



- Martí! Come on! We'll be late! Make your bed! Don't you have the suitcase prepared yet? What a boy! What a mess!
- Mum! What's going on?
- What do you mean "what's going on"? Don't you know what day is today?

I almost forgot! Today was the day, the big day.

Ah! Sorry for my bad manners! I haven't introduced myself!

My name is Martí and I live on Christmas Island. Yes, I know how it sounds, I'm not a Santa's helper. What a job it would be! All day wrapping presents and putting on bows...

Christmas Island is a small island located very close to Australia, a country full of kangaroos and koalas. Also, for the sake of my local name, you'll think we always wear a scarf and gloves because of the cold, I wish! It's always crazy hot here. We have some paradise beaches that Santa Claus would most like to spend a little time in here.

Well, where were we...? Oh yes... Today was the most important day of the year, what can I say! Of my life! And it was the only night in decades that stars as large as humans could be seen in the sky.

Oh! I forgot that too! I am a crab, a red crab, and from what my mother says, the prettiest in my class. I doubt it a bit, because the truth is that we are all very similar. Some have bigger claws, others have smaller legs... But in the end, we are crabs.

The truth is, I have too many freckles on my face, but what can I do about it? According to my dad it was because when my mother was pregnant, she had a lot of cravings for sea worms, but that's a different story...

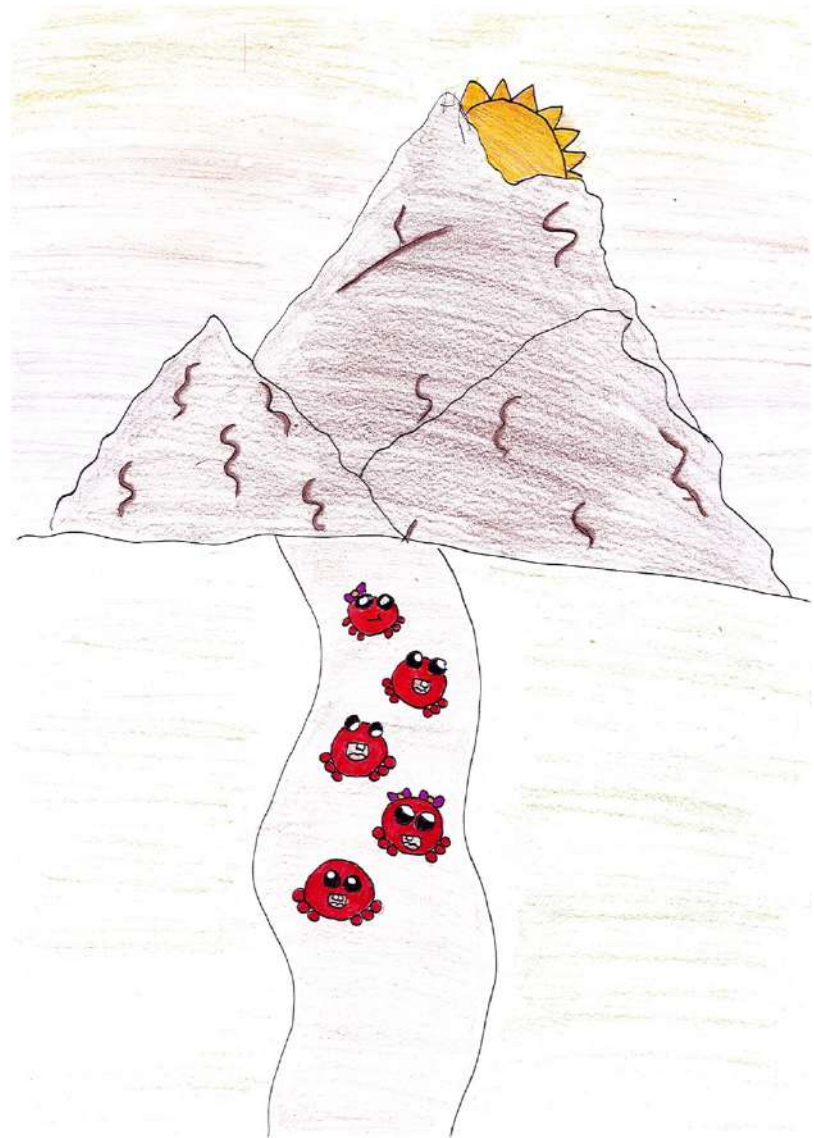
When I grow up I want to be an astronaut. All my classmates laugh at me because, frankly, who's ever seen a crab wearing a helmet and an astronaut suit? How would I plant a flag on the moon if I don't have fingers to do it? That would be funny, wouldn't it?

But I don't care about that. I have to pursue my dreams and there will be no crab in any sea or ocean that forbids me to be the discoverer of a planet full of red crabs.



- Oh yes, mum! I have to get my telescope ready to go to the beach tonight! Thanks for reminding me!
- But what are you saying, silly! Going to the beach at night? Today is the day we have to leave home to emigrate to the other side of the island! Why are you always so distracted?
- What? Today? Please mum, can't we do it tomorrow? Today is a unique day! There won't be another one until 100 years from now. I can't miss this opportunity!
- Yes of course! Now I'm going to tell the millions of crabs we are supposed to meet in two hours in the Main Square to leave all together. What will I say? I'm sorry, my son didn't feel like leaving home today because he had to look at some white dots in the sky. Don't say nonsense please and pack your bags! You have 20 minutes!

It was hard for me to process all that information at once. Clearly, the big day my mother was referring to was not the super big day I've been waiting for since I was born.



How unfair adults are, sometimes. They don't think about how the children feel and what they want. Why is it so difficult for my mother to leave me at home? We would see each other when she, my father and my 13 siblings return?

Now you're a little lost, aren't you? I'll tell you what it's like to emigrate every year, even though I've better dubbed it 'The Headless Race'.

Every year, my people have a somewhat strange custom. In November, more or less, when the cool weather starts to come to my city, we all gather together and go to the coast so as not to get cold (yes, we're quite spoiled, the red crabs!).

The truth is that it is very funny to see millions of crabs stepping on each other, as if it was a race, and without seeing anything at all so that wherever you look you only see heads, claws and legs. Plus, it's the perfect time for young crabs to fall in love, so they move on and look for their couple on the coast.



I don't mind much about it, because at the age of 8, I don't have to worry about it yet. The only thing that matters to me is to be the most famous astronaut on Earth.

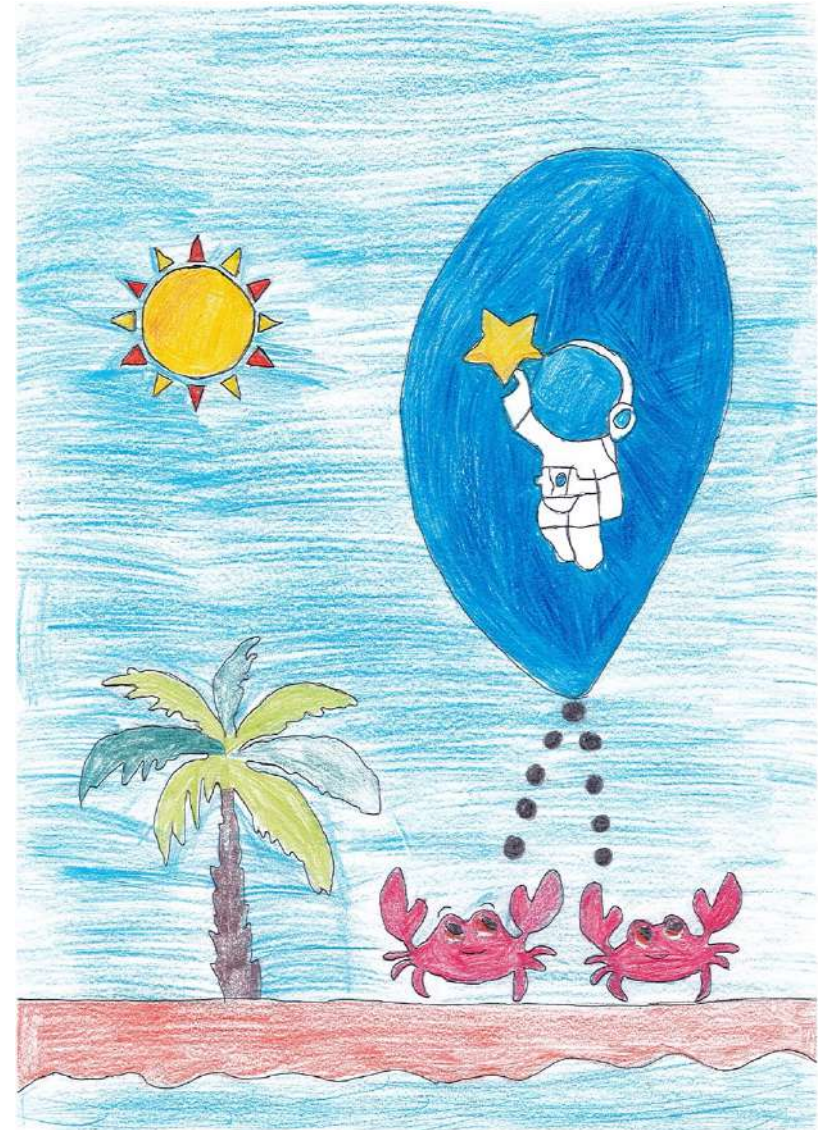
The first step in achieving my dream began today, with the observation of the big stars tonight. I'm sure they would give me the strength I needed to keep fighting for my destiny.

But my mother gave me the worst news in the world. In a few hours the big march will begin and I will miss the most special night of my life.

What should I do? What would my friend Roc say if his mother told him the same thing that my mother had told me?

Roc was my best friend at school. I was the captain of our future spacecraft and he was the lieutenant commander of the expedition. We made the perfect galactic team, but it was all just a dream.

We've been making preparations for tonight for a month. I was in charge of the telescope and the flashlights and he was in charge of



the food and the chairs. We wanted to get lost in the vastness of the universe...

I was just packing up, crying when my mother, fed up with screaming and combing my brothers' tweezers, told me that she was waiting for me in the square, that my father was impatient and that everyone had a long way to go, so I should hurry up and in half an hour I had to be ready to start going with the rest of the village.

