

# February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2021: A Cold Planet Leads to a Cold War

## Entry 1, by Leo

Wheels roaring and screeching, Percy looks around this vast area. Where were the other robots? So many had been sent to Mars over the years – some successfully others not.

He so wanted to see them. They were his friends back on Earth, and he knew they liked him but where were they? But wait, what was that over there? It was someone small, something that looked like Tim.

“Tim?” he called out; and the robot turned its rusty head towards him.

“Percy! It's you. We've been waiting for you,” as he ushered his hand forward out came a large group of robots; it must have been four or five.

“Come in, come in,” said Tim as he let Percy through.

Percy gasped with admiration. It was a giant empty crater; or at least it had been. But now there was fairy lights and food; and even a tennis court! He loved tennis. It was the only thing that would instantly cheer him up when he was in a bad mood. He turned his head. There were all the robots, including Tim, on a magnificent dance floor.

“Welcome to your forever-home,” they sang in a low hum-tune.

Now Percy looked at the robots there, he knew them all. There was Alex (a tall and sporty young lad); Serena (a friendly and kind woman who adored Krispy Kreme doughnuts; Ted (he loved nature and wildlife); and Olivia (who loved wine but also was obsessed with cucumber smoothies). But there was one he did not know...

“That's Amelia” Said Ted. “She's from the Russian group but we fixed her up and she likes us Americans now.”

“How do you do?” she asked as she shook his hand.

“Good thanks” he said back. She had a very posh accent, but he liked her.

“Now let's party!” Shouted Ted and they all started the robot dance.

“Perseverance what do you see?” said a quiet lady's voice through Percy's speaker; trying to cover a note of tension.



“Oh! NASA JPL are connecting me,” Percy said.

Quickly, he put his head to the ground to show the floor and the dunes.

“Well done Perseverance,” said the woman’s voice, calmer now. Then Nasa disconnected.

“Let’s get this party started!” said Ted and they all went to the different stations. Olivia and Serena went to the food area to get Krispy Kreme doughnuts and cucumber smoothies. Amelia and Ted went to the dance floor and Percy and Alex went to the tennis court and started playing low-g tennis.

Behind the rocks, a large shadow was approaching the friends, but they were having too much fun to notice.

“Well, Well, Well,” said the shadow or the shadows. Serena dropped her doughnut in surprise. “Go away you bullies” she said bravely to them. They just laughed at her.

“Got a new member have you?” one said, rolling towards Percy. Percy knew he had seen them somewhere, then he remembered.

They’re the Russians, he said - not aloud but in his head. Suddenly one of them approached him. “You’re the new one isn’t you? The one that nobody is interested in,” she added menacingly.

Amelia stepped forward. “Leave them alone Katrina, they may be American but they’re my friends,” she said fiercely.

“Whoa, whoa!” said the so-called Katrina “We just wanted some food,” she said knocking the cucumber smoothie out of Olivia’s’ hand as she rotated and rumbled off.

“Goodbye to you too,” muttered Serena bitterly.

“Don’t mind them,” said Ted. “They’re always like that”. Alex and Amelia agreed. Everybody looked at Olivia expecting her to say something.

“What?” she said and went back to get another cucumber smoothie from the table.

The robots had learnt more from the humans than they had noticed. That’s the thing about intelligence – artificial or not, you can’t contain what someone (or something) will learn.



# Landed!

## Entry 2, by Sophie

I sent my first tweet, saying I am safe inside.

