MED EL

The Journey to Le Dem

Introducing...

The M-Team

Art by Burkard Schulz

Story by Justyna Konczalska

Medelina sat in her room doing her homework.
"I would much rather be far away in a distant land.
I could meet new friends and go on exciting adventures.
Instead, I am sitting here trying to solve these
math problems. Oh, math can be so difficult,"
she thought to herself.

Suddenly, she heard a loud noise in the room next door.
This is what Medelina had been waiting for... finally a distraction!

She happily jumped off the chair and ran into the room next door.
She opened the door, but could not see anything because of
all the smoke. The room smelled like something was burning. When the
smoke cleared, Medelina discovered Professor Opusonix and Smarty Marty at
the workbench. Their faces were black like charcoal. Professor Opusonix
wiped the lenses of his glasses.

"What are you doing in here?" Medelina asked enthusiastically.
"We are working on a motor for our hot air balloon,"
Smarty Marty replied proudly.
"It's a burner, not a motor," Professor Opusonix corrected him.
"That sounds interesting!" said Medelina happily.
"It is," said Smarty Marty. Lea Cochlea arrived and entered the room slowly.
She looked around into room in astonishment. "What is going on here?"
she asked softly. "Professor Opusonix and I are going on a journey.
We are flying to **Le Dem**. A friend of Professor Opusonix' has built
a shrinking machine and we want to see it," said Marty Smarty.
"Great, Smarty... now you have revealed our secret! We wanted to fly alone!"
Professor Opusonix said, a little bit annoyed.
"Always secrets," Lea Cochlea shook her head.
"May I come with you?" Medelina asked impatiently.

"This trip is very dangerous and we do not know how long it will take until we arrive in **Le Dem**," Smarty Marty said.

"But I'm not afraid! I will also bring extra batteries," replied Medelina. "What do you need batteries for?" asked Smarty Marty.
"Well, so I can hear everything during the trip. My audio processors need batteries," explained Medelina, looking at Professor Opusonix with a hopeful glance. However, Professor Opusonix was no longer listening as he was working on the burner.

"We are coming with you. We cannot leave you alone on such a long and dangerous journey," said Lea Cochlea and turned to Medelina "I'll help you pack." Then she turned around and left the room.

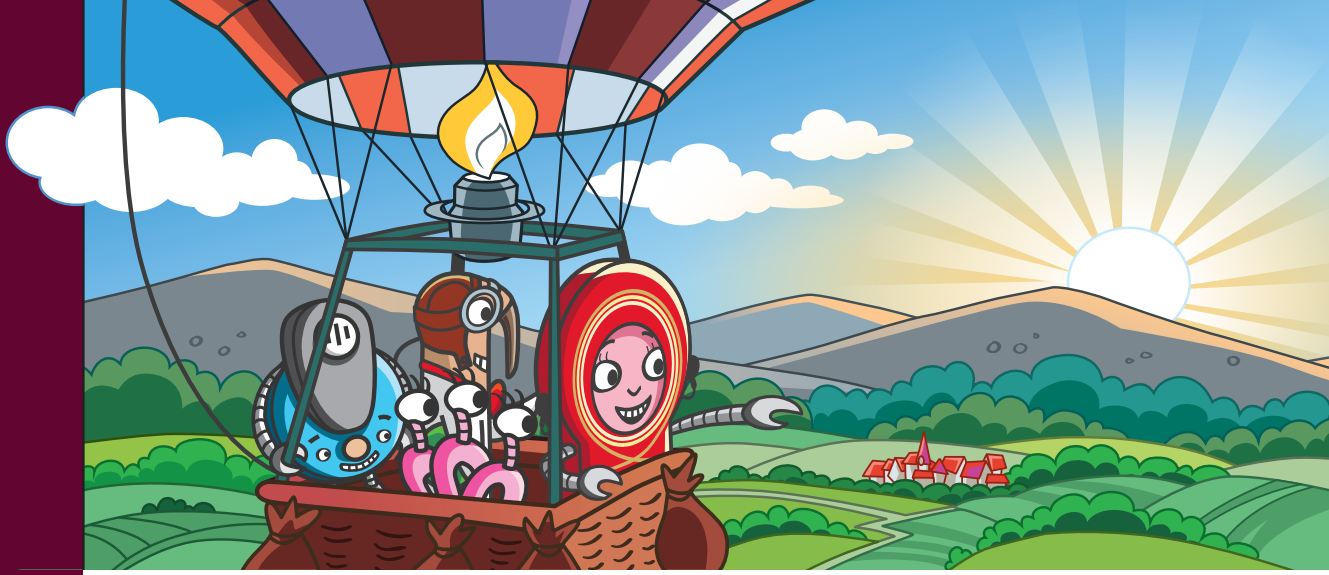
"Yay! **Le Dem**, here we come!" said Medelina in delight.

Medelina's packing list for 14 days:

- FineTuner Remote Control
- 3 packs of 6 batteries = 18 batteries
- Replacement coil cable
- Drying-Kit (including different power plugs for different countries)
- Rechargeable battery, replacement rechargeable battery and charger
- Battery pack and replacement battery pack
- Audio processor testing device
- Cleaning brush
- Activity earhook
- Patient identification

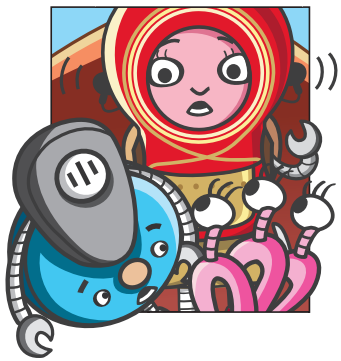
The night had already begun when the four friends who called themselves the M-Team climbed into the balloon. Professor Opusonix put on his pilot glasses and aviator cap.

"The journey can commence," he said calmly and started the burner. The balloon moved up into the air.



The next morning when the sun rose, it plunged the world into a sea of color waking the M-Team from their sleep. "Look how small everything looks from up here!" Smarty Marty marvelled. The four friends looked down at the colorful fields, the little houses, rivers, and lakes. "From up here the world looks really fascinating!" said Medelina, enjoying and admiring the stunning view.

Suddenly, the burner started to make some very strange noises. It hissed and then stopped. The flame inside the burner had gone out. Professor Opusonix shook his head and said, "That's it for the balloon journey, the burner is broken." The hot air balloon floated noiselessly through the air, and the four friends looked at each other worriedly.



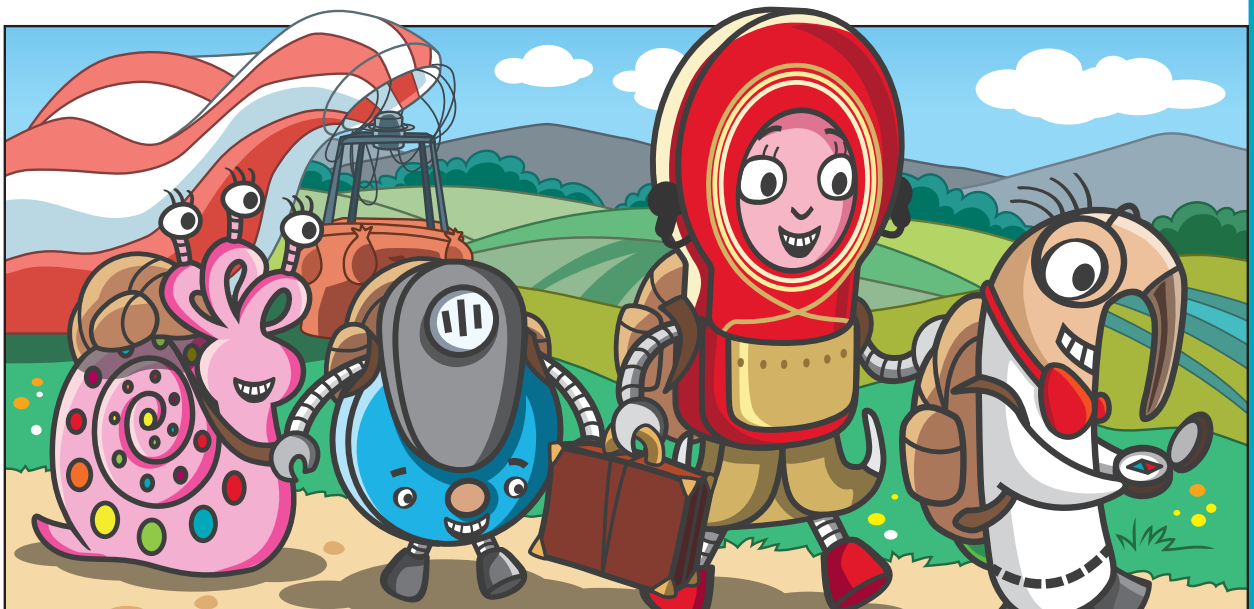
No one dared to say anything. They floated in the balloon in silence as they got closer and closer to the ground.

The balloon finally landed with a loud crash in a large meadow. The impact was so violent that the M-Team were thrown off their feet. Their luggage flew out of the balloon basket. Medelina's suitcase opened up, and the entire contents scattered in all directions.
"Oh no," cried Medelina as she tried to gather her things.
"My spare batteries, I cannot find them!" Medelina searched desperately, but the tiny batteries had disappeared between the blades of grass.

"Medelina, did you put the batteries loosely into the suitcase? Why didn't you put them all together in a small bag?" Lea Cochlea asked worriedly.
"Yes, Lea, I put them loose in the suitcase. I did not know that the suitcase would open up," said Medelina.
"Well, when you go on a journey, all sorts of things can happen. For example, luggage can get lost. One should always bear that in mind! But do not worry, I have packed a few batteries in your backpack, as a precaution," said Lea Cochlea.
"Thank you, Lea!" said Medelina, relieved, and hugged her friend.

“What are we going to do now?“ Smarty Marty asked anxiously.
“We‘ll just go on foot,“ Professor Opusonix replied.
“Do you even know where we are and how far it is to **Le Dem**?“
Smarty Marty asked the professor.
“No, but we can take the compass from the balloon and
just follow it westward,“ replied the professor. It was decided.
The four friends picked up their luggage and the compass
and started walking.

Hours passed but they did not get very far. Lea Cochlea had set the pace,
and since Lea is a snail, they walked at a snail‘s pace. The sun was setting,
so the M-Team decided to look for shelter for the night.

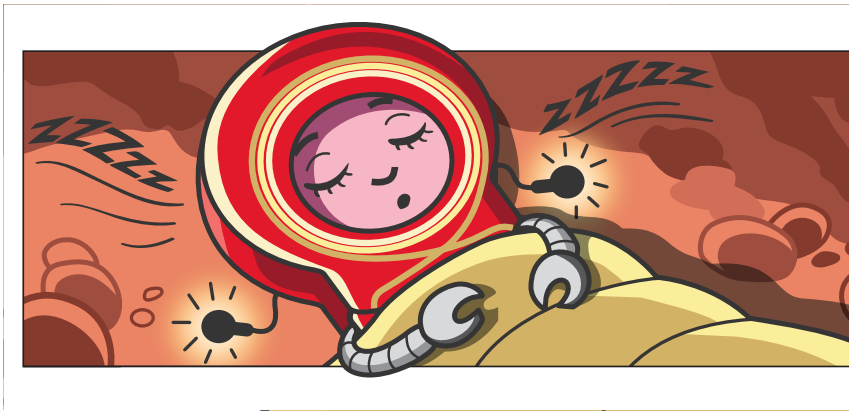


Smarty Marty discovered a hole in the ground.
"Look here, what kind of hole is that?" he asked.
"This is the entrance to a burrow," said Lea Cochlea and shouted, "Hello? Is anyone home?" She got no answer.
"Maybe this burrow is abandoned," said Professor Opusonix as Smarty Marty disappeared into the hole.
"Come on, there is nobody here," Smarty Marty's voice came from inside. The three followed Smarty Marty and once inside took a look around the burrow.
"It's really cozy in here," said Medelina and made herself comfortable in a corner. The others sat down next to her. Lea Cochlea unpacked a couple of sandwiches and a teapot from her backpack. She had once again thought of everything.

RRRRRZZZ
ZZZZ
ZZZZZZ

After dinner they rolled out their sleeping bags and all four went to sleep. "The quicker I go to sleep, the sooner it will be tomorrow and the sooner we get to **Le Dem**," mused Smarty Marty and dozed off.

"What are you doing in my house?"
The M-Team were suddenly woken up from their sleep. Well, all of them except Medelina. She went on sleeping soundly as she had taken her audio processors off for the night. Lea Cochlea quickly woke her with a gentle touch.



In front of the M-Team sat a young lady rabbit who was concerned about the unknown visitors. "Hello! We looked for shelter for the night and didn't realize that this was your home. Please excuse us," said Medelina. "Oh, that's all right. My name is Nuria. Welcome to my house," the lady rabbit replied. The four friends introduced themselves and told Nuria their story.

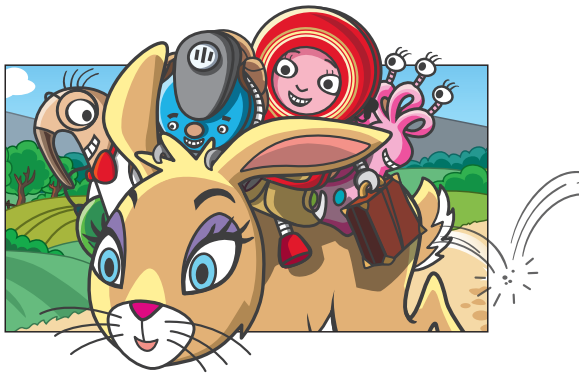
"Le Dem is not far from here. If you want,
I can take you there on my back," suggested Nuria.
The M-Team was very pleased about this offer.

