

2024 TD Summer Reading Club Web Comic Transcript: To The S.T.A.R.S!

Panel 1

To The S.T.A.R.S!

Producer's Note:

This webcomic is illustrated with colourful drawings which feature speech and thought bubbles. These are described and read along with the text...

A green alien with one eye, six tentacles and 2 antennas protruding from its head cracks a big smile. The alien studies a book its holding in its tentacles...

"I got into S.T.A.R.S! [asterisk] *Space Travel Astronomy Research Station*"

Panel 2

"The best summer camp in the whole UNIVERSE!!"

The alien opens the book up. The books pages feature an illustration of a star with the letters S.T.A.R.S beside it. The word "Sports" is visible, below it a green frisbee illustration whizzes by. The words "Books" and "Science" are also accompanied by illustrations such as a book, a couple of planets with flags planted into them, atom symbols, and a telescope.

On the facing page an illustration of a UFO with the words "Learn To Fly!" accompanying the image. The page also features images of a star, a comet and an asteroid. The very bottom of the page reads:

"EARN A [image of a star], READ!"

"I'll get to do cool activities! Sports! Games! Books! And FLYING!!!"

Panel 3

The alien has its face and tentacles pressed up against the window of a spacecraft. The alien looks out into space, focusing on a big yellow space station that is shaped like a 5-pointed star.

"There it IS!!!"

"There are campers from so many other planets!"

Panel 4

“There is one really weird kid. SAM from Earth? I’ve never heard of it. Sam only has two legs! And two arms! Those are great for holding books, Sam, but good luck trying to fly!”

The alien is greeted by other camp attendees:

a robot,

a blue skinned alien with 6 eyes ,

a small green alien with big eyes protruding from the sides of its head,

a small white dog with an astronaut helmet,

and a young human child...

An arrow points to the human child with the words “Two-armed SAM”.

Panel 5

A floating alien that resembles a whale holds a sheet of paper in its hand. The alien makes an announcement to the rest of the campers:

“We have a buddy system at S.T.A.R.S. Team one will be Splonx and...SAM!”

The green alien’s one eye opens wide in surprise.

Panel 6

Sam walks up to Splonx holding a pile of books in their hands, they ask:

“Hey Splonz...want to read some space books and maps with me?”

Splonx, also holding several books replies with one eye rolled:

“It’s SPLONX! You read about space. I’m going to read about sports and flying...”

Panel 7

“Team one? More like Team Zero! Sam and I get trounced in the six-legged race! Did I mention that Sam only has two?!?!”

On the crater filled surface of the moon. The campers are paired up. Their legs are tied together as they race. Sam and Splonx are in last place. Sam shouts:

“This is so FUN!”

A frowning Splonx thinks:

“When will I get a chance to fly?”

Panel 8

“We also got trounced at disc throwing. This isn’t the summer I was hoping for.”

Sam and Splonx sit beside each other in the space station, the other campers play disc throwing in the background. Sam is buried in a book and exclaims:

“More time to read! Did you know there’s an alpha-belt! Cool!”

A frowning Splonx thinks:

“Alpha-belt? Maybe I can fly there someday?”

Panel 9

In a classroom with all the campers present, the alien counselor points at a white board with notes on it. The board reads:

“Flying Day!

Obstacle Course.”

A group of arrows point to a drawing of an asteroid on the white board, the arrows are labeled: “Bad”

A drawing of a floating orb with a directional arrow in it is labelled: “Good”

The counselor says to the class:

“Avoid the asteroids! Don’t go out of bounds! Pilots are Woof! Robo and SAM!”

Sam furiously writes in the notebook they are holding:

“I hope I can do it. I made some notes.”

Splonx sitting beside them with their tentacles crossed in frustration:

“Hmph! Notes? Good luck!” **Splonx think to themselves.**

Both Woof and Robo are seen celebrating after being picked to be pilot for the obstacle course.

Panel 10

Splonx and Sam sit in a spacecraft. Splonx says:

“Flying isn’t easy, especially with two hands! Follow the orbs and avoid the rocks!”

Sam’s eyes are open wide with worry:

“Gulp...”

Panel 11

An obstacle course made up of floating orbs is suddenly hit with an asteroid shower. Splonx and Sam's ship is pelted with asteroids, knocking them off course. Their ship crashes through the course boundary as the other campers continue...

"OH NO! We're out of bounds!!!" exclaims Sam.

Sam and Splonx look scared as they float off course:

"WE'RE LOST!!!!" they scream in unison.

They float towards an asteroid field; the asteroids look like letters.

Panel 12

"How are we going to get back to S.T.A.R.S?" Splonx asks.

In the distance asteroids that resemble letters float in space. An "H" and a "B" are visible.

Sam brings their hand to their face in thought and replies:

"This place looks familiar...I think I read about it."

Panel 13

A smile appears on Splonx's face:

"You did Sam! It's the Alpha-belt!"

"That's right!" Sam excitedly replies. "Splonx, you fly and I'll navigate. I bet we can find the way back together!" Pointing to the book they were reading earlier.

Panel 14

Sam points out the direction they should be heading in as they fly through the "Alpha-belt".

"It should be right up ahead." Sam says referencing the book on their lap.

Splonx pilots the spacecraft while admiring the "Alpha-belt".

"It's so beautiful out here. Hey! I see it!"

In the distance, the STARS space station come into view...

Panel 15

Splonx and Sam pull up to the space station as they both yell:

“S.T.A.R.S!”

Their counsellor opens a hatch on the space station and greets them:

“Welcome back!”

“We had a big party with cakes shaped like stars...and books!”

Panel 16

“And we got S.T.A.R.S badges for working together!”

Splonx asks Sam:

“Sam, can I borrow that book later to get ready for our next adventure?”

Sam replies, “Only if you teach me to fly better Splonx!!!!

“DEAL!” **Splonx replies with a smile, with a tentacle around Sam’s shoulder.**

“The End”