

Bear in Space

Themes

Belonging

Friendship

Emotions

Exploring the Story

Bear is different. Ask the children if there has ever been a moment or situation when they have felt different to everyone else that they are with. Ask them to share this experience if they feel comfortable doing so. What made them feel that way? How did they react? Is being different a good or a bad thing? Discuss how everyone can feel like they are the different one, depending on what the situation is and who they are with.

Ask the children why they think the other bears laugh, stare, or call bear names? Is it because they don't understand him and what he is doing or how he thinks? How do you think this made bear feel? What could the other bears have done instead? Discuss

ways to approach and welcome differences and how the children might overcome their own uncertainties if they don't know how to react (i.e. asking questions about what bear is doing, getting to know what he likes and how he thinks about the world, offering to join his game, inviting him to join in with them, making space for him in the group or just making sure he knows that he is welcome when he is ready to join in.)

Bear begins to feel lonely up in space all by himself. Do you think that he is happy when he makes a friend with Panda? How do you feel when you make a friend? Panda joins Bear in his adventures, doing the things he likes to do best and they soon become friends. Bear and Panda share stories, make plans, drink hot chocolate and race together. What do you like to do with your friends?

In the end, Bear continues to be different from all the other bears, but they become curious about him and want to join in his games. Discuss with the class how Bear continues to be himself and shares his interests with others.



Activity

Design a Rocket

Bear spends a lot of time designing and improving his rocket. Design your own rocket and make a list of what the three most important things you would pack in your rocket.

When Bear makes new friends, they join in to create a faster, stronger and bigger rocket so they can all travel together. They join their rockets together so they can travel as a team. As a class (or in smaller groups) look at each rocket design and as a group decide how to create the best rocket by joining your design elements together.

I Feel The Same/I Feel Different

Play a game with the children, offering them different scenarios where they can identify if they feel like they would fit in with everyone else or if they would feel different. You can make it a physical indication by getting them to stand up with their hands in the air if they would feel like they are different and getting them to squat down low if they would feel the same OR you can make a craft activity by cutting out the attached same/different templates and fixing them to paddlepop sticks. Some examples of questions could include:

Do I feel the same as everyone else or different to everyone else:

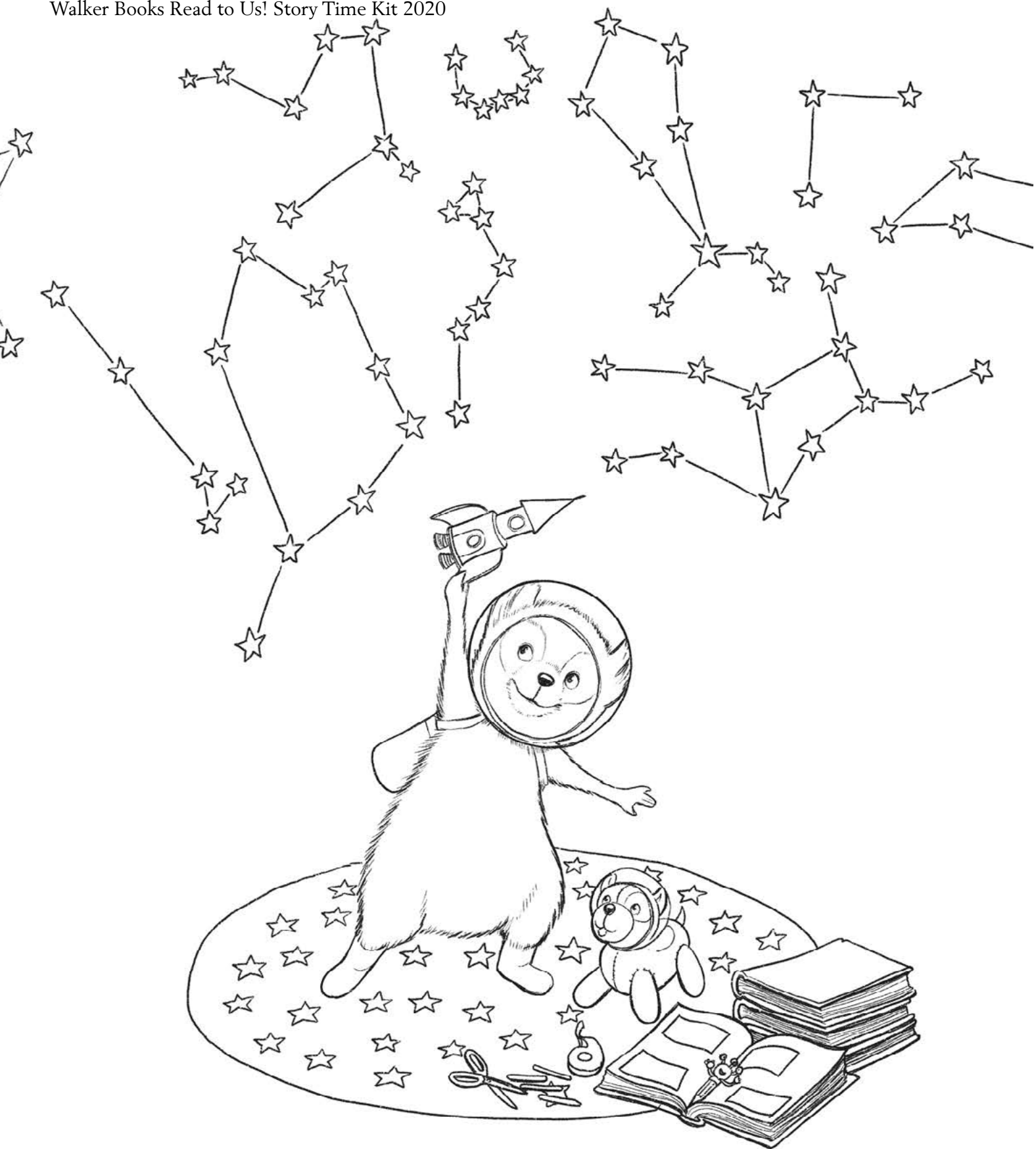
- When I'm a student starting at a new school
- When I'm spending time with my family
- When I play games with my friends
- When I'm in a room full of grownups
- When I sit in my classroom

