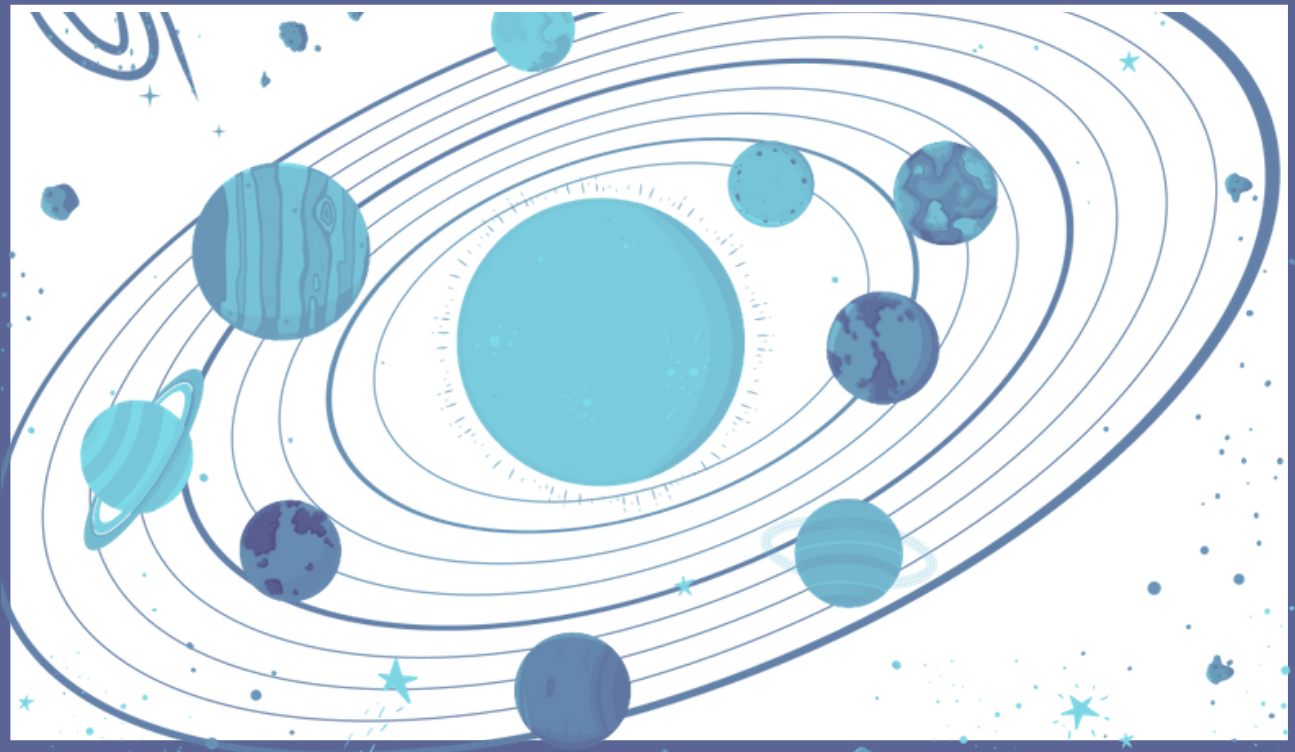


# WRITING ABOUT SPACE



## Junior Astronauts

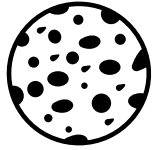
**Grades:** 1-3

**Objectives:** These writing activities will help students practice recalling information, describing actions, thoughts, and feelings, crafting engaging informative texts, peer editing, and publishing.

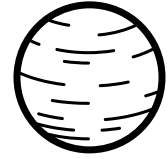
**Source:** Student Treasures and CILC Maker Space

### What's Inside?

- Book List
- 3 Writing Prompts



# Books About Space



Writers are readers.