The four friends packed their bags and made their way out.
The sun was shining and it was a wonderful day.
"I am a very fast runner, so it would certainly be a good idea
if you tied your bags to yourself, so you will not lose them,"
suggested Nuria and gave Smarty Marty some rope.

"Medelina, maybe you should use the Activity Earhooks
so your audio processors cannot fall off your ears," suggested
Professor Opusonix, but Medelina did not answer. She was
looking into the sky, fascinated. "Medelina!"
the professor said again with a louder voice, but Medelina
still did not respond. "Look there are lights flashing
on Medelina's audio processors," Smarty Marty said.
"Oh yes, the batteries are probably not working anymore,"
said Lea Cochlea and nudged Medelina. In fact, the batteries
were dead. Medelina quickly changed them and secured her
processors by using the Activity Earhooks.

The M-Team climbed onto Nuria's back
and held onto her fur.
"Let's go," Smarty Marty shouted
and Nuria began to run.

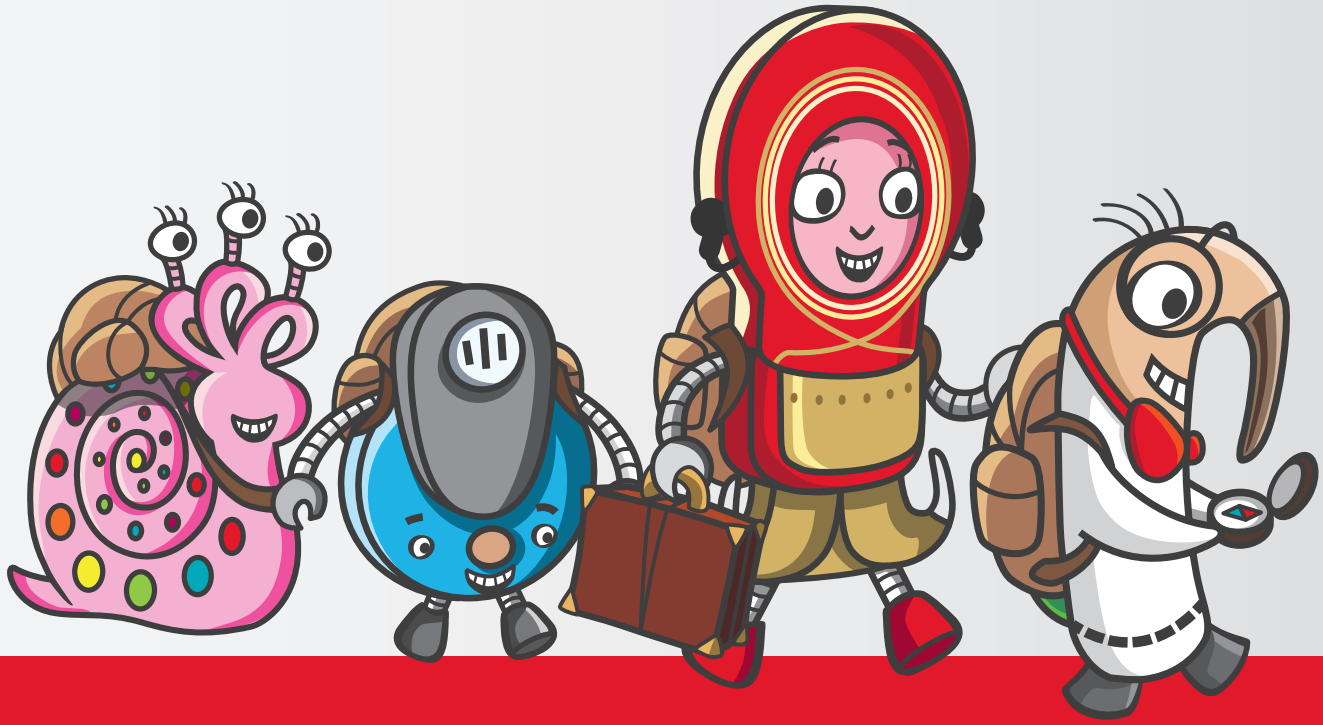
After a short journey, the four friends
saw the magical place in the distance.



The town of **Le Dem** was set on a hill,
surrounded by high mountains.
The houses were made of red brick,
protected by a surrounding wall.
Le Dem was a very modern city,
which attracted many scientists.

Nuria brought the M-Team up to the city wall.
"Thank you for your help Nuria," Medelina expressed
on behalf of the M-Team and said goodbye to the lady rabbit.
"You're welcome. I wish you all the best," replied Nuria
and set off on her journey back home.

The M-Team entered the city.



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