

***Comets, Stars, the Moon, and Mars***

**Douglas Florian**

**Reader's Theater**

**Skywatch**

On a clear night you might try to gaze upon the starry sky.

A telescope or binoculars are great aids to observe a star.

To find your way it's good to sight upon a star that's very bright.

Like Sirius

or Canopus

Alpha Centauri

or Arcturus.

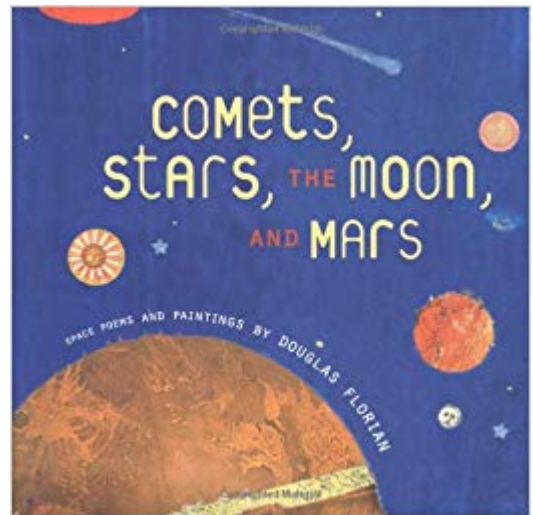
You may see a planet or

a flash of light from a meteor.

Use a constellation chart to help you tell the stars apart.

Start out when the day is done. Most of all:

Have lots of fun! (all)



**The Universe**

The universe is every place,

Including all the

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space.

It's every star and galaxy,

All objects of astronomy

Geography

Zoology

Each cat and dog and bumblebee

Including you

Including me

### **The Sun**

Ninety-three million miles from Earth.

Ninety-three million miles from Earth.

Ninety-three million miles from Earth.

Nearly a million miles in girth.

4.6 billion years old.

Core eight times as dense as gold.

Here

and there a dark sunspot.

And did you know...

the sun is hot? (all)

### **Mercury**

Speedy

nimble

quick

and fast

Round the sun it rushes past.

Always racing, on the run...

You'd run, too, so near the sun.

### **Venus**

Scalding-hot surface. Nine hundred degrees.

Nothing can live there.

No creatures.

No trees.

Poisonous clouds of acid above.

Why was it named for the goddess of love?

### **The Earth**

Two-third water. One-third land.

Valleys deep.

Mountains grand.

Sky of blue.

Clouds of gray.

Life here, too---

Think I'll stay.

### **Mars**

Mars is red, and Mars is rusty.

Sandy

rocky

very dusty

Mars has ice caps.

Once had streams.

Mars has Martians...

In your dreams!

## **Jupiter**

Jupiter's jumbo.

Gigantic.

Immense.

So wide, side to side

But gaseous, not dense. With some sixty moons.

It's plainly prolific--

So super-dupiter

Jupiterrific!

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## ***One Starry Night***

**M. Christina Butler**

### **Story Telling**

(get a volunteer to be hedgehog--hedgehog prop)

**One, clear bright night, Little Hedgehog saw a shower of shooting stars sparkle and flash across the sky.**

**He said: Wow! I must tell everyone!**

**And off he ran.**

(volunteer to be rabbit, fox, and mouse)

**Hedgehog says: Have you seen the shooting stars?**

**Rabbit jumps up and down and says: I've seen three!!**

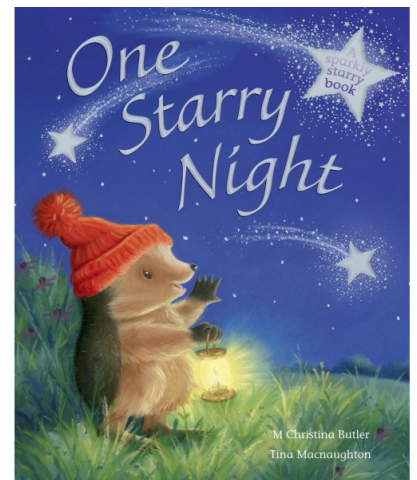
**Mouse squeaked: Can we stay and watch them-please?**