- If you get late, your grandma won't give you a present when we get to the shore!

Now no one could give me the gift I wanted. I just needed one more day to be the happiest crab in the world. Suddenly, my brain began to wonder what to do.

On the one hand, I knew that I had to pay attention to my mother, and I'd really enjoy having a great time with all my classmates, friends, and family. But on the other hand, today was my big night, the night of the stars.

What should I do?



Decided, then! I can't be late, otherwise my mom will keep reminding me about it for the rest of my life! Imagine the arguments we would have at every Christmas dinner!

- Hey, Martí, do you remember that year when you were late for the march and we were the only family of all the red crabs that arrived late at the coast?

I didn't even want to think about it!

Although it wouldn't be a long way, I had to pack my bags very well. A pair of trousers here, a pair of panties there...

But, honestly, I didn't care what clothes I had to put in my suitcase – my mind was somewhere else thinking about the lost night and the stars I couldn't see with Roc.

My dream was getting farther and farther away from me, and I felt like no one understood me, my family cared more about the tradition of walking than what I wanted. But at my age, I still didn't have the ability to decide my own path. What would I do without my mother's advice and without my father's help to study for the exams?



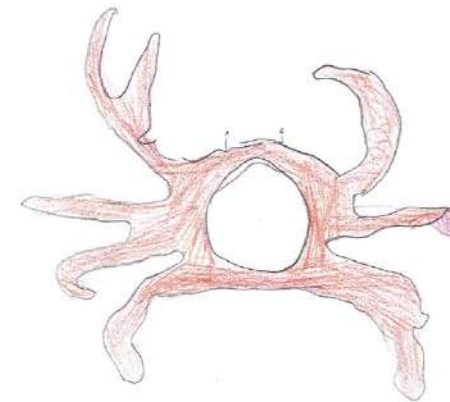
Thinking about all that, I looked at my watch and jumped in fear. There were only 10 minutes left to start the march and I wasn't in the Main Square! Everyone would get really angry if I didn't hurry!

I checked for the last time if I packed everything I needed, I closed the suitcase with uncertainty as if I had left something important, and ran out of the house as if there was no tomorrow.

The truth is that our neighbourhood, or rather the forest where I live with my family, is very beautiful. My favourite part is the little hill next to the oak, because it is perfect to climb and be able to contemplate the universe and all the mysteries it hides among its stars.

Our forest has the ability to change depending on the time of the year we are in. In summer, all the trees are incredibly green, there is no better feeling than to lay down under their shade and have a snack there.

On the other hand, in autumn the colours change and there is a beautiful combination of yellow, orange and brown. The floor is covered with a carpet of leaves because Roc and I used to climb the





trees and throw ourselves on top of the pile of leaves as if it was a trampoline. How fun is autumn on Christmas Island!

In winter, the trees lose all their leaves, and if you look up, it looks like the forest is making its way to the sky. I always imagine that I can walk between the branches and reach the moon.

Finally, spring is a time of reunion. During the previous months, many crabs did not leave the house because they were a little cold, and this is Christmas Island! I don't want to imagine what they would do if they were living in Finland! So when the heat comes back, everyone leaves home and the village market looks like a fair.

- Hey, Carles! Long time no see! How was winter and fall?
- Hello Joanna! It took you a while to get out of the house again!
- Wow, Toni! It looks like you have lost your red colour! Now you look like the white crab tribe!
- What, Dolors, you've gained some weight these months, haven't you?

And many other comments like that...



I turned onto the Fish Street and heard the commotion of thousands of crabs waiting impatiently for the mayor to give his annual speech in the square and for the annual march to begin.

Right at the entrance to the square I found Tina crying. Although the crabs look a lot like each other, it was impossible not to recognize Tina's claws. Since she was born, she's had a unique peculiarity. The ends of her tweezers are black. She looks like a boxer!

Tina is our classmate, she always gets very good grades in exams. She is one of those people who always think that they will fail, but then get the highest grades!

! How annoying! Listen, Tina, there are people out there who are struggling to keep up!

The truth is that I've never been the best student but I didn't usually fail any exams. But let's be honest... I always spent more time looking at the stars and the sky than the school books.



Every time I was with the telescope in my room and I heard my mother coming up to see how the study was going, I quickly closed the window, hid the telescope under the bed, ran to the desk and put on the face of concentration. And all this in less than a minute! In speed and coordination, I did have good grades!

Tina was crying like she was heartbroken. I started to think it was because she might have 'failed' the last exam. But no!

- Hello Tina, what's wrong?
- Hello Martí, I can't find my parents... I came with them for a walk together, I turned around for a second to greet a friend, and when I wanted to go back with them, they were gone! I don't know what to do!
- Don't worry Tina. I have to go with my parents and my siblings. If you want, we can go together and look for your family. Surely four eyes see better than two.
- Thank you, Martí!

This way, we both started our own march in the middle of the big carpet of crabs that were piled up all over the square.



Photographers and journalists from all over the world were also there, ready to get the best picture of the start of our march to the coast.

I didn't see Tina's parents anywhere, but I also had to look for my family. What a complicated situation! The one who could best help me in this adventure was Roc, the lieutenant commander of my galactic team.

I didn't see Roc in any corner of the square either, but I didn't worry because we went through it a couple of times!

Suddenly, everyone was silent because the mayor came out on the balcony of the town hall to recite the speech at the beginning of the march. There was very little time left to start the march and there were two lost crabs in the middle of the crowd!

I couldn't be late and not see my family. Oh dear, if I weren't there at the right time...!

- Listen Tina, I'm very sorry but my parents and my brothers are waiting for me. I'm afraid that you should look for your parents by yourself and then we can meet each other on the

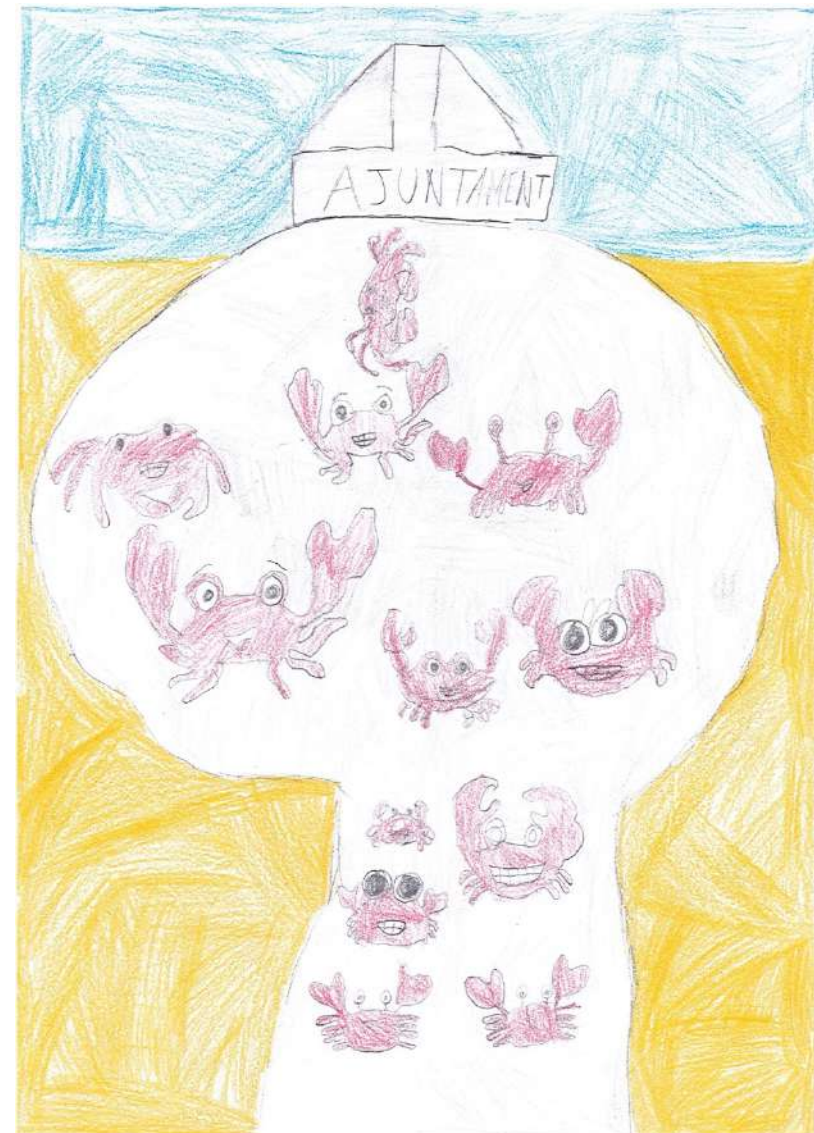


coast when we finish the march. Also, hopefully, if we get out early we will be able to stop tonight and be able to see the stars.

- But Martí! What are you saying? Will you leave me alone in the midst of all these crabs? What if someone hurts me? What if I can't find my parents? What if they step on me and break my tweezers?
- Tina! Come on! Don't be silly! Let's do one thing, if you don't find your parents in ten minutes, you can join my family and walk together!
- Great! Let's do it this way!

Suddenly, everyone went silent, the mayor went out on the balcony and began his inaugural speech.

- Hello? Hello? Can you hear me? 1, 2, 3... 1, 2, 3...
- Come on, man! Start already because we want to leave! - said Carme, the city's crab hairdresser.
- Welcome to march number three hundred and forty-two. Oh dear! How many years have we been doing our tradition! As you know, this walk is the most important of the year. Young people of the city! Take the opportunity to find a good



partner! The march will be long, but together, we will make it the most fun of all! The march is inaugurated! Come on, red crabs from Christmas Island, the beach is waiting for us!

Everyone started shouting and clapping. It was funny to see all those crabs with suitcases, bags, backpacks, chairs, TVs, and even refrigerators! Oh Lord! Indeed, these crabs were well prepared!

- Martí! We are here! Hurry up! For God's sake! Why are you always late?

What a joy! Not to see my family - I was tired of being with them every day, but because Roc, the lieutenant commander of the space missions we did every day after school, was with them!

- Roc! What are you doing here?
- Martí! I went to your house to see if you were there and to go with you but I saw that the door was closed, so I decided to look for your parents in the Main Square.
- What a pity Roc... Today was our day! The day of the stars! What kind of astronauts are we if we don't see the big balls in the sky tonight?



