

# Booper Dreams Big

An Almost True Story of Apprenticeship



Brought to you by the Idaho Department of Labor

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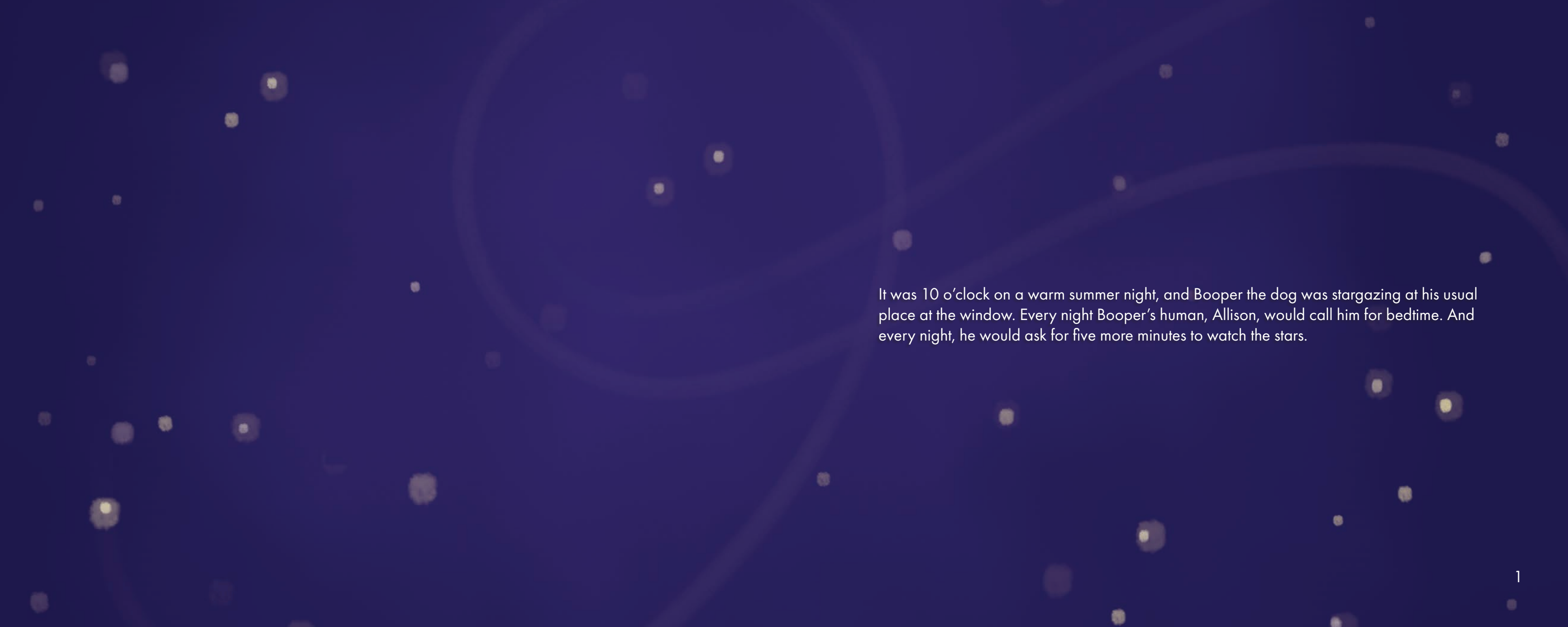




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This book was created by Apprenticeship Idaho,  
a division of the Idaho Department of Labor:  
**because apprenticeships are for everyone!**

Dedicated to the best friends, teachers, counselors,  
parents and believers who work so hard to make our  
dreams come true.

The background is a deep navy blue, speckled with numerous small, bright white dots of varying sizes, representing stars. A single, thin, white, curved line arcs across the upper portion of the image, resembling a celestial path or a comet's tail. The overall effect is that of a clear night sky.

It was 10 o'clock on a warm summer night, and Booper the dog was stargazing at his usual place at the window. Every night Booper's human, Allison, would call him for bedtime. And every night, he would ask for five more minutes to watch the stars.



"You said that 10 minutes ago!" Allison exclaimed.

"I know," Booper replied. "They're just so beautiful."

Looking at him curiously, Allison asked, "You really love the stars, don't you?" Booper wagged his tail in reply. His human thought for a moment.

"Come on. I want to show you something," she said.

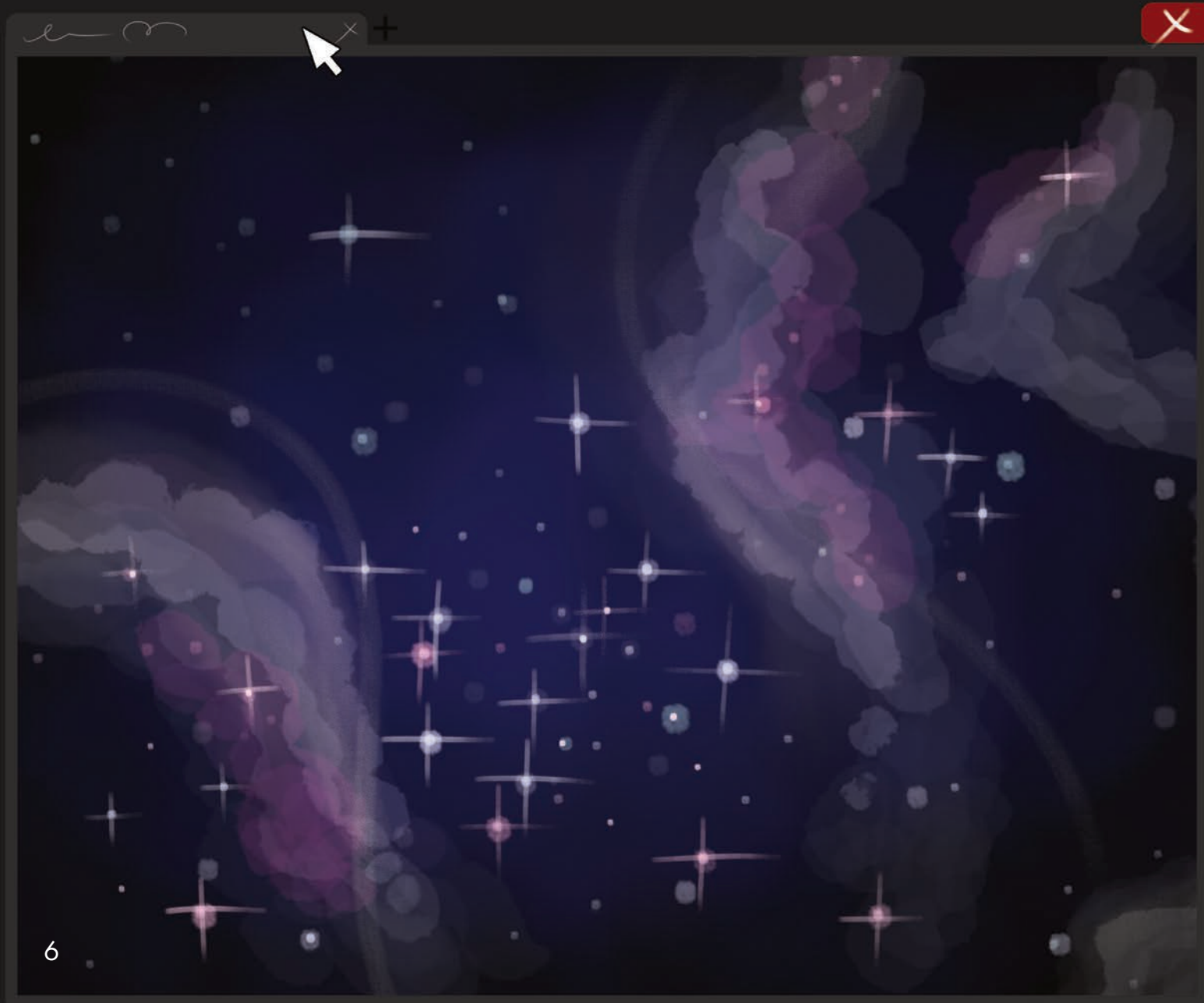




Allison opened NASA's website on her computer. She clicked through photos of stars more beautiful than Booper had ever imagined.

"Where did these pictures come from?" he gasped.

"Satellites with cameras float out in space and take the photos," Allison explained. "Dad says they're making a new satellite even better than this one."