**Fox: All right. Let's get Badger so we can all see them together.**

**They rushed into the woods but a huge tree had fallen across the path.**

**Hedgehog: We can't get over that!**

**Rabbit: I can. Give me a hand, Fox.**



**So Fox pushed and Rabbit pulled until everyone was over on the other side.**

**Puffing and giggling, they arrived at Badger's house.**

**(volunteer to be badger)**

**Badger: What's all this?**

**Hedgehog: Shooting stars, Badger! Come and see!**

**Mouse: There are hundred and hundreds !**

**Badger: Wonderful! Let's go to the top of the hill. We'll see them better from there.**

**They sang as they walked.**

**Mouse: Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star**

**Badger: How I wonder what you are!**

**Fox: Shining brightly, flashing by, Like a sparkler in the sky**

**Rabbit: I'm going to catch a shooting star.**

**Rabbit raced ahead. Higher and higher he jumped when suddenly...**

**He fell down an old badger den.**

**Hedgehog: Rabbit**

**They all raced to help.**

**But as they peered into the hole, the sides crumbled and everyone tumbled in...**

**Badger: Is everyone all right?**

**Rabbit: Fine! Except Fox is squishing me!**

**Mouse: We're going to miss the stars!**

**Badger: We'll find a way out. Don't worry!**

**Rabbit and Mouse sang songs with the baby mice as the others looked for a way out.**

**Hedgehog: I've found another tunnel.**

**They climbed out into the fresh, night air and ran to the top of the hill at last.**

**High above, the sky glittered with shooting stars.**

**Hedgehog: We made it! What a night!**

**And together the friends gazed happily at the sparkly sky which stretched on and on forever...**

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***Red Knit Cap Girl***

**Naoko Stoop**

**Puppet Show**

Narrator: In the forest, there is a time to wonder about everything.

Narrator: Red Knit Cap Girl wonders about flowers, butterflies, leaves, and clouds.

Narrator: But most of all, Red Knit Cap Girl wonders about the Moon

RKCG: Could I ever get close enough to the Moon to talk to her? Maybe I could reach her this way.

Narrator: She tries, but the branch isn't long enough.

RKCG: Or could I reach her that way?

Narrator: But the Moon isn't in the water. It is just a reflection.

Narrator: It seems the Moon is just too far away. Red Knit Cap Girl sighs.

Narrator: After a while, Hedgehog comes by.

Hedgehog: Owl knows everything. Ask him how to reach the Moon.

RKCG: Where can I find him?

Hedgehog: He is in the hollow of the oldest oak tree.

Narrator: Red Knit Cap Girl holds on tight to White Bunny.

RKCG: Mr. Owl? We have a question for you.

Narrator: Owl does not answer. Red Knit Cap Girl tries again.

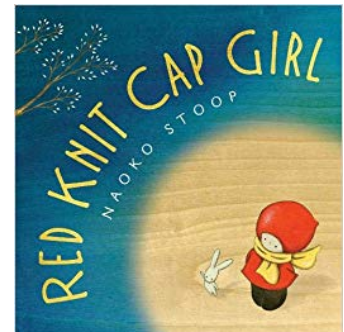
RKCG: Please, Mr. Owl, can you tell us how we can get close enough to talk to the moon?

Owl: The Moon is too far to reach, but if you want, she will bend down to listen to you.

RKCG: But how will she know I'm waiting for her?

Owl: You will find a way.

Narrator: Owl smiles and flies off on his silent wings. Red Knit Cap Girl thinks for a moment. She knows what she needs to do.



RKCG: Everyone, I have an idea. We need to show the Moon we are looking for her. Tonight when she comes out, let's have a celebration!

Narrator: Her friends were all delighted. They all talk about what the Moon would like.

Hedgehog: The Moon might like decorations.

Bear: I can hang them because I am tall.

Squirrel: I can help because I am nimble.

Narrator: Red Knit Cap Girl makes lanterns out of paper and everyone helps to hang them.

