

2nd PLACE WINNER
(3rd – 5th Grade)



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5th Grade
Findlay, Ohio

Dear Mrs. Walerius,

Have you missed me in class? Well, I am busy working on my science project for your class. It may take a little longer than one week to complete though because I decided to be the first astronaut to land on Jupiter. I thought it would be a wonderful way to try out a few of your experiments (using the scientific method, of course!!) and really ace that science project you are assigning.

I landed here miraculously approximately 20 minutes ago or would that be 20 years ago??? Before I landed, I traveled through what I thought would be a very small ring on the outside of Jupiter. Instead, it was rather large and full of ice, rocks, and something I would call – space junk. I thought I saw Galileo’s satellite flying at me and realized that I had better get moving, quickly.

I am now discovering that Jupiter is a gas planet. There is a lot of moisture in the air. My space helmet keeps getting fogged up. I wish I would have installed windshield wipers. Once I stepped outside my traveling contraption I felt very heavy. Walking on this planet is a fantastic workout! I think it has something to do with the gravity here. I decided to try out an experiment dealing with gravity and all those laws you taught us that involved some guy named Newton. I had this great idea to throw a football and see how far it would go. Well, let’s just say that I am not the same football athlete here that I am on earth. My football went about two and a half inches then, crash! It fell down and buried itself in this planet’s bizarre surface.

I began to enter the hole my football made and found that it led straight to the core of Jupiter. Brilliant, I thought! It felt very hot, about 20,000K. I was glad I had my super protective space suit. I eventually found my football or what remained of my football. It was just a puddle of brown and black goo. I decided to try another experiment. I

wanted to know how long it would take to evaporate my 5th grade homework. Let's see, 1-2-gone! Wow, that makes my 5th grade year of school a little easier.

I climbed out of the hole and was blinded by a huge red spot. A strong breeze pushed me away, but being inquisitive, I wanted to know more about this strange red cloud. As I trudged closer, I saw rocks flying everywhere. My gut told me to run away, but I decided that you would really rather that I complete another experiment. I wanted to see if this storm was as destructive as I thought so I decided to throw my extra metal pen into the storm. It whirled around and then poof, it became a million little pieces. I then became worried about what this could do to my traveling contraption since it is eighty percent metal. I ran as fast as I could back. Running is not really an option on this planet because the gravity is so strong. So I crept along with all of my might.

Yes! My traveling contraption is still here. I think my science project is now complete and I hope that you will be receiving this letter soon. Please do not give me a late grade. I have done my best to get it to you in a timely manner. Hopefully you will see me again in class soon. . . my survival rate is about, well let's not talk about that!

Your loyal and inquisitive student,
Cole Ohlrich