- That's why I was going to your house, silly! I wanted to propose a perfect plan for you not to go for the walk and be able to see the stars tonight instead.
- What are you saying? I had the same idea... But as you can see... Tell my mom I won't be walking this year... I'll cut my tweezers!

It was impossible to hear my friend in the middle of so many people shouting, grabbing luggage, talking and hugging the city neighbours as if they had never seen each other, making up the little crabs in case they were lucky enough to find a partner. ... And all I wanted was to get out of that stupid place with Roc and be able to talk quietly. Suddenly I had an idea.

- Mom, when the march starts, you can start walking, Roc and I will go a little further back to join our classmates.
- Listen, Martí, if you get lost and don't reach tonight's stop, I don't know what I'm going to do to you!
- Don't worry, I'll be fine!

The time has come. The island's town hall bell rang and everyone started running towards the shore



- Now is the time, Roc! Wait for everyone to go forward so we can talk about the night of the stars.

And, indeed, in no time, the Main Square was left completely empty and full of confetti. You could also see a kind of red spot lying on the ground.

- Tina! What are you doing here?
- Martí, Roc! I'm lucky to find you! I couldn't find my parents, the bell rang, everyone started running and I was left alone!
- Don't worry Tina, you can come with us, unless... you might not like our plan...
- Why wouldn't I like your plan? Come on, let's hurry! The others have already started the march! We will be late! Help me with my bags! Come on, guys! Why don't you move?
- It's just that... as I told you - you know we're the best future astronauts on Earth... and today to see... today... is the day...
- Exactly! Today is the day of the march! What's the matter?
- No, no... today is the night of the stars, a unique night where you can see the giant stars in the sky... we don't want to miss it... so... we decided that...





- Don't even think about it... Not joining the march? But who do you think you are? That's a really bad idea!

Well, Tina... you can see where the other crabs have gone, it won't be complicated for you to follow the trail.

- Me alone? No way! Will you let a damsel like me go unaccompanied through this forest full of disgusting worms, spiders and bats? Don't even think about it! You're coming with me!

What a hard situation it was! I don't think I've ever heard anyone say no to Tina in my life. Tina! The great Tina! But, as we always say, our future is far more important than the insistence of a crab.

I looked at Roc with my left eye, waiting for him to take the first step in speaking. He looked at me like, "Captain, you're the engine of our ship, you have to make the decisions, you'll be in charge of talking to the monster Tina from the moody crab planet."

I had no choice but to count to ten and start talking.

- Look, Tina, we would really love to go with you but we have something to do... Who will explain to the rest of the village

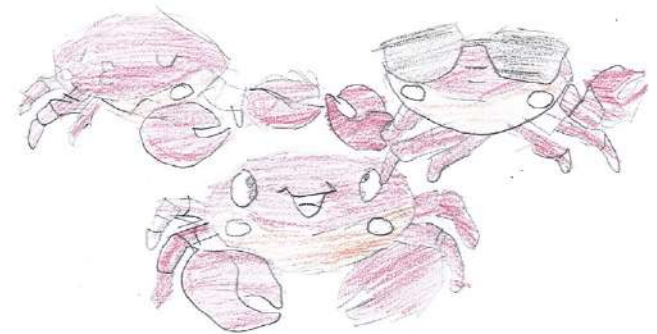


about the great night of the stars? Also, our spaceship is big enough for us. No person, or crab in this case, has yet occupied the position of a pilot of the ship. You are very smart in class, and in the future, when we go to the moon, you will be perfect to lead us through space.

- Me? A spaceship pilot? Are you serious?
- Think about it... it's a once in a lifetime opportunity.

What should happen now?

1. Tina should accept the idea of Martí and Roc and the three of them should go to watch the stars → GO TO : THE SPACE LADY
2. Tina should leave her two friends and walk away by herself.  
GO TO: TINA'S JOURNEY
3. The boys should decide to accompany Tina and walk together to the march to join other crabs. GO TO: THE GALACTIC TEAM IS ON A JOURNEY



### The Space Lady

- You're crazy, guys! How do you want me to be the pilot of your ship? If I don't even know how to row a boat!
- Don't worry, Tina! Everything has to be learned in this life, girl! The beaches were not filled with sand in two days!
- Stop the riddles! Can't you see what happened to us? We lost the march! My mom will get really angry once she sees that I am not there! How worried she will be! And my father? What will he say? Also, I got all pretty for the march... I wanted to appear on all the covers of magazines... Imagine the headlines: *'Elegance and distinction. This is Tina, the most beautiful crab on Christmas Island.'*
- And you are the one who always tells us that we dream of the stars? - Roc said.
- Tina, think for a moment about the headlines they will make in the future, the moment when three brave crabs nail their claws to the moon. Imagine how beautiful you will look! And

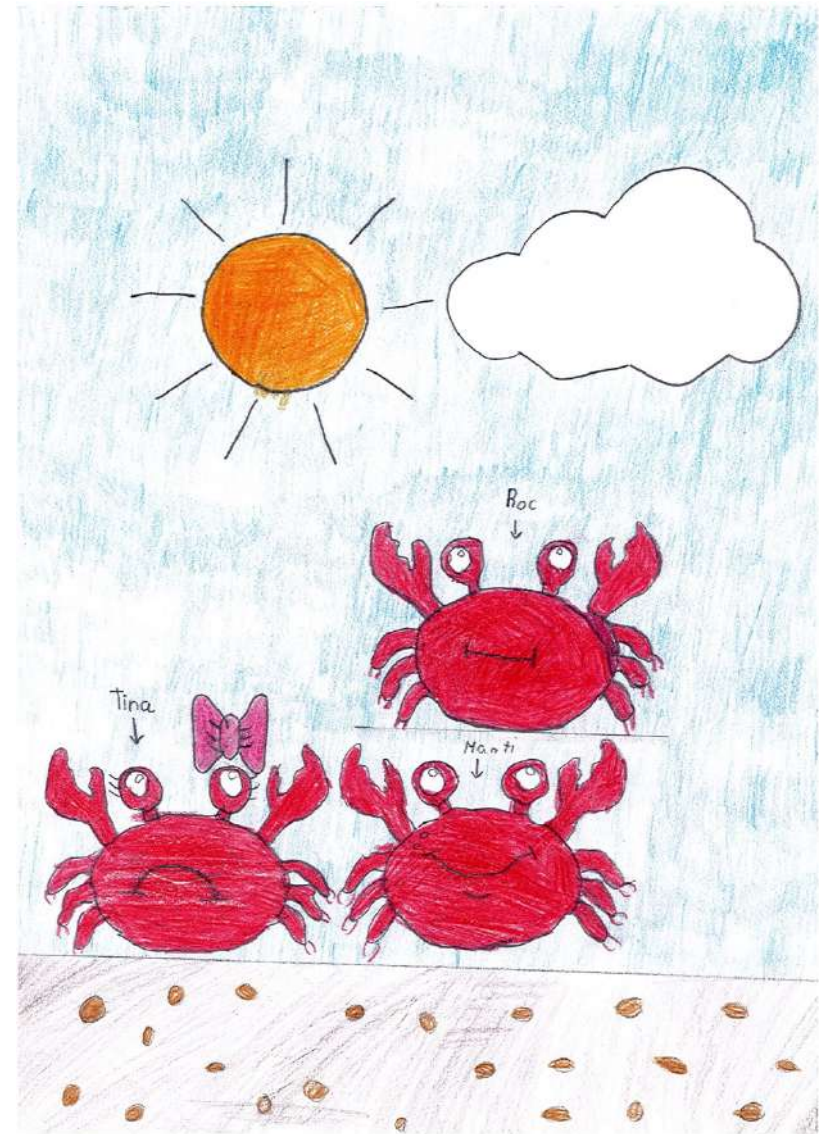


not just on the front pages of our island newspapers, it would be worldwide!

- And... everyone would see me?
- Everyone, Tina! Everywhere! Everywhere! In all countries and cities! We will be the most famous crabs in the world! They will make banners with our faces, they will put our names in the most important squares of the cities...
- Dear Lord! I'm blushing only thinking about it! Well, I agree! But I have a number of conditions that, as I will be the only woman on the ship's crew, you have to follow.
- Of course! What we needed to hear! You're the last one to join our team and you want to be the star! - Roc said.
- Come on, Roc! Let's listen to her! We can't leave her here alone in this deserted city.
- Okay, so... First condition: we have to create a dance for our team.
- A dance? But if I slip with my own legs! How do you want me to dance! We are astronauts, not actors! - Roc said.



- First condition accepted? I don't hear anyone saying no... So I will go on with the second one.
- But how many conditions does this girl want to put in? Roc asked, looking at me with a sour apple face.
- One more, for the moment. The second condition is that whenever you address me on a mission, you must call me 'Space Lady'.
- What nonsense, Tina! - Roc complained again.
- Come on, Roc! It could be worse! We accept, Tina! You're officially in our galactic team!
- Alright, another thing...
- Tina! I'm the captain here! The first thing we should do is go home and prepare for the night. I recently heard on TV that the stars would start appearing at eight o'clock in the evening, and it's five o'clock. We have three hours to pack our bags and meet again.
- Perfect, then, said Roc. I will take the chairs and the notebook, you Martí will take the telescope and the food and you Tina...
- 



as we had not incorporated anyone in the distribution of material  
you can bring sweets and cookies.

- How did you call me, Roc?
- Sorry - said Roc, angry - If you are so kind, grab some sweets and cookies, dear Space Lady.
- Perfect! I will!
- Great! - I said - we will meet in an hour at the door of my house to go to the hill next to the oak and be able to see the stars!  
What a thrill!

I said goodbye to my new galactic team and headed home to get things ready. I was very surprised to walk through the streets and see the city so quiet. Our island was always on the move, and wherever you went, you could hear someone laughing or playing.

My house was completely silent. It even made me a little scared to come in, even though I knew perfectly that no one was there. I went to my room and grabbed the telescope that was under the bed.

As I approached the kitchen to grab the food I had prepared and hidden just for the night, I heard footsteps coming from inside. I froze.



