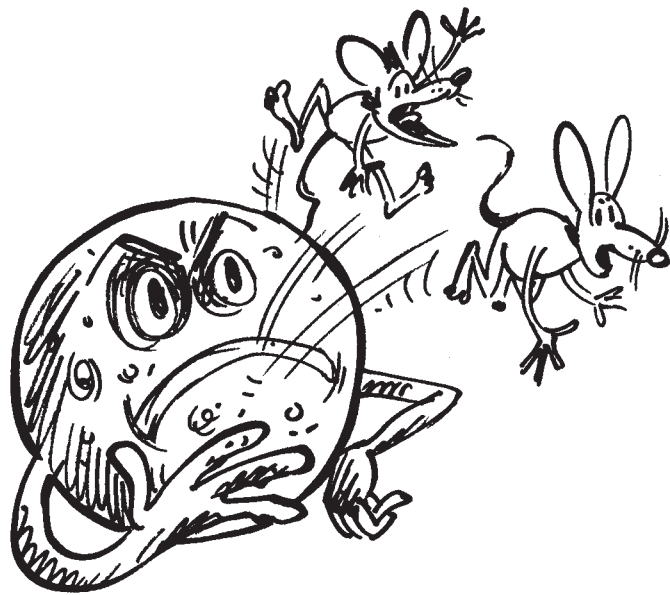


Plotting the Plot

From our million notes of plots that kids have come up with, here are some that show how far you can let your imagination take you.

Some are exotic:

- on a purple moon, a gigantic sneaker loses its foot
- an alien Santa Claus and a “real” one stage a fight
- Cleopatra, the Sphinx, and a Pyramid have their heads exchanged in a whirlwind
- a baby longs for a house made of apples
- a penguin suffers sunburn on its back
- a frog, a toad, and a dragonfly destroy a city
- three fairies are trapped in a rosebud
- a runaway city drives to New York
- two hungry mice are tossed into space by the moon, when it discovers they think it’s made of green cheese



Many are in outer space:

- a child asks his mom if he can go to Mars; she says no; he goes anyway
- robots and boys navigate rival spaceships to Neptune
- three kids, on what’s left of Earth, defend it against a robot enemy
- three astronauts save a city in the universe from aliens armed with deadly weapons
- friendly Martians guide lost Earth-children home



Fantasy is popular:

Stories abound of mad scientists, wayward computers, wizards who betray children into hapless crises in complicated time warps. Others, with less sophistication, merrily combine heroic warriors with dinosaurs, and kangaroos with pterodactyls.

Legendary, real, or stuffed animals are all-time favorite heroes:

- Henry Horse wears a dunce cap because his writing is sloppy
- a giraffe is called bad names because of its long neck
- a unicorn and a cat become movie stars
- a rooster talks too much
- a teddy bear is frightened of the dark and something in the closet
- a kangaroo can't hop and a girl helps it learn
- a dolphin and a speckled trout save a fisherman's life
- a mouse doesn't want to go to school
- a lion cub runs away from the circus

