

## The Travel Through Time

"But it's so hard!" complained Arlo.

"Yeah well we did it last time so it's your turn," snapped Skylar.

"Stop fighting you guys!" scolded Luna. Arlo, Skylar, and Luna were building the first time machine and the hardest part was coding it.

"Come on guys! At least help me do part of the coding!" whined Arlo. *Doesn't he ever stop complaining?* thought Luna. Arlo was Skylar's little brother. Skylar and Luna were 14, but Arlo was 12. The machine was the only one in the world, as far as they knew, and definitely the only one that runs on maple syrup. And Luna was surprised that their families were keeping the secret so well.

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"Well it's been 3 years, and we're done with the coding, let's see if it's ready," said Luna to break up the fight.

"Arlo, you go in first," commanded Skylar after they had packed everything for the trip, including snacks.

"You're not the boss of me," spat Arlo.

"You're right Arlo," Luna started saying.

"Why are you agreeing with him?!" Skylar said with a shocked look on her face.

"As I was saying," Luna said loudly over Skylar. "You should go in first because your seat is in the back."

After everybody was in, they pushed a few buttons, turned a few dials, and had a few donuts from Skylar and Arlo's dad. Suddenly, there was a purple glow around the machine.

"Did you guys leave the note?" asked Luna.

"Yep." said Skylar.

"And you have the correct dates? We don't want to go back too far," said Luna.

"Yep," shouted Skylar.

"Okay. Hit the button Arlo," said Luna

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**BOOM! BOOM! BOOM!**

"Luna! Luna wake up!" someone shook her awake. Luna opened her eyes. "Thank goodness you're awake!" sighed Skylar.

"Where are we?" asked Luna groggily.

"I don't know. I mean we're in the forest, but I don't know the year, the time, or the exact location," said Skylar sadly.

"Where in this world is Arlo? If this is his fault, oh the things that will happen!" murmured Luna dangerously.

"What if it's my fault?" Luna looked at her with a dangerous glint in her eyes. "Not that it is my fault, of course!" said Skylar quickly.

"Where is Arlo, what is he doing, what happened, how is the time machine?" asked Luna.

"For one, Arlo is checking on the time machine. And from what Arlo told me, the ship went off course, and something caught on fire."

"And?" asked Luna

"We had to jump out," sighed Skylar.

"Where is the ship?" asked Luna calmly.

"This way," sighed Skylar

Skylar lead Luna through the toppled trees pointing away from where Skylar was leading.

"Wow," said Luna breathlessly.

They were in a clearing with a crater the size of five elephants. The crater was about 20 ft deep, and who knows how wide! And at the bottom of it, was the ship. Well most of it. Originally the ship was a circle about 10 ft wide and 20 ft tall. It could fit 4 people, and it had enough food to feed 4 people for a week. Now, it looked like it could barely fit 3. Around the clearing, trees were down. Most were pointing away from the crash, 2 or 3 pointing towards it. And in the middle of it all, was Arlo.

"You're covered in soot," Skylar said.

"I noticed that too dear sister," Arlo said breathlessly.

"What did you find, Arlo?" asked Luna

"Other than the top has been mostly ripped off, the engine is almost empty, but no other major damage." answered Arlo.

"Good. Get the animal stones and set them up," commanded Skylar. Arlo looked at her angrily, but did it anyway. He came back with an armful of them, and started to set them up.

Animal stones are rocks that didn't smell good to the animals so they stay away.

"Should we explore around and see what we find? I mean the whole idea to build this time machine was to explore the past." said Arlo.

"No. We don't want anything else to go wrong," said Luna.

Luna, Skylar, and Arlo made camp and discussed ideas about how to get back to the present time. They were discussing how to get the fuel for the ship when they heard a loud

**BANG!**

They ran outside. "What was that noise?" asked Arlo.

"I don't know." said Luna. Suddenly, three men with fancy clothes, long mustaches, and red hair came out of the woods with what looked like a bag made of beaver fur. They started saying stuff in what sounded like French. While Luna and Arlo still looked confused, Skylar began to realize what they were saying. Skylar started talking to them. Arlo overheard 'Bienvenue' and whispered to Luna, "We must be when the French were exploring Michigan." They discussed a few things, then Skylar turned back to Luna and Arlo.

"They don't know too much about time, except that it's about 9:00 in the morning."

"And you speak French," said Luna, still wide eyed.

"Oui," said Skylar.

"Glad you're good for something," murmured Arlo.

"You could have learned too if you weren't obsessed with finishing that level on your iPad," Skylar said crossly.

"Stop arguing! Skylar I need you to ask these guys some things! Plus, we don't want them to think badly of us!" yelled Luna.

While Skylar was talking to the French people, Luna and Arlo tried to fit in the time machine. "Arlo sit in the back seat and see if you fit," said Luna

"K," said Arlo. He squeezed in. Then Luna went in. They both fit. As they got out, they saw Skylar holding something.

"Hey Skylar!" yelled Arlo as Luna helped him out. "Whatcha holdin'?" Skylar held up her finger to say 'One sec'. She chatted a little more with the French people. Then they gave Skylar 3 bags and walked back into the forest.

Luna and Arlo rushed to help carry the bags. Skylar gave them each a bag.

"I had to trade the rest of the donuts for maple syrup," said Skylar.

"That's okay," said Luna.

They refilled the engine with maple syrup, pressed buttons and turned dials. The purple glow surrounded the machine, and they blast off.

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They arrived with dinner in the oven. They turned everything off and flopped down on the couch. "So, how did the test drive go?" asked Skylar and Arlo's dad.

"Well, we finished the coding . . ."