How could anyone be at home if everyone was marching? I started to think about the worst... Maybe it was a monster that had come to punish me for not going with my family... Maybe it was a thief who had taken advantage of everyone leaving the city to break into the houses ... Maybe it was my marine geography teacher who had come to take the failed exam paper I had hidden in the kitchen so my mom wouldn't find it...

- Hello? Anyone there? If you're a monster, I have a giant telescope in my hand that I plan to throw at your head if you approach me. I'm very dangerous, I swear!

Dangerous, me! Ridiculous! When I was saying this my voice and legs were shaking with fear!

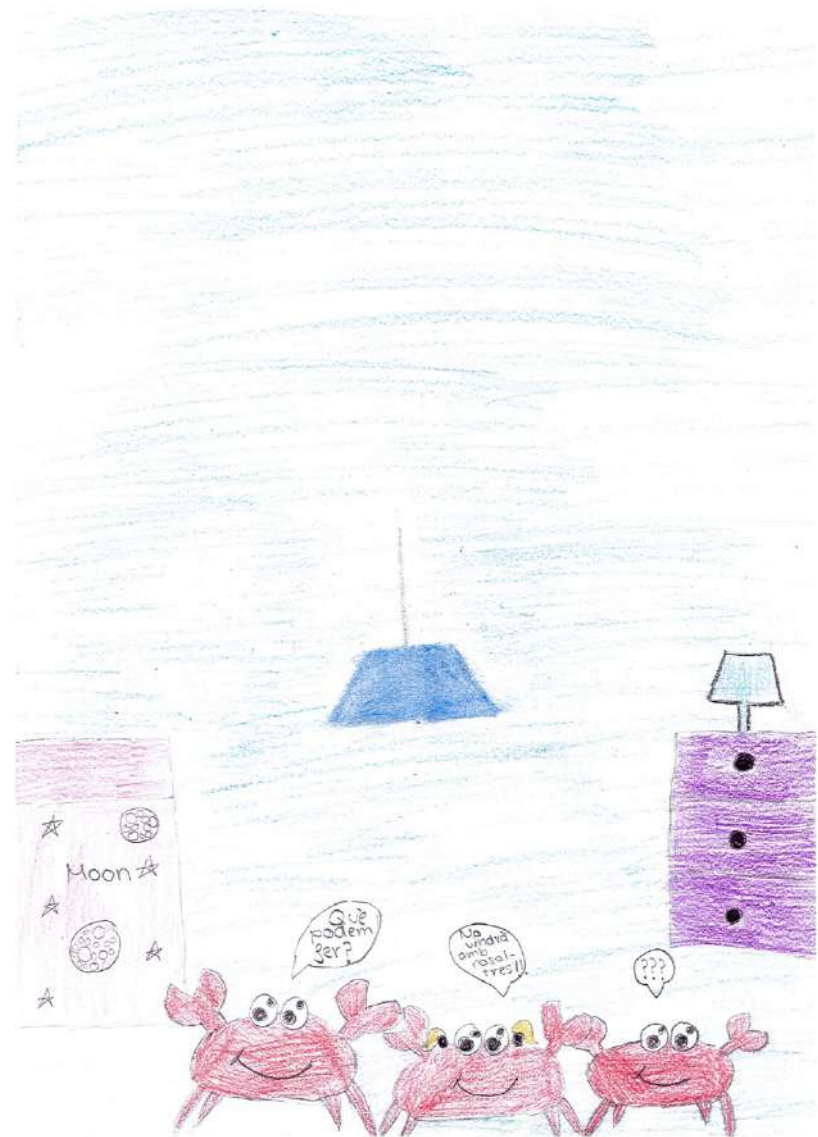
The suspect, when he heard me, fell silent and I heard nothing, when suddenly...

- Martí? Is it you?
- Carles? What are you doing here?

Carles was my little brother, in case you didn't know.



- It's just that I was scared to go for the walk... you know I get really nervous when there are a lot of people around me... last year I had a bad time...
- Are you crazy? As soon as our mother finds out that neither you nor I are on the move, our tweezers will fall off!
- But, now that I think about it... what are you doing here? You said before that you had just packed your bags and were running away!
- So, the truth is that we're really looking forward to seeing the night of the stars with Roc and Tina.
- Tina? Why is Tina with you?
- It's a long story, Carles. One day I'll explain it to you.
- In that case I'm going with you! I don't want to stay home alone at night!
- Don't you even think about it! You can't join me and my friends! So embarrassing! And on top of that, I'd have to be taking care of you all the time so I wouldn't be able to enjoy the stars!





- Don't be like that, Martí, come on! Take me with you! I swear I won't open my mouth and I'll do whatever you tell me to do.

Oh no...! What should I do now?

1. Accept Carles. GO TO : THE NEW MEMBER
2. Refuse Carles. GO TO: THE NIGHT OF THE STARS

### **The new member**

Besides, I would have had enough trouble when my mother came back and saw that I had left my little brother alone at home. Carles looked at me with lamb's eyes and I had no choice but to let him come with us. Besides, I would have enough anger when my mother returned to tell her that I had left my little brother alone at home.

- Well, ok, you can come.
- Thank you! How exciting!
- I'm not done yet! You have to listen to me at all times and I don't want you to argue with Roc, or Tina, or me, actually the best would be if you wouldn't talk a lot during the night, nothing will happen.
- I'll keep my mouth shut, I promise!

My team was ready with all the luggage to start our adventure. Suddenly someone knocked on the door. From the way he knocked, I knew it was Roc. Who else could knock on a door playing the tune of Star Wars? I opened the door and my team was ready with all the luggage to start our adventure.

- Guys, I have to tell you that we have a new addition to the expedition. I got home and found my brother Carles hiding in the kitchen.
- Hello Roc, hello Tina - said Carles.
- What are you doing here, baby boy? - asked Tina.
- Hey, I'm not a baby! I'm almost six and I'm the tallest in my class!
- I can't believe it! What a day! Can anything weirder happen to us? - said Roc.
- Don't worry, I've spoken with him already and the things are clear, right, Carles?
- But, Martí, you all have a function inside the spaceship! What will I do? Can I be the first officer? No, no, better, can I be the lieutenant of galactic battles?
- You can be the one who cleans the floor, if you want! - I said.

We all laughed and headed for the hill where we would see the stars. The sky did not have a single cloud, it seemed to be waiting for us to be the only ones privileged on the whole island to be able to observe the night of the stars.



In the end we got it, not the way we thought at first, but in the end, we could see a historic event! How many times can I tell this story to the other crabs when they come from the march! What envy they would have for us!

The sky began to darken.

From the hill you could see the whole island. It was very surprising to see the part where we, the crabs, lived, which was full of nature and vegetation, and the most coastal part where humans had built hotels with all kinds of luxuries and roads. The truth is, I wouldn't change my part of the island for anything in the world! These humans are destroying everything!

- Guys! The time is coming! Only 30 minutes left! Martí, prepare the telescope!!

I did it in a hurry. I had a lot of practice because I always folded and unfolded it in the room, and I had to do it very quickly so that my mother wouldn't find out that I was spending more time looking at the stars than the school books.



Half an hour had passed and, boys, I can't really describe in words what I felt when I saw that show in the universe. The stars seemed to be approaching the Earth to such an extent that their light illuminated the island as if it was noon.

- Which star do you like the most? - asked Tina.
- I like the one just above us! - Answered Carles - Looks like there's a smile painted on it!
- I love all of them! - I said - And keep in mind that we will conquer them all when we grow up! Everyone will talk about us!

Lying on our backs and our stomachs staring at the sky, we spent a while without speaking, just enjoying the stars.

Little by little the night ate up the day and the sky looked like a balloon party. All the stars seemed to be talking to me.

- Martí! Fight for your dreams!
- I'm sure one day you'll be the most famous astronaut in the world!



- Don't give up! You should do what you love, not what others tell you to do!

Advice after advice, the stars let me know that I had made the right decision, that the march was every year, and that a show like that could not be forgotten.

Boys and girls, many times in life we come across situations that make us have to decide what we want to do and who we want to be in life. Always choose with your heart, it never lies.

Do you want to be an engineer? Fight for it!

Do you want to be a waiter? Fight for it!

Do you want to be a football player? Fight for it!

Do you want to be a dancer? Fight for it!

But always remember that the best fight is the one that is won with perseverance, hard work and patience.

Never lose your essence! Stand firm in who you are and where you want to go, so that no one takes away that privilege.

A friend who raised his head to look at the stars and all the world he had in front of him,

Martí.

THE END

### The night of the stars

- I told you no, Carles! Stop insisting! You're not part of the galactic team, and you'd be bothering us all the time. Today is a legendary night for us, and I will not let anything or anyone spoil it!
- Come on, Martí... How many times have I told mom that you brought me home from school but you actually went with Roc to do your things?
- Don't blackmail me, Carles! I'm the big brother and the little ones have to obey us!
- Well, I don't think it's fair to say that if I don't come with you tonight, I'll tell mom everything!

The sound of the front door interrupted our dispute.

- Hello! Anybody there? Martí! We are here!
- Boys! Enter! We are in the kitchen!
- We?? Aren't you alone?



Tina and Roc appeared with all the necessary material for the great night.

- What are you doing here, Carles?
- I didn't want to join the march... so I hid myself under my bed... Nobody knew I was there!
- Your mom will get really mad once she finds out both of you stayed home!
- Don't exaggerate! - I told Roc.
- And what should we do with Carles? He can't come with us, he's too small, and at night... the forest is very dark, what if he gets lost!
- That's what I was telling him! You better go to bed and I'll be back when we finish watching the stars.
- Please don't leave me alone! I'm scared of staying home alone at night! My mom says that there is a giant spider on these streets eating the claws of crabs that ignore their parents... and I ignored mine... imagine it comes out suddenly and eats me...



- Don't be silly, Carles! - said Tina. - They tell you these things to be nice and to pay attention to them! There is no giant spider! Come on, we're not in a horror movie!
- Space team! Meeting in my bedroom!

The lieutenant commander, the Space Lady, and I, the captain of the ship, tried to decide what the best plan for my brother was.

