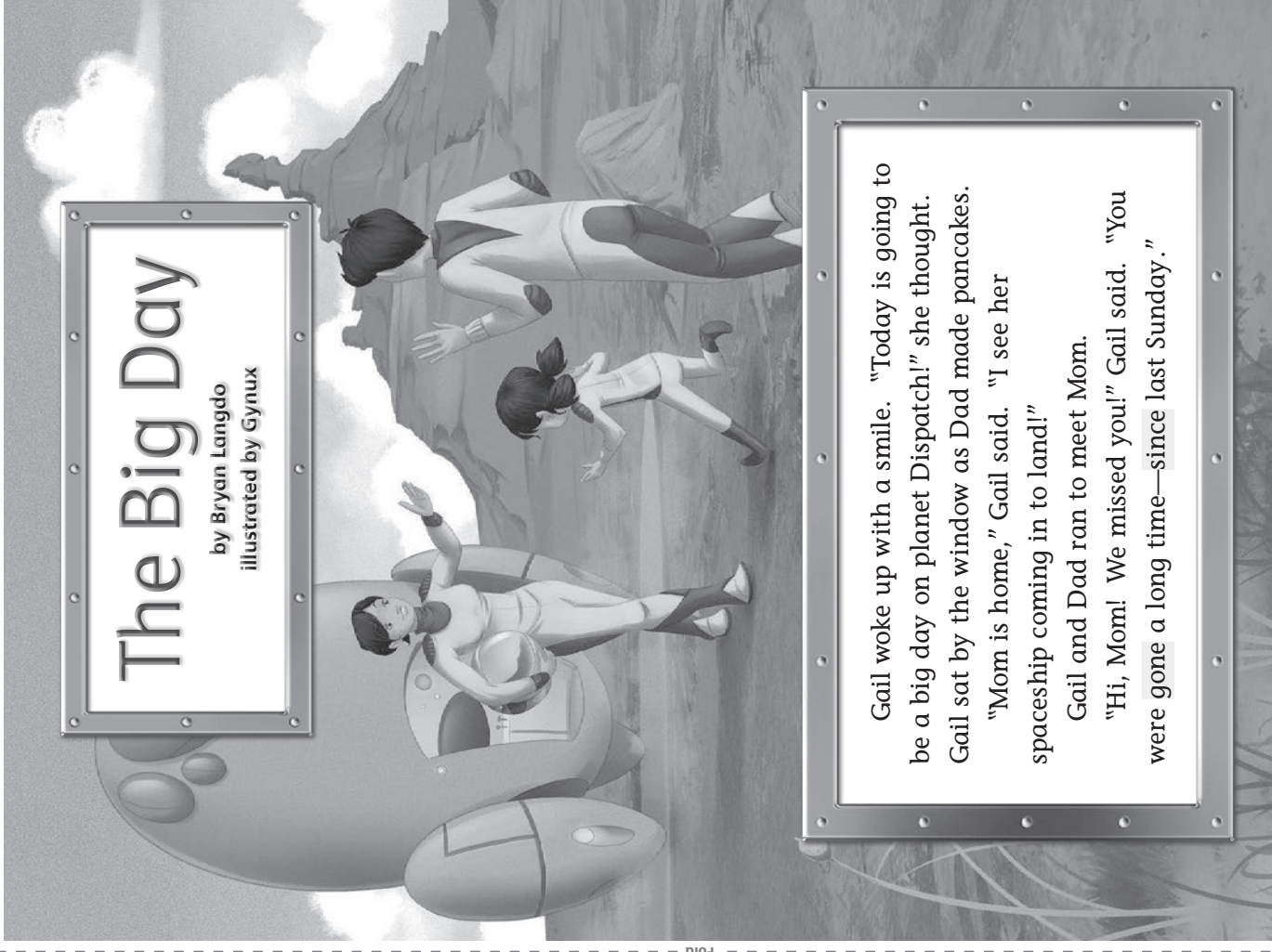


This book belongs to



The Big Day

by Bryan Langdo
illustrated by Gynux

Gail woke up with a smile. "Today is going to be a big day on planet Dispatch!" she thought. Gail sat by the window as Dad made pancakes.

"Mom is home," Gail said. "I see her spaceship coming in to land!"

Gail and Dad ran to meet Mom.

"Hi, Mom! We missed you!" Gail said. "You were gone a long time—since last Sunday."



"Notice anything?" Gail asked when her mom got inside.