Space Map

Bear loves reading and learning about space. Explore your library catalogue and find some books and eResources about space. Decide what part of space you would like to visit the most and draw a map of how you will get there in your rocket. Take inspiration from the illustrations from *Bear in Space* and try to make your map as detailed and interesting as possible.

Colouring Sheet



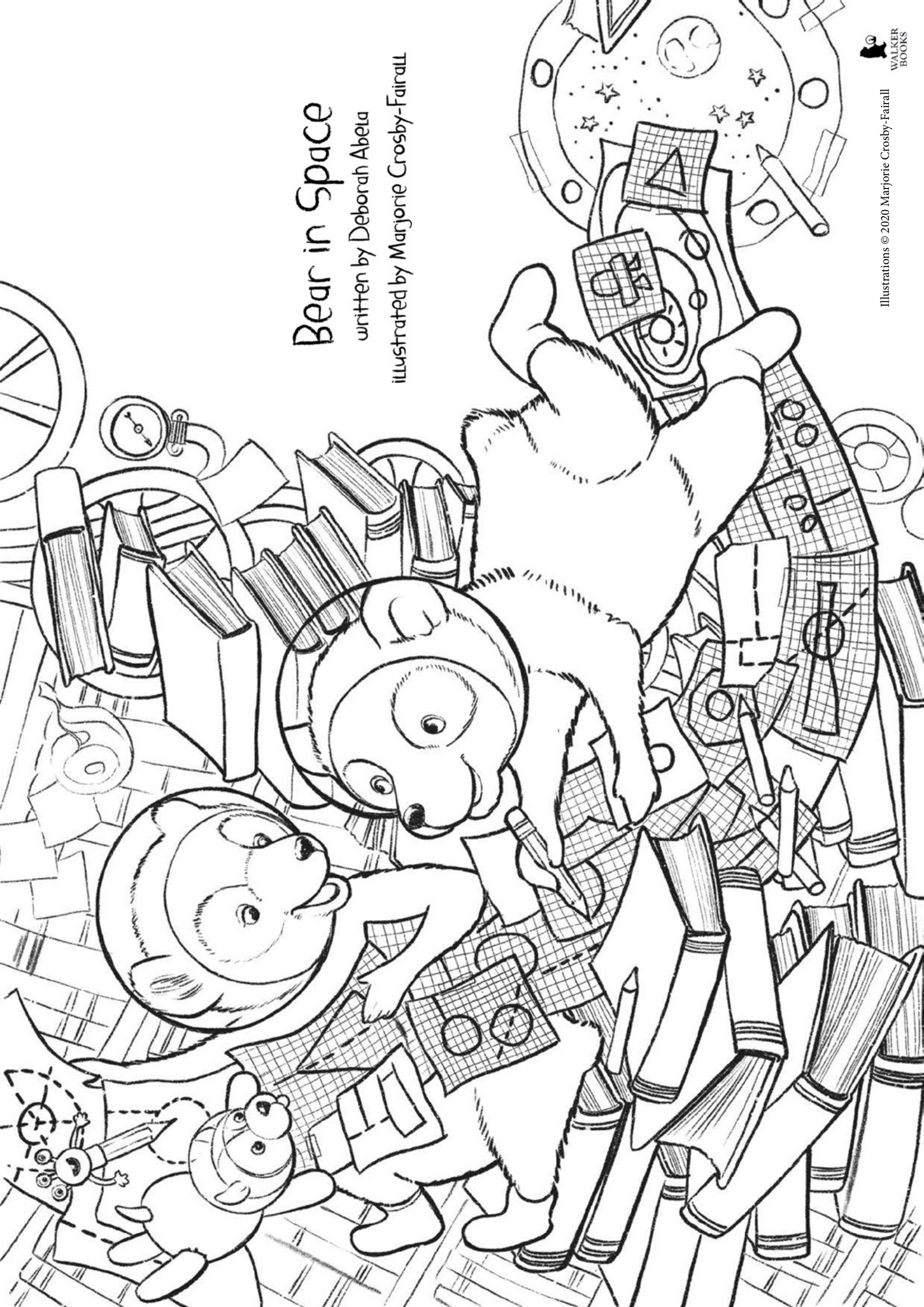


Bear in Space written by Deborah Abela illustrated by Marjorie Crosby-Fairall

