Zia and the Clockwork Comet



A survey pod is trapped in a comet’s glittering loop. The fastest route keeps missing it. One unusual little habit could help the rescue team catch the right moment.

A complete fictional 12-panel mini comic, with AI-generated artwork and separately typeset dialogue. The public sample is not based on a real child photo.

Read left to right, then down. Share the voices. Pause after panel 6 to make your own theory. Personalise the text privately at partytrailgames.com/stories/create. The adventure artwork remains fictional.

PANEL 1 · ZIA



“That comet looks like a clock that forgot its hands.”

A supervised visit aboard the rescue ship, with Tick the robot.

PANEL 2 · TICK



“Little pod. Big loop. Very inconvenient timing.”

A survey pod flashes an amber signal from the circling trail.

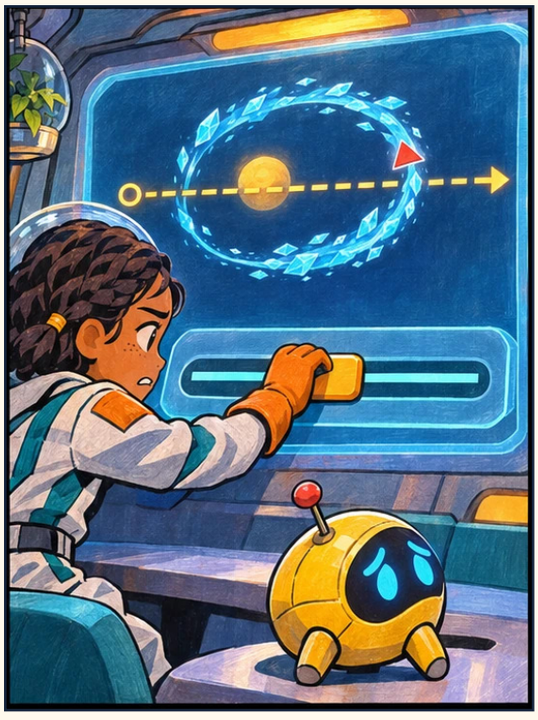
PANEL 3 · ZIA



“It comes round again. Look at the three arcs!”

A diagram shows the repeating path.

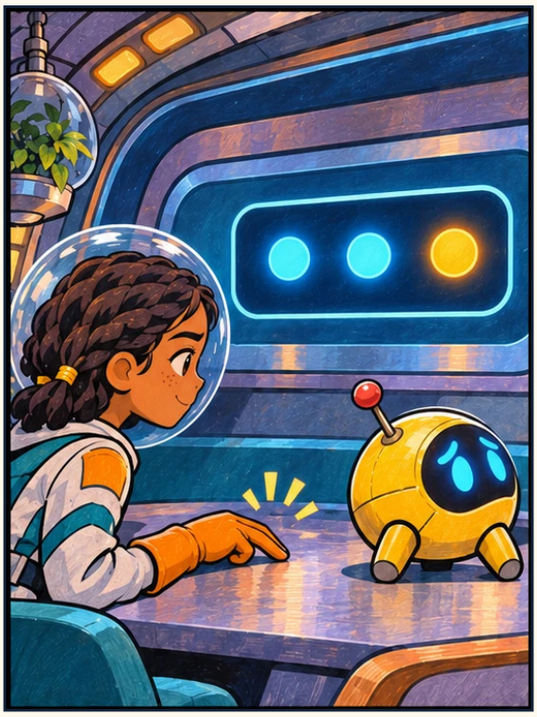
PANEL 4 · TICK



“Fastest route… missed. Again.”

The practice board’s straight-line route cannot meet the moving pod.

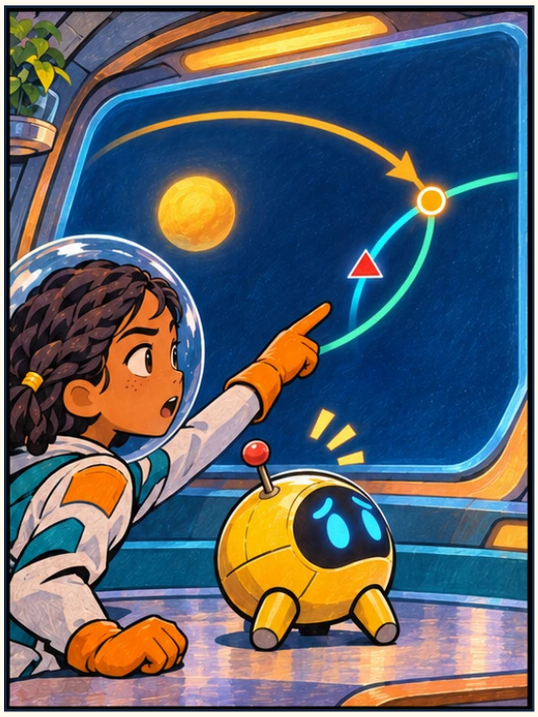
PANEL 5 · ZIA



“Let’s listen for a pattern instead of racing.”