- What do we do?
- He can't come with us! No way! - Said Tina – I've had enough with taking care of two little boys like you!
- Come on Tina, don't be like that! We know he did wrong not going to the march - answered Roc - But look at us... as my grandmother says, whoever is free from sin should throw the first stone. We didn't pay attention to our families either because we wanted to see the stars.
- You have to say that for yourselves! I'm here because of a tragedy! - said Tina.
- Let's do one thing, Carles will come with us on one condition - he will behave well! I'm sure he will obey, he's a good boy!





- We do what we have to do, but we have to decide now because in half an hour the stars will start to appear!

After debating a lot of times, finally we decided not to accept Carles to go with us because maybe it would create such a problem with my family.

Maybe you could think I'm a bad brother, but understand me... My dreams and my future is really important for me...

So, my friends and I take everything and we start walking to the top of the hill...

- I'm really excited to be here together with you. It has been very difficult for us to get there, we have had to make decisions along the way that have not been easy, but here we are!

Lying on our backs and our stomachs staring at the sky, we spent a while without speaking, there was no need to. Little by little the night ate up the day and the sky looked like a balloon party. All the stars seemed to be talking to me.



- Martí! Fight for your dreams!
- I'm sure you'll become the most famous astronaut in the world!
- Don't give up! You have to try to do what you like, not what others tell you to do!

Advice after advice, the stars let me know that I had made the right decision, that the march was every year, and that a show like that could not be forgotten.

Boys and girls, many times in life we encounter situations that make us have to decide what we want to do and who we want to be in life. Always choose with your heart, it never lies.

Do you want to be an engineer? Fight for it.

Do you want to be a waiter? Fight for it.

Do you want to be a football player? Fight for it.

Do you want to be a dancer? Fight for it.

But always remember that the best fight is the one that is won with perseverance, hard work and patience. Never lose your essence!

Stand firm in who you are and where you want to go, so that no one takes away that privilege.

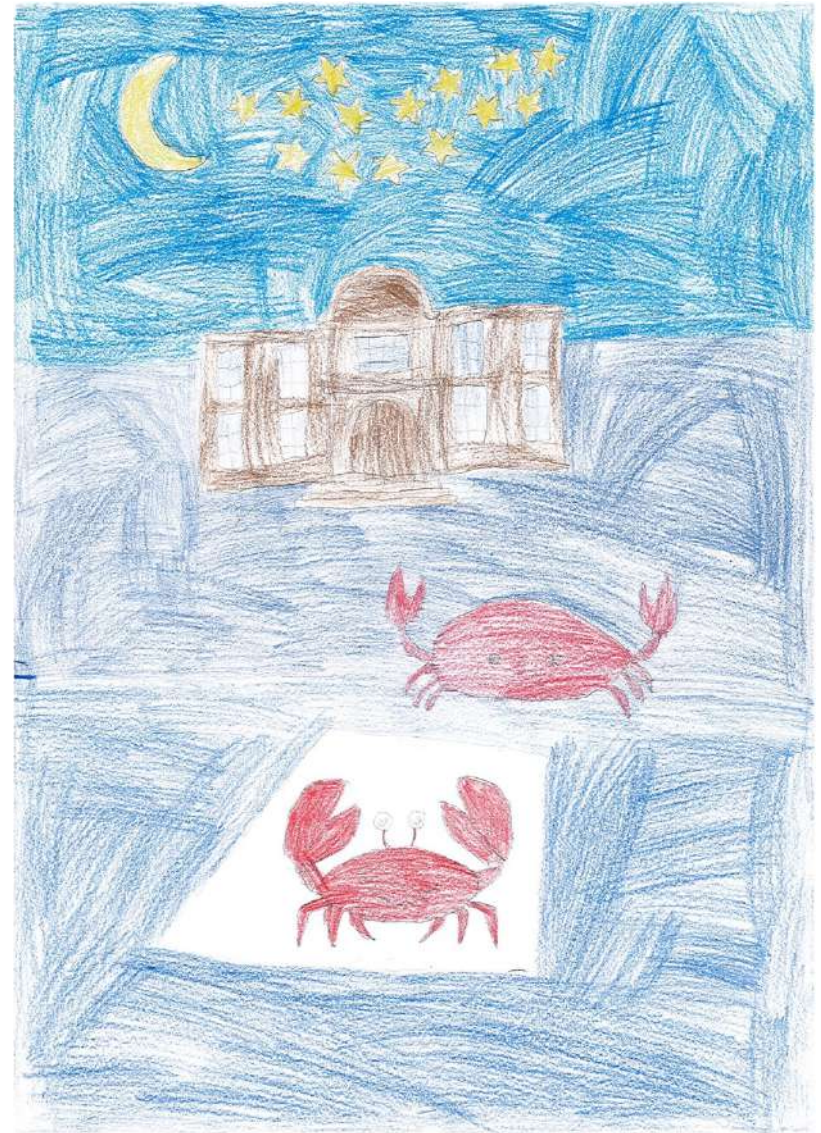
A friend who raised his head to look at the stars and everyone in front of him,

Martí.

THE END

### Tina's journey

- I will not be the pilot of any spaceship! Stop fooling around! You two stay here! I'm going to look for my parents right now, they're going to punish me and I'll have to live without my makeup cosmetics for a month!
- Do what you think is right, Tina. But remember, if you get lost on the way and don't know where to go, we'll still be in the city to see the stars tonight.
- What a pair of dreamers! The stars, they say! But I see the stars every day from my room...
- But Tina, you have to understand us... What would you like to be when you grow up?
- Me? What a question! A model, obviously!
- So imagine for a moment that suddenly you're told that this night there would be a model show in town but everyone would be leaving for the march... What would you do?
- What do you mean? I'd grab all my make-up accessories and hide under my bed!



- That's exactly what we're doing, Tina. Our dream is to become astronauts and today is one of the most important nights in history.
- Fine... seeing it from this side... you might be right... yet I will pack my bags and try to find my family!

From the middle of the square, we saw Tina walking away towards the coast. It would have been so much fun to have another member in our crew... but a good team is not formed in a single day!

Tina grabbed her bags and started to run with them. It was funny to watch her because she had to stop every two minutes to look at herself in the mirror and check if her make-up was perfect, it would be very bad if one of the crabs saw her being ugly.

From what her parents had told her, the first stop would be the big pine. It was not called that because it was the only big pine tree on the island. There were so many pines everywhere, but that one was twice as big as the others... It was gigantic!



Tina decided to take a break to drink some water, fix her make-up and relax for a few minutes. She lay on the grass and closed her eyes.

When she opened them again, the sky looked different... She fell asleep! Suddenly she started to get nervous. What had happened? But the night before I had slept a lot! She quickly picked up her luggage and began to look around to see where she should go.

The problem was that she didn't even remember the way she had come from. All paths seemed the same.

- I'm lost! Help me, please! Where am I? Anybody there?
- Shhh! Some people here are trying to take a rest!

Tina shouted so loudly that she was sure that Roc and Martí could hear her from the town square.

- Who's talking? Who's there?
- What do you mean who's there? It's me, Mercè, the pond frog! What is a red crab doing alone in these forests? The march passed two hours ago! Look how dirty my beloved pond looks now!

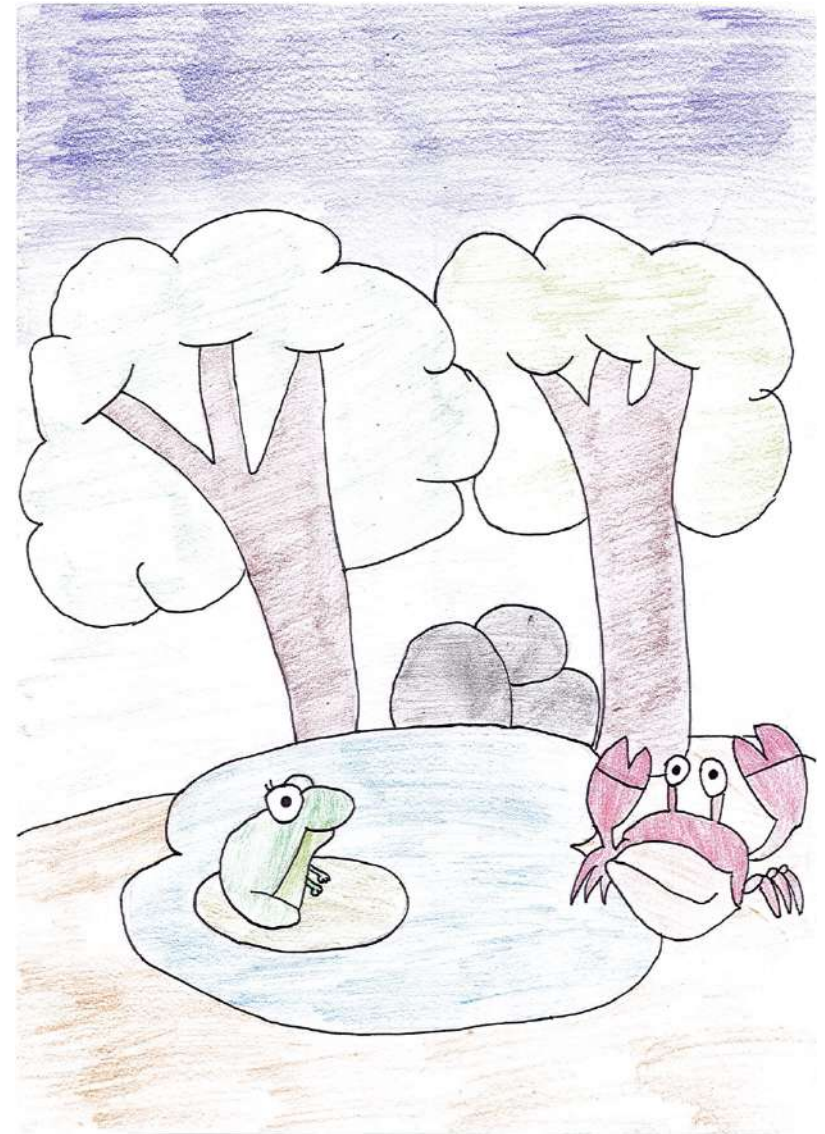


She looked around and saw a small lake with a frog inside.

