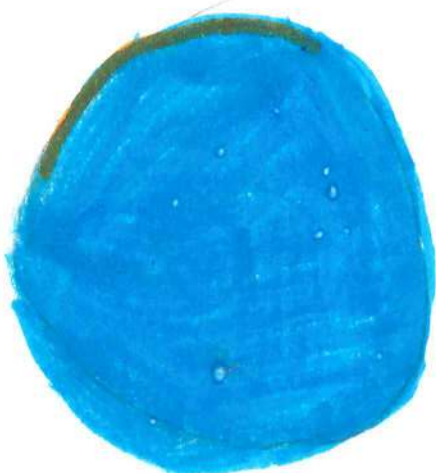
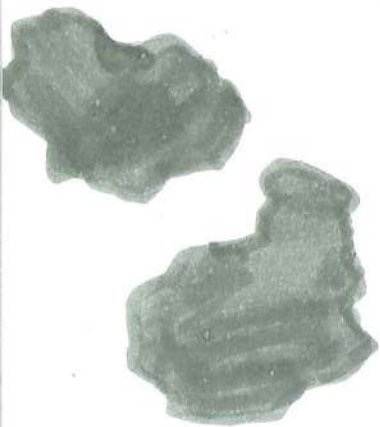


FIXING THE SPACE SHIP

By Maria Sigoulaki
65 International
School of Paphos



On Planet Decimal lived three friends named Jimmy, Rhony and Lony. They were planning to travel all the way to Planet Earth (to show people a new invention they made).
"Ready Jimmy?" asked Rhony.

"I'm ready!" answered back Jimmy.

Lony was packing delectable food meanwhile Jimmy was wearing his defensive astronaut suit. On their planet they had many new technologies which we will once get!!!



Smarty was also coming along for extra help. He was a really erudite spacedog. Rhony was cautious although Jimmy and Lony