

- out of this world : Here, the expression has dual meaning – it means ‘not found on the earth’ and also ‘extra-ordinary’
- panorama : a very wide view

### Think and answer :

- ⌘ In what time periods is the story taking place?
- ⌘ Where does Sayali live?

## 2.2 The Souvenir



With the tip of her nose pressed to the window of the space shuttle, Sayali sat gazing at the view outside for so long, still she didn't seem to be contended. She had read the description of this view several times before and had seen this scene on the video too. But this was different! Reading the description was one thing, watching the pictures and videos captured by the camera was another but getting an opportunity to view that amazing panorama with your own eyes, being present physically right in the midst of it, was indeed an ‘out of the world’ experience ! No matter how long she sat gazing, her awe and wonder did not seem to abate.

The earth gradually appeared to get smaller and smaller in the sky. The azure blue sky was now looking jet black. The clouds had disappeared, the stars were shining bright.

\* \* \*

This trip to the moon was exorbitantly expensive, but still Sayali's mother had sent her on the trip.

‘In our childhood we could not even think of such long distance trips ! The longest trip meant going to Europe. If you are getting this opportunity, make the most of it.’ said mummy.

‘Oh! Mummy, Neha's grandmother was saying that in their childhood, the longest trip for school children used to be only up to Delhi or Kolkata. It seems so funny, isn't it?’ said Sayali laughing. Remembering the incident made her laugh even now.

Now the shuttle was getting closer and closer to the moon. Then it started orbiting the moon. In every 32 minutes, the shuttle completed one revolution round the moon.



Light and darkness followed each other in quick succession. The dome shaped settlements on the moon which resembled the igloos of the Eskimos were now visible.

After some time, Sayali's shuttle made a slow, measured and safe landing on the moon. The door of the shuttle was opened and the children were escorted through an airtight tunnel to the settlement at the Neil Armstrong base.

The receptionist at the entrance to the base gave some instructions at the very outset.

'I welcome you all to the Neil Armstrong base. To make your stay on the moon pleasant and comfortable, I would like you to take certain precautions. Listen carefully to my instructions and please follow them during your stay. You know that the gravitational force of the moon is  $\frac{1}{6}$  that of the earth. In the human settlements on the moon, a gravitational force equivalent to that of the earth has been artificially maintained; but outside those settlements, the gravitational force of the moon is at work. You will have to be extremely careful when you roam around there. The second point to remember is related to shopping on the moon. You all must be interested in carrying souvenirs back home from the moon. Please buy the articles only from the shops which are inside the dome shaped settlements. There you will be assured of genuine articles. Do not buy anything from the unauthorised shops outside the settlement. I wish you a very happy and pleasant stay on the moon.'

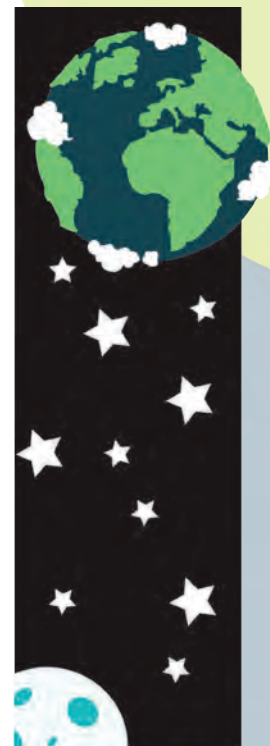
\* \* \*

A jam-packed three day's programme awaited the children on the moon.

According to the earth calculations, on the moon there were fifteen days of daylight and fifteen days of nighttime. The three days of the trip were going to be part of the nighttime on the moon. One of the most important programmes of the first day was

✂ Imagine you are landing on the moon. What would be your feelings?

✂ What were the two important instructions?



⌘ What was special about sky watch on the moon?

⌘ What does it tell you about the conditions on the earth at that time?

**Think and answer :**

⌘ What would be the overall effects of having no atmosphere?

⌘ What could be the reason behind the unique seating arrangement?



Sky Watch. On the earth, it was usually foggy and the stars were seen rarely and only very faintly. There was no atmosphere on the moon. On the dark background of the moon sky, the stars shone dazzling bright.

The most attractive view was that of the disc of the earth! In the moon sky the earth looked thirteen times bigger than the moon in the earth sky. It was also seventy times brighter. The earth light fell on the moon. This beautiful enchanting view made Sayali and her friends ecstatic. They fell asleep feeling happy, excited and comfortable at the same time.

\* \* \*

The second day's attraction was the circus on the moon! One unique feature of the circus was the seating arrangement. The spectators were made to sit in the tent and the circus was going on outside. High jumps and long jumps were the special attractions! One gymnast jumped twenty-seven metres high!

On both the days, besides the main attractions, much time was reserved for visiting the various settlements there. It was expected that the students should spend some time for self-study. The teacher had assigned them the task of writing an essay on how they spent their time on the moon; which places they visited; what they observed etc. Sayali and her friends had travelled far and wide and had done a lot of sight-seeing.