Narrator: In the evening, they light the lanterns and sit on a branch to wait for the Moon. They sing for the Moon as they wait for her. They wait and wait for the Moon to appear. But she is nowhere to be seen.

Hedgehog: That's strange. The Moon always comes out at night.

Squirrel: She might be too shy.

Bear: She might have gone somewhere else.

RKCG: We should wait a little longer.

Narrator: But there is silence. Suddenly, they hear Owl from high up on a branch.

Owl: The Moon is there.

RKCG: Mr. Owl, if the Moon is there, why can't we see her?

Narrator: Just then, a gust of wind blows out one of the paper lanterns, and a star appears in the dark sky.

RKCG: Ah! I know what to do! Everyone please be quiet and take a deep breath. Now, are we ready? BLOW!!

Narrator: The moment the lights are blown out, all the forest grows dark and quiet. And...the Moon comes out at last.

RKCG: There you are!

Moon: You have made it dark enough to see me and quiet enough to hear me, Red Knit Cap Girl.

Narrator: Red Knit Cap Girl whispers to the Moon. The Moon smiles quietly. Together, they listen to the sounds of the forest. Now Red Knit Cap Girl knows the Moon will always be there for her.

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**"The Playground of the Sun and Moon"**  
**An Araucanian Folktale from Chile and Argentina**  
***Tuck-Me-In Tales: Bedtime Stories from Around the World***  
**Margaret Read MacDonald**

Narrator:

Some people say that high in the sky,  
the sun lives in a palace of gold.  
Sun looks out his window each morning  
to see if Moon is in sight.

Sun:

Where are you, little Moon?  
Are you hiding in the nighttime fields?  
Or are you playing in my blue day skies?

Narrator:

Sometimes Moon is nearby, drifting pale in the bright daytime.

Moon:

Did you call me, Sun?

Sun:

Sure I called you!

Narrator:

Sun shoots his rays toward her

Moon:

What do you want to play today?

Sun:

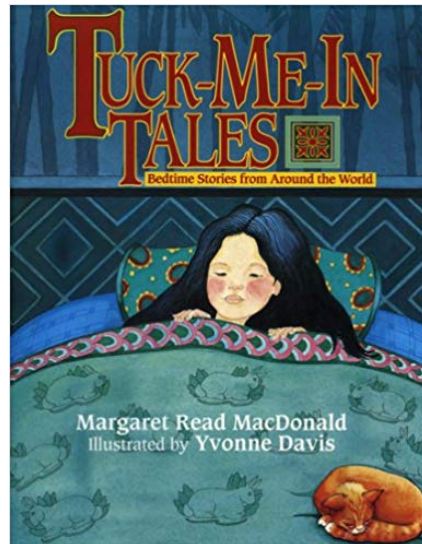
Ring of Fortune!

Narrator:

That is what Sun calls his game of chase.

Moon:

Oh? And how is it played?





Sun:

I have two rings  
that are two paths.  
One is day,  
the other, night.  
Tell me, Moon,  
Which do you take?  
The gold is day,  
the silver, night

Moon:

Me? I take the night!

Sun:

Then run, run, run!  
And if I catch you,  
I get your silver ring

Narrator:

So Moon dances off through the blue sky  
and Sun runs happily after

Of course Sun never catches Moon  
Moon crosses the sky and slips away  
into her lovely fields of darkness.

There she dances and sings all night long  
drifting gently among the shadows

Watch the sky and you will see...  
there goes Moon in the daytime sky  
with Sun trailing behind

But you will never see Sun move  
within the nighttime sky.  
The night belongs to Moon and Moon alone.

**This story should be related in a gentle, magical tone. As a bedtime story, it has a lullaby quality to it. I especially like the reassuring notion of the night as a dark time that the moon chooses for its loveliness. For classroom use, this story makes a nice little playlet and can be performed with paper plate masks or large Sun and Moon masks of construction paper or papier-mache. The "rings" can be shown as rings for the finger in a bedtime setting or as much larger hoops in a dramatization.**