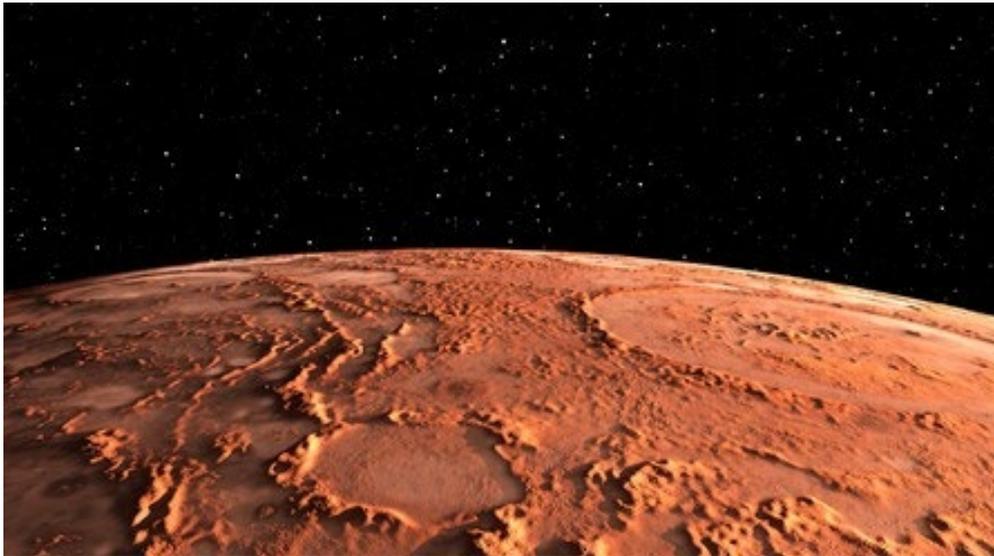
However, I felt completely - terrified.

The more I looked around, the more scared I was.

The place was red, red because of iron oxide...

Like a blanket of dust.

Coldness, wind, nothingness – where do I begin?



# Perseverance Thinks

## Entry 3, by Ruby

I can hear them buzzing through my speakers with excitement.  
Back at my first home, The Space Centre.  
I have been speeding, spiralling and spinning along for days.  
I am still spinning. It was dark for such a long time  
but now there is a huge orangey-red vision, up ahead.  
This is the first mission they have sent me on.

I am spinning.  
I can still hear their voices.  
It was scorching hot.  
Thank goodness I am a robot.  
The ground is coming nearer.  
Too fast.

I am hurtling through space.  
I am going to hit the surface of Mars and explode...  
Wait.

I've jolted backwards.  
Suddenly slowing down.  
The Supersonic Parachute has opened.  
I am falling.  
A controlled type of falling.  
I can hear a loud whirring sound.  
I am still attached...  
Touchdown.  
Silence.  
It's all quiet.  
I am on Jezero's floor.  
I can't hear mission control.  
The only sound is a lonely wind.  
I am alone.



I can see images outside my window.  
I can move.  
All by myself.  
This must be my second home.

# Mars – Red Like Fire

## Entry 4, by Leo

Hundreds of things going through my head,  
If I do not get samples, I will be dead.

Tires rolling through the dust and mud,  
But what is that? Is it a spud?

Looking, looking for signs of life,  
In my tools set, I have a knife.

Crackling on the radio,  
I look at myself, I start to glow.

