Story: Astronaut Dreams

"I can lift you into the air without even touching you," Farah said.

Aida's big sister was always saying she could do things that seemed impossible.

"You don't believe me? That I can lift you up without touching you?"

"Prove it," Aida said.

"I will," Farah answered.

Farah sat Aida on one end of the seesaw.

"Hang on!" she said.

And then Farah climbed on the other end.

Aida flew up into the air.

She felt like a shooting star!

Up and down, up and down, up and down, Aida went on the seesaw.

Aida always wanted to go into space. She pretended she was an astronaut.

5, 4, 3, 2, 1. Blast off!

She blasted through the five layers of Earth's atmosphere.

She blasted by the moon.

She blasted by Mars.

She blasted out of our solar system and through the Milky Way.

Finally Farah stopped and Aida returned to solid ground.

“I wish I could be an astronaut,” Aida said sadly.

“You can be!”

“But I’m a girl.”

“Girls can be astronauts,” Farah told her.

“Prove it,” Aida said.

“Julie Payette is an astronaut. She spent 25 days in space. She went to the Space Station. Not once, but twice. And she lives in Canada, too.”

“Oh,” said Aida, and then she smiled.

Farah’s name meant joy in Arabic. It was a good name for Farah.

Aida’s name meant the one who returns.

Aida is the perfect name for me, Aida thought.

Someday she would be an astronaut. She would go into space and come back again.

Just like Julie Payette.

Glossary *(Definitions of Story Words)*

Astronaut: : A woman or man whose job is to work in space.

Atmosphere: The layers of gases that surround a planet.

Mars: The fourth planet from the sun, and next to our planet, Earth.

Milky Way: A big group of stars and their planets. Our sun and planet are part of the Milky Way.

Seesaw: Playground equipment made out of a long board. When one end of the board goes up, the other end goes down. A seesaw is also called a teeter totter.

Space Station: A place where astronauts live and work. The Space Station orbits the Earth. Orbit means to go around or circle something.

Elements of a Story

Elements of a Story: The pieces of a story that come together to make it complete. Story elements include character, setting and plot.

Character: The people or animals in the story.

Conflict: The problem in the story that needs to be addressed or fixed.

Plot: What happens in the story.

Setting: Where and when the story takes place.

Theme: A story's main idea.