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SCIENCE: Science/Engineering GRADES: Middle / Upper

Roller Coaster!

by Heidi Bee Roemer

It looks like a train on a loop-de-loop track.

But once you hop on it, there's no turning back.

Clicktity clackity! Up, up, you rise.

At the tippity-top all you see are blue skies--

When all of a sudden, the *brake* is released.

You drop like a rock as you ride the railed beast.

Your heart's in your throat as you plunge to the ground.

A split second later, you're turned upside down!

You're pressed in your seat. Your face is contorted.

You feel the power of *centripetal forces*.

You can't lose your nerve or your white-knuckled grip as you loop like a pretzel and pitch like a ship.

It's like riding a rocket, a *g-force* machine.

The wind slaps your face and you hear yourself scream.

You're getting the hang of it. Just about then,
you're jerked to a STOP--

and your wild ride ends.

(That's when you yell, "LET'S DO IT AGAIN!")



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