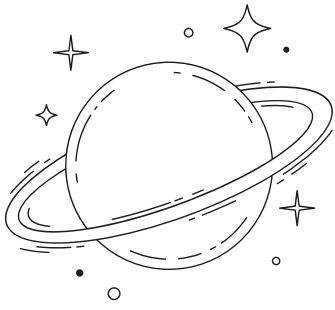
Spark your writers' imaginations with these books

## **FICTION: Picture Books and Graphic Novels**

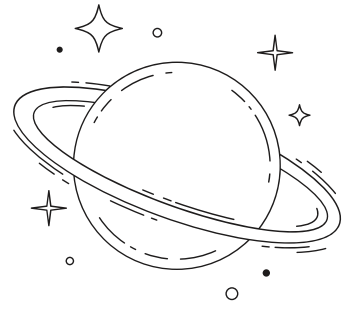
- Aliens For Breakfast by Jonathan Etra, Stephanie Spinner
- Adventure in Space: Diary of a Spaceship Crewmate Book One by Eric Parson
- Adventure to Mars: Rocket Kids by Lizzie Lipman
- Flying Birthday Cake? by Louis Sachar, Amy Wummer
- Goodnight, Astronaut Hardcover by Scott Kelly
- Hello, Is Anybody There? by Jostein Gaarder
- If You Had Your Birthday Party on the Moon by Joyce Lapin
- Legend of the Star Runner: A Timmi Tobbson Adventure Book by J. I. Wagner
- Luciana: Out of This World by Erin Teagan
- Sanity & Tallulah by Molly Brooks
- The Great Space Case: A Mystery about Astronomy by Lynda Beauregard

## **NONFICTION**

- 100 Questions About Outer Space by Simon Abbott
- A Child's Introduction To The Night Sky: The Story Of The Stars, Planets, And Constellations by Michael Driscoll
- Astronauts Today by Rosanna Hansen
- Floating in Space by Franklyn Branley
- Gravity by Jason Chin
- How to be a Space Explorer by Lonely Planet Kids
- National Geographic Kids Everything Space by Helaine Becker
- National Geographic Readers: Planets by Elizabeth Carney
- Solar System for Kids by Hilary Statum
- The Stars: A New Way to See Them by H. A. Rey
- Unlocking the Universe by Stephen Hawking & Lucy Hawking



## 3 Cosmic Writing Prompts About Space

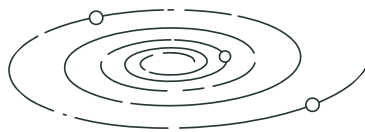


### **Prompt #1: “My name is \_\_\_\_, and I am a planet.”**

Learning the properties of the planets of our solar system simply by studying lists or memorizing charts can be a bit dull. Spice up the lesson (and make it easier to remember) by turning it into an exercise in storytelling. This space-themed prompt asks your students to write from the perspective of a planet, rather than just rattling off a list of physical characteristics. Have them write what they know about the planet they’ve chosen as if they are introducing themselves—if they were that planet, what important facts would they want everyone to know about them?

### **Project Idea: Class Book of Planets**

This prompt is a lot of fun (and super easy!) to turn into a one-of-a-kind book. Once your students have finished writing their responses, ask them to peer edit and revise their work until it glows like the sun. Then, ask them to draw their planets as if they had faces. Encourage them to think creatively about their illustrations—does Jupiter, for example, have a stormy disposition? Is Neptune cold and distant because it’s an “ice giant”? Publish their writing and illustrations in a planetary class book of who’s who in the galaxy!



### **Prompt #2: Choose a space topic and share 3 facts about it.**

There’s no easier or more effective way to engage your students in the classroom than to let them explore the topics that interest them most. This space writing prompt asks your students to practice their informational writing skills and choose something about space that calls to them. Once they’re done writing, ask your students to share their responses—this way, everyone learns a little something about everyone else’s topic of choice.

### **Project Idea: Space Alphabet**

Instead of choosing space topics willy-nilly, provide your students with a list (one topic per student, and at least one beginning with each letter in the alphabet). Ask your students to choose at least one item on the list to write about and illustrate. Once they’re finished, collect and arrange their work in alphabetical order to create and publish a fun and unique outer space alphