

FUN AND GAMES

Blast Off to Camp

Time



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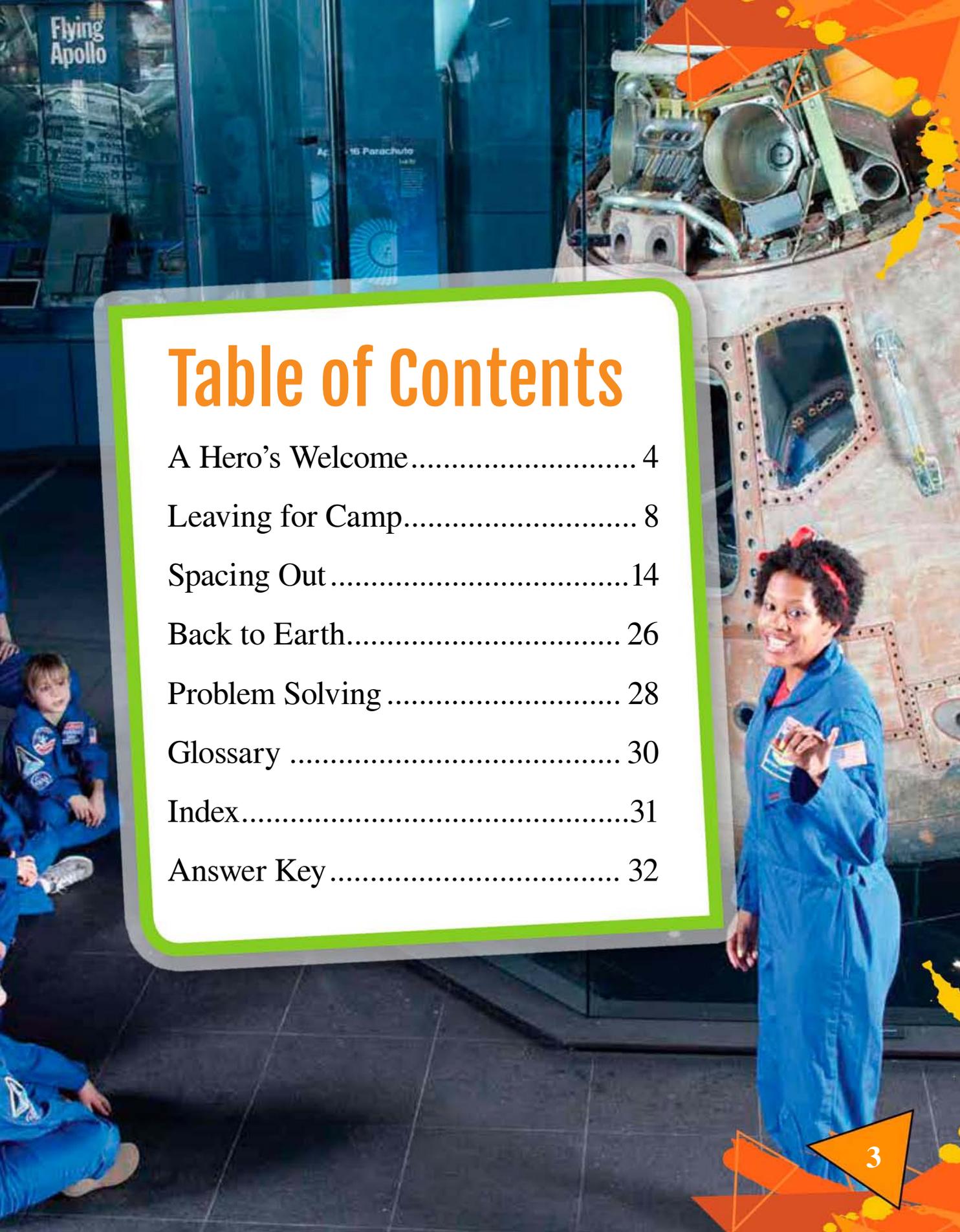


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A Hero's Welcome

I cross my fingers and almost forget to breathe. The announcer leans in close to the microphone. He clears his throat before speaking.

“The winner of this year’s Future Scientist **Competition** is...Isabella!” He says it loudly, but I cannot hear him. My ears are ringing.

I feel like I am floating, but I am walking. And then, I am on the stage. I won first place! My family cheers from the side of the stage. My friends scream and clap. But I do not notice a thing. I just won a dream trip to Space Camp®!

A crowd waits to hear the winner of the Future Scientist Competition.



When I get home, I am still in **awe**. I am now one step closer to my dream of being an astronaut. But I am nervous for that next step.

To get to camp, I have to fly on an airplane by myself. I have never left my home state of Oregon. I have never been away from my parents for so long. Soon, I will leave for Alabama for a week. My mom tells me I am brave and gives me her watch. “Time will fly by!” she tells me as she puts the watch on my wrist. But I am not sure that I am ready for this.





Isabella's mom helps her pack for Space Camp.



crowd of people at an airport

Leaving for Camp

I say goodbye to my family at the airport. As I walk away from them, I look back. I wave to my parents one more time. Then, I take a deep breath and follow the flight **attendant** to the plane. Since I am flying without a parent, I have an **escort**. It will be a long flight. Luckily, I have a window seat with a great view. The Rocky Mountains seem to pop up out of nowhere. They are so big! It looks like I can almost reach out and touch them. Just as I start to get sleepy, the plane **lands**. I am safe! It is time to begin my adventure.

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