

Ebook adapted from the TV series



ubongo kids

by ubongo

ango kids

**stranger danger**  
**be careful of people**  
**you do not know**





It was a very special day for Kiduchu – her birthday! Her friends had bought her a big cake with candles. As she blew them out, they told her to make a wish, but Mama Ndege whispered that she could save her wish for later.



“Kiduchu has completed another trip around the Sun,” Mama Ndege told the kids. They all looked confused. “How can she travel around the Sun when we are here on Earth?” Koba asked.



Mama Ndege explained that the Earth ORBITS the Sun; it moves in a circle around it. Mama Ndege then began to fly around a yellow balloon. She told them, “the Earth circles the Sun just like how I am circling this balloon.”



Mama Ndege explained that it takes a whole year for the Earth to complete one circle of the Sun. Kiduchu understood now. “That means every time I turn a year older, I have completed another journey around the sun!” she exclaimed.



The kids began to cheer for Kiduchu. But Ngedere had his mind on other things. He decided it was time to bring in the birthday pilau!



Ngedere struggled to carry the big pan of pilau – it was sooo heavy! Suddenly there was a loud noise and a spaceship appeared above him! A blue hand with three fingers reached down, and an alien voice said, “Need a lift?”



Ngedere thought for a while. He knew he shouldn't accept rides from strangers... But he was tired of carrying the pan of pilau, so he agreed to take a lift with the aliens anyway.



The kids at the birthday party heard the roar of the spaceship. Koba and Baraka decided to wait at the party in case Ngedere came back, while Kibena, Kiduchu and Amani ran off to investigate.



They arrived to see the spaceship taking off – with Ngedere inside!



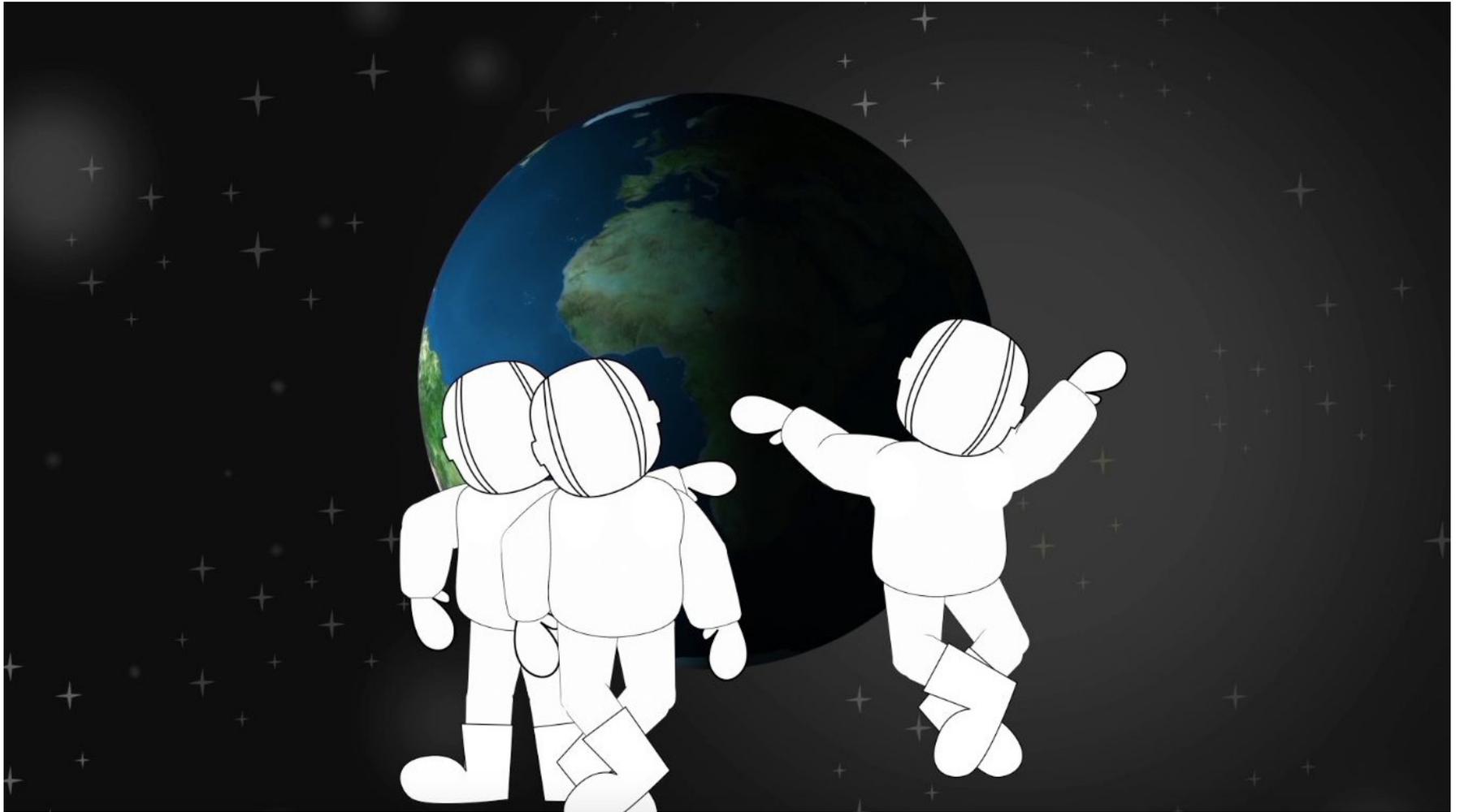
They were all worried about Ngedere. Where could the aliens be taking him? “We may just be kids,” Kiduchu said, “but kids can help keep other kids safe!”



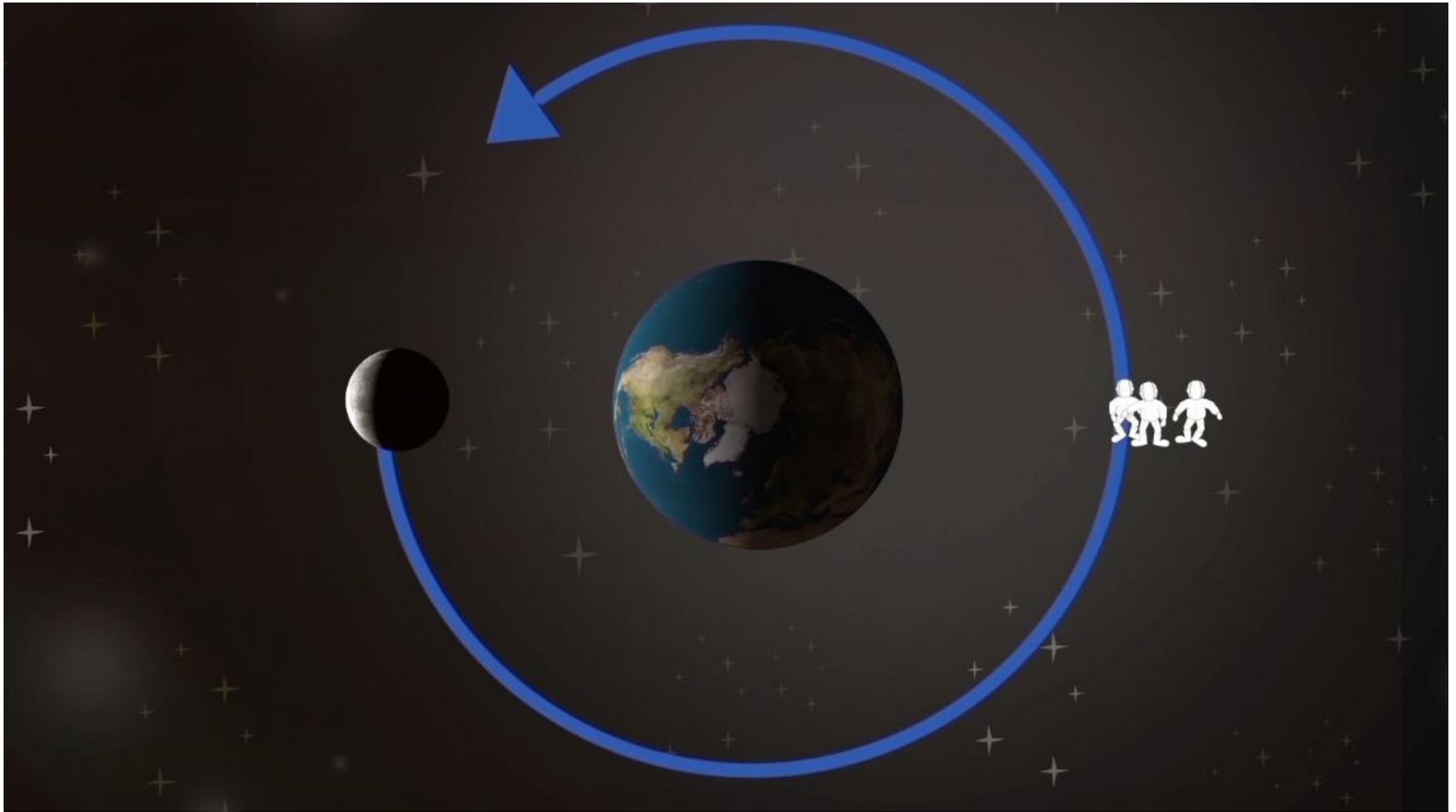
Just then, a note floated down from where the spaceship had been. It had an address: CRATER CRITTERS DAYCARE, THE MOON, OUTER SPACE. "That's it!" said Amani. "We need to go into outer space! But how?"



