The three of them crept up behind the bird. They carefully unwound the balloon from its leg.
“It’s got a twisted claw!” said Tiger.

The bird flew off in fright! Tiger forgot to let go. The bird pulled him up into the air.

Chapter 2
Inside Hunter’s rocket, Leo and Cassie strapped themselves into their seats. They both felt very excited. They always had fun with Hunter.
“We’re off,” said Hunter. Cassie and Leo waved at their mum through the window. She was in the star-garden, which twinkled and sparkled like sunlight on the sea on Planet Earth.

Hunter moved the controls and they zoomed into space. The rocket flew past stars and asteroids.
“Look,” shouted Leo, “there’s Dad!”
Dad was driving the space-safari rocket-bus through a field of stars. The children could see the tourists looking out of the windows as the rocket-bus whizzed past.
“He’s coming back from Jupiter,” said Cassie. “Lots of space creatures live there.”
**Level 12 Non-Fiction**

**Near or far?**

Ancient Greek and Roman artists had another way of making their 2D surfaces look 3D. They used an idea called perspective. It’s based on the fact that objects near to us look bigger than objects that are far away. The brain knows this is true. When we see a horse in the distance, we don’t think, “Wow, that’s a tiny horse.” Instead we think, “That horse is far away.”

Here’s an example of perspective from a Roman bedroom wall. The smaller pillars and buildings look as though they’re further away. The wall is just a flat surface, but the artist has made it look like a large open space.

**Flat or solid**

When we look at a flat picture, the objects in the picture can look as if they are solid.

Flat things have two dimensions: length and width. We call them 2D (short for two-dimensional). A square has two dimensions.

Solid objects like this cube have three dimensions: length, width and depth. We call them 3D.

Wait a minute, this cube isn’t a solid shape! It’s a flat, 2D drawing of a cube. The illustrator has created an optical illusion, using angles and shading to make the shape look 3D.

**Greek cubes**

People have been experimenting with 3D images for thousands of years.

Long ago, this Ancient Greek mosaic was on the floor of a house. The tiles make a clever pattern. It looks as if there are cubes sticking up from the ground – but if you look closely, you’ll see that the mosaic is just made up of flat diamonds.