A new satellite? Booper imagined how good it would feel to share his love of stars with the rest of the world. He turned to his human with pleading eyes. "Allison, can I help build the new satellite?"

"Of course!" she exclaimed. "But ... I think you will need some training before you can join the team."



The next day, the two set out to find someone who could help Booper achieve his dream.

"Dad, can you show us how to use the wrench so Booper can build a satellite?" Allison asked.

"What? Sweetheart, Booper can't build anything. He's a dog," her dad replied.

Booper began to protest. "But I think I could be really good at it!"

"No, Booper. You're too small, and you don't have any thumbs!" Allison's dad said. "It would be too hard for you to build a satellite. I'm sorry, buddy."



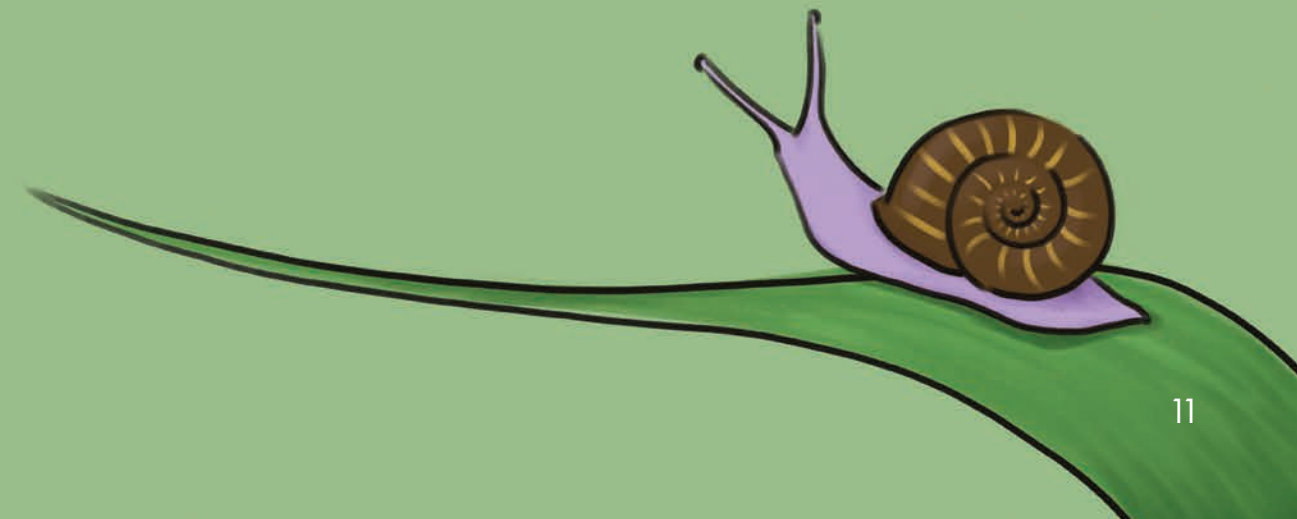


But Booper and Allison wouldn't take no for an answer. They were determined to find someone who could show Booper how to build a satellite. Off they went to find a teacher, but it was harder than they expected.

"I'm sorry, I don't know much about satellites," said the crossing guard.

"Space! No way, that's scary!" replied the class pet.

"Dogs don't build satellites!" said the grumpy garden snail. "Go home!"





After a long day, Booper's tail hung low and he dragged his feet along the sidewalk. Allison knew her friend was beginning to lose hope.

"It's not over yet," she declared. "Maybe we've just been asking the wrong people. Come on, I know where we should go next. To the bus!"

At the station, Allison bought two tickets downtown to find a real satellite engineer. Booper wasn't sure if an engineer could help, but at least he enjoyed the trip.



As soon as they stepped off the bus, Allison walked into the office and saw a man holding a clipboard. "I bet he can help us! People with clipboards always do important things."

She called out to the man, "Excuse me! My dog has a question for you." Turning to Booper, she gave her dog a nudge. "Go ahead, ask him."

Booper took a deep breath and sat up straight. "I love the stars. When I look at them, I feel brave, like I can do anything! I want to help build the new satellite so everybody can see the stars and feel brave too. But ... I don't know how satellites work."

The engineer smiled at Booper. "I think we have just the job for you. How would you like to join our Registered Apprenticeship Program?"