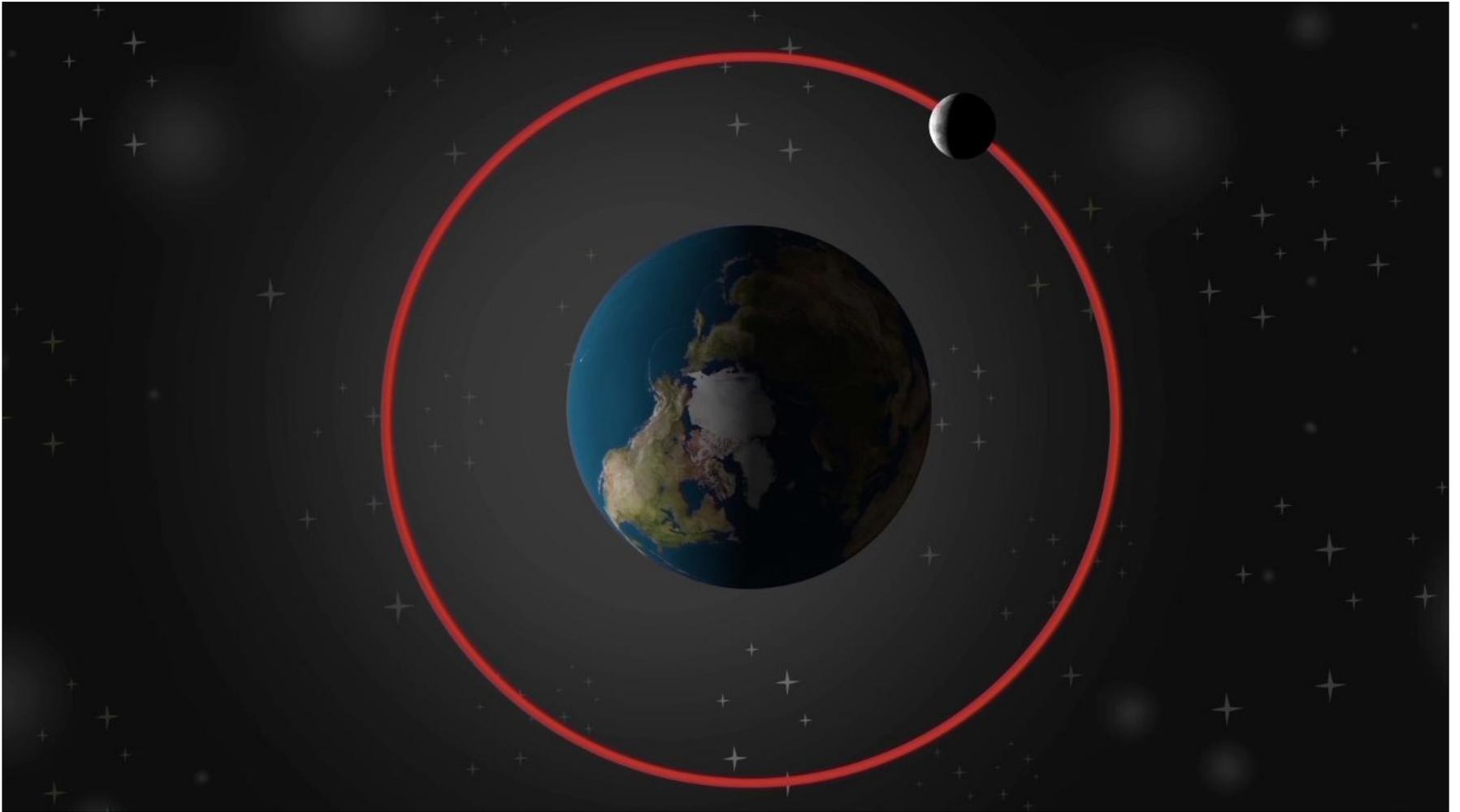
“I still have my birthday wish,” remembered Kiduchu. “I can wish for us all to go to space!” The girls linked arms and Kiduchu made her wish.



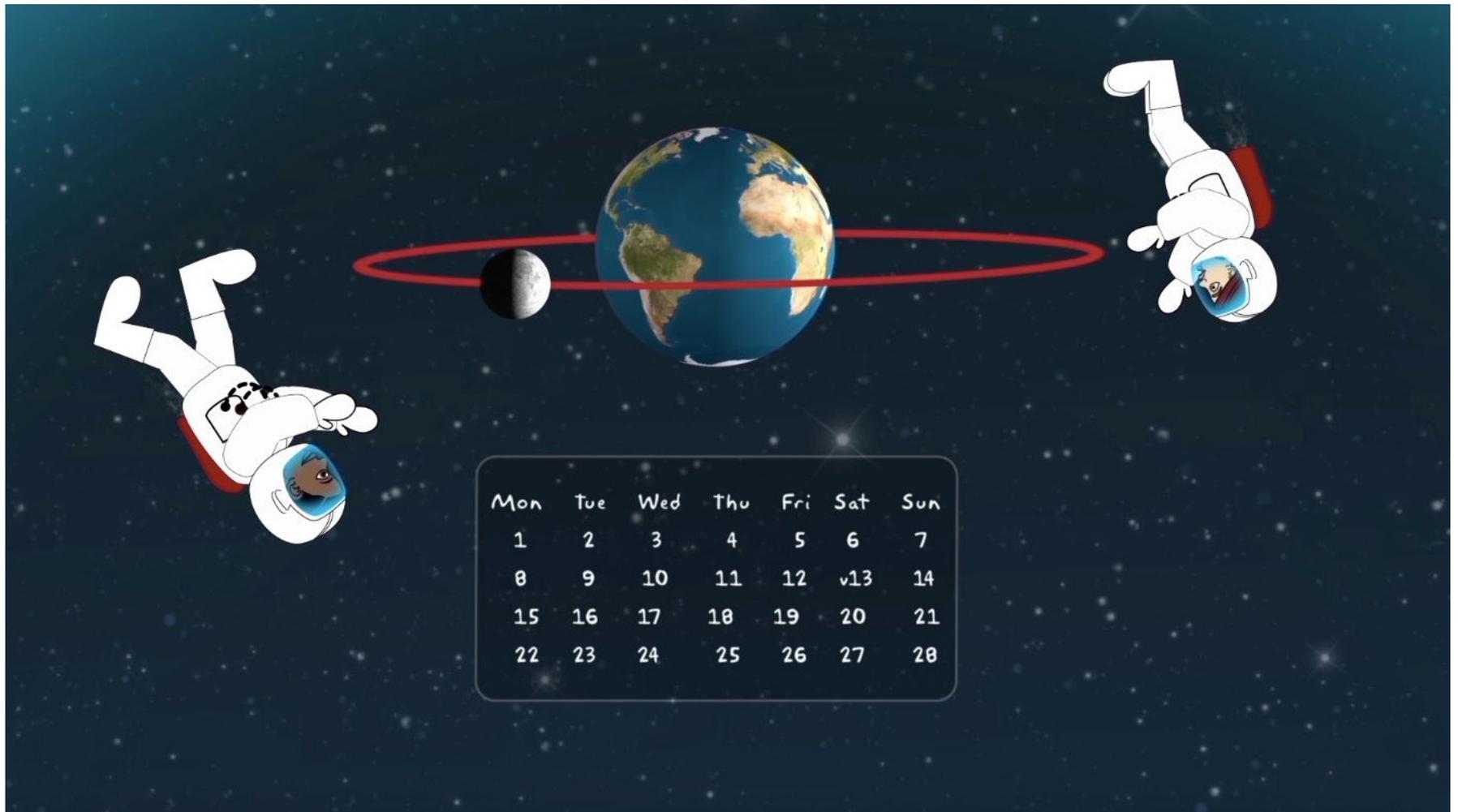
It worked! Kibena, Kiduchu and Amani were suddenly floating in space, dressed as astronauts! They could see Earth way down below them.



