



Imagination Powered Rocket Pack: Cosmic Ocean

“Somewhere cool, like I have never seen before,” he replies. His IPRP takes him anywhere he wants to go and keeps him completely safe and protected. It also has an imagination-powered guidance system that easily finds and takes him to and from different worlds at the speed of thought.

Lights swirl around him and in a moment he stands on very small planetoid. In front him is a round portal with strange creatures full of life swimming in a cosmic ocean. It is like being in water and space at the same time, with glittering stars and swirls of galaxies in the distance. Some of the creatures look like mixes of different creatures, like horse-fishes and strange fishes with elephant trunks or heads like lions.

“Whoa, this looks like the aquarium we went to last week, but way cooler!” He looks into the ocean portal and it shimmers. Several of the creatures turn to look at him.

He smiles a big grin and jumps into the portal. The water is warm and tickles a little for just a moment. It does not feel like other water he has been in; it is light and easy to move in.

This was a little portal on the other side of a tiny planetoid, but in here it is an ocean! Several of the creatures float up to him and a few nudge him gently. One really large creature, a shark-squid-whale with bright colors swims right up to him. The boy gets scared and swims for the portal, but then remembers he is in his IPRP and nothing can harm him. He turns back around and swims up to the large, strange creature and pets it gently. The creature closes its eyes and makes a soft humming sound, like a purr. It bends its head down, which is bigger than a car. The boy climbs up onto its back and they take off quickly through the water.

“I will call you a squarkale,” the boy says.

The squarkale swims and flies through many parts of the ocean and the boy sees strange

coral-mushroom cities floating by, deep caverns of glowing crystals and flying fish and swimming birds as they explore this fun, strange place.

After a while, a strange creature about his size comes up to the boy. The creature has arms and legs and is a little bigger than him, but is not a human. It has strands of different colored lights for hair and its skin is shiny and smooth. He has big eyes and smiles at the boy.

"Hello," it says to him, and bubbles come out of its mouth.

"Hi," the boy says. "Who are you?"

"I am N^Kupp'a," the creature says. "Who are you? I have never seen anything like you. You're not from here are you?"

"No," says the boy. "I am visiting from another world. I got here in my Imagination-Powered-Rocket-Pack. It takes me anywhere I want. I can even breath under water or in outer-space."

"Weird," says N^Kupp'a. "Can I try it on?"

The boy looks at him in confusion. "I won't be able to breath in here if I let you try it on. I think you have to have your own."

"That's not very nice of you," N^Kupp'a says. "I would only try it for a moment. Don't you want to be my friend?"

This confuses the boy. No one ever asked for his IPRP before.

"Maybe..." the boy starts to say. Then a red light flashes inside his helmet and the comforting voice of the IPRP Guidance System comes on.

"You are always completely safe, as long as you keep me on. I cannot protect you if you take me off."

The boy shakes his head at N^Kupp'a. "I'm sorry, I cannot take this suit off and share it with you. Maybe there's a way for you to get your own..."

N^Kupp'a then looks at him in a mean way and rushes towards him and tries to take the helmet off, or grab a piece of it. The suit becomes very bright and blinds the N^Kupp'a and it shrieks and swims back.

"I said 'no'," the boy says. He feels a moment of fear and shock, but now is calm, as he knows N^Kupp'a cannot hurt him. "It's not right for you to try to take this from me. You are not acting like a friend. Go away."

The N^Kupp'a starts to come towards him again. Now the squid-shark-whale opens its mouth and blows out a mix of wind, water, and light and carries the creature far, far away.

"Thank you," the boy says to his squarkale friend. It purrs back.

Feeling safe and happy, the boy spends the rest of the night exploring this awesome world with his new friend.

Themes:

Facing fears, the unknown, trust

Questions:

- 1) How did the boy first feel when he saw the squarkale and how did he react? Do you remember a time when something new scared you knew you were safe to face it?
- 2) What did you think of N^Kupp'a? Was N^Kupp'a trustworthy? Why or why not?
- 3) Which of the two should the boy listen to: N^Kupp'a or the IPRP Guidance System? Why?