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It was a beautiful day on **Planet** Uggle. School was over for the week. Utterly Uggle had a hundred things lined up to do over the weekend, but he was not happy. His mother was insisting that he come with her instead. She wanted him to go on a trip to visit his Uggle grandparents.

"There's an **intergalactic Tuggleball** tournament this weekend, and my team is in first place. I can't miss Tuggleball!" Utterly shouted.

"Utterly, it's your grandfather's birthday," his mother reminded him. "You can play Tuggleball another time."

"But why do I have to go? Can't I stay home with Dad?" Utterly pleaded.

"Your father's on meteor duty this weekend," his mother said. "He'll be too busy watching meteors to keep an eye on you, too. Go and put on your Uggle-suit and Uggle-boots while I pack a few snacks for the trip. And if you want to help," she added, holding out a box of **Choople-flavored Gloopers**, "you could wrap your grandfather's birthday present."

Utterly groaned. "You *always* forget that I can't stand Choople-flavored Gloopers! Why couldn't you get another flavor?"





"All the more for the rest of us," said his mother cheerfully, as if she hadn't forgotten at all.

"And I'm not wearing my Uggle-suit," Utterly said. "It's so old!"

"Utterly Uggle, you will wear your Uggle-suit, and your Uggle-boots," his mother said. "You know how cold it can get in outer space."

Utterly's mother made this trip several times a year, and whenever Utterly went with her, they always had the same conversation. Utterly groaned, but he knew his mother was right.

He pulled his Uggle-suit and Uggle-boots out from the back of his closet, where he'd tossed them after their last trip. His Uggle-suit might be worn-out and old – ancient, really – but it did keep him warm. And at least his cousin Uppity, who always laughed at his old clothes, would be away at boarding school this time.

Utterly's father was nervous as usual. He hated long space journeys – even when he didn't go! He always worried about all the things that could go wrong.

"Don't worry, our spaceship is perfectly reliable, even if it is old," said Utterly's mother, who loved going on long space journeys. "And we can't afford to upgrade to a newer model, anyway. Ready, Utterly?"