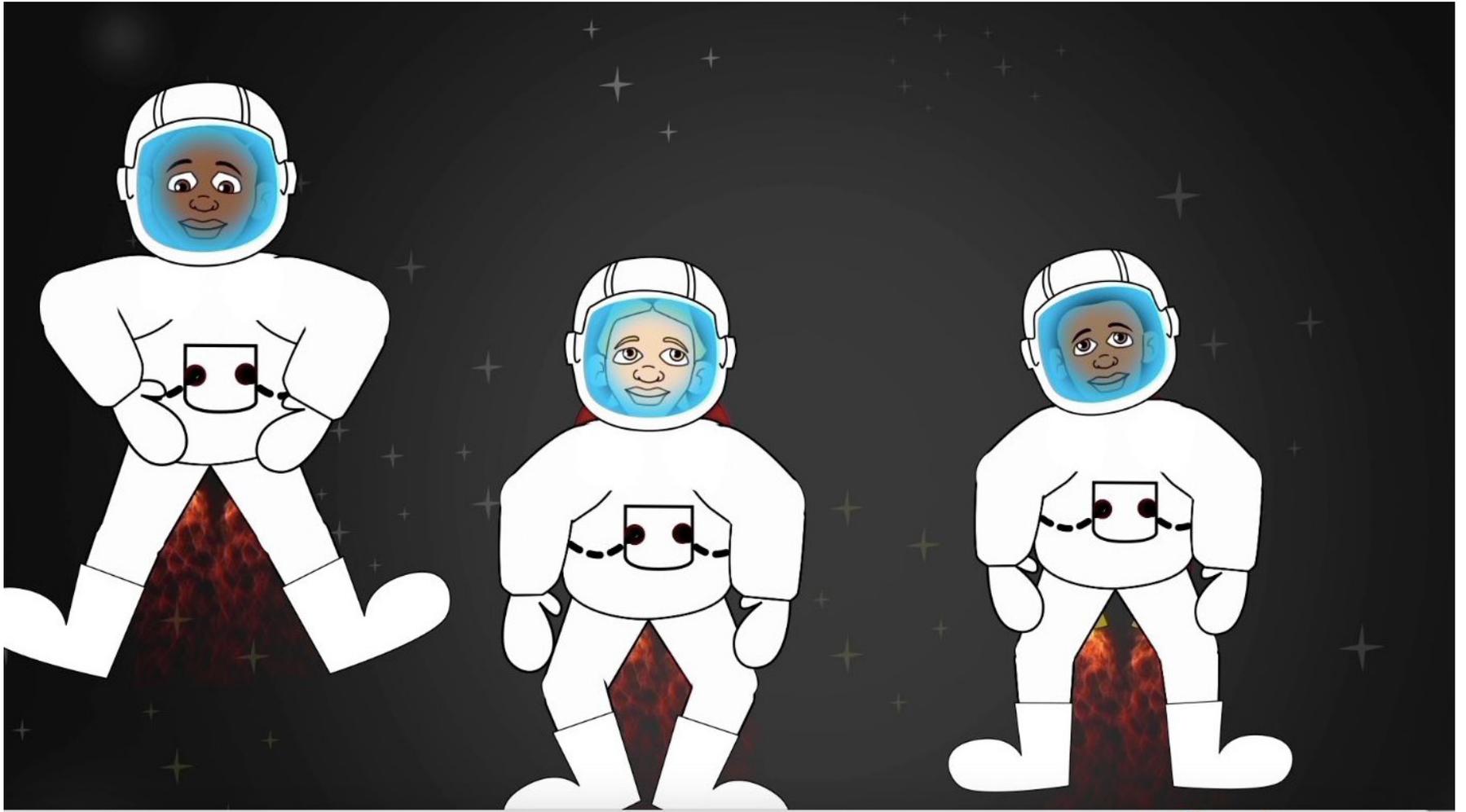
But they couldn't see the Moon. It had to be on the other side of the Earth from where they were! "That's because the Moon moves in a circle around the Earth. The Moon is **ORBITING** the Earth!" explained Kiduchu.



Amani suggested they wait for the Moon to come around to them. But Kiduchu pointed out that it takes a whole month for the Moon to orbit the Earth. “That’s why each month, from down on Earth, we see the Moon go from a little slice, to a full Moon, then back to a little slice again,” she explained.



The girls agreed they couldn't wait a whole month to rescue Ngedere! "No way can Ngedere go that long without pilau!" Kiduchu added.



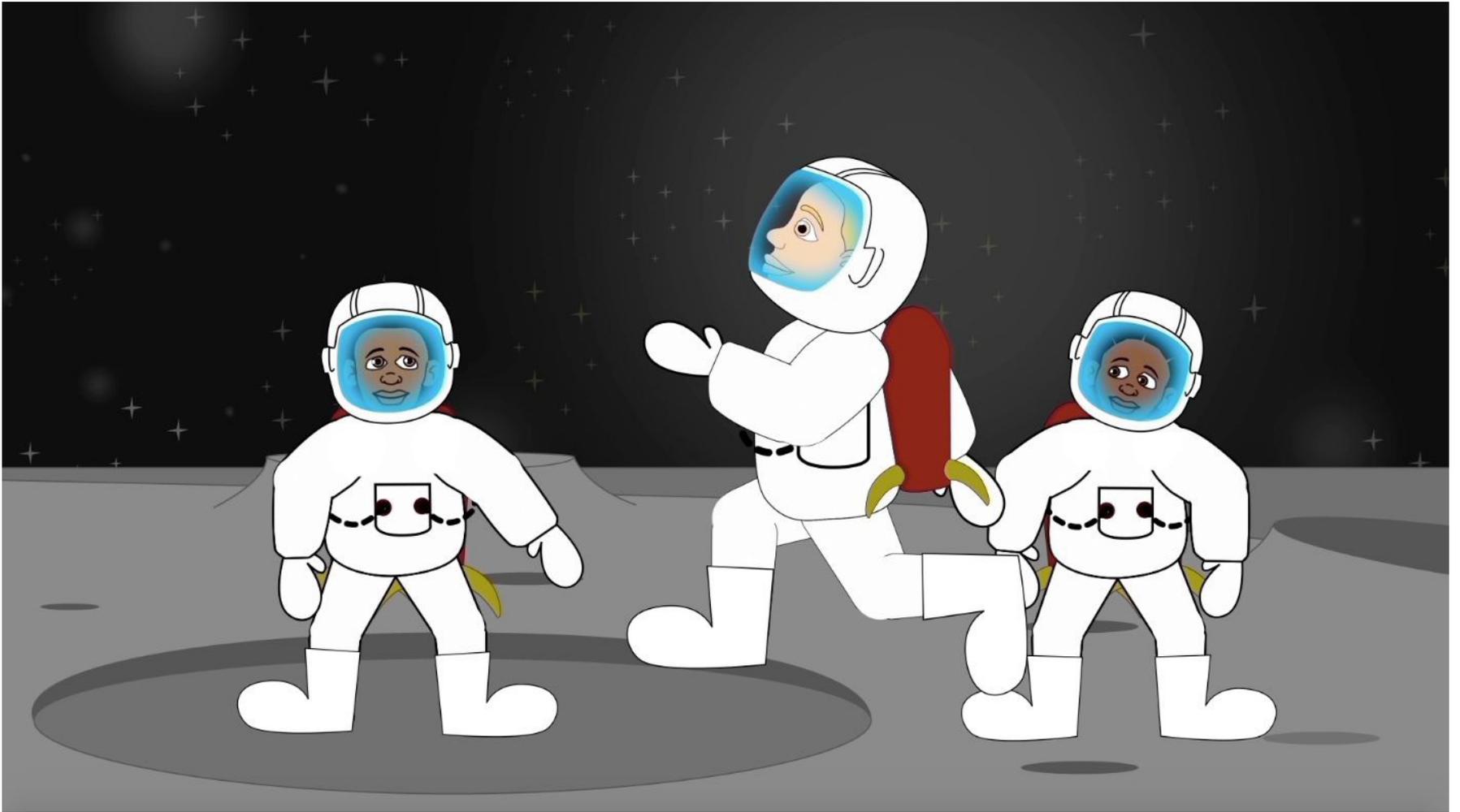
Luckily they found rocket blasters on their spacesuits. They used them to zoom around the Earth toward the Moon! It soon came into view.