were adventurous and plucky. FSSST! The spaceship's door opened. Bang, Bong! They stomped their feet on the metal staircase. They waved to their home planet like celebrities and with the bark of Smarty the spaceship left. "Woof!" "Fsss!"



Planet Decimal wasn't that far from Earth. We just couldn't see it due to the trick which the living creatures there had made (combining light with technology and maths, they formed a black cover all around their planet so as to protect them from enemies). "I think we are low on fuel," mentioned Rhony with a pessimistic way.

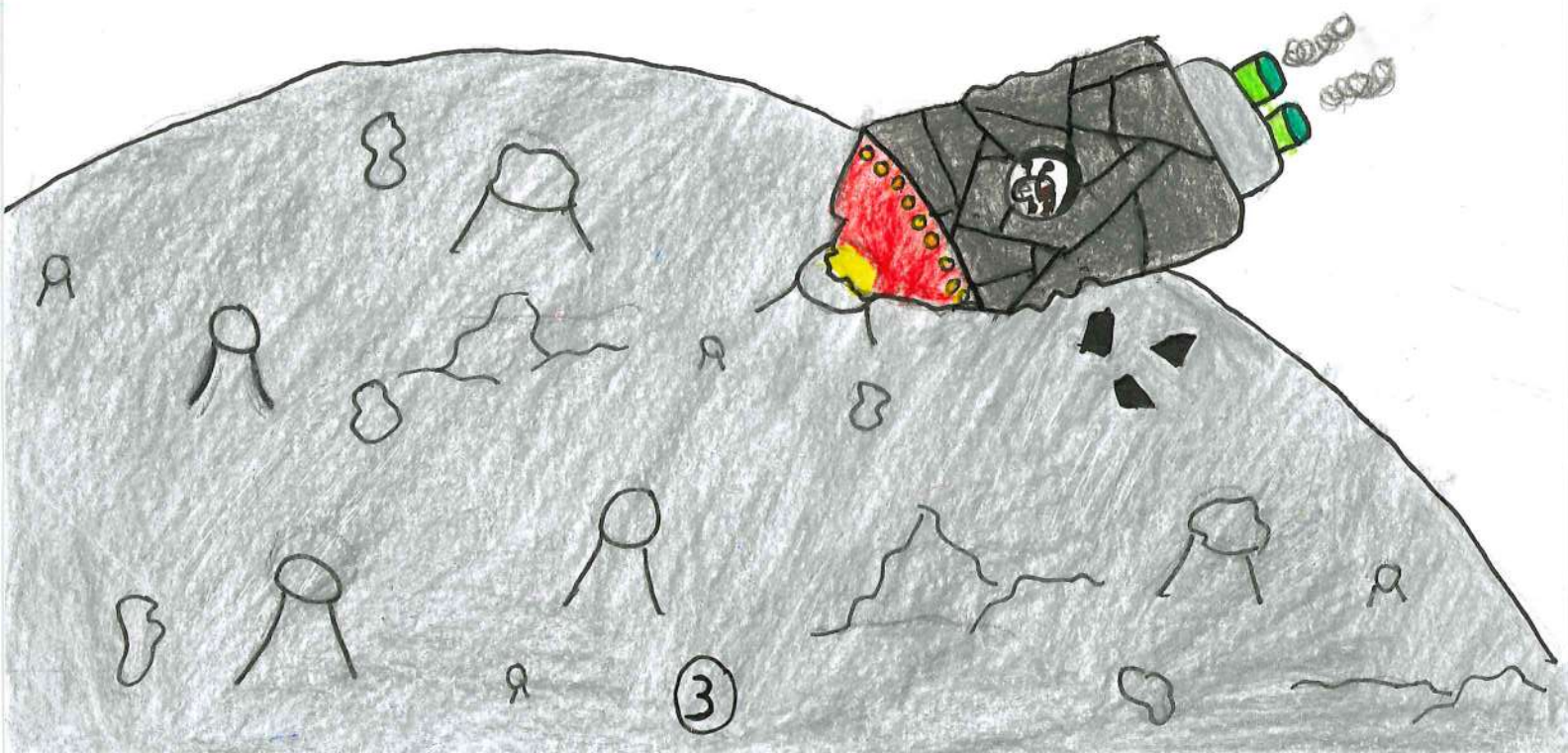
"Oh please don't worry, everything is under control!" said Jimmy slackly.

Suddenly the spaceship started shaking like there was an earthquake!

"AAAT!" yelled Long.

"We are going to crash!" yelled Rhony.

They were going faster and faster until... Crash!



"Is everybody fine?" asked Rhony.

"Yes, I think so," answered back Jimmy.

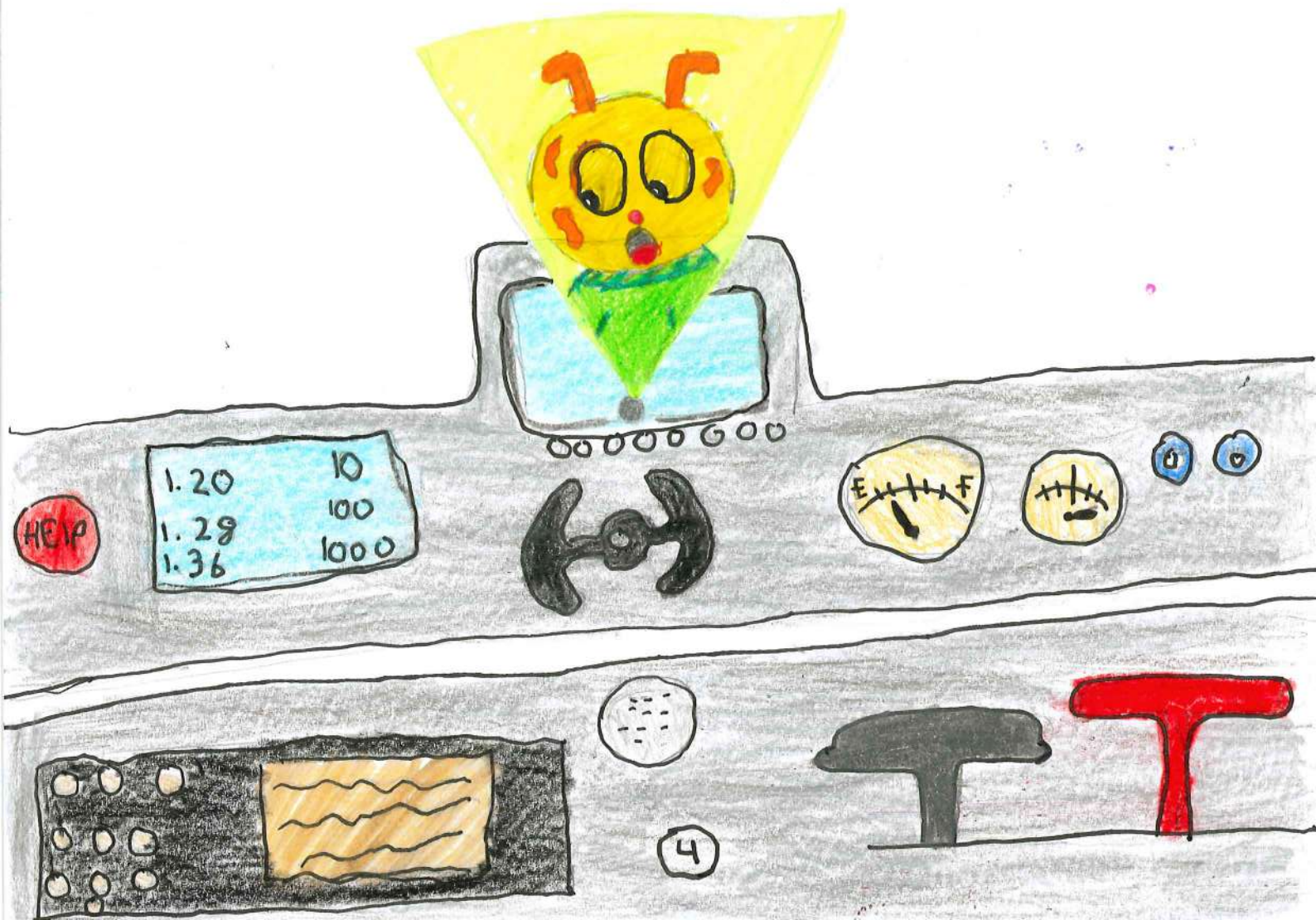
"Woof!" barked Smarty.

"Look! We are on the moon!" happily said Lony.

"Oh no! All the machines are off!"

"How are we going to fly?" he asked.

"Woof!" barked Smarty "pointing" towards the help button. Click! Beep-Bop! At the moment Rhony clicked the button a face popped out from the screen!



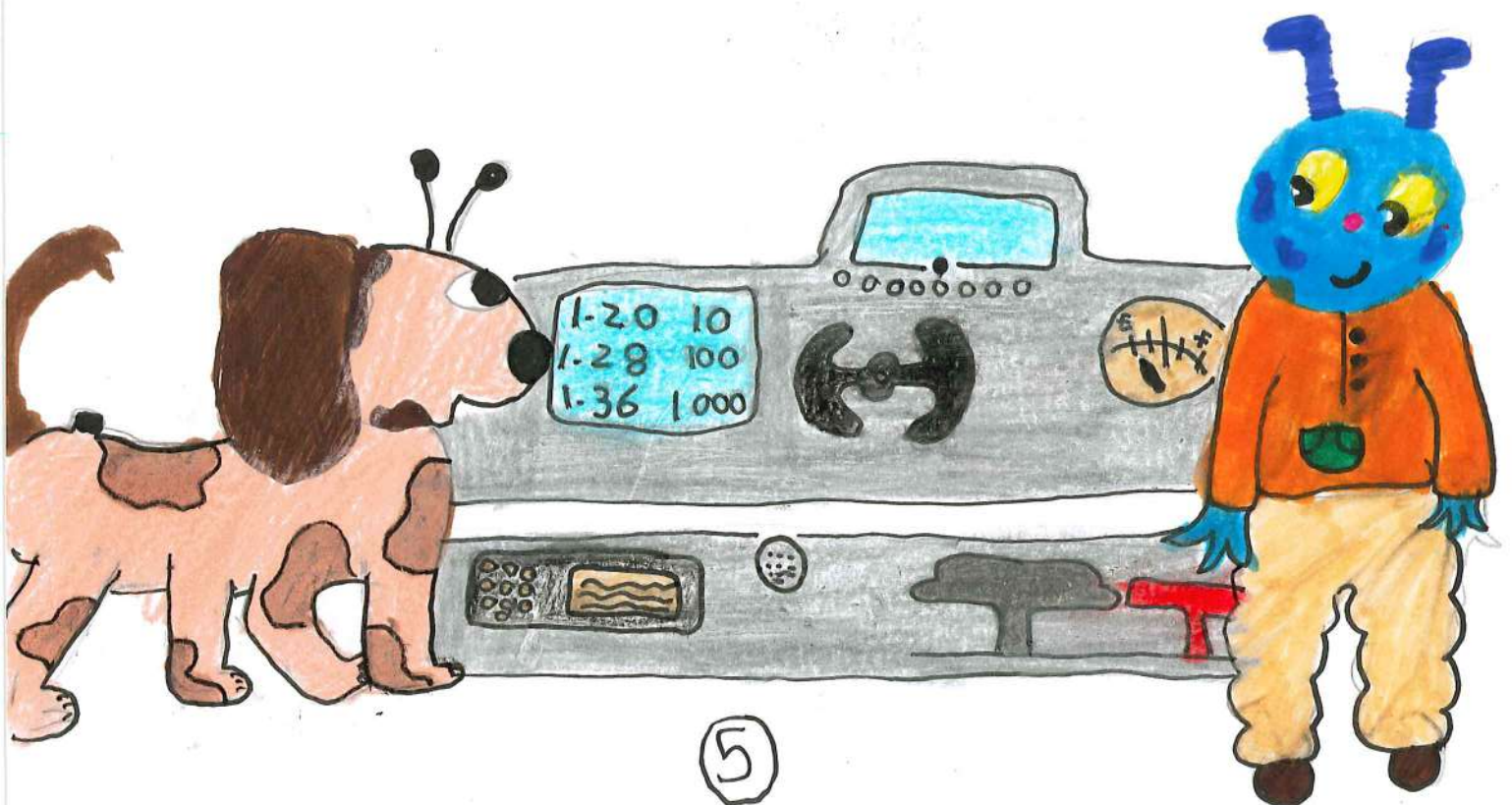
"Hello friends, on the screen below there are some numbers. One number represents the machine and the other the secret code of the machine. To fix the spaceship you will have to multiply the numbers and type the answers on the screen. Have a good day!" reported the unknown face.