"What's that?" Booper asked. "It sounds difficult, and I'm just a beginner."

"An apprenticeship is a training program that helps you become an expert in a job. It's OK that you're a beginner! We'll teach you everything you need to know. Our team is always looking for enthusiasm like yours," the engineer said.

"Really?" Booper exclaimed. "Then I'll become an apprentice!"

Allison tapped her dog's shoulder. "There might be a problem. I spent my whole allowance on our bus tickets. I can't pay for an apprenticeship!"

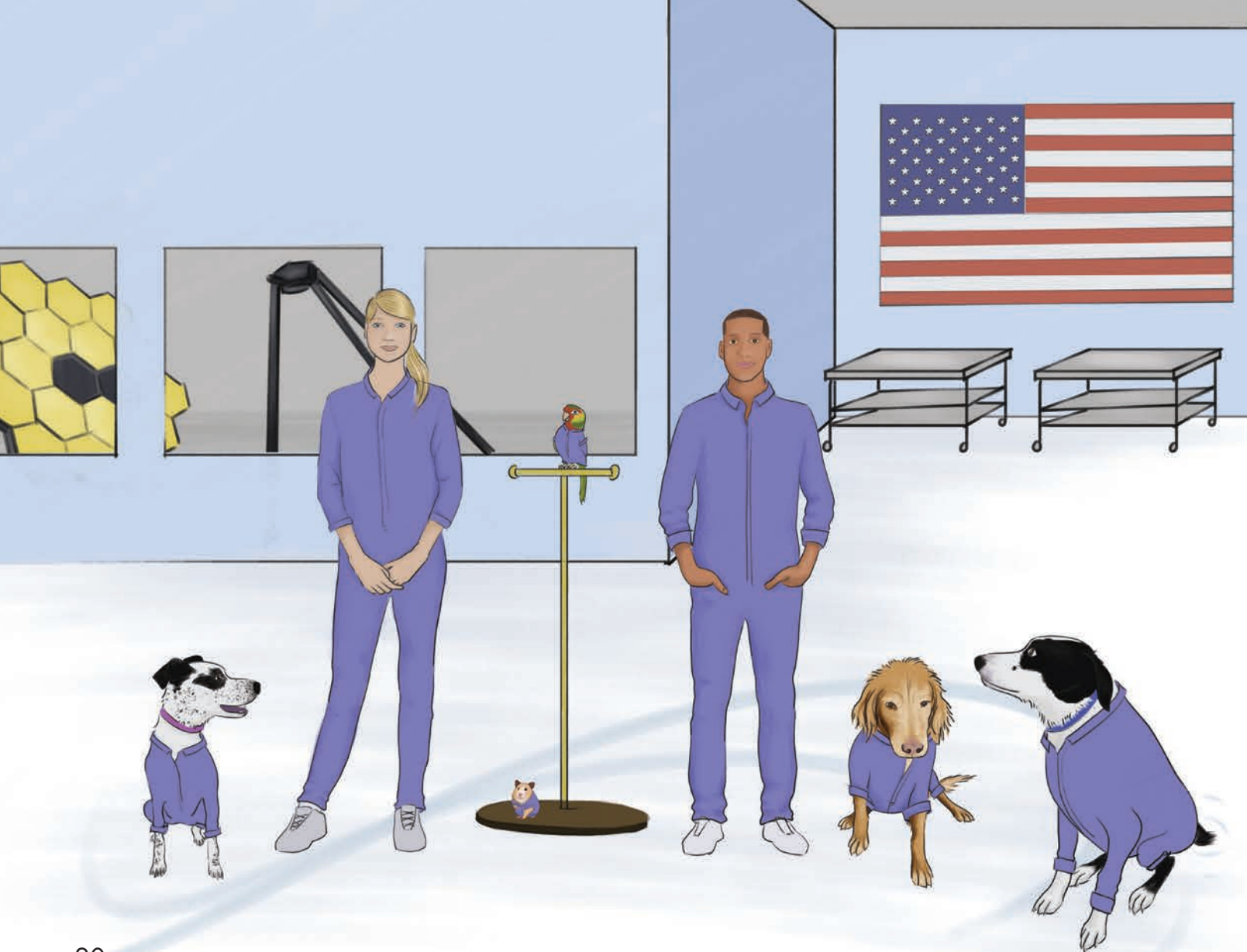
"Actually," the engineer explained, "an apprenticeship is like any other job, so we'll pay you while you learn."





