



# A Problem at the Lab

## Part 1

**Teacher Reads** It's the year 2320, far in the future. Jayda's mother does secret work in a space lab orbiting (circling) a faraway planet. Jayda's mother does not talk about her work with anyone, not even Jayda. Jayda wants to find out what goes on in the lab and make sure her mother is safe.

Starting when Jayda was little, she wanted to see  
9 the way all things worked. This has made her skilled at  
20 solving problems as she has grown.

26 Jayda hoped Mom would let her go to the lab where  
37 Mom worked. Jayda begged her each day. "Mom,  
45 please may I go to the lab with you?"

54 Mom explained "I wish you could go. But my work  
64 is **secret**, so you can't."

69 The secret part made it hard on Jayda. Was Mom  
79 safe working on secret stuff in the lab?

## Part 2

**Teacher Reads** Jayda had a plan to find out what Mom did in her lab. Read on to find out what Jayda discovers.

87 Jayda planned to sneak into the lab to check on  
97 Mom's work. Jayda had on her glass locket filled with  
107 stardust. Mom got the stardust on her first rocket  
116 trip to planet Spartan, and it was the best thing Jayda  
127 owned. Jayda had Mom's smart-mitts, which were  
135 marked with Mom's handprints. Jayda needed Mom's  
142 handprint to get into the lab. When Jayda pressed a  
152 smart-mitt on the code pad at the lab gate, the gate  
164 went up. Jayda was in! She was glad she hadn't set off  
176 the lab code with red lights.



### Part 2 continued

182 Jayda could not see in the dark lab, so she switched  
193 on her light ray. Then she gasped. There were little  
203 plastic boxes lined up on a shelf. And in each box,  
214 there was a **nanobot**. The nanobots were looking right  
223 at Jayda.

### Part 3

**Teacher Reads** When the nanobots start replicating, or producing exact copies of themselves, Jayda faces a serious problem.

225 Just then, something shifted at the far end of the  
235 lab. The soft thud made Jayda jump and then bump  
245 into a shelf. Crash! Some of the plastic boxes fell down  
256 and the tops came off. The nanobots hopped from the  
266 boxes and started darting this way and that.

274 The nanobots seemed harmless, at least when  
281 there were just ten of them. But as Jayda looked  
291 on, the nanobots began to replicate with shocking  
299 speed. Ten nanobots became 20. Then 20 became 40.  
308 Jayda could not keep track of them all! What was she  
319 going to do? She should not have been in the lab at all.  
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