"How will we multiply the numbers?" Long asked. They clicked a button on Smarty's back and he then started talking!

"I know how to multiply these decimal numbers, I can teach you!" he told everyone.

"Oh, please teach us," begged Jimmy

"No problem!" said Smarty merrily.



"To multiply one decimal number by 10 we move the decimal point one place backwards since there is one zero in 10. To multiply a decimal number by 100 we move the decimal point 2 places backwards since there are two zeros and so on. Did you get how to do it?" asked Smarty.

"Yes, thank you!" answered Rhony.

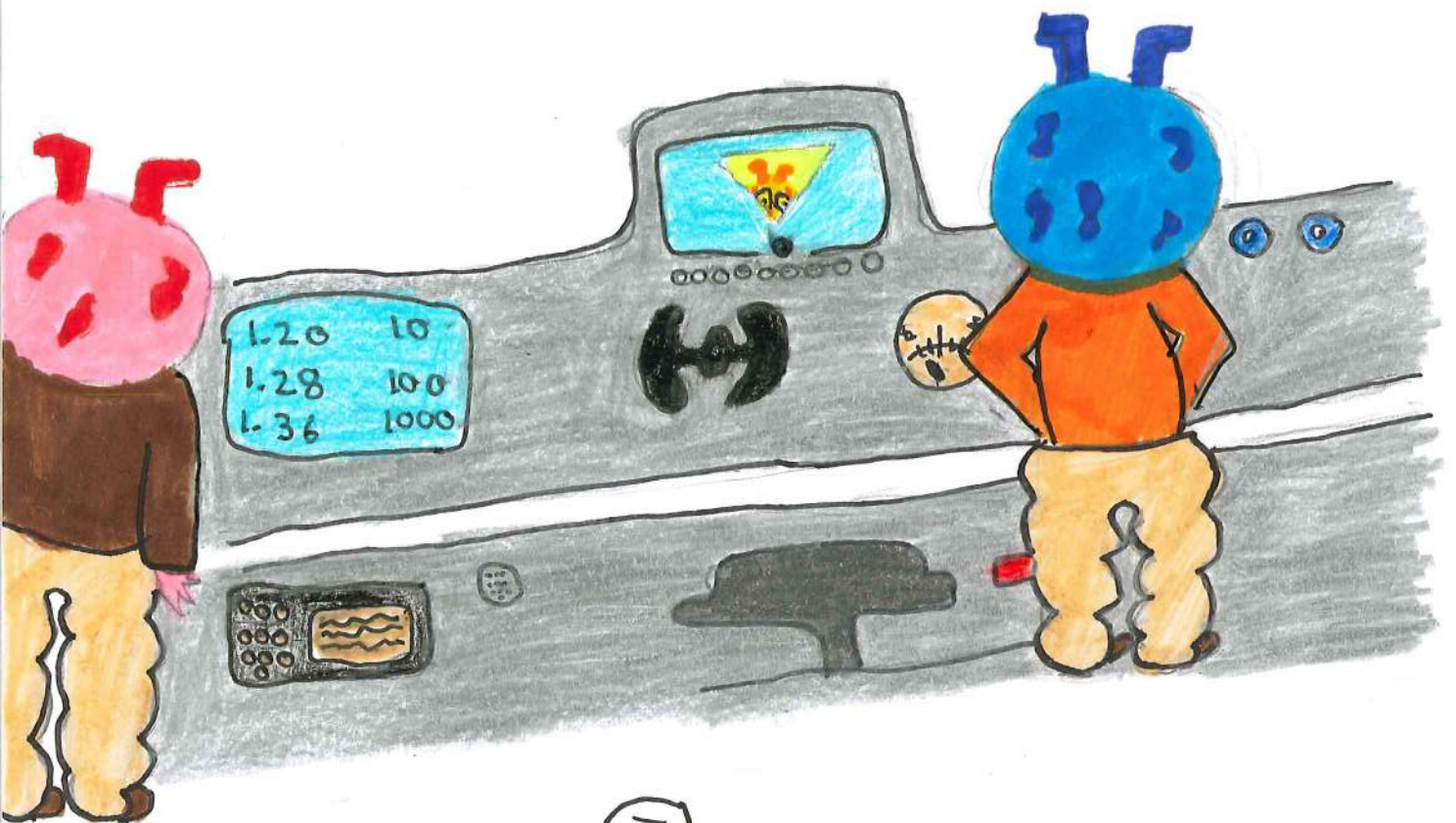
"Here are some notes that might help you," Smarty told them.

equation:	How to do the equation:
$1.20 \times 10 =$ 12.0	Move the decimal point 1 place backward = $1.20 = 12.0$. The answer is 12.0
$1.28 \times 100 =$ 128.0	Move the decimal point 2 places backwards = $1.28 = 128.0$. The answer is 128.0
$1.36 \times 1000 =$ 1360.0	Move the decimal point 3 places backwards = $1.3600 = 1360.0$. The answer is 1360.0

Note: if you have to move the decimal point many places backwards before you do so you can add some zeros at the end of the decimal number to make it easier (the way we did with 1.36×1000).

"Let's type up the answers!" suggested Lony. They typed up the answers and pressed the enter button, hoping the machines would work although nothing happened.

"What's wrong?" asked Jimmy annoyed. They clicked the help button again and the same unknown face popped out again as if it was Jack in the box. "Hello friends, well done, you opened the machines and now you need to code them! You will do this by dividing the numbers on the screen and by typing the answers. Have a good day!" the creature announced.



"Our situation is despondent, we are never going to fix the spaceship!" cried Rhony.

"Come on, we are not giving up! I can explain you how to do division but next time be careful in class since we need maths on our daily lives.

You should never give up Rhony, come on," begged Smarty (trying to persuade Rhony).

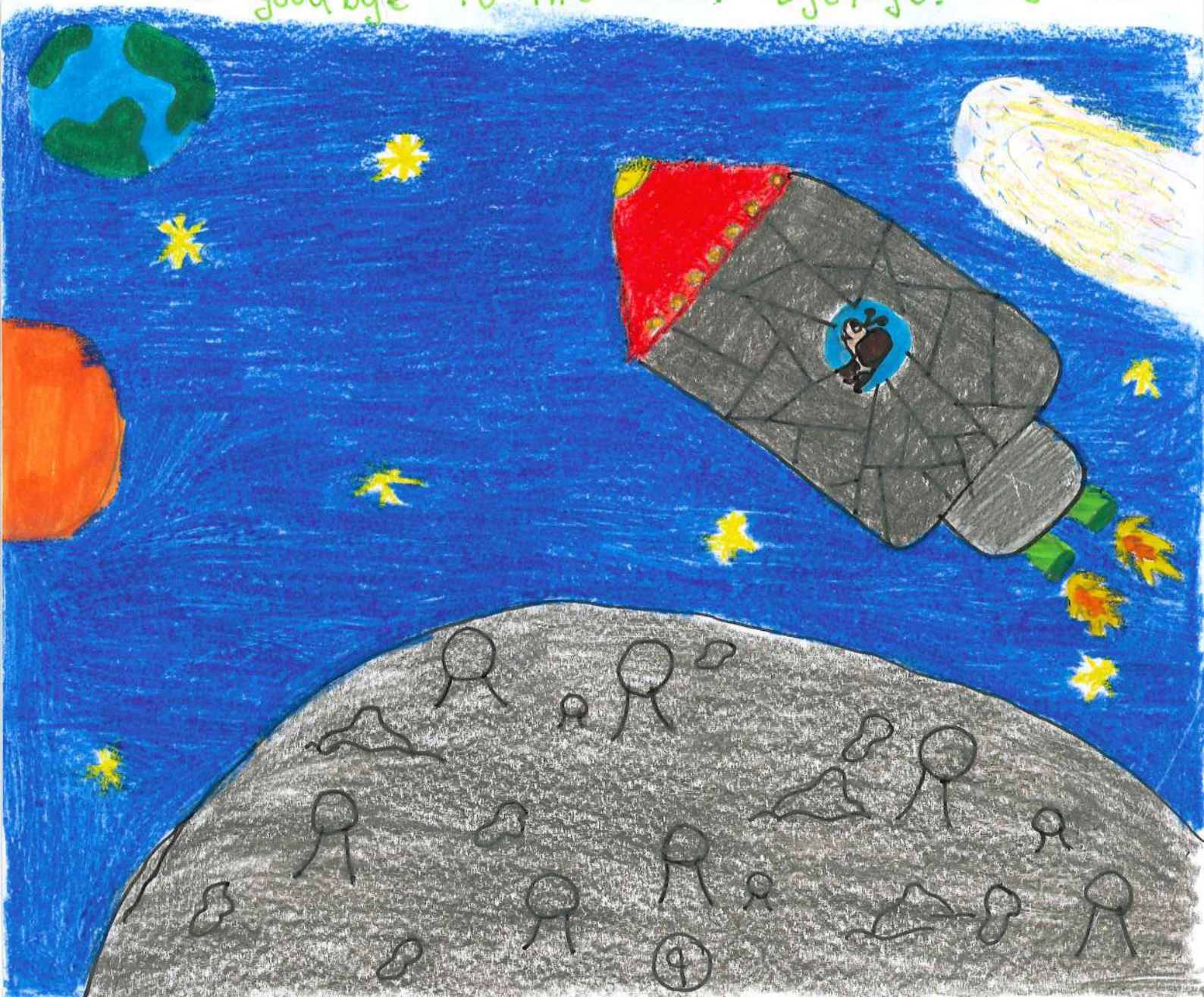
"Ok, but only one more time!" he told them cheerfully.

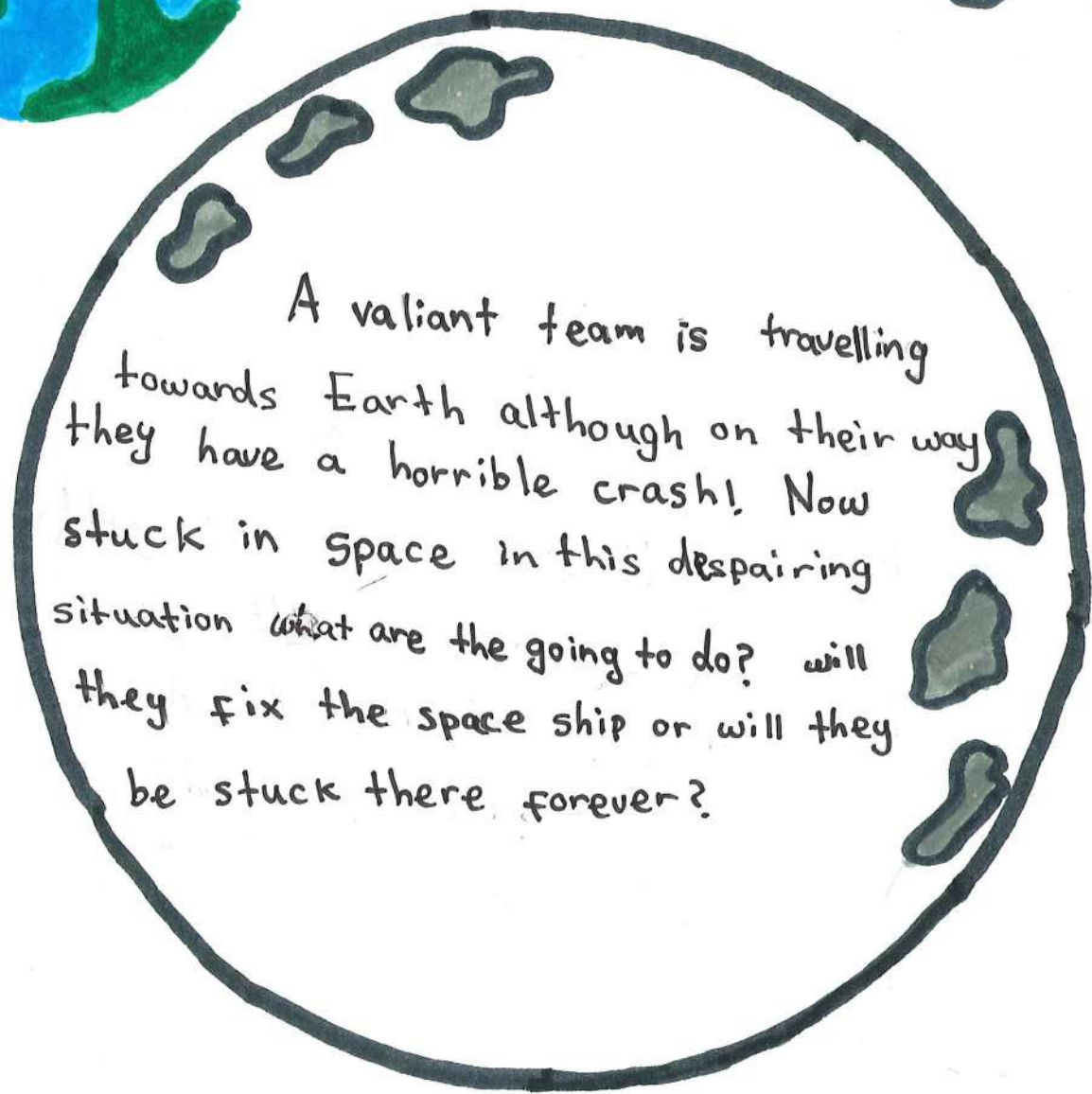
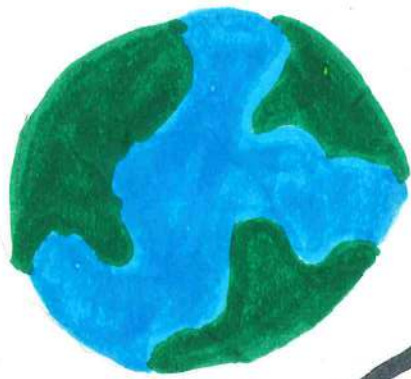
"If you know that division is the opposite of multiplication it will be really simple. When you divide by 10 a decimal number you move the decimal point 1 place forward since there is one zero. When dividing by 100 move the decimal point forward 2 places due to the two zeros," explained Smarty. "Here are some more notes to help you!" he continued explaining.

Equation:	How to do the equation:
$1.20 \div 10 = 0.12$	Move the decimal point 1 place forward = $1.20 = 0.12$. The answer is 0.12.
$1.28 \div 100 = 0.0128$	Move the decimal point 2 places forward = $001.28 = 0.0128$. The answer is 0.0128.
$1.36 \div 1000 = 0.00136$	Move the decimal point 3 places forward = $0001.36 = 0.00136$. The answer is 0.00136.

Note: when you have to move the decimal point many places forward you can add some zeros at the beginning of the number to make it easier.

"Come on, let's quickly type the answers so we can finally fly! I wish the machines will start working!" Jimmy wished. Tap-tap-tip-tap, they typed the answers up and then pressed the enter button, you won't believe what happened next... Queer noises were coming from the back of the spaceship! "Those are the machines!" Lony exclaimed contentedly. "They are working!" Rhony shouted out of happiness. They rushed to their seats, fastened their seatbelts and waved goodbye to the moon. "Bye, bye!" they said.





A valiant team is travelling towards Earth although on their way they have a horrible crash! Now stuck in space in this despairing situation what are they going to do? will they fix the space ship or will they be stuck there forever?

Maria Sigoulaki

12 years old
Paphos in Cyprus

The international school of



I really like space and also find an easy topic to explain decimal multiplication

I was thinking about a problem that we could have in real life and found out

a way to combine those two with some help of my fantasy. It was really interesting working on this activity!