"Will you pay me in good boy treats?" Booper asked hopefully.

The engineer laughed and shook the dog's paw. "I'm sure we can work something out. Welcome to the program."



At last, Booper began his training as a satellite technician! On his first day, he was excited to learn that the engineer he met earlier would be his mentor and would help him grow at every step of the program.

Booper met lots of new friends who loved space and stars just as much as he did. There were friends who were tall and friends who were short, some with feathers, some with fur, even some with scales!

He grinned at his new classmates. "We're going to be the best apprentices ever. And hardly any of us have thumbs!"



Green summer leaves turned golden, then fell, as week after week passed by.

Booper learned how to use tools, how satellites worked and how to keep his fellow trainees safe. He worked alongside experienced engineers and loved to ask them questions. When tools were hard to use without thumbs, he asked for different ones. With his new tools, Booper was able to achieve every task his team asked of him.

For almost a year, he trained and he learned.



It was hard work ...



... but Booper's dream was too important to give up.

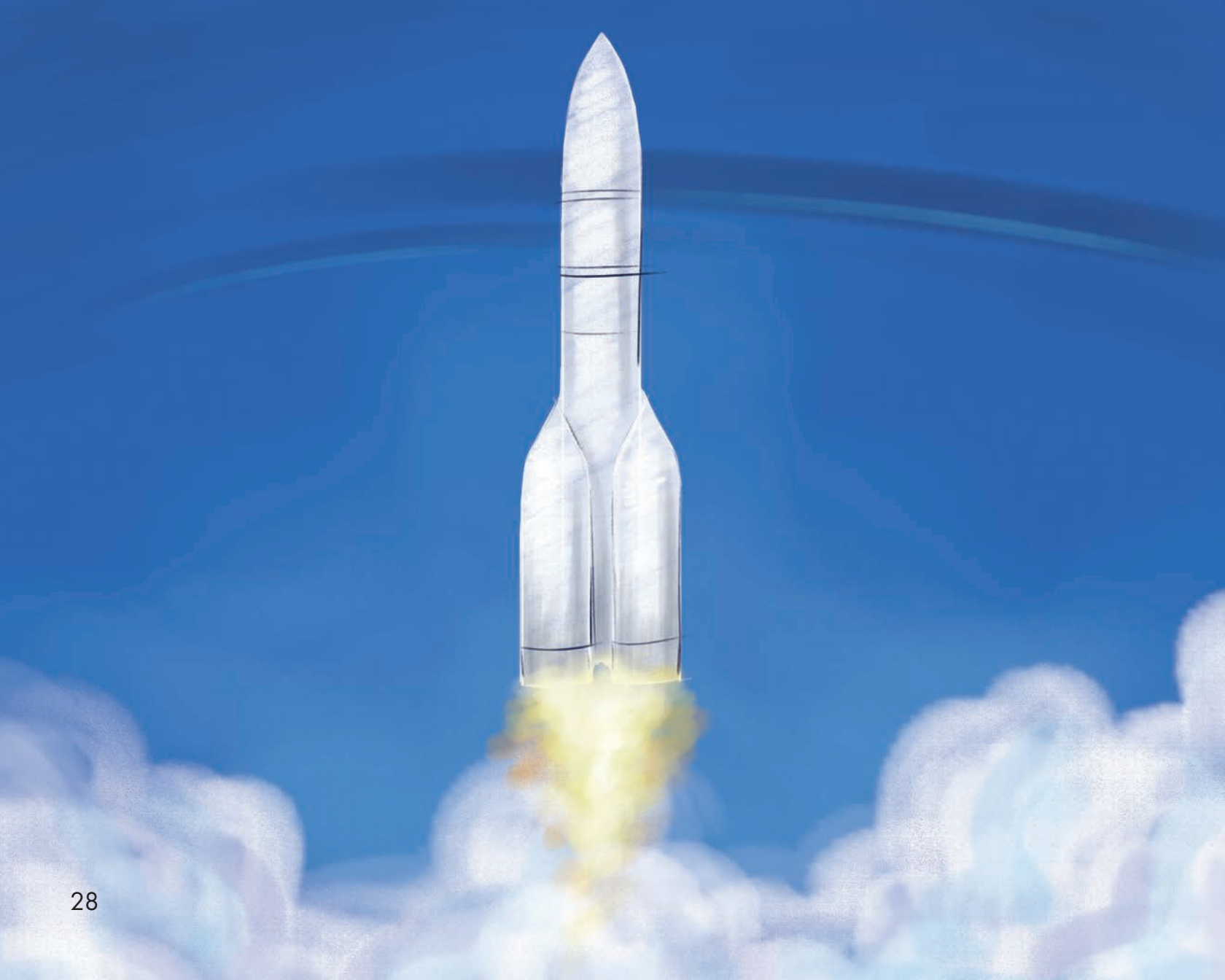




At last, Booper finished his program and earned his certificate!

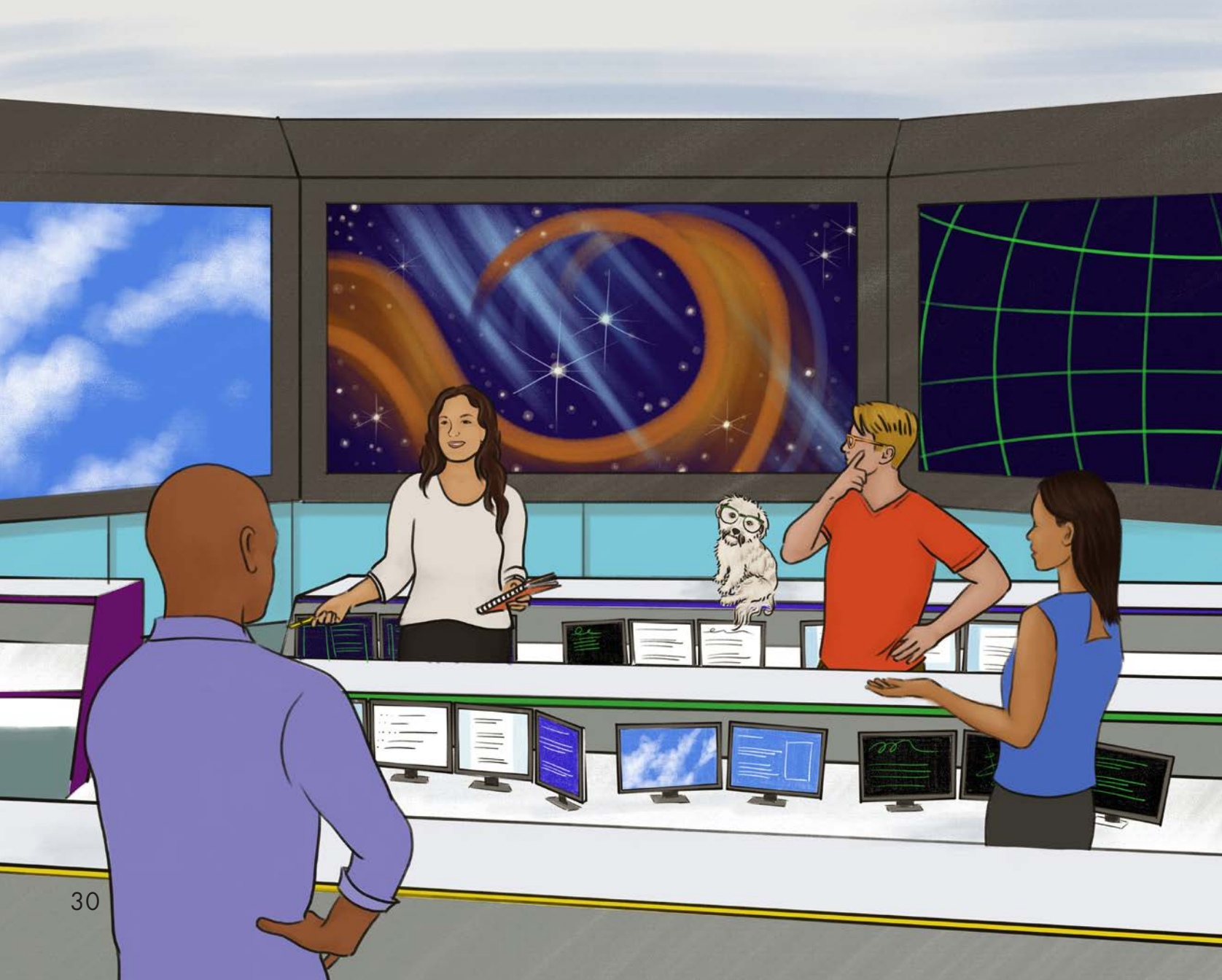
"You're a good boy, Booper. I'm very proud of you," the engineer said.

