



Imagination Powered Rocket Pack - Stuffed Animal World #imagination #problem solving #helping others #love

The boy closed his eyes. He inhaled light, exhaled the dark, and was surrounded by a soft white light. He felt the familiar form of the Imagination Powered Rocket Pack, or IPRP fit over his back. A portal of light opened up above him. He flew into the portal and traveled through a tunnel of swirling colored lights.

“Take me somewhere there are giant stuffed animals,” he said.

“Calculating, navigating. Engaging,” the voice of the IPRP guidance system (GS) said. “Be careful what you wish for.”

“Cool. Wait, what?” he said in surprise.

He came out of the portal. This was amazing! It was a world of puffy cloud-pillows, soft and inviting. Standing over it all were several very large, taller than a house stuffed animals. They were of all different types, from teddy bears and puppies to bunny rabbits, elephants and all other sorts. Some of them were dressed in uniforms or costumes like firefighters, soldiers, doctors, astronauts and construction workers. Just what he wanted!

On the cloud-pillow ground were children, lots of children. Only they were not playing with the stuffed animals. They were being rounded up and captured and put in giant play pens.

“What’s going on down there?” he asked the IPRP GS. “What’s happening with the children? They don’t look happy.”

“They are not. The giant stuffed animals as you call them are keeping them in what you might call a constant detention,” the IPRP GS said.

“Where are their parents?” The boy asked.

“There are no parents here. These children are all orphans and have no place else to go,” the IPRP GS said sadly.

The boy shook his head and said, “That’s not right. And the stuffed animals are supposed to be their friends, not be mean like that. Nothing can hurt me in my IPRP, right?” the boy asked.

“That is correct,” said the IPRP GS.

“But this kind of hurts. It’s very sad,” he said and stared at the children. “I have to help them.”

Without thinking very much, he blasted off toward one of the tallest stuffed animals, a great big blue bear.

“Hey, let those kids go! You’re supposed to be their friend!” the boy shouted at the bear.

The bear turned to look at him and then grabbed him out of the air. The boy struggled in its big hand as it tried to place him in one of the play pens below. He closed his eyes and imagined that his IPRP had great big fists coming out of it. Then it did! The fists pounded back at the bear and it let him go.

“That wasn’t very nice,” he said to the bear. “Now let them go!”

The bear did not answer him but grabbed some sort of wand and shot a white wavy light at the boy. The boy’s IPRP bounced the light away harmlessly. The boy then swooped down below to one of the play pens. He imagined a laser slicer coming from his hand and his IPRP made it happen. He sliced open the side of the play pen and said, “You’re free!” to the children in the pen.

The big blue bear reached for them. The boy imagined a giant protective bubble surrounding him and the other children, and the bear could not get to them.

At first the other children looked at him with confusion. Then one of them asked, “How did you do that?”

“With my Imagination-Powered-Rocket-Pack!” he said. “Don’t you have one too?”

Several of the children looked at each other and shook their heads. “We never heard of that,” the one them said.

“Ok, it starts with your imagination you have to get calm. But I can help you. Here,” he said as he pulled out a piece of tubing from the back of his own IPRP. He closed his eyes and a button appeared on the tube. He pressed the button and out came a little cylinder. He handed it to the first

child. Then he kept pressing the button and taking out more of the cylinders and gave them to all of the children.

“Close your eyes. Imagine yourself surrounded by pure white light. Breath in that light. Let it fill you up completely. Imagine that the light is pure love. Breath out all of your fear, sadness, and any darkness,” he said. They all followed along. They each took several deep breaths in and out, imagining the light coming in and the darkness going out.

The boy said, “Ok, now picture your very own Imagination-Powered-Rocket-Pack. It’s whatever you want it to be. It can be a rocket pack, a space suit, a pair of cool boots, a helmet, a warrior’s armor. It can be any color you like. See - mine has different colored lights and gears. This is your IPRP. The cylinder I gave you is a piece of mine to help you get started. But you each have one, you just have to use your imagination to activate it.”

Each of them took several moments and imagined themselves in different types of IPRPs and in a few moments each one had their very own IPRP.

“What’s really cool, you’ll find out, is your IPRP comes with its own guidance system. It helps you figure out where you want to go, can answer questions for you, all kinds of stuff. And as long as you wear your IPRP, you are safe,” he said confidently.

Each of them were trying out their own IPRP and starting to interact with their own guidance systems.

“Now should we go help the others?” he asked with excitement.

“YEAH!” they all said at once.

They spent the next several minutes going to all of the play pens and letting the others out, protecting them from the giant tyrants, and getting everyone set up with their own Imagination-Powered-Rocket-Packs.

After all the children were free and equipped with their own IPRPs, they gathered in one big space. They didn’t need the giant bubble anymore. Together, without even planning it out, they built a giant play area that they could spread out and play in. It had great big walls that the stuffed animals could not cross. The giant stuffed animals looked confused and almost sad.

“Now what?” one of the children asked.

“Shouldn’t the stuffed animals be your friends?” the boy asked. “Where I come from, stuffed animals are soft and cuddly. And we sleep with them at night or when we are scared, to comfort us.”

“That sounds really nice,” a little girl said.

“It is,” the boy said. “I couldn’t wait to see all the stuffed animals here, and especially so big. I always wanted a really big one like that big blue bear.”

One of the children said, “Could we make them nice?”

Another answered, “Yeah, can’t we use our IPRPs to reprogram them?”

“That’s a great idea,” another shouted.

All of the children put their minds and IPRPs to work building reprogrammers and shining rays at the giant stuffed animals to turn them into their friends.

Once the stuffed animals were all reprogrammed, they went to hug the children, help them and take care of them.

“What else could we do?” one of the children asked.

“Stuffed Animal Battle Arena!”

And the boy and his new friends had lots and lots of fun playing together and having epic play fights in the Stuffed Animal Battle Arena. Which is of course another story altogether.

Questions:

- 1) What does the boy do to prepare himself for his adventure?
- 2) What happens that the boy does not expect?
- 3) How does the boy and the other children change the situation?
- 4) Why are creativity and imagination so important and how can you use your own creativity and imagination to make things better?
- 5) How does the power of imagination and problem solving go together?
- 6) In what ways can you use problem solving in your life?