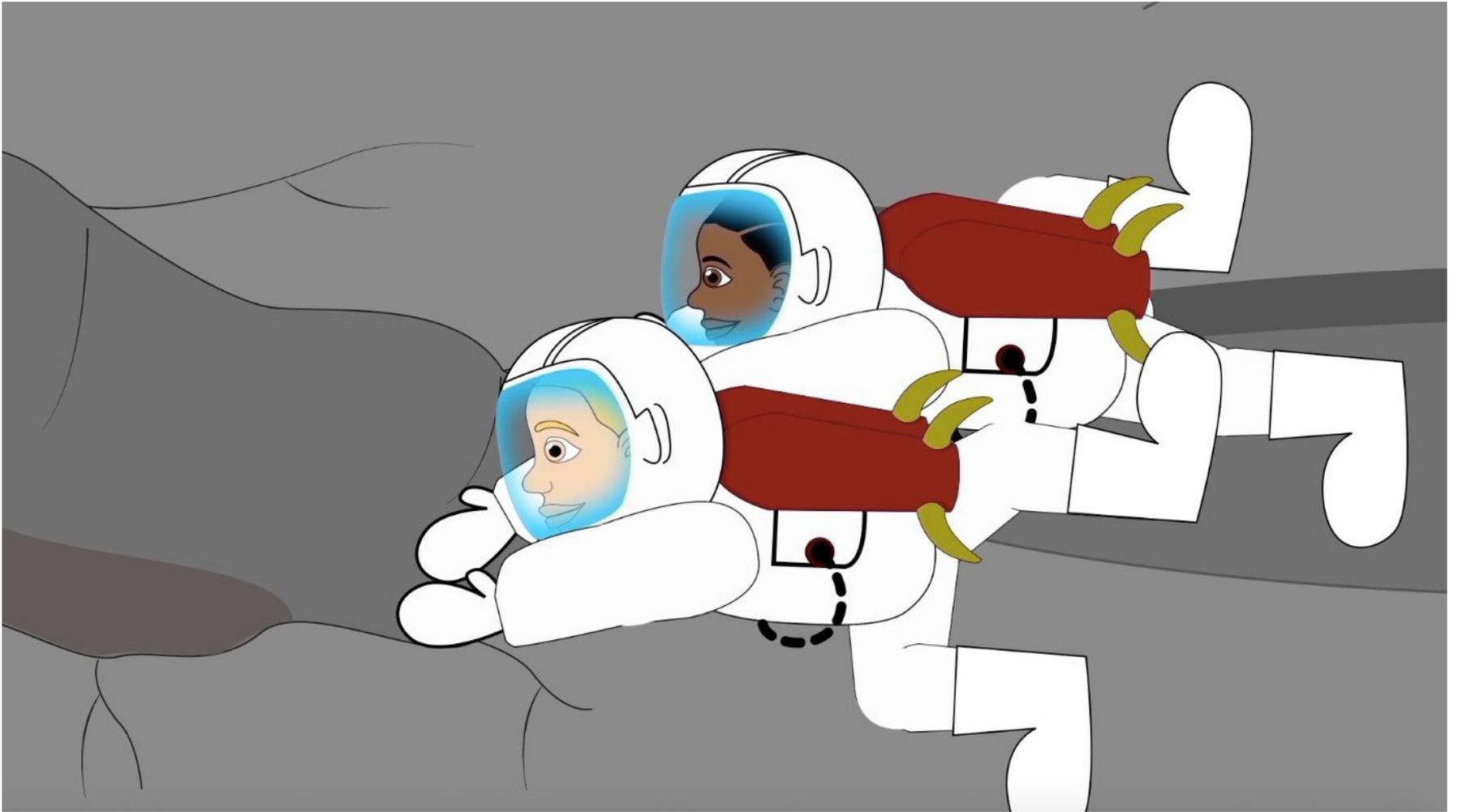
Only half the Moon – the side nearer to the Sun – was lit up. Amani and Kibena were puzzled. They thought the moon was always lit up. Kiduchu explained that the Moon doesn't have light of its own. It only reflects the light of the Sun.



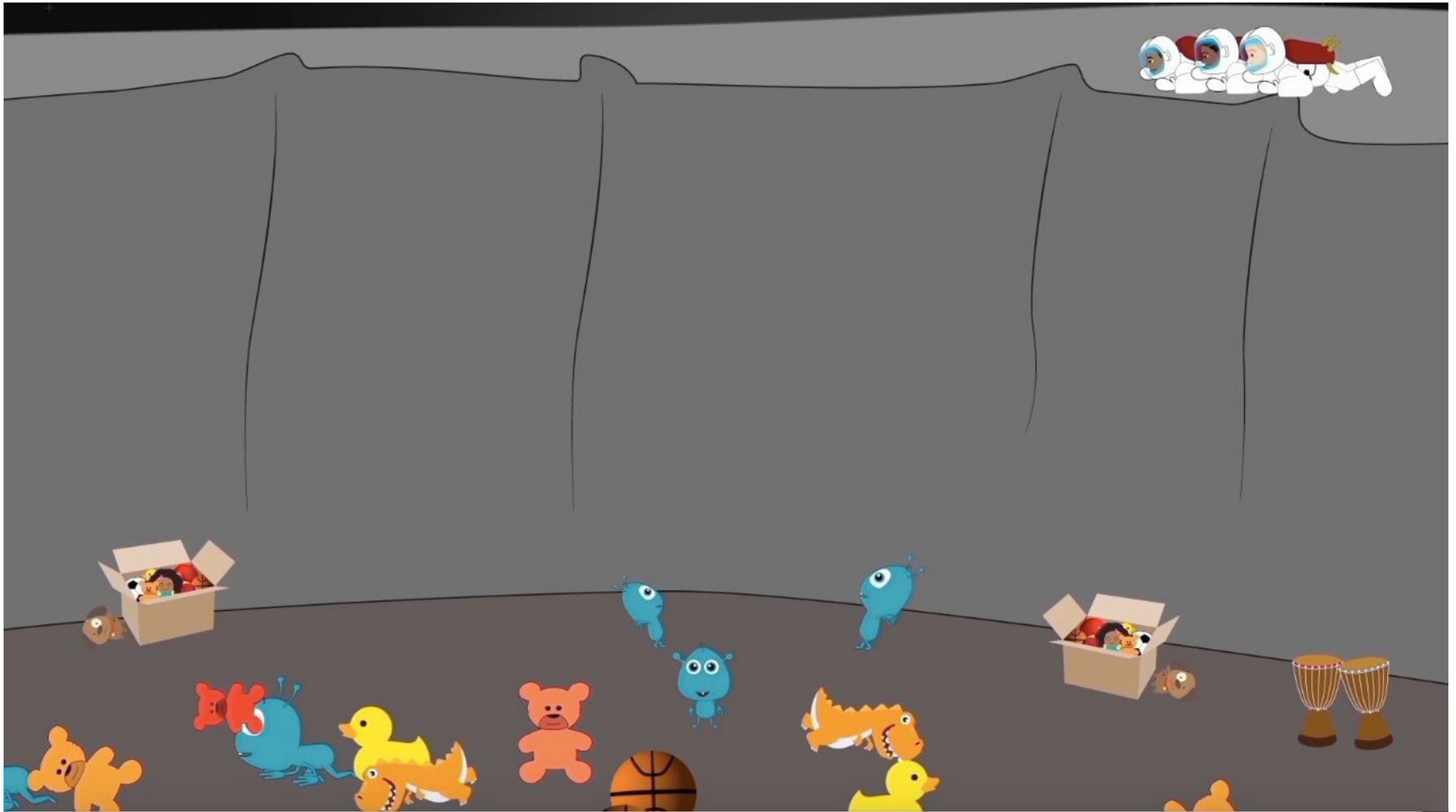
Kibena was amazed. “So the light from the Sun hits the Moon in different ways as the Moon moves on its path around the Earth. When the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, only the side facing away from the Earth is lit up. To people on Earth, the Moon looks dark!” she said.