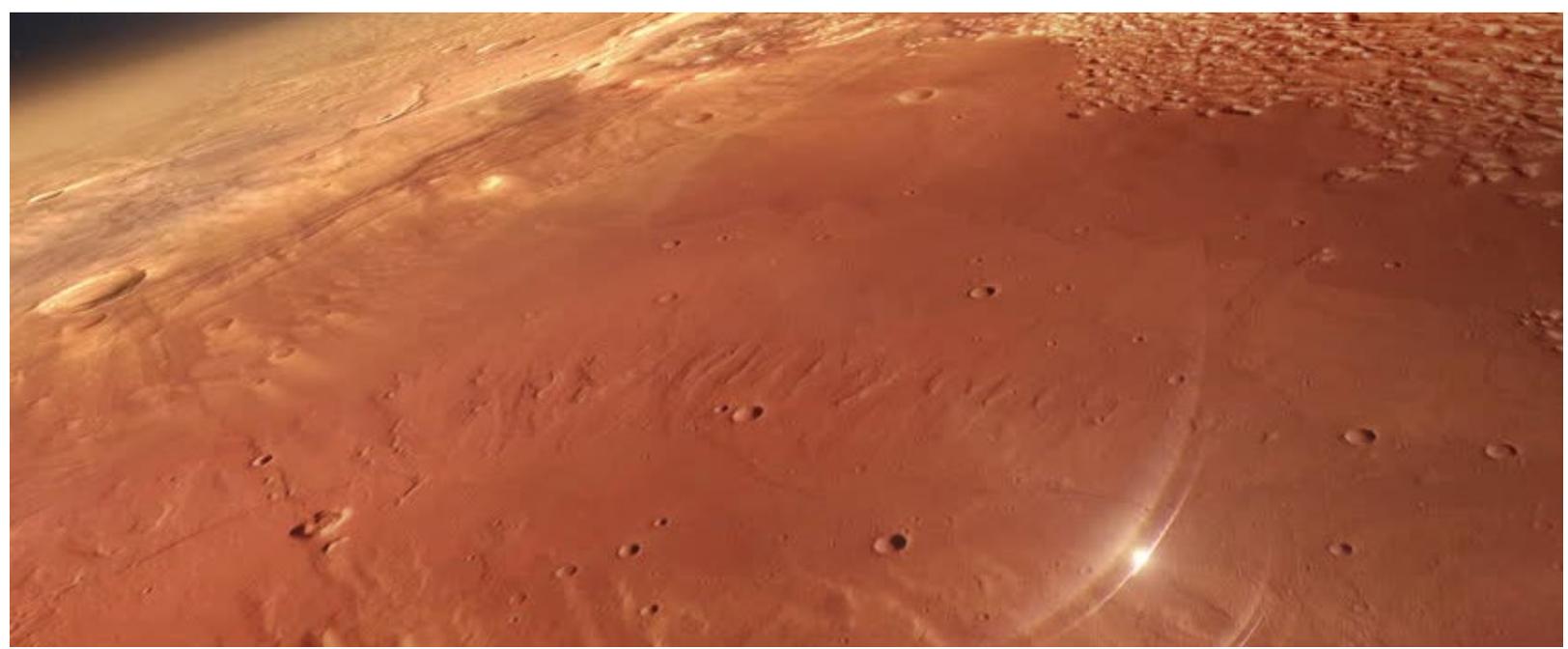
Fire spouting out from everywhere,  
I run looking for grass, but everything is bare.

Water sprinkles out my body,  
But the fire keeps burning and it embodies me!

### Haiku Poem

By Leo

Fire burns around my body  
Man's voice is screaming.  
What is that in the dunes?  
Rustling through the leaves  
I spy a patch of nice soil.  
Pick up the nice soil.  
Call Nasa to look at it.  
Blaring speakers call  
Will they come or will they not?



## Tweet from Perfect Perseverance - 18.02.21 - 3.35 pm



### Entry 5, by George

I'm travelling through the gusts of fierce wind.  
I the "perfect perseverance" fight as hard as I can  
as if the world is going to end...

These treacherous conditions are making it so hard for me.

I fight on.

I jolt.

I stop.

I am swirling and whirling.

I stop.

Red lights flash.

I stop.

What is happening? One time something is happening then in a flash it stops.

I think I can't make it but I never give up.

I keep fighting and defending myself from the dangerous world out there.

Beep, beep!

I've reached Mars!

Yes, I've made it!

Isn't this is amazing?



# The Journey to Mars

## Entry 6, by Molly T

Flying through space I have been doing for seven months.  
It feels like yesterday that I was launched out into this infinite darkness room.  
Black is the colour I have seen for ages.  
I feel lost.  
I don't have a clue where I am.



I think we have gone off course and are now flying through space at terrific speeds.  
But suddenly I see a tiny red dot appear.  
I looked out further.



It definitely wasn't a star.  
It was a planet!  
The planet I was supposed to land on!  
I could barely contain my excitement!  
But then I realised that I was burning up and I had to slow down,  
or I would hit Mars and be smashed to bits.  
Luckily, the control panel had an eye on what was going on.

# The Lady

## Entry 7, by Molly B

A lady was updating how the landing was going.

She held her breath.

She updated.

The rocket's parachute opened.

The rocket got slower.

The lady updated.

The rocket dropped the rover.

The lady updated.

Then the rover landed.

All was silent.

She gave the update with pride.

Everyone cheered.

The rover had landed on Mars!

