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Opening extract from
**Busy Wheels Space Shuttle Blasts
Off**

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For Clyst St Mary Primary, Devon P.B.
For Gavin - your support
means the world L.C.

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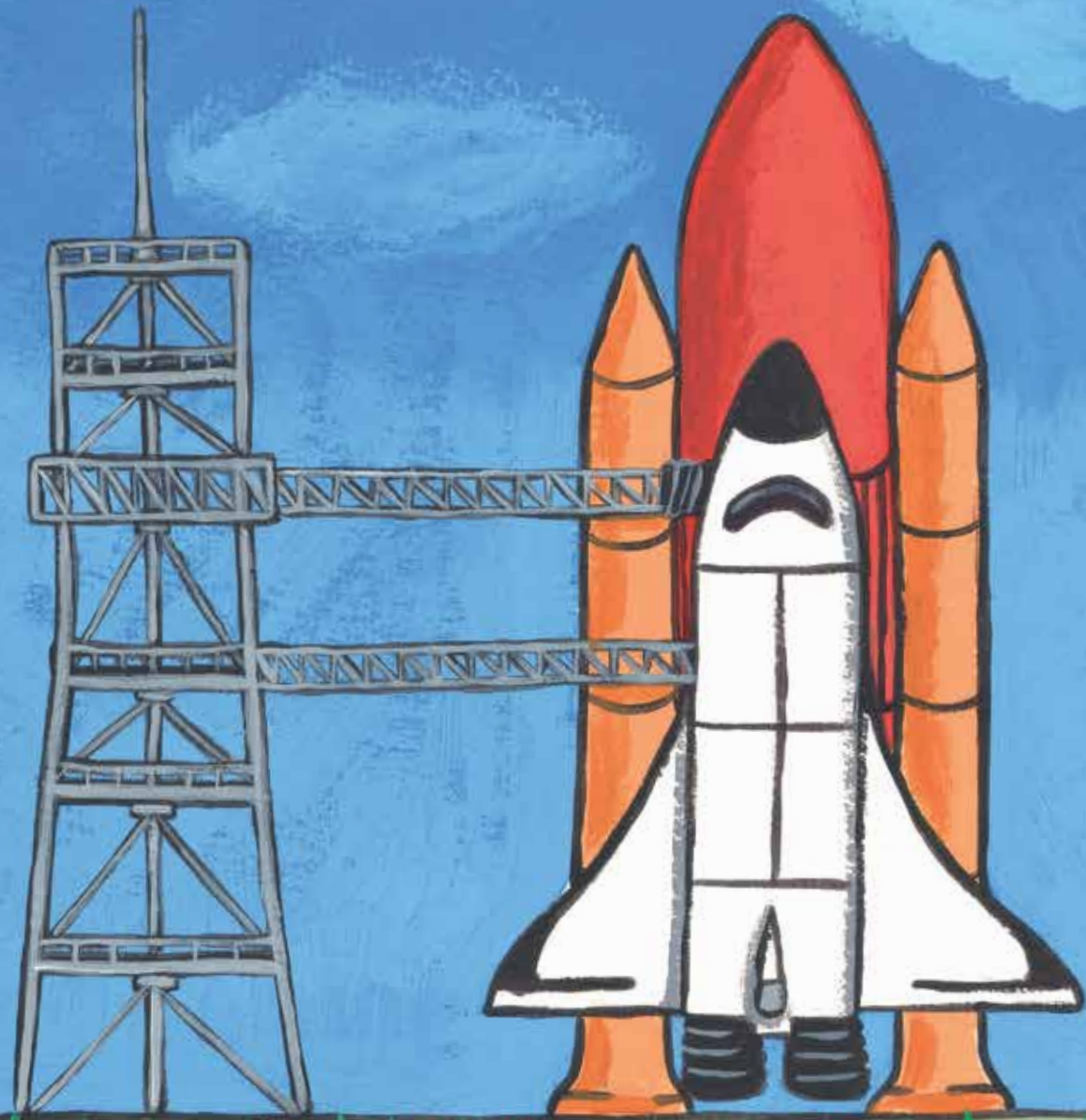
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Space Shuttle is on the launch pad at the Space Centre.