"I notice you and Dad made me pancakes in fun shapes," Mom said. "I have not had anything but spacejelly sandwiches in days! I do not dislike them, but this is a nice change."

"What is this one, Gail?" Mom went on. "Is it a blossom? Is it a cupcake? I cannot tell."

Fold

Story Break

Read the story with a friend. Take turns. Then reread it, reading the sentences your friend read the first time.

Painted Pages

1. A woman paints pages in a book.
2. She displays a good one for children.
3. The page shows children playing with pets.
4. Now the children and pets begin to move!
5. Then the children notice a big change.
6. Since the woman added wings, the pets fly!
7. The pets fly up and then are just gone.
8. Anything can happen on a page like that!



The light came back. It blinked twice, zipped left and right, and then swept quickly to the ground. The spaceships are close and will land while Mom is at the shed.

"It is the ships! I see them now!" Gail cried.

Dad and Gail waited as each spaceship landed and started bringing in the pals that came to be with them on this big day.

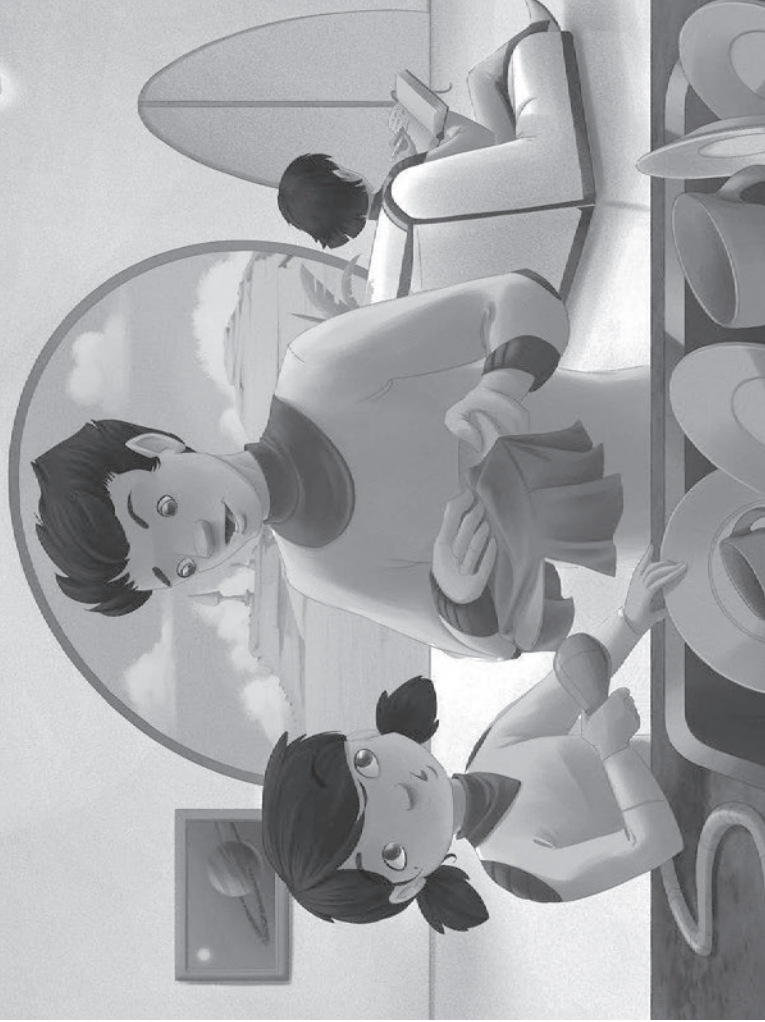


Gail and her mom and dad spoke of their week. Mom and Dad both had good weeks. Dad had a good week at home tending crops. Mom had a light week at the space dust mine.

Then Mom went to a blank page in her book.

Gail and Dad cleaned up as Mom made notes.

"I do not think she suspects a thing, Dad!" said Gail. "This will be the best day!"



"Now we can try to get Mom to help with a job at home," Dad said. "We might ask her to check the old shed that is in disuse. It almost fell down on the last windy day we had. We need her to be doing a job when the ships land."

"Mom is just the woman to check on that old shed, Dad!" Gail said with a wink and a smile.



Fold



Dad sent Mom off to the old shed. She thought she might fix it. That gave Dad and Gail time to set up snacks at home and contact their pals in space.

Suddenly, a bright light flashed high in the sky. "Did you see that?" Dad asked. "I did," Gail said, "but now it is gone. I know what it means. The plan will be a success!"