

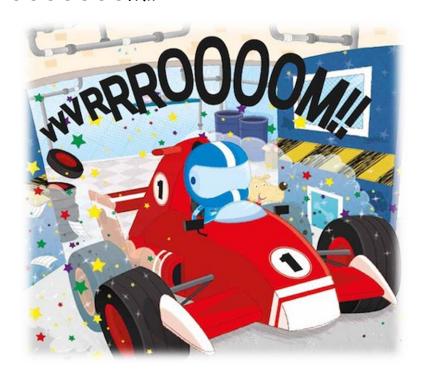
Jack's Mega Machines
The Rocket
Racing Car
By Alison Richie
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Mechanic Jack was up early at Rally Road Workshop. He had a very special car to mend- a turbo charged racing car!

Jack was the best mechanic for miles around. He could fix anything.

In no time he had mended a dent in the wing, fixed the steering and polished the body work. The car was ready for a test drive!

Rally Road workshop was magic. Every time Jack drove out through the doors, he had a thrilling adventure! "OK, Riley, hop in," he told his dog. Riley barked and wagged his tail. Jack started the engine-VVVVVAAAROOOOOOM!!



With a loud clunk the workshop doors flew open and the shiny red car zoomed off into.... SPACE!!



"Wow! Just look at this!" Jack chuckled.

The racing car whizzed higher and higher, zig zagging between planets, until Jack spotted a flashing sign.

Welcome to the Intergalactic Space Race

"A proper space race!" gasped Jack. "Let's go!" With a screech of the brakes, he landed the car inside a stadium.

It was packed with space vehicles and swarming with aliens of every shape and size-spiky, slimy and spotty ones, long pointy ones and small, wobbly round ones.

Jack couldn't believe his eyes.

Just then, a two headed creature charged over.

"You're just in time" he said. "The race is about to begin, and we are one car short! Quick- follow me!"

Before Jack had time to catch his breath, he found himself at the start line between a spotty space cab and an enormous milky way monster truck.

Jack gulped nervously as five sets of red lights went on one by one to signal the start of the race...

He pressed down hard on the accelerator pedal and the rocket racing car blasted off like a torpedo.

Jack and Riley whizzed past moon buggies, hover carts and comet crawlers. Riley barked in excitement. They were in second place!



But just as they were about to overtake the monster truck....

It skidded straight off the track.

Jack pulled over. The sad looking alien cried, "My tyres have burst!" "Don't worry, I'll help you," said Jack.

Once they'd fixed all ten tyres, Jack jumped into the rocket car and tore off back into the race.

There was lot of ground to make up but if any card could catch up, this car could!

Jack was right behind the spotty space cab when it started to spin around. "You've got a problem with your steering!" he shouted. "I'll help!"

He screeched to a stop and grabbed a spanner from his toolbox. He mended the spacecab in a jiffy. Soon they were both hurtling along the track again!

Jack zoomed alongside a galactic go kart.

He was about to overtake when suddenly a cloud of smoke filled the air. Jack flashed his warning lights, then leaped out of his car and ran over.

"The engine is overheating". You'll have to let it cool down," He told the little Martian. "Why don't you finish the race in the red racing car with us?"

Back on the circuit, the rocket car was so far behind, Jack could hardly see the other racers. "We'll never catch up!" moaned the Martian. Riley wagged his tail to cheer him up, and knocked a big red button on the dashboard.

## W0000005H!

The rocket racing car took off at supersonic speed and began to streak past all the other racers!



The black and white flag came down. The rocket racing car and sonic soarer flew over the line together. But who was the winner? It was a photo finish!

Jack waited anxiously for the green alien to announce the result. At last, he picked up the mega phone. "This was the closest race ever!" he said. "But the photo finish confirms that by a nanosecond, the winner of this year's Intergalactic Space Race is....

The rocket racing car!

"Well Done, Riley," said Jack.

"I think you found our super booster button!"

The Martian handed a trophy to Jack. "Congratulations! And thank you for helping us all! Three cheers for Miraculous Mechanic Jack!"

All the aliens were clapping and chanting Jack's name.

Soon it was time for Jack and Riley to go home.

They said goodbye to their new friends, jumped into the car, and streaked through space back to Rally Road workshop.

"Phew! What an adventure, Riley.

This car really is the ultimate racing machine!

And look what I've found- SUPERSONIC space chews for a supersonic dog!"

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