Oliver and the Space Museum – Modelled example

Oliver Wood was a loving yet poor young boy who lived in the smallest house on the edge of a quiet town. He lived with his mother and father and his Auntie Jean. Although they were poor, they were one of the nicest families that you could ever meet. Auntie Jean and Mum had both had lost their jobs at the sewing factory and were struggling to find another place to work. Dad was the only one who had a job. He worked at a peanut factory shelling peanuts. Sadly, peanuts weren’t as popular as they used to be so dad worked less and less. The family barely had enough food to get them through the week. However, they kept on smiling.

Oliver lived in an old and crooked house which needed a few repairs. One repair that they needed was to fix a hole in the roof just above Oliver’s bed. During the winter, it let in an icy cold wind which left Oliver shivering under his thin covers. In the summer, Oliver wished the hole could stay there forever. Through that hole, Oliver could see the dazzling stars glistening in the night. He dreamt of rockets soaring through the sky but knew that his dream of becoming an astronaut wasn’t likely to come true. Each night, he would gaze through the hole and wonder what life in space would be like before falling softly asleep.

One day, on his daily walk to school along the cobbled streets, something caught Oliver’s eye. In the magical and mysterious toy shop, a huge banner filled the window that said, “Find the golden planet and you could win a trip to the space museum!” Oliver paused for a moment and his thoughts ran away with him. “If only I had enough money to buy a packet of space cards,” he sighed to himself.

Weeks passed and each day, Oliver saw different children winning the golden planets. The peanut factory had finally closed down and Oliver’s family were struggling to get by. It was nearly Oliver’s birthday but he wasn’t even going to ask for a present this year. “It wouldn’t be fair,” he thought.

On the morning of his birthday, Oliver’s Mum, Dad, and Auntie burst through his bedroom door. “Happy birthday love!” they all shouted in an excited voice. “We’ve got a surprise for you,” his mum whispered softly. His Auntie stepped forward and tightly clenched in her hand was a one pound coin. She passed it to Oliver. “Go and buy yourself a packet of planet cards,” she said. “It’s all you’ve been talking about for weeks!” Oliver didn’t know what to say! He jumped out of bed and gave all three of them a huge hug! “Thank you!” he cried as he threw on some clothes ready to go to the shop.

Moments later, Oliver was running as fast as a cheetah to the incredible toy shop squeezing the money between his palms. When he arrived, he burst through the door and his eyes began searching for the planet cards. There they were. Neatly tucked behind the counter. "One pack of planet stickers please,” he said politely. “Here you go son and remember there is still a chance to win the golden planet prize!”

Carefully, Oliver peeled back the wrapper of the sticker packet. Inside there were ten colourful and incredible stickers. He slowly lifted them up and as if out of nowhere, a flash of gold shone brightly in his eye. “Wow!” cried the shopkeeper. “You’ve found a golden planet! Congratulations boy! Keep it safe and run home and tell your parents!” Oliver stood motionless. Was this really happening? Oliver pushed the sticker back into its wrapper. Excited yet shocked, Oliver ran home thinking about the incredible surprises that were waiting for him at the space museum.