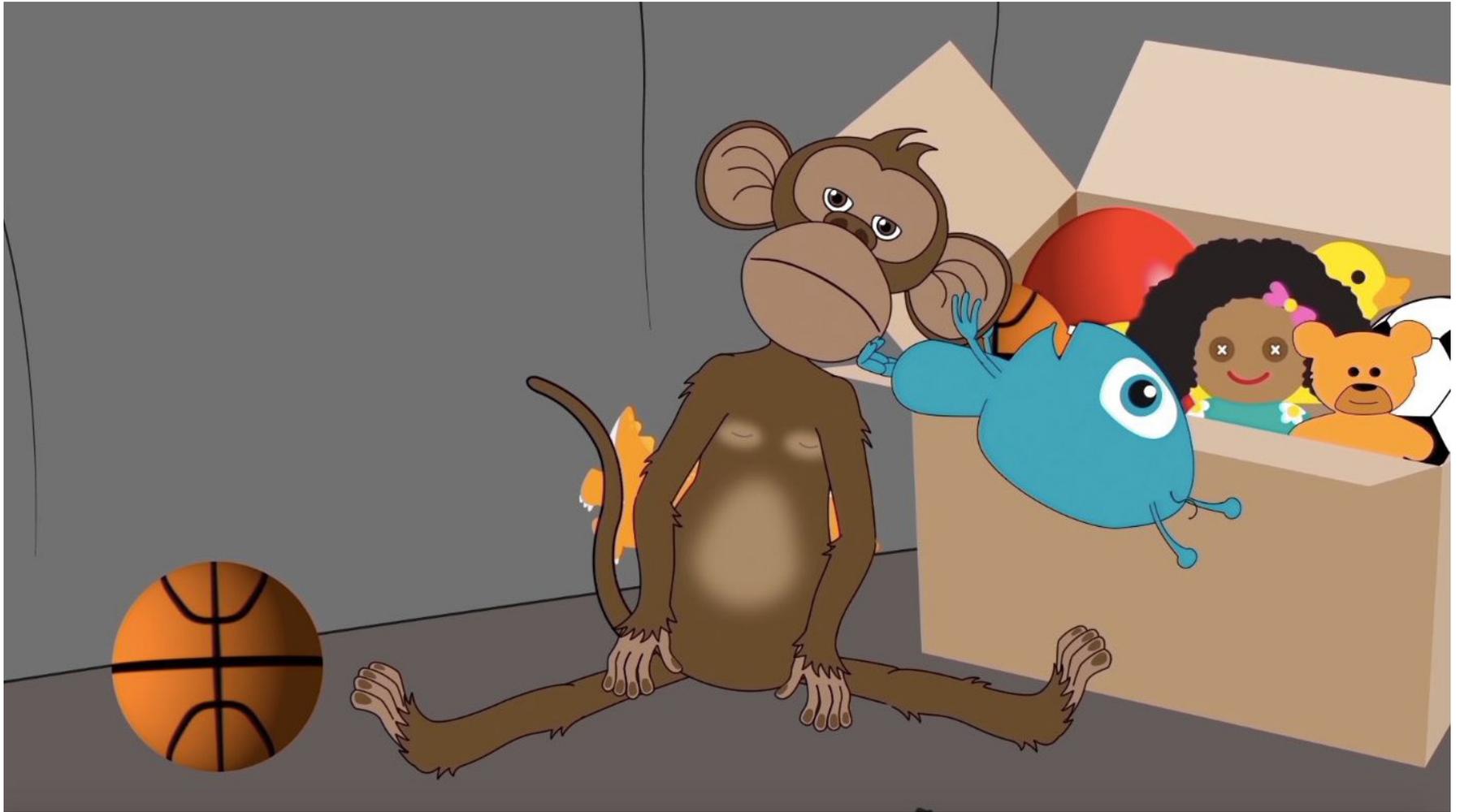
Kibena, Amani and Kiduchu finally landed on the Moon. They bounced as they walked and they could jump very high. It was because there is less GRAVITY on the Moon! “Gravity is an invisible force that pulls us down,” said Kiduchu. “It’s weaker on the Moon so jumping is easier!”



“Shhh!” Kibena whispered suddenly. “I hear something.” It sounded like alien babies laughing and gurgling. The three girls went to investigate the sound.



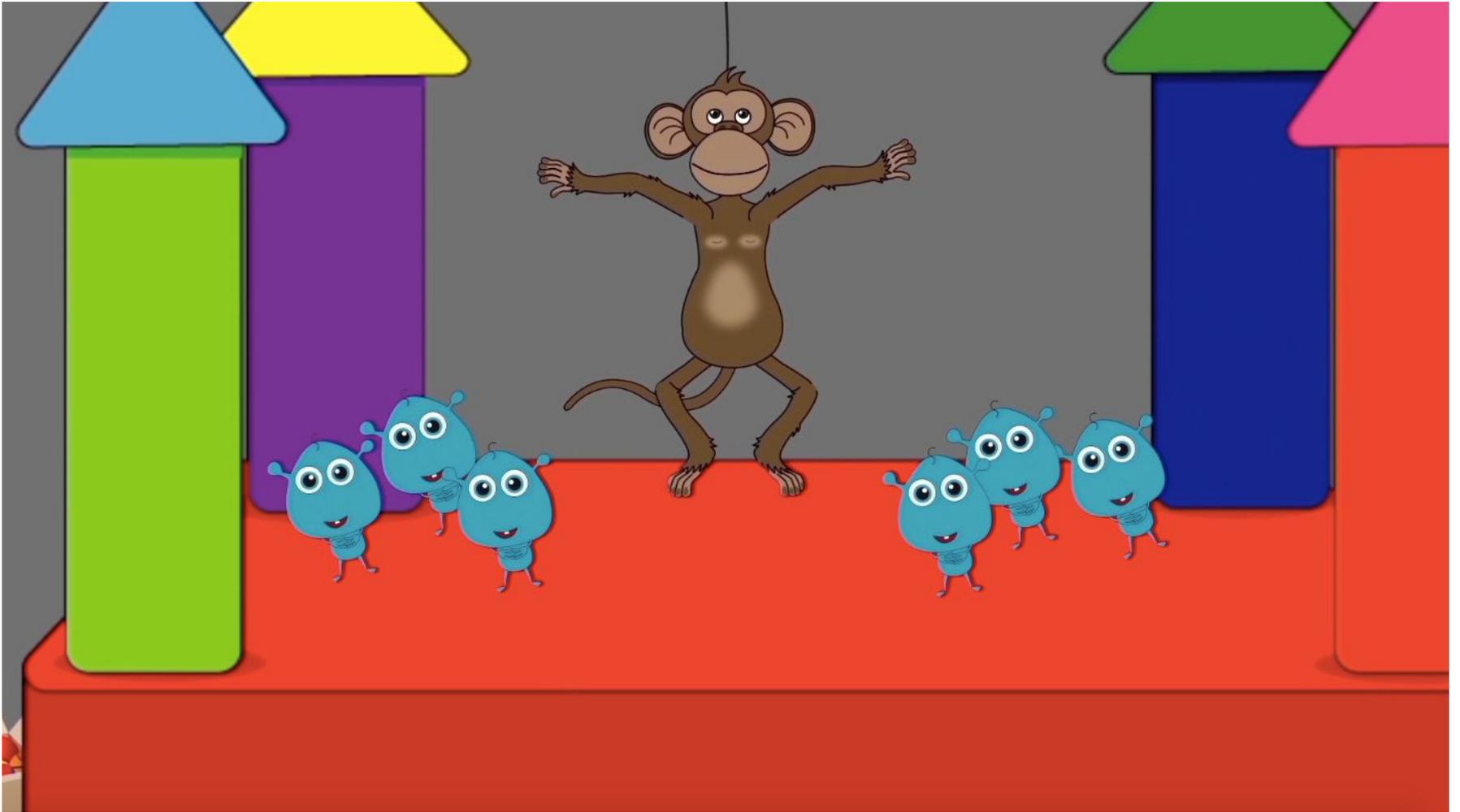
They crawled to the edge of a crater. From there, they saw a giant, messy playpen full of alien babies. The babies were playing with their toys, laughing and crying.



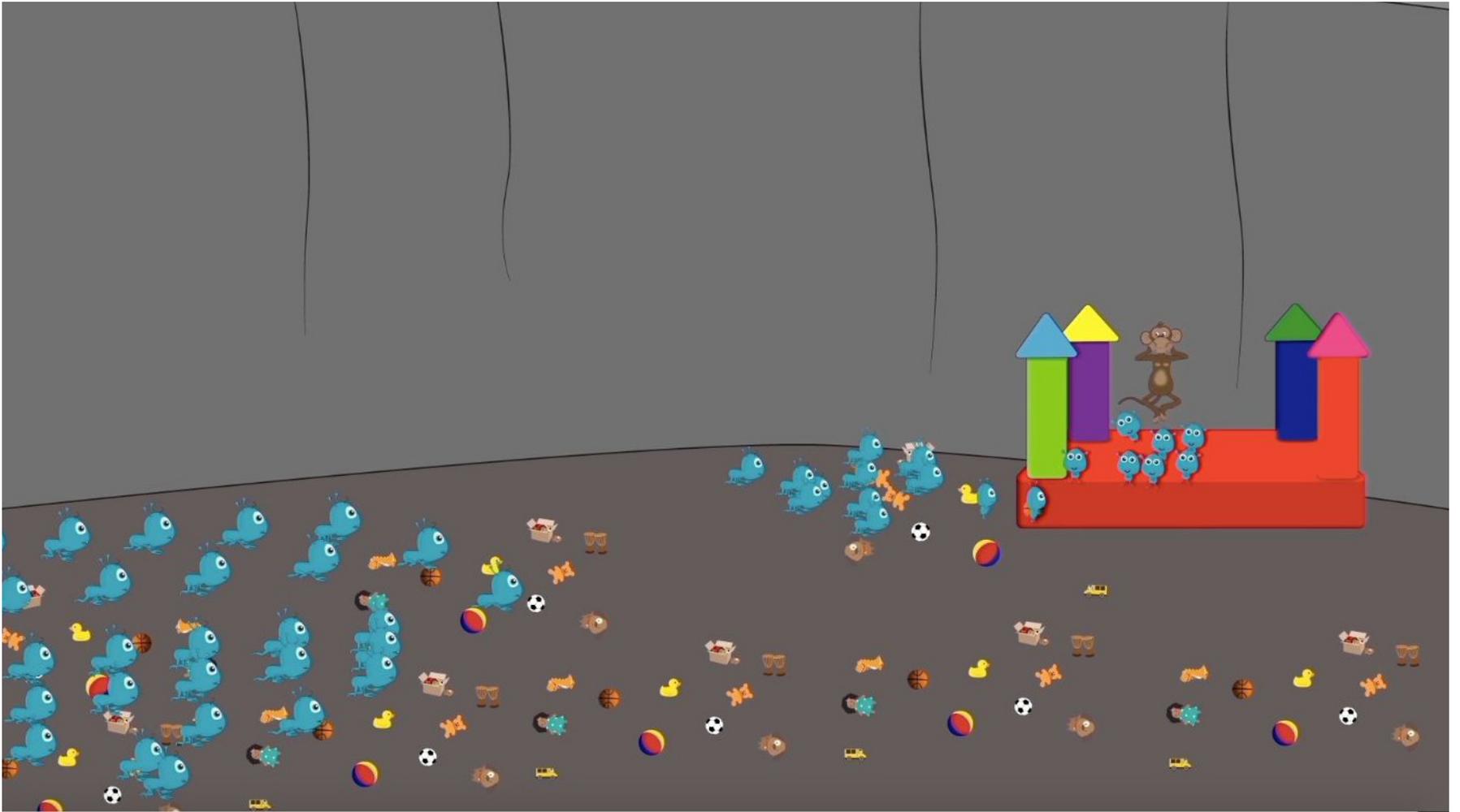
But one wasn't a toy at all – it was Ngedere! The alien babies were tugging at his ears and playing with his tail. “I’m going to rescue him,” declared Kiduchu. But the walls of the crater were too steep to climb down.



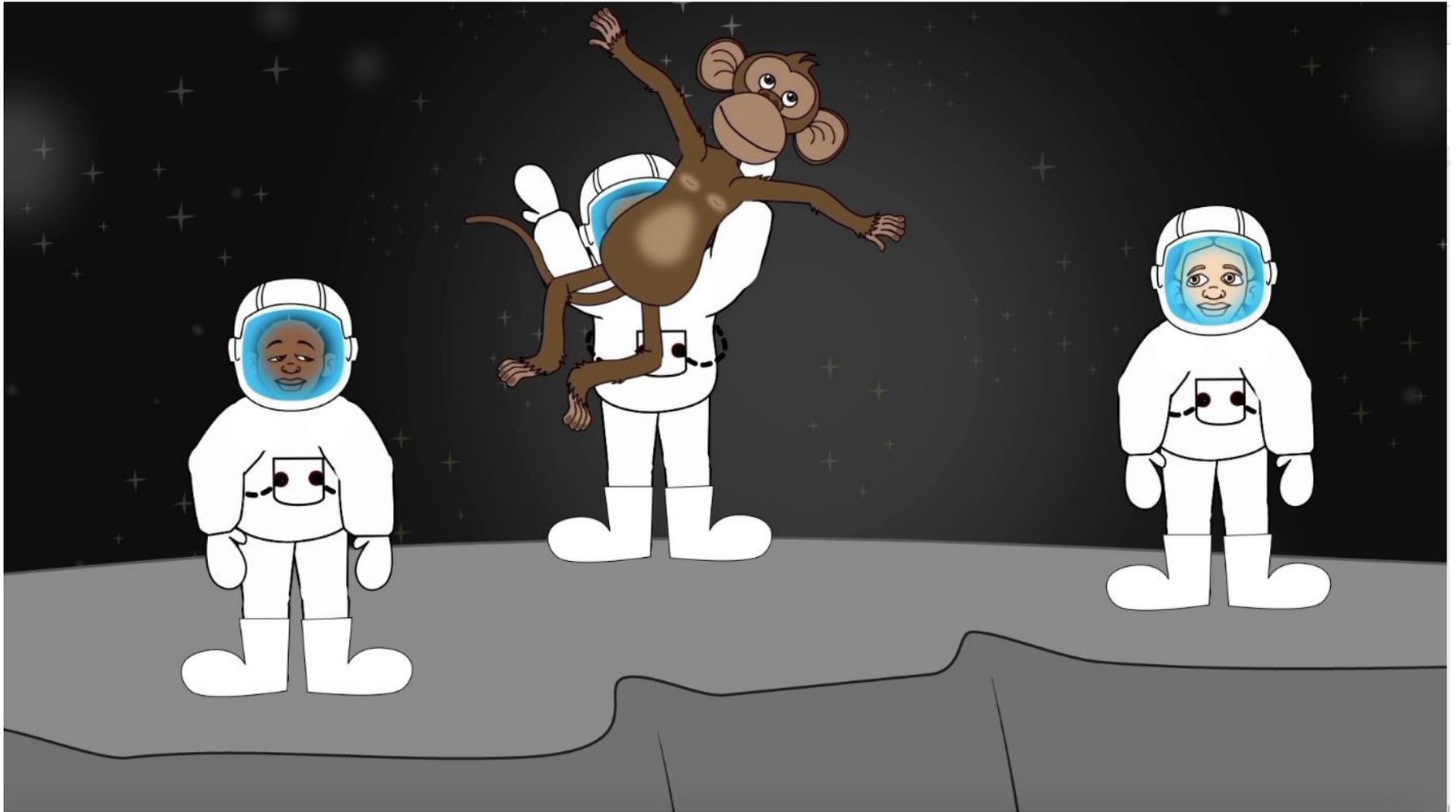
They watched as Ngedere was dragged onto a bouncy castle. “He can jump his way out!” cried Amani. She called to Ngedere. His face lit up when he saw his friends.



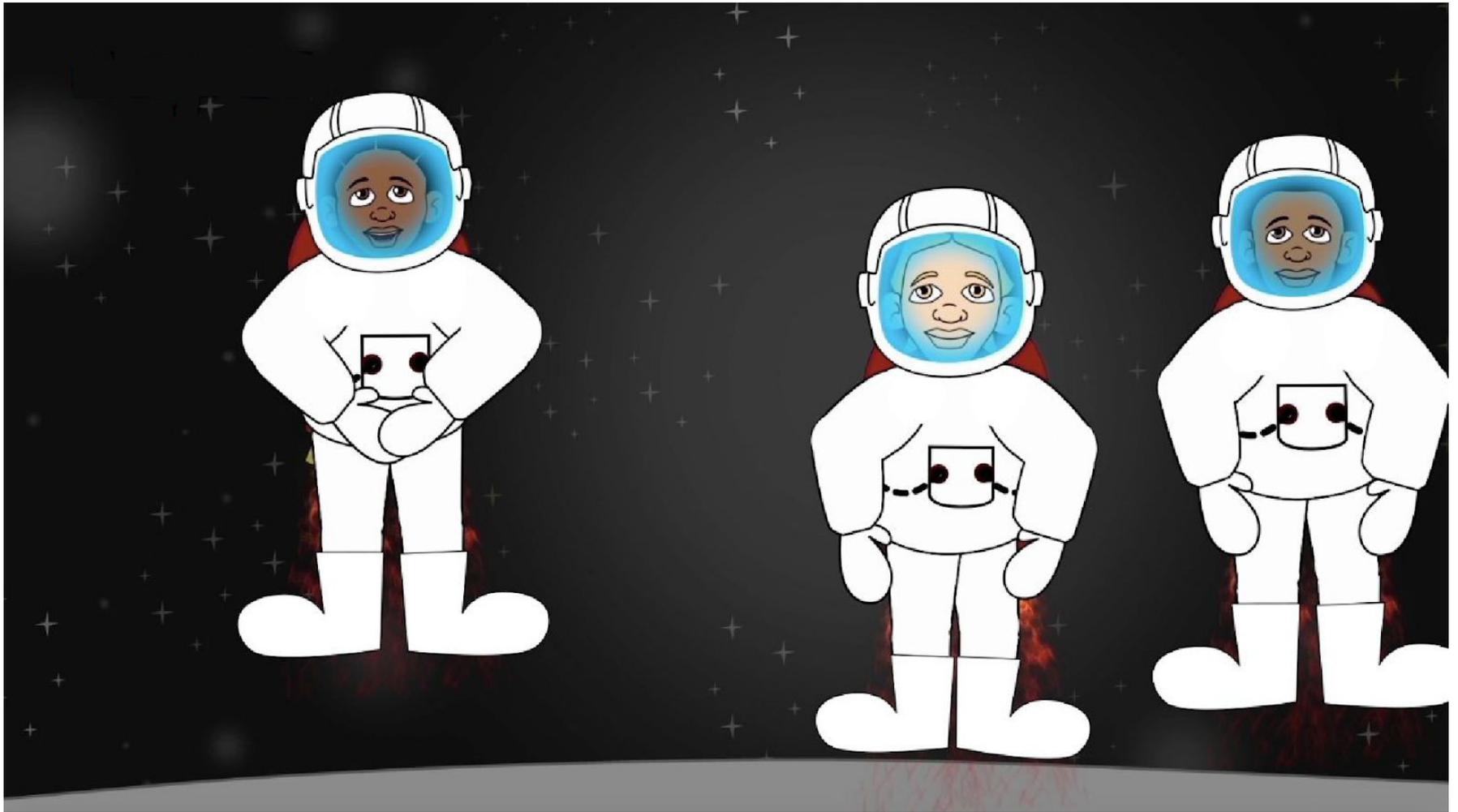
They told him to jump as high as he could. When the alien babies jumped together at the same time, they made Ngedere jump even higher.



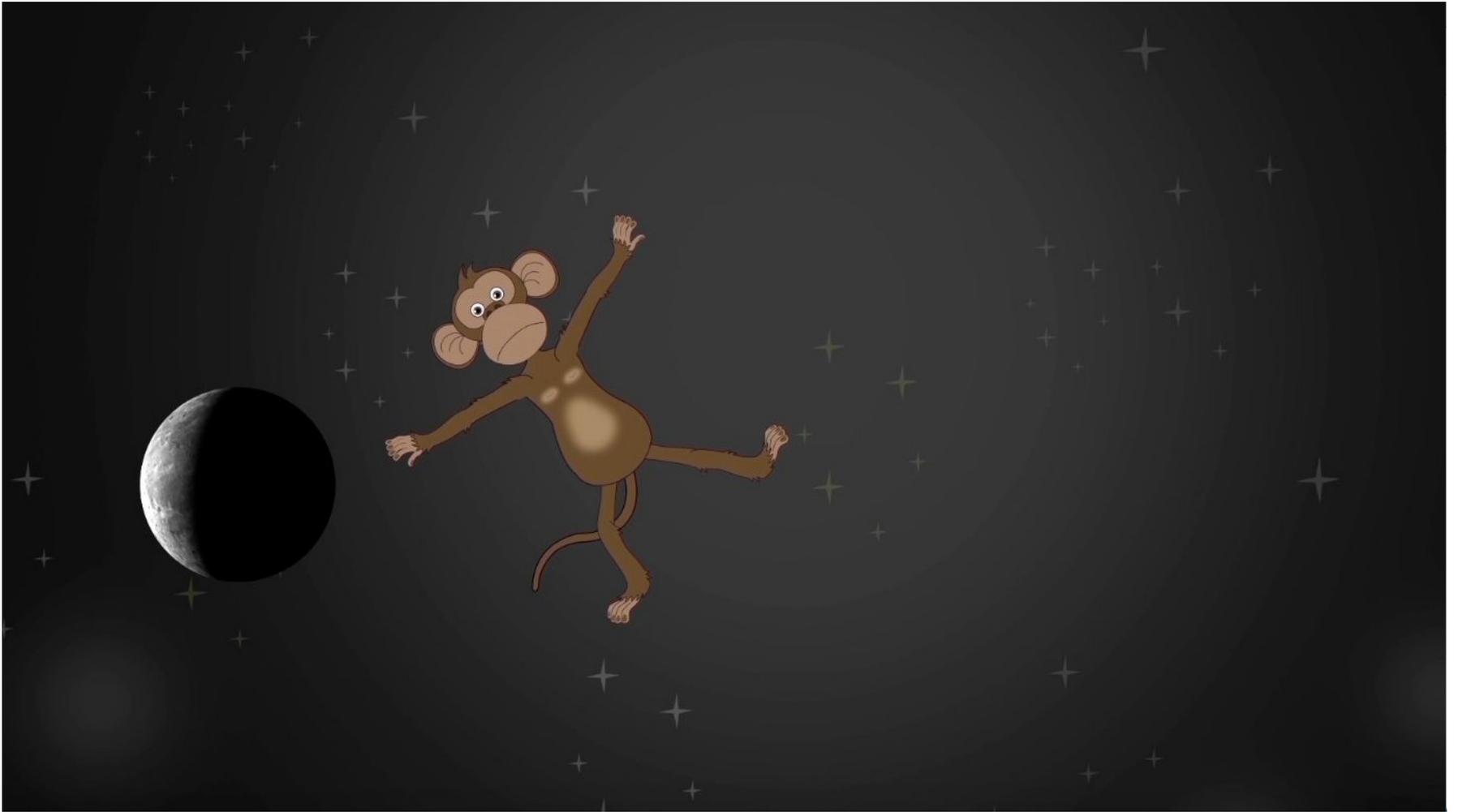
The girls knew if more aliens jumped on the bouncy castle, Ngedere might just make it out of the crater!