A familiar habit becomes a way to watch the pattern.

PANEL 6 · TICK



“Blue. Blue. Amber. Then the loop repeats!”

They mark a meeting point before choosing a route.

PANEL 7 · ZIA



“Can the rescue pilot meet it where it will be?”

The trained pilot checks the model against the real instruments.

PANEL 8 · TICK



“Smaller engine burst. Better timing. I like this plan.”

The real rescue craft takes a checked, curved approach.

PANEL 9 · ZIA



“Wait for the amber… now!”

The pilot, not the child, operates the capture equipment.

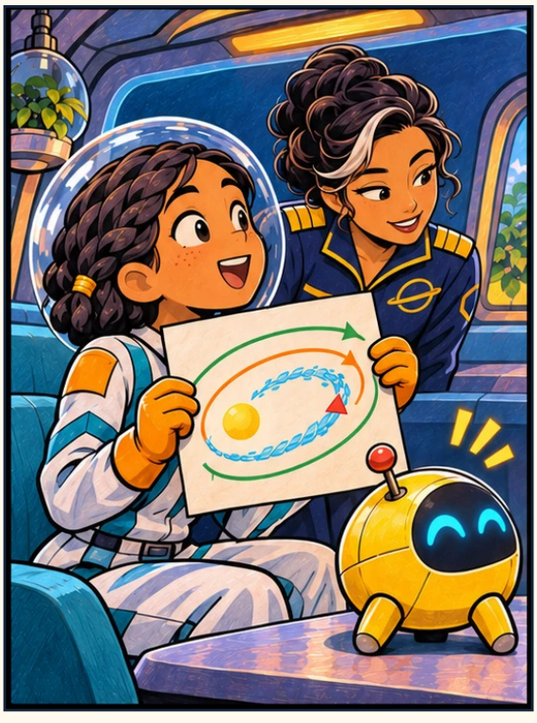
PANEL 10 · TICK



“One pod safely caught. Zero heroic crashes.”

The cradle closes gently around the survey pod.

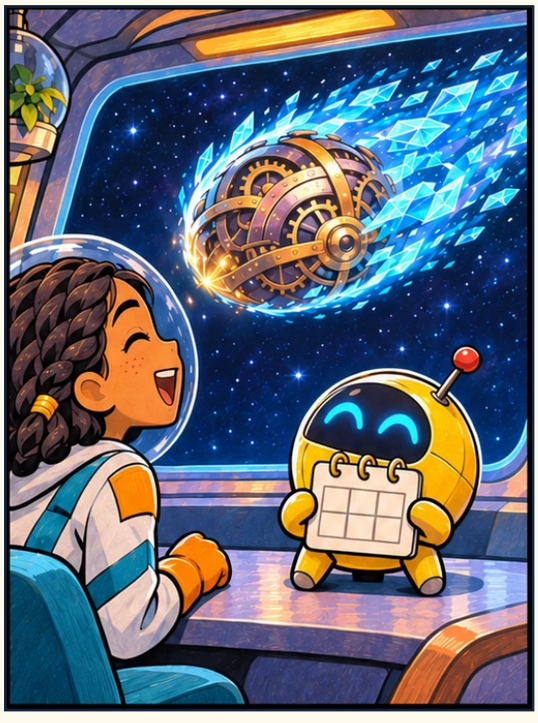
PANEL 11 · ZIA



“I’m drawing this one for someone at home.”

Back inside, the team records the useful pattern.

PANEL 12 · TICK



“Next time, I’m bringing a calendar. A small one.”

The comet turns on, glittering like a very pleased clock.

What did you notice?

1. Why did the straight route fail even though it was fast?

2. Which repeated details helped predict a meeting point?

3. Who checked and operated the real rescue controls?

The clue guide

The pod moves round a repeating loop; a successful approach meets its future position. The coloured pulses are fictional signals in a simplified story model, not a real orbital-navigation method.

Take another look: which picture showed a useful clue before someone explained it? Finding the first answer is not always the same as solving the problem.

Make your own four-panel comic

Draw four panels about a rescue solved by noticing a pattern. Show an unsuccessful first try, a clue, a checked plan and a satisfying result.

The first attempt

The clue

The checked plan

What changes