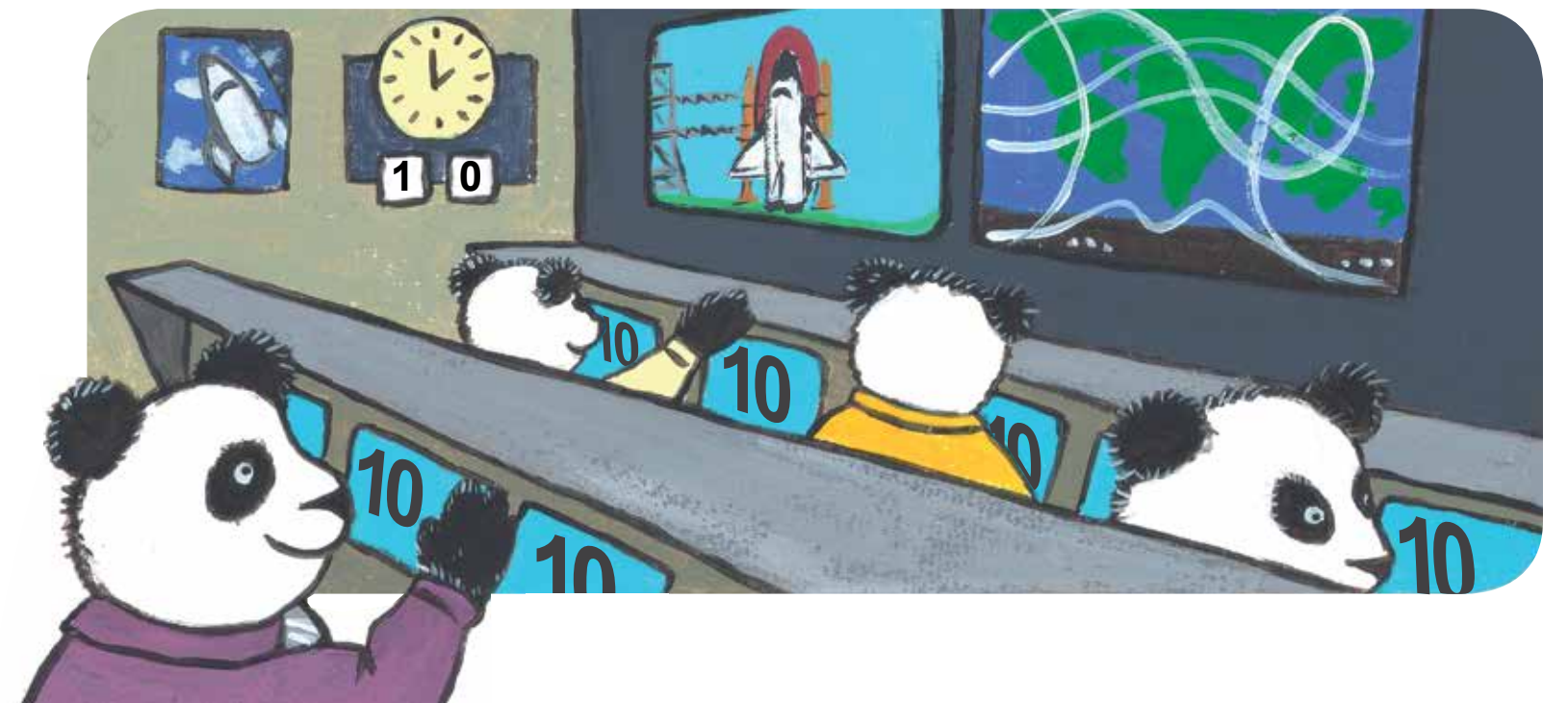


The tank and rocket boosters are full of fuel.

“We’re going to collect a broken satellite,” says Commander Mandy.



When the astronauts are strapped in, the ground crew locks the shuttle door. In the control room, the countdown begins.





The astronauts do their last checks. Everything is working fine.

“All systems go!” says Commander Mandy. “Prepare for lift-off!”

Ten-nine-eight...