- Good afternoon, Mrs Mercè. I had a problem at the time of the march and I had to leave later. I sat down by a tree to rest, but I fell asleep and now I'm lost! What will I do now? What a shame!
- Don't cry! Where do you have to go?
- I have to go to the big pine, that's where the crabs will do their first stop. Could you help me?
- The big pine? It's quite far from here... and it's almost dark. I don't recommend going to the forest alone during this time of year. It is full of disgusting lizards and earthworms that make a bestial stench.
- Oh dear! I should have stayed with Roc and Martí to watch the stars...
- Roc and Martí? Who are they?
- My classmates who haven't gone to the march either because they wanted to watch the sky tonight. But now it's not important. Could you make a map for me to guide me to the big pine?



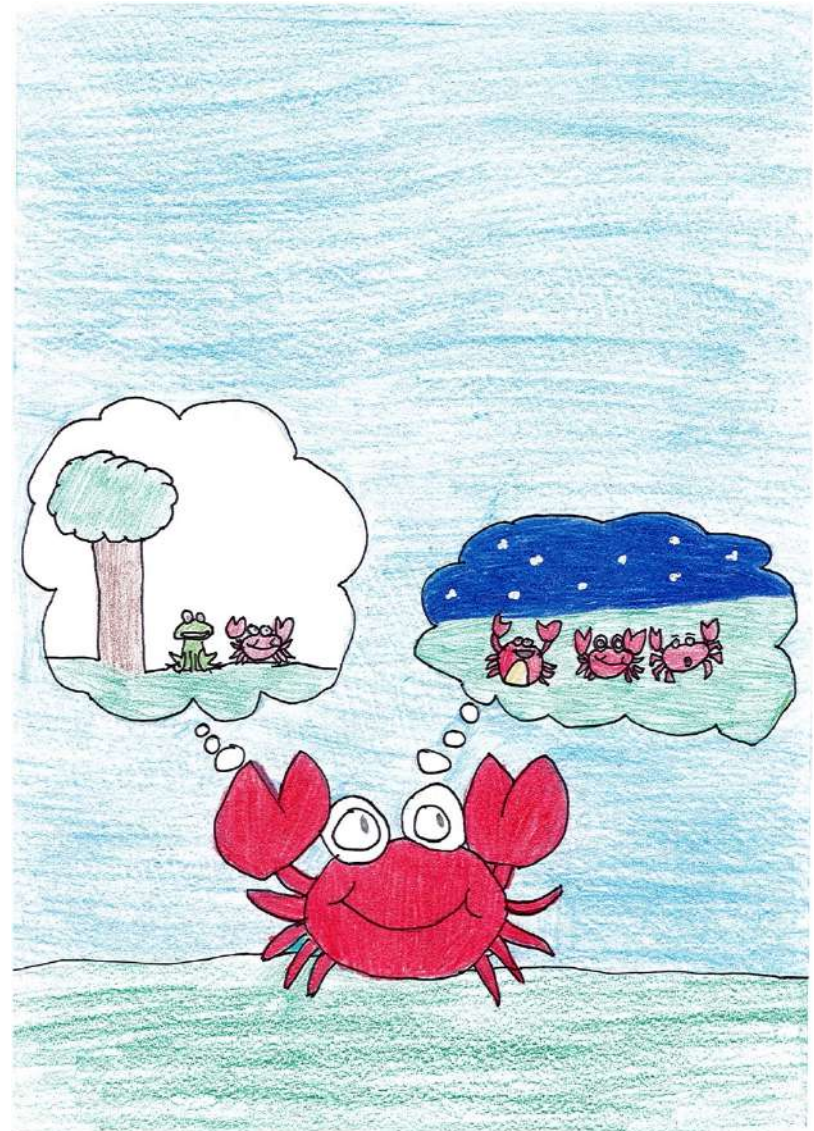
- The night of the stars! That's true! It's tonight! I almost forgot! I'm also a fan of astronomy! You should see how the stars look from my pond! There is no better place in the world to relax and contemplate the sky! The only bad thing is this loneliness... I'm tired of seeing the stars alone, no one to tell me which one he likes best... You know? There is nothing worse in this life than not being able to share your hobbies with someone...
- And couldn't you go with me, please?
- Me? No way! I'm perfectly fine where I am!
- We can make a deal to see what you think... If you come with me to the big pine tree to meet my family, I promise you won't see the stars alone tonight! I will stay with you and we will be able to watch the night of the giant spheres together!
- To watch the stars with someone? It's a great offer... but...
- You have to tell me something, because if you don't come with me, I'll turn around and go back with Roc and Martí... I'd rather not go for a walk so as not to get lost... although it's a shame...



- how beautiful I've gotten up for single crabs... But the truth is, my friends need a new crewman for their ship...
- Right now you are halfway there. If you go back, you will be able to go with your classmates, and if you go forward, you will be able to reach the big pine. I will leave it in your hands. I'm willing to go with the big pine tree and see the stars together, but you have to decide for yourself.

Tina was in a complicated situation - going back to the town and seeing the stars with Roc and Martí was a very good idea because then she could become a part of the space team, but, on the other hand, to walk with frog Mercè to the big pine, to see the stars together and meeting her family was also a great option.

- In the end what I'm going to do is...
- 1. Go back with Roc and Martí to see the stars together. GO TO: BACK TO THE CITY
- 2. Walk with the frog Mercè to the big pine. GO TO: LET'S GO TO THE BIG PINE!





## Back to the city

- Look Mercè, my friends Martí and Roc have treated me very well and they have helped me a lot. I think I owe them one and I have to go back with them... who will pilot their ship when they go to the moon? Also, with all the TV reports around, my beautiful face will appear in every newspaper in the country... what do I say... in the world! Because Mercè, I tell you, my dream is to be a model and walk all the catwalks in the best clothes in the world! I can already imagine more than a hundred journalists asking me for pictures all the time...
- Great... sounds perfect... I will stay here... watching the stars on my own... I hope your artistic career goes well...
- Would you like to come with me? I'm sure my friends will like you! They are a bit special and a bit obsessed with space... in class they spend time making plans to carry out galactic missions against monsters who want to end the lives of the inhabitants of distant planets. I'm sure they can give you enough space inside their ship!



- Are you sure they will accept me? How could a frog be friends with crabs?
- Don't think that! Get out of the pond and get walking!

And so they did. They both grabbed Tina's luggage and made their way back to the city where the red crabs on Christmas Island lived.

Halfway through we had to stop because Tina wanted to look in the mirror again.

- But Tina! Stop looking at yourself! The stars don't have eyes!
- It's not because of the stars! You never know whom you may meet on the way...

And, indeed, on their way back to the city, they found many animals that were living their lives in peace. Every time they crossed paths with a group, they could hear them whispering behind their backs...

- What does a red crab do with a frog?
- The last thing I wanted to see today! How crazy the world is!

Why do people always have to criticize the ones who are different?

When they reached the town square it began to get dark.

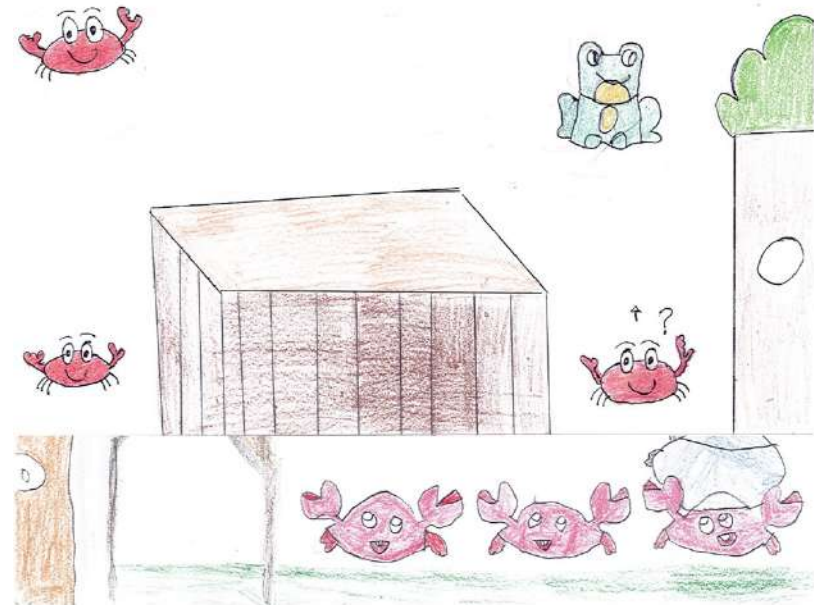
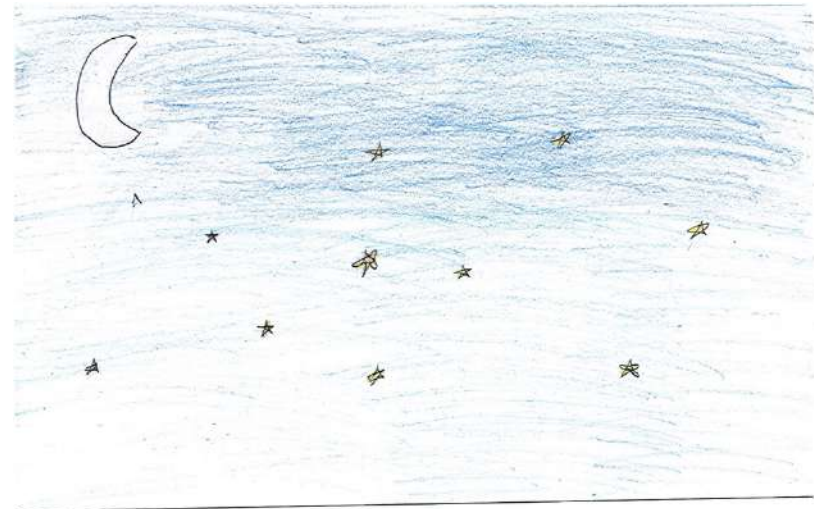


- Where are your friends?
- I'm not sure now... maybe they went to the hill...
- Let's go there, then! The stars start to come out at eight in the evening, and it's a quarter to eight! We only have half an hour left!

The hill was not far from the square. They arrived in just over 15 minutes, and as they passed the last tree, they saw a scene worthy of the best astronauts.

At the top of the hill was a table full of food, two empty chairs, and a large telescope pointing right at the sky.

