Not the usual bus

1. Last Wednesday started off like any normal day. I ate my breakfast, got dressed, grabbed my lunch and went to the bus stop to catch my bus to school. I peeked into my lunch bag. A boring old salad sandwich again. Yuck!

2. I stood there sleepily and looked at my watch. The bus was late. I could've had another ten minutes' sleep!

3. Finally, I saw a bus coming up the road. I picked up my bag and stepped aboard after the double doors opened. I was on the third step, getting my money out, when I noticed that it wasn't my usual bus. In fact, this bus was bright green and was being driven by a large tomato. 'Hop in, sit down, hold on!' said the tomato, grinning. 'Here we go!'

4. I scrambled to a seat as the bus took off … and I don't mean started driving fast. It took off! Up into the sky like a rocket! I looked around to see what the other passengers thought about all this, only to find the bus was full of large vegetables. Tomatoes, celery, lettuces, spinach, spring onions … all sitting on the bus seats, grinning at me.

5. I looked out the window to see Earth shrinking behind us. Soon, a green planet loomed up ahead. The bus landed and the vegetables led me into lush, green countryside. There were vegetables everywhere. A horseradish galloped past with a string of green beans. There were beans and peas. It seemed like a very 'peas-full' place.

6. 'Welcome to Saladia', said a big spring onion. 'The four seasons here are salt, pepper, mustard and vinegar. All the vegetables you eat on Earth actually grow here in space, so they are full of stardust, which is what keeps you humans alive. That's why vegetables are so good for you! And if you people on Earth didn't eat salad vegetables, we would stop growing and our planet would die. Now, do you still think a salad sandwich is "yuck"? Well?'

7. 'No', I said, amazed. Suddenly my stardusted salad sandwich seemed very special. The vegetables took me back to Earth in time for school and I don't think I have ever enjoyed a salad sandwich as much as I did that day! I'll never complain about salad again.