"Thank you, Mr. Engineer. I couldn't have done it without you and Allison."



Soon, the new satellite was finished and ready to launch. The whole world watched as it flew in a rocket up to the sky.

Then, they waited for the satellite to take its first photos and send them back to Earth.



When the pictures came back, the scientists were amazed.

"I've never seen anything like these two stars!" one woman exclaimed.

"We'll have to name them," another scientist said.

The engineer only smiled. "I know just what we should call them."





"Ready for bed, Booper?" Allison asked.

"Five more minutes? I'm watching our stars," said Booper.

Allison gasped and ran to the window. "You can see them tonight? Will you show me?"

Booper adjusted the telescope for her.





## What did you learn about apprenticeship?



1

### Apprenticeship is a Job

Real employers hire and train apprentices.



2

### Structured On-the-Job Learning

Apprentices work with a mentor to learn through experience.



3

### Related Technical Instruction

Apprentices attend classes to support their on-the-job learning.



4

### Rewards for Skill Gains

As apprentices become more knowledgeable, their pay will increase.



5

### National Occupational Credential

Upon completing their program, apprentices are eligible to receive a nationally recognized occupational credential.

## Are you curious to know even more?

Fund your future education, no matter what path you take,  
**with an Idaho 529 education savings account.**

<https://www.idsave.org/>



Learn more about apprenticeship in Idaho

<http://www.apprenticeshipidaho.gov/>



Learn more about apprenticeship nationally

[www.apprenticeship.gov](http://www.apprenticeship.gov)



Learn about the many career paths available to you

<https://nextsteps.idaho.gov/>



Learn about Career Technical Education

<https://cte.idaho.gov/programs-2/career-areas/>



See the stars that inspired Booper

[https://www.nasa.gov/mission\\_pages/hubble/multimedia/index.html](https://www.nasa.gov/mission_pages/hubble/multimedia/index.html)

## Thank you

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Thank you to **Gina Robison**, the fearless leader of Apprenticeship Idaho at the Idaho Department of Labor, who never expected that her idea about an apprenticeship children's book would be taken seriously. Without your support, this project would never have made it to the finish line.

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**Special thanks from Jessica: To the Allisons of my life.** Without your support and mentorship, my dreams wouldn't have become reality. You know who you are.

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This book would not have been possible without **Burt, Bella, Papaya, Sunset, Camas, Sir Isaac Newton, Minnie** and **Oakley** – the pets of Apprenticeship Idaho and the stars of this story.

**Finally, thank you to the entire Apprenticeship Idaho team**, who strives each day to help Idahoans flourish through apprenticeship.

## Special thanks to Brave Booper

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who received many good boy treats during the creation of this story.





## About the Author

Elaine Zabriskie is an AmeriCorps VISTA, artist and writer born and raised in Idaho. With a professional background in landscape architecture, she never expected to write a book about her dog. However, her time in AmeriCorps has taught her that some of life's best opportunities are *unexpected*.

Elaine believes that every person has a unique gift and hopes this story will encourage children to seek out the education, allies, and opportunities they need to give their own gift to the world.

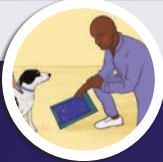
If she could give every reader one piece of advice, it would be to work a little bit each day on something that matters to them. One day, they'll look back and see they have built something incredible.



# Every Dream Needs a Plan

In “Booper Dreams Big,” you will learn how training through apprenticeship can help you accomplish your biggest dreams and aspirations. This includes...

1



## Apprenticeship is a Job

Real employers hire and train apprentices.

2



## Structured On-the-Job Learning

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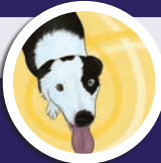
3



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