- Hello? Roc? Martí? Are you here?
- Tina? Is that you? What are you doing here? Weren't you going to the march? Who is this frog?
- Hello! I am Mercè, I'm the frog that lives in the pond on the way to the big pine. Tina told me that you really like stars and that there is still room for two more people in your spaceship...
- Of course! What a surprise! We can all see the stars together! Come close to us and lie on the floor!



From that moment on, everything that happened next was magical!  
The night of the stars was one of the most wonderful ones in my life!

Maybe I should put my artistic career aside as a model for fashion shows and go with Roc, Martí and Mercè to explore the universe.

Lying on our backs and our stomachs staring at the sky, we spent a while without speaking, there was no need for it. Little by little the night ate up the day and the sky looked like a balloon party. All the stars seemed to be talking to me.

- Tina! Fight for your dreams!
- I'm sure you'll become the most famous astronauts in the world!
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A friend who left the catwalks to look at the sky up close,  
Tina.

THE END

### **Let's go to the big pine!**

- Now that I've gotten this far, I won't go back! Let's go to the big pine!
- Let's hurry, then! Or we won't see the stars or find your parents!

It will be a bit of a long trip, we will have to go up and down a few mountains and we are loaded with all our bags.

- I can't walk anymore, Mercè! My legs are hurting too much!
- Come on, Tina! Don't give up! We can do it together!
- I can barely feel my tweezers!

We kept walking and the sky grew darker and darker. Suddenly, we saw a small shelter with light inside. We approached and...

- Who is there? More crabs? No, please! I've had masses for today! Those on the march passed half an hour ago and formed a concert! They run so fast in the middle of the forest with their cries!

- Hello, Mr. Mouse, my name is Tina and she is the frog Mercè. Let's follow the trail of the red crabs. I got lost at the beginning of the walk and I want to find my parents.
- Do you see that little hill in the background? Do you see a kind of smoke coming out on the sky? Well there they are. They must have made a small bonfire so as not to get cold. If you walk non-stop, you can catch them in fifteen minutes!
- Great! After all that happened to me today, finally good news! My parents will be very worried about me!
- Good evening to you, Mrs Crab and Mrs Frog.
- Goodnight, Mr Mouse! Let's go, Mercè, we're almost there!

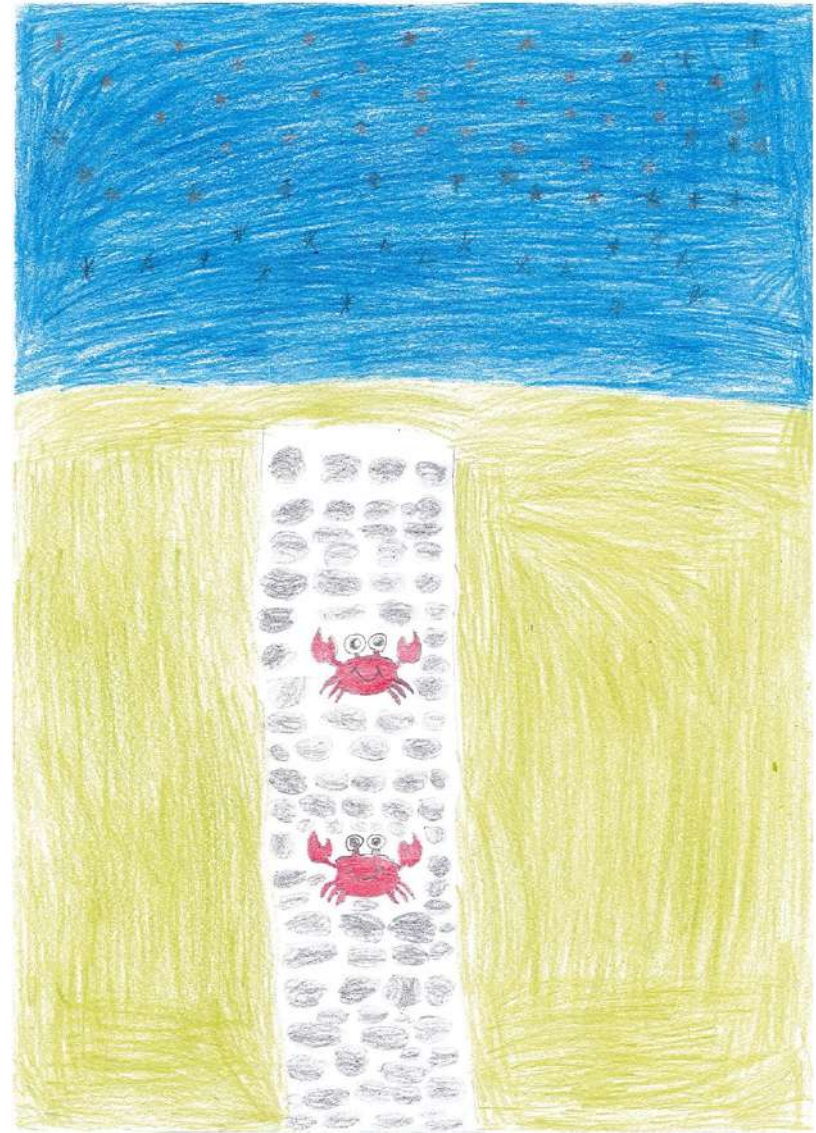
That little conversation with the shelter mouse gave me the strength I needed. Now I didn't feel tired and I was ready to run if I needed to get to the hill on time and be able to see the stars with my new friend.

I was wondering what Roc and Martí were doing. They wouldn't believe anything that had happened to me since I left town to look for my parents! They'll see when I tell them!



The smoke was getting closer and closer, and we were beginning to hear a great commotion. When we reached the top of the hill we saw millions of crabs running from here to there, setting up tents to spend the night, making small bonfires on the floor to warm their dinner, preparing their beds to sleep... They don't know that they're missing a whole show in the sky because they don't look up! Older people always tend to look very inward and slightly outward. Suddenly I heard a voice calling my name.

- Tina? Tina? Is that you? Oh dear! Where are you? What a scare we have given ourselves! We thought you were hurt and that you were lost in the forest - or worse - that you were already in the belly of a spider!
- Mom! Dad! How happy I am to finally meet you! You won't believe what happened to me! By the way, this is the frog Mercè, she has been my saviour, and she has accompanied me here to meet you.
- Thank you a lot, Mercè! What would my pretty little girl do without you?



- Mom! Don't exaggerate! I'm a very clever crab... I promised her that if she came with me we'd see the stars night together! I turned myself around and before I could speak, Martí and Roc's mothers grabbed me by the tweezers and started shaking me like a vegetable.

- Tina! Have you seen our sons? We were told they would come after us on the way but when we got to this hill we looked for them everywhere and we couldn't find them!
- Your boys helped me a lot too... but... how can I explain it... they didn't want to come and walk because they wanted to stay in the city watching the night of the stars...
- This one won't see the sunlight again! When I catch him, he'll see!
- You have to understand your child, his dream is to be an astronaut, and he has told me many times that his family does not support him to achieve this - maybe you should be more understanding with him and listen to him.
- An astronaut? He's not thinking clearly! Who has ever seen an astronaut crab?





- Everyone chooses their own way, ma'am, and I don't think anyone has the right to destroy another crab's dream...

Now that I think about it, Tina, maybe you're right... When we get back to the city I'll talk to him so he can tell me all about space and astronauts...

It seemed like I wouldn't make it, but I finally returned the favour to my friends by talking to their moms, now we were at peace.

- Tina! The stars are starting to appear! - said Mercè.

So my friend and I, along with the millions of crabs on Christmas Island, lay on the ground and, in complete silence, witnessed one of the most amazing wonders I had ever seen.

The night of the stars gave us a moment of immense peace... and looking at them, I fully understood Martí and Roc, and who would not want to be an astronaut with this beauty that was in front of our eyes? I closed my eyes tightly and wished my friends were like me, looking at the stars and thinking about the great future that awaited us in the galactic team when we conquered space.

THE END

### **The galactic team is on a journey**

- Captain, in the commandments of our space constitution there is a clause that says we should never set aside one of our own.
- You are right, lieutenant commander... Tina, we will help you to meet your family and at the first stop, we will work out our plan to see the night of the stars!
- Are we back with the space? What boys! What I have to endure! Come on! Help me load up my bags and let's run to meet the rest of the crabs on the march!

We didn't know how we would do it so we could see the night of the stars. What we did know was that we couldn't leave Tina alone. So we grabbed all of our classmate's suitcases and started our own march along the path that the others had followed.

The truth is that I did not have much to lose. Imagine all the footprints that millions of crabs can leave in the same direction! The ground looked like a big carpet lost on the horizon!

- I think that today they will make the first stop of the march to the big pine, that big tree that is in the territory of the mice.
- So let's go there!

Along the way we found many animals of all kinds. We weren't used to leaving our city, we only did it once a year for the march, and as there are always so many crabs everywhere it never gives us time to contemplate all the beauty we have around us. .

We had managed to count over twenty-five types of worms! Did they really exist so many? Also, we noticed the number of animals that shared the forest with us, the crabs... Sometimes you need to see a little bit of the world to realize that you don't live alone in it...

- What was the thing that just fell on my head?
- I felt it too! I think it's a raindrop! It's raining!
- And what if the footprints go off? We will get lost! - said Tina.
- It means that we have to walk faster!
- Faster? I can hardly breathe! - answered our classmate.
- Maybe it will stop raining right away! The weather crab didn't say anything about rains during this year's march!

- I hope it doesn't rain tonight! If so, we wouldn't be able to see the stars and all our adventure and effort would be useless! Stop raining right away? Hopefully! In less than five minutes, the sky turned very ugly grey and many drops began to fall. If you humans get wet when it rains, imagine how the smaller crabs feel! Every drop feels like a glass of water on our heads!

We had to make it. After saving the Earth from so many threats from space, this was a piece of cake! Plus, the water doesn't burn!

- Oh no, it's starting to rain more! The footprints are barely visible! In no time the forest will look like a big pool! Said Tina. I don't understand why I look so beautiful! What will I do if I come across with such dirty claws with the rest of the crabs? What will they say about me? What a shame!
- Don't think about it now! I am more worried about saving my life than how the other crabs will see me! Please, Tina! Let's focus on important things!
- Everyone has their priorities!



