

MY FAVOURITE GRAVITY



I don't think the world has vanished. But it is worrying not being able to see it. After all, Earth is where I keep all my stuff. Thinking about all my favourite bits – my mum, and my dad, my bedroom, my computer – makes me feel a bit calmer. There's my massive Playmobil Viking ship that takes up half the floor. Or used to take up half the floor. I put it back in its box the day I discovered I'd grown facial hair. I just thought that anyone with a beard – even just a wispy one – is probably too old for Playmobil.

I say *I* discovered the facial hair. To be honest, I never noticed it, because we've got energy-saving light bulbs in the bathroom. It was other people who pointed it out to me, during the Year Six Leavers' Outing to Enchantment Land.

The most famous ride in Enchantment Land

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is the Cosmic. All the way there, on the coach, everyone kept on about how big it was and how scary. Everyone had a brother or a cousin who had been on it and Never Been the Same Again. In case you don't know, the Cosmic is a kind of metal cage with two seats in. It's attached to the top of a massive crane by kind of big elastic bands. They pull the cage down to the ground with a chain and fasten it with an electromagnet. You sit inside and then they switch off the magnet. The elastic catapults you into the air and then snaps you back towards the ground again. Then you bounce up and down for a while. It's only frightening for about ten seconds, but for those ten seconds it is so frightening that Ben's cousin's hair supposedly turned completely white. And it goes so fast that Joe's next-door neighbour's stomach came loose and ended up stuck in his own neck and he had to have an operation. Apparently he'll show you the stitches if you ask him.

Despite these obvious drawbacks, everyone said they were going to go on it. Until we got there and discovered there was a height requirement – namely a wooden Martian holding his arm straight out and a speech bubble that said, 'If you can walk under my arm, you can't take the Cosmic.' Everyone could

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Retrieval

- 1) When did Liam put his Playmobil Viking ship back in its box ?
- 2) What was the most famous ride in Enchantment Land ?

Words in context

- 3) Find and copy a word which means 'of or affecting the face'.
- 4) Find and copy a word which means 'hurl or launch with speed'.

Inference

- 5) Why hadn't Liam noticed his facial hair ?
- 6) Do you think that people really were never the same again after riding on the Cosmic ? Use the text to explain your answer.