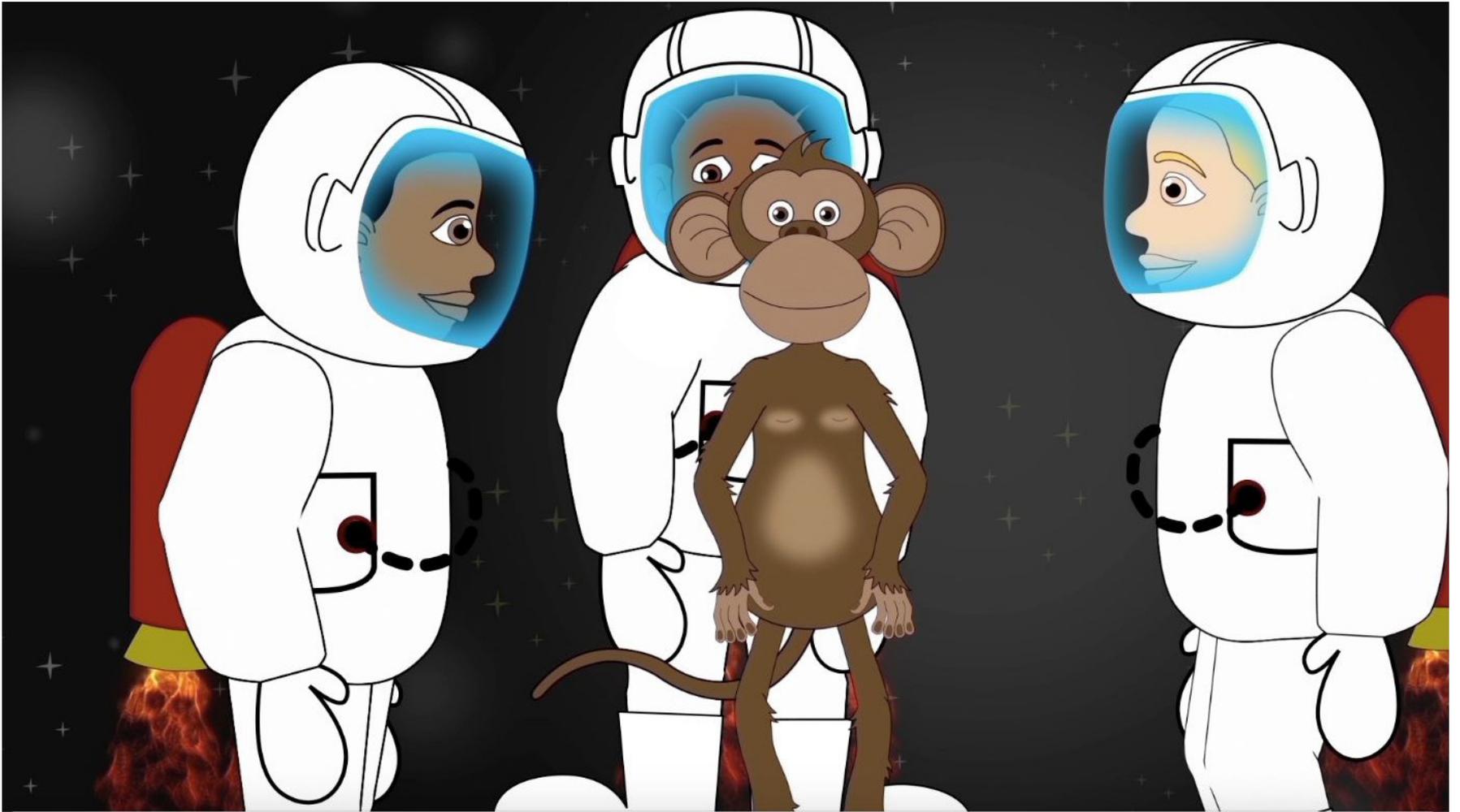
Finally, there were enough aliens. Ngedere jumped higher and higher. He jumped so high that he passed the out-stretched arms of Amani, Kibena and Kiduchu and zoomed past them, straight into space!



But the girls wouldn't let him get away again! They activated their rocket blasters and followed Ngedere into space.



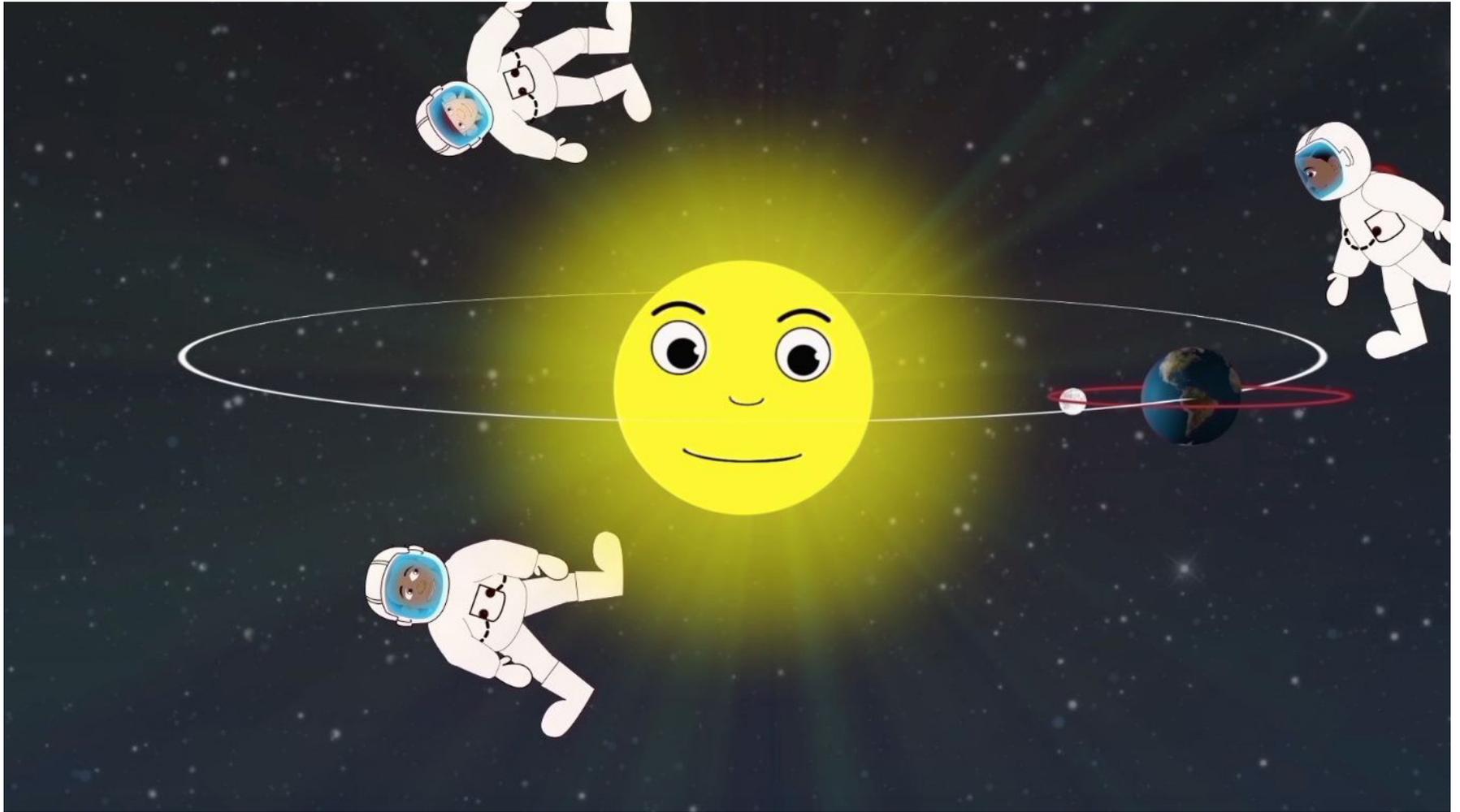
Ngedere found himself alone again, floating in space. He looked as if he were about to cry!



But at that very moment his friends appeared! They all agreed that they should head back to Kokotoa. They looked down at the Earth below them... But they couldn't see Africa anymore!



As they watched, they saw the Earth itself was turning, rotating on its axis, and Africa came into view. Soon it would be morning in Africa, and Kiduchu worried that getting stuck in space had meant she had not completed her twelfth orbit around the Sun.



Luckily, her friends helped her to realise that they had spent Kiduchu's birthday on the Moon, which orbits the Earth, and the Earth orbits the Sun. So Kiduchu had completed her twelfth orbit of the Sun after all!



They arrived back at the forest clearing and finally sat down to eat the pilau. “I never should have taken a lift with those aliens,” Ngedere said as he scoffed down pilau. “You should never take lifts with people – or aliens! – you don’t know,” the kids agreed.



“Next time you have to carry a heavy pan of pilau, just ask your super strong friends to help!” said Baraka, showing off his muscles.



All the friends enjoyed the pilau with Ngedere, and promised to always help each other to stay safe.



# The End

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