- Roc, Tina! There's no time for discussion now! When there is such a problem, we must try to calm down and think calmly. We can't get nervous because otherwise we'll surely make the wrong decision!
- But how do you want me to calm down if the water almost reaches my tweezers? I can't even walk! If it continues to rain like this I don't know if it will survive! I still can't swim very well... I'm learning - said Tina.
- Wait a minute - suddenly interrupted Roc - What is that light we see there? It looks like a shelter! Let's run to ask for help!
- But how do you expect us to go to a place where animals we don't know live? My mom always says we should never trust strangers!

And in fact, Tina was right. But in our situation, I think we had no choice but to go to the shelter and try to wait a while for the big storm that was flooding the whole island of Christmas to subside. What would the other crabs look like? Would they have the same problem we were having? Tina interrupted my thoughts.



- We won't go there, period! We don't know who will open the door for us. We don't know if he will hurt us. We don't know if he will force us to clean the whole house and then cook us with hot water... You already know that people say crabs taste delicious!
- Don't be silly, Tina! In this part of the forest there are no people! The humans are on the coast!
- Oh, perfect, even better! A terrible poisonous spider will open the door for us, waiting for idiots like us to knock on its door on a rainy day to eat all our precious meat!
- Or maybe a friendly butterfly will open the door for us to turn on the light in case someone like us gets lost in the middle of a storm so they can come into their house to drink some soup to warm their bodies and wait for it to stop raining.
- How confident you are, Martí! - said Tina.
- Stop! - Shouted Roc - Since we are a team, we will make decisions as a team!
- But who told you that I was a part of your team? - asked Tina.

- Not me! You started being part of the team at the time when you went to see if you had the tweezers well painted you lost your parents at the start of the march! In addition, you should be grateful to us for deciding to accompany you! End of story! I decided we should knock on the door of the shelter and stay for a while until it stops raining! What do you think, Martí?
- I think the same as you, Roc! If we continue walking, we will get into bigger trouble because we are already lost! And you Tina, what do you think? The three of us have to agree, otherwise we should repeat the voting.

And so far this chapter, boys and girls...

What do you think Tina should decide? Who will they find in the shelter if they knock on the door? What will happen if, on the other hand, they decide to continue on their way? You choose!

1. Tina votes in favour of going to the shelter. GO TO: MR MOUSE
2. Tina refuses to go to the shelter. GO TO: RAIN ODYSSEY

### Mr Mouse

- Perfect! As you wish! Do you want to go to the shelter? Well, let's go to the shelter! I don't want to be responsible later!

The little stone house was a few steps away. We arrived in ten minutes because the rain barely let us see where we were supposed to go...

When we were less than three steps from the door, all three of us stopped without knowing what to do.

- Do you expect me to knock on the door? Don't even think about it! Said Tina. You were the ones who wanted to come here and you will be the ones to get the responsibility!

Suddenly, the door opened and a mouse appeared.

- What's this mess? Who are you? What are you doing here? There's a huge storm coming! They are three red crabs! Why didn't you keep up with others?
- Hello, Mr Mouse... our friend Tina got lost at the beginning of the march and Roc and I, my name is Martí, we were accompanying her with the rest of the crabs, but suddenly this

storm caught us in the middle of the road and now we can't see the footprints our family has left ... we were wondering if...

- No need to ask! If you continue walking, you'll be frozen! I'll just put some firewood on the fire so we can stay warm!
- Thank you so much! We won't bother you, we just want to wait for it to stop raining so we can go out to join others!
- You can stay here as long as you need! I'll make you some chocolate sandwiches, my specialty!

We went to the mouse house and sat on the couch by the fire. When he arrived with the sandwiches, we were talking for a while about how the island had changed since he was little...

- Years ago, people did live in peace! There were no people who were all the time bustling along the coast... the island was all for us and the trees that lived here... but you see... humans decided that luxury hotels were better than the vegetation and nature. That's why I live here away from everyone, because I like to feel like life on the island is the same as before.

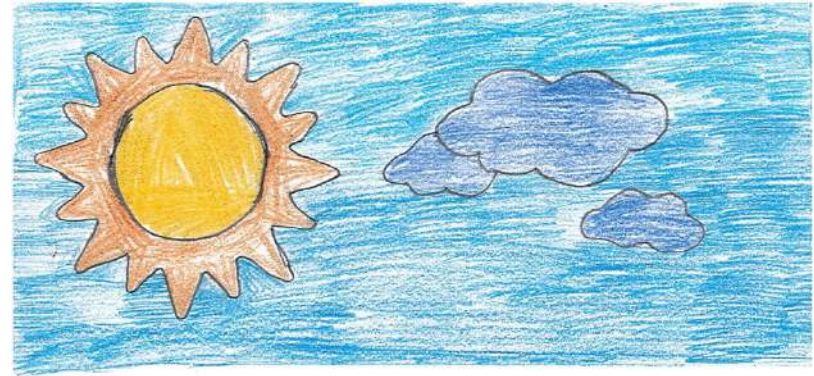


Talking about this and that, Roc suddenly said...

- Wait a minute. Do you hear it?
- Hear what? I don't hear anything! - said Tina.
- That's why! You can't hear anything! It stopped raining! Now we can go to meet our families!
- It's true! - I said - Thank you a lot, Mr Mouse, we are very grateful for your help! And Tina didn't want to come...
- She didn't want to come? - asked the mouse.
- Martí! Shush! No, don't pay attention to him, he's just joking!

We packed our things and left the shelter with warmth in our bodies and full bellies! We often think that everyone will have bad intentions with us but we have to trust a little that good people still exist, like Mr. Mouse.

- It's going to be dark in less than two hours and we need to get to the big pine!
- I can see him there! Let's start watching!





It didn't take us long to reach the foot of the hill. An incredible commotion could be heard from below.

- Set up a tent!
- Put firewood in the fire!
- Take the dinner out of your suitcases!

Tina, Roc and I looked at each other with a big smile on our faces! We had made it!

We quickly climbed to the top of the hill and stumbled upon our three mothers talking.

- Mom! - Said Tina - We're back! We had an amazing time! You're not going to believe it!
- How scared we were to find out where you were with this storm that has fallen before!

We all had dinner together, and when it was time to see the stars, the three of us moved away from the rest of the crabs and stretched out on the grass.

Suddenly, thousands of giant stars began to appear in the sky. What a wonder! It was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen! Here began our journey as astronauts! Unbeknownst to us, a new crew member had joined our expedition!

- It's gorgeous, Roc and Martí! Imagine what the Earth will look like from the moon when we arrive!
- It will be impressive!

And so far our little adventure... The adventure of three crabs eager to eat the world! Do you want to eat the world or do you want it to eat you?

Follow your dreams! Life is made for those brave people who fight and do not give up!

Create your own space team. Many stones we encounter along the way, we need to be able to pull through!

THE END

## Rain Odyssey

- Don't even think about it! We won't go to any stranger's house! We don't know what he can do to us! Also, don't you see the hill there? We won't get lost!
- But Tina, don't you see how heavy the rain is? And if it doesn't stop? And if we get lost?
- Trust me, I've trusted you to get where we are, now it's your turn to do the same!

We were a team, and if one member considered a decision right, the others had to agree to help and successfully complete our mission. We were afraid, but who is not ever afraid in their life? It was more important to overcome these fears than to hide and let them pass us by.

So, without thinking twice, we decided to pay attention to Tina and face our fate with the tweezers nailed to the ground.

We left the refuge on our way and he led us, like a battalion, to conquer the mountain on the hill. Visibility became more and more difficult to bear, wet suitcases weighed more and more, and legs got

stuck in the mud that got formed from the rain when it came in contact with the ground.

- Come on, we can do it! Believe in yourselves! No one can stop the greatest galactic team!

As the captain of the mission, I felt compelled to motivate my team and encourage them to stay positive.

- I can't see anything! - said Roc.
- Me neither! - Tina responded immediately.

Suddenly, it seemed like luck was on our side. The clouds were disappearing and the rain was slowly stopping.

As before we couldn't see almost anything, when we realized we were already at the bottom of the hill.

- We made it! We're a great team! And we will be able to see the night of the stars! The sky is clear!
- Hip, hip, hurray! - said Tina.

We euphorically climbed the hill for the great adventure we had lived a moment ago. When we got to the top, we went to look for each one in his family.

- In an hour we shall meet by that tree to watch the stars together!
- Yes, sir!

Tina and Roc walked away and I went to look for my mother.

- Roc! Do you like it? Where are you? What were you doing? With the rain that was falling a moment ago! How scared I was!
- Mom! Tina got lost and we kept her company until coming here to meet her family.
- What do you mean 'got lost'? Where was she? And where were you?
- No, mom... we were in...
- Don't you invent stories! Now you are here! Unpack your things!

It's a miracle that I survived! If I had told my mother that we actually found Tina in the square after everyone started the march because we didn't want to do it ourselves, maybe she would have sent me a kick in the butt straight to the shore without having to walk more.

After a while, I headed to the meeting place where I had stayed with my space team. They were already waiting for me.

- Come on, Martí! We thought you wouldn't show up here! Hurry up or we'll lose the show. Imagine! After all we've been through!

Tina, Roc, and I lay on the ground, and suddenly some giant spheres began to appear in the sky.

- Are those the stars you were so excited to see? - Asked Tina - They are beautiful... Now I understand why you were insisting so much on staying in town!

And there we were, the captain, the lieutenant commander and the new addition to the team seeing our next goal: space.

- When we grow up, we'll see all those stars up close. We will be able to observe the Earth and other galaxies around the world! Can you imagine finding life on another planet?
- Or we will discover a planet of chocolate and biscuits! - said Roc.
- What are you saying, silly? - Responded Tina - In any case, we could discover a planet full of paintbrushes, mirrors, catwalks and models... my dream would come true!
- For now, let's focus on this moment. I'm so glad I got here with you.

And speaking of future plans and planets to conquer, all three of us fell asleep staring at the stars we had been waiting for so long and which had cost us so much.

We dreamed of a not-too-distant future, full of monsters, spaceships, galactic wars, and undiscovered planets. But the most important thing is that we did all the adventures together, as a team.

THE END