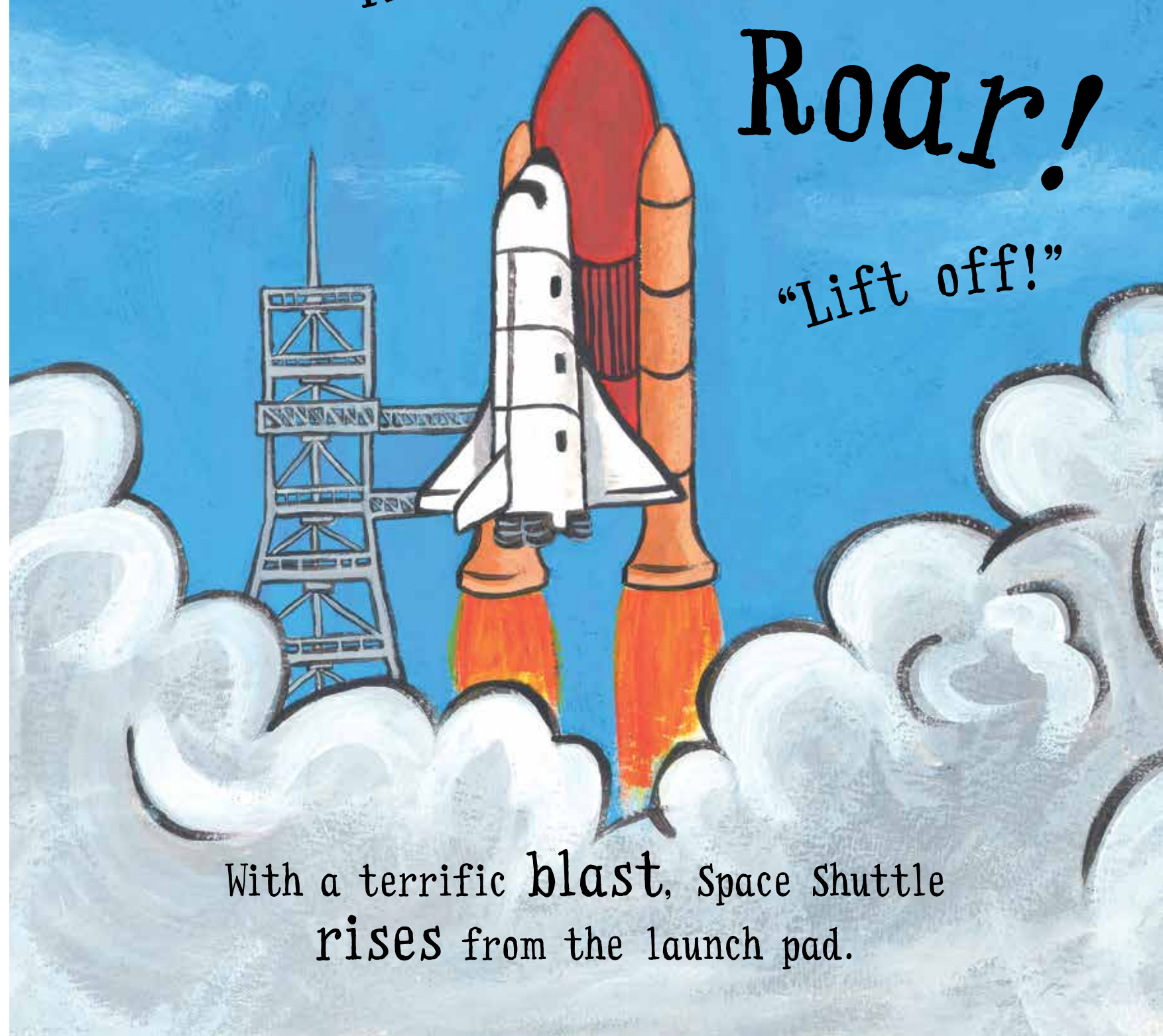


Commander Mandy starts the main engines.
Seven-six-five-four...

“Maximum power!” shouts Commander Mandy.
Three-two-one...

Roar!

“Lift off!”



With a terrific **blast**, Space Shuttle rises from the launch pad.

Space Shuttle soars **higher** and **higher**.
Soon it is high above the **ocean**.

“Release the rocket boosters!”
shouts Commander Mandy.



“Check!” says Co-pilot
Andy, flipping a switch.

The empty **rocket**
boosters fall away.

