that the water had in it was made of the same substances as food colouring. It turns out the squids have probably found food colouring before us.

why is it short?

Sending our **seriously short** report on the useless squid-like inhabitants of this hard, rocky planet, we decided to have some rest on a cliff. As my feet dangled from the straight, mountainous cliff, my mind took in the stunning beauty of this unknown land. The terrain of orange rock, the mountains with their peak in the thin, scarce clouds, the volcanoes continuously spewing orange water and the forest of reddish willows. A land of the orange unexplored. Then my friends in my team had an idea to take off our helmets to test the air.

At first, we were scared, but then we were glad. The Orangutanian air smelled like donuts. The sweet fragrance wafted into our nostrils as we shared the same thought to eat donuts. We couldn't wait to go back home after our expedition and alert everyone else. But meanwhile, we enjoyed the fragrant air and the breath-taking scenery. Soon, we waved good-bye to the little orange planet, the squid-like life forms, the orange terrain, the mountains, the volcanoes, and the air that smelled like freshly baked donuts.

That concluded our journey to the unknown planet, Planet Orangutan, of Galaxy 547836, a place rumoured by scientists to have life. We did it. We became the first astronauts to land on somewhere, other than our home, that has life. Even if it was just those tiny, orange squids.

Feedback: Overall, the story is descriptive but the structure could be clearer and the narrative could be more engaging. Some good examples of sensory imagery are used but could be used more throughout the story.

Structure: Some transitions could be clearer, for example 'Sending our seriously short report...' How did we get to this point? Have they finished exploring? Additionally, the introduction could be clearer in who and why they are exploring in the first place to better set the scene for us to understand the context.

Narrative: The story makes sense but could do with some tension and conflict. Is there an overarching theme or idea that you would want to explore in the story? This can help make the narrative more engaging rather than just describing a series of events.

Grammar & Vocabulary: There is good use of adjectives to create descriptions but more analogies, vivid imagery and sensory imagery could be included to immerse the reader.