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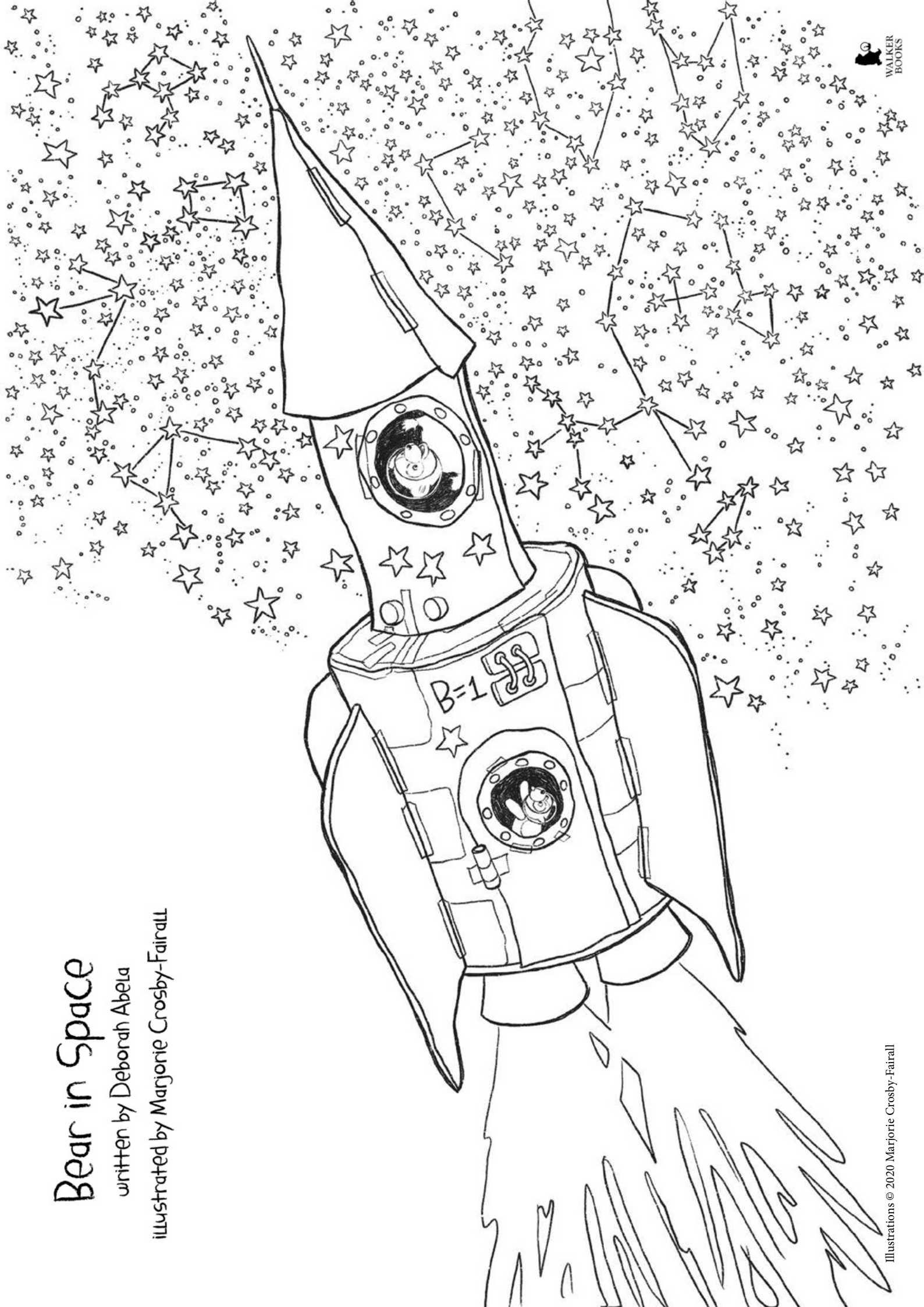
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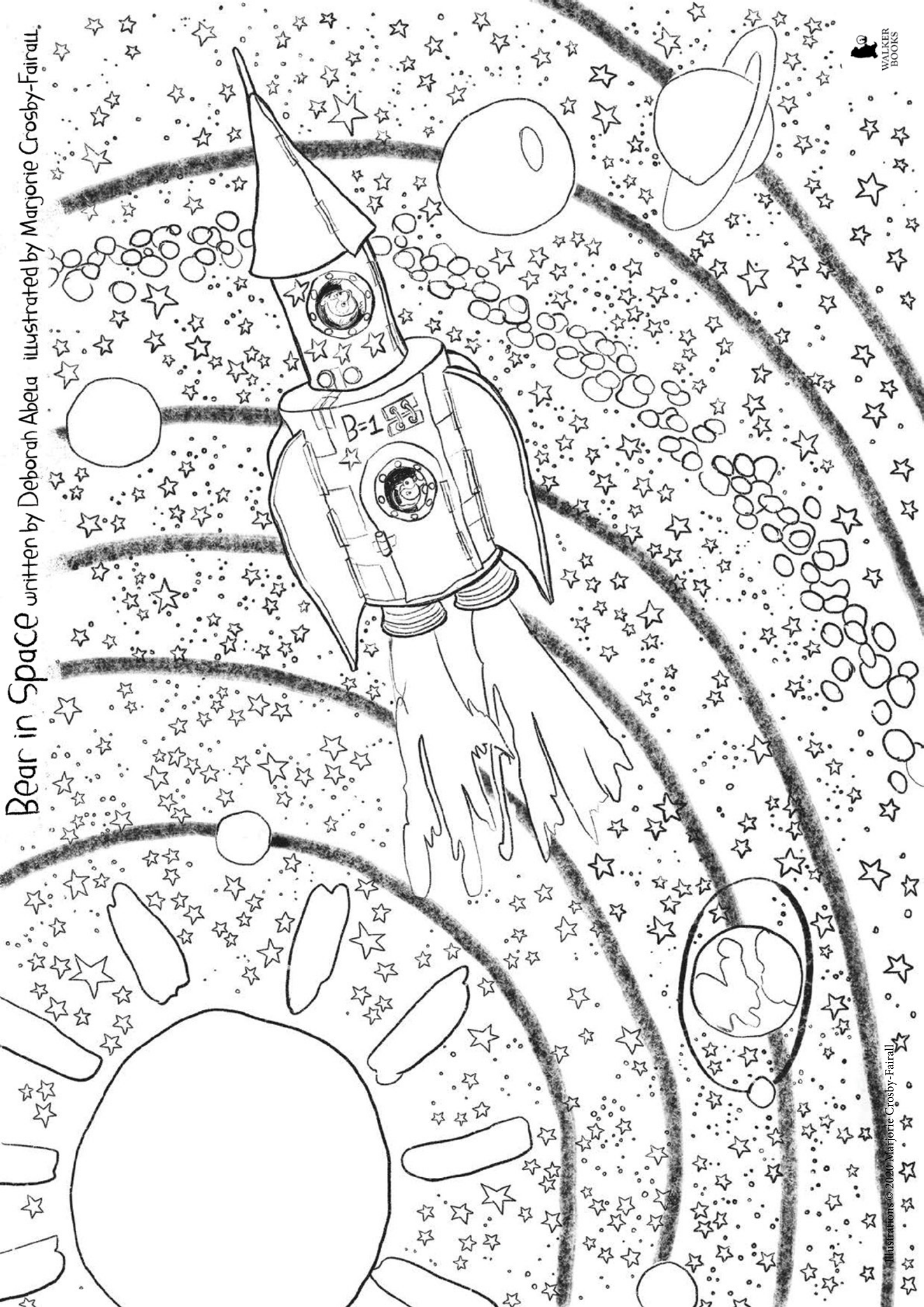
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D I F F E R E N T

S A M E