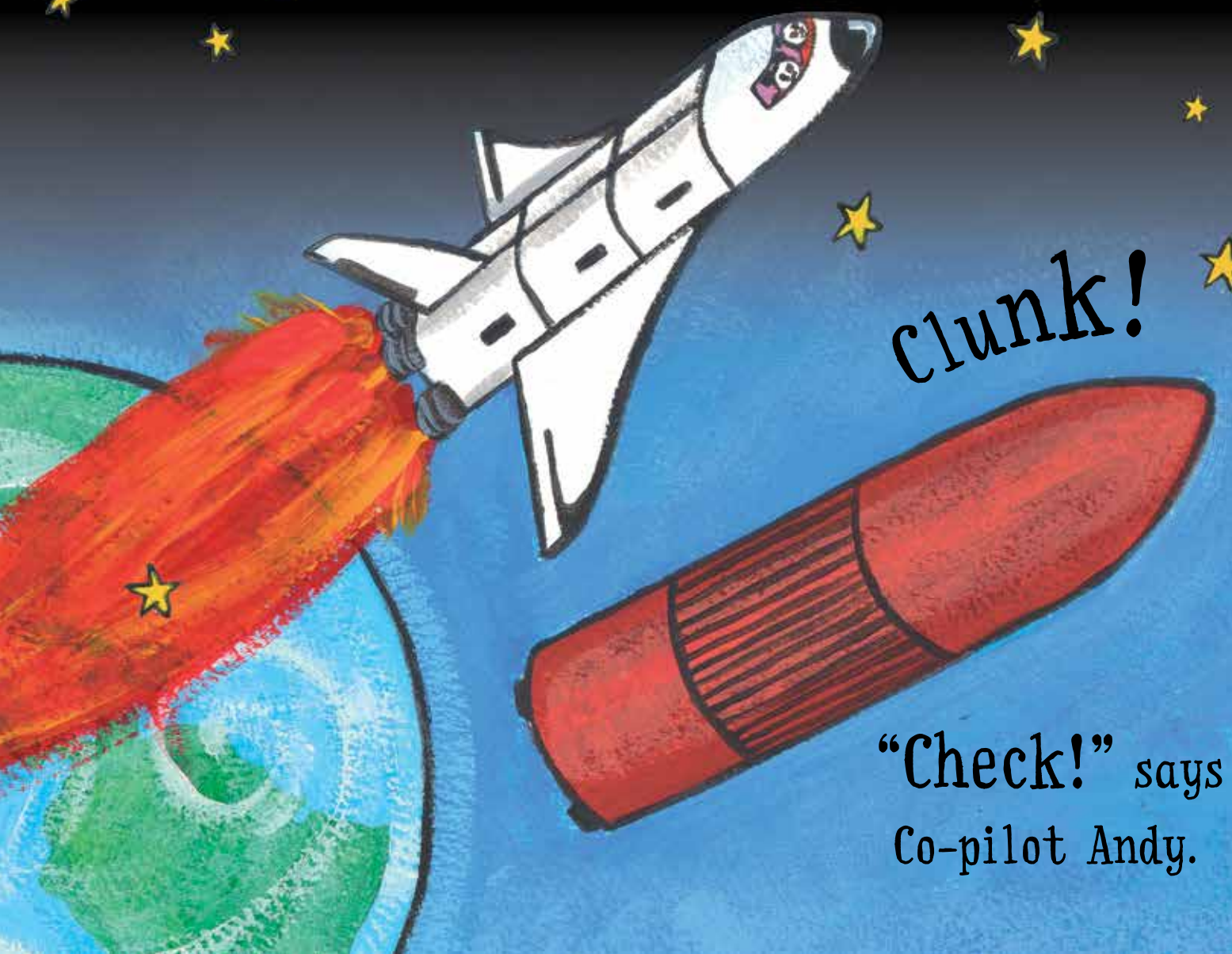
They **splash** down
into the sea.

A **ship** is waiting to
collect them.



The crew can see the **Earth** below as
Space Shuttle **flies** into space.

“Release the fuel tank!”
orders Commander Mandy.



“Check!” says
Co-pilot Andy.

The empty fuel tank
burns up as
it **tumbles** back
to the Earth.

Commander Mandy
steers Space Shuttle
into **orbit** around
the Earth.



**“Look, that must
be the broken
satellite!”**
says Co-pilot Andy.