

Up, Up, Up!

- Written by Susan Reed
- Illustrated by Rachel Oldfield
- Barefoot Books, 2011

In this songbook, a group of children in a hot air balloon look down on Earth from great heights. As they sing and move along with the lyrics, children point out the objects that they see in the sky by observing the illustrations.

Vocabulary

- blend: to mix or blur together

Rain

- Written and illustrated by Manya Stojic
- Dragonfly Books, 2009

The African savanna is hot and dry, but the animals can sense the rain on its way. When the water hole is full and the trees are green, each animal enjoys the result of the precious rain – shade, mud, fruit, and water. This book invites children to use what they know about weather and their five senses to think about how animals observe and experience rain. Children think about how rain takes care of living things in different habitats.

Vocabulary

- gushed: flowed or poured out quickly
- cracked: showing lines from splitting without coming apart

One World, One Day

- Written by Barbara Kerley
- National Geographic Children's Books, 2009

From sunrise to sunset, children around the world wake up, eat breakfast, go to school, play, and spend time with family members. Photographs taken in 29 different countries balance universal experiences and cultural diversity to create a unique reading experience. As children read about one day all over the world, they make connections between their own experiences and those of others. They also generate questions about what they wonder based on the book.

Vocabulary

- horizon: the line where the sky seems to meet the earth

Picture the Sky

- Written and illustrated by Barbara Reid
- Albert Whitman & Company, 2019

The sky is part of every person's landscape, whether it is a sliver of blue between city buildings or a wide expanse over an open field. This book's modeling clay illustrations offer many different perspectives on the sky. Children discuss how the sky changes and why. They consider what information they can learn by looking up at the sky and also how to appreciate its beauty.

Vocabulary

- masterpiece: a great work of art
- background: what is behind the objects in a picture or scene

What the Sun Sees, What the Moon Sees

- Written and illustrated by Nancy Tafuri
- Greenwillow Books, 1997

Two narratives meet in the middle in this picture book about day and night. The sun rises into the sky and sees various scenes on Earth: a barnyard full of animals, busy city streets, a lively playground. Then flip the book over to learn what the moon sees in the same spaces once night has fallen. The format of the book encourages children to think about the cyclical nature of day and night and compare and contrast them.

Vocabulary

- bustling: busy and moving

Hey-Ho, to Mars We'll Go!

- Written by Susan Lendroth
- Illustrated by Bob Kolar
- Charlesbridge, 2018

With text that can be sung to the tune of "The Farmer in the Dell," this book invites children to join in the fun as a diverse group of children boards a spaceship, launches into the sky, adjusts to zero gravity, grows food on board, and finally reaches Mars! Paragraphs of informational text on each page provide additional details about space travel, gravity, and other scientific facts. This book encourages children to compare life on Earth to life in space as they move and sing along.

Vocabulary

- launch: to take off; start a big move

Clouds: A Compare and Contrast Book

- Written by Katharine Hall
- Photographs from various sources
- Arbordale Publishing, 2019

This informational text offers readers vocabulary to describe the different kinds of clouds seen in the sky: fluffy, wispy, colorful, dark. The book's clear, realistic photographs allow children to see what clouds look like before and after a storm and to discover various shapes clouds can take. They practice comparing clouds based on their attributes and asking questions about the book.

Vocabulary

- wispy: light and floaty

Max and the Tag-Along Moon

- Written and illustrated by Floyd Cooper
- Puffin Books, 2015

When Max says goodnight to his grandpa, the full moon is already high in the sky. On the drive home, Max sees the moon out of the window, no matter which way the car turns. The moon is always there even though it is far away, just as Max's grandfather is close to Max's heart even when they are not together. Children practice making personal connections to how Max feels, and they discuss how the tag-along moon relates to their own observations of the sky.

Vocabulary

- orb: sphere

Mission to Space

- Written by John Herrington
- Photos courtesy of NASA/JPL-Caltech
- White Dog Press, 2016

Astronaut and author John Herrington is the first enrolled member of a Native American tribe to travel in space. In this autobiographical text, Herrington tells readers how he trained for space travel and how the Chickasaw Nation celebrated his first flight in the space shuttle Endeavour. Children practice looking carefully at photographs as they learn about this important astronaut, and they share what they wonder about travel in space.

Vocabulary

- mission: an important trip