On the third day, their teacher took them to a place of historical importance. A hundred years ago Neil Armstrong had landed at this place. Everyone was looking forward to this visit to the historical monument – it was the oldest place in the history of man on the moon. The first footprint of Neil Armstrong was preserved on the moon land. Beside the footprint was a grand statue of Armstrong. At the base of the statue were carved the first words uttered by a human on the moon, 'One small step for a man, one giant leap of mankind.'



The next attraction for the children was that they were going to wear the space suits for the first time. Then they were going to roam outside experiencing the gravitational force of the moon.

“Be careful when you walk, dear children! Don’t run, or sprint, you will fall!” The teacher was warning repeatedly, but who was in the mood to listen? They hopped, jumped and ran around.

“Buy ornaments specially made from the stones on the moon, very cheap, cheaper than those available in the shops in the settlement. Cheaper and better! At least have a look.” The roadside shopkeepers screamed at the top of their voice. “Buy, sister, buy. I am selling these earrings really cheap,” saying this, he approached Sayali and displayed the sets of shining stones earrings. Sayali suddenly remembered her mother. Tomorrow they were to start on their return journey. She had completely forgotten her mother in the last three days. She felt terribly guilty.

“Buy these, sister, don’t think much, cheaper and better....take it.”

Sayali looked around; the other children had proceeded ahead.

“Come on, give me those red earrings, quick.” Sayali pointed at them and asked, “What’s the price?”

“Only one thousand rupees,” replied the salesman.

Sayali immediately paid the amount, took the earrings and ran to catch up with her friends.

\* \* \*

On returning home, Sayali told her mother very enthusiastically, “Mummy, look what I have brought for you!” Her mother picked up the earrings. She exclaimed, “Hello dear, how am I going to wear such heavy earrings?”

Sayali immediately realized her mistake. Sayali had purchased the earrings in the field of the moon’s gravity.

- Translated from the story, ‘Bhet’ by Lakshman Londhe



#### Think and answer :

- ⌘ Was Sayali making a mistake when she bought earrings?
- ⌘ What instructions had she ignored?
- ⌘ Why had the earrings become so heavy on the earth?





## ENGLISH WORKSHOP

1. **Guess the meaning** of the following words :
  - exorbitantly • precautions • unauthorised • repeatedly • enthusiasticallyWrite the smaller and related words that you see within these words.
2. Use the details given in the story and your imagination and prepare a timetable for the trip to the moon.
3. Say whether the following statements are right or wrong.
  - (a) Sayali was travelling in space for the first time.
  - (b) Many changes had occurred on the earth in the hundred years before Sayali's trip to the moon.
  - (c) There were no old cities left on the earth.
  - (d) Sayali's mother did not want her to go on the trip.
  - (e) There were no human settlements on the moon.
  - (f) Sayali made a hasty purchase.
  - (g) Sayali did not understand the mistake she had made.
4. **Imagine** you are Sayali. Write your diary for every day of your trip to the moon, and for the day you gave the earrings to your mother.
5. **Discuss** : In the story, human settlements are mentioned but not cities or villages. Why is it so ?
6. **Gather more information** about the following from your Science textbook, the internet and other sources.
  - Gravitational force • View of the sky when you are on the moon.
  - Chandrayaan mission of India.
7. You want to start human settlement somewhere else other than the earth, in the universe. Will you select a star or a planet? Why? What features supporting life will you look for? Try to find answers to such questions and **make a presentation** using scientific information and your imagination.
8. Language Study : **Common nouns - 2** : Some nouns stand for a number of persons or things taken together. They are called **collective nouns**.  
Examples : class ( a class of sixty students), a herd of cattle, a flock of sheep, a team of players, a list of names.  
**Collective nouns** also have singular and plural forms.  
Examples : class-classes, herd-herds, team-teams
  - Make a collection of collective nouns.





## Punctuation

### Full-stop [.]

It is also known as 'period'. It is used at the end of a statement or order.

Statement : I have three coloured pencils.

Order : Sit down.

It is also used in abbreviations like 'B.A.'

### Comma [,]

A comma shows a slight pause in a sentence.

It is used for the following.

(a) To separate words in a list:

We have a mango tree, a banana tree, two neem trees and a guava tree in our garden.

(b) To separate phrases or clauses:

Actually, if you are interested in wild animals, you must visit that sanctuary.

(c) In writing conversations:

"Please pay attention," the teacher said. She said, "This is interesting."

(d) Before or after the word or words used to address someone:

Mummy, can I go out to play with friends?

### Question mark [?]

It is used at the end of a question.

- How are you?
- Can you hold my bicycle for a moment, please?

### Exclamation mark [!]

It is used after an interjection or exclamation.

- What a beautiful flower!
- Ouch!
- Congratulations!

### Hyphen [-]

It is used to connect the parts of a compound word.

Examples : double-click, Commander-in-chief, anti-terrorism

### Dash [-]

It is used to separate parts of a sentence.

There are three types of pollution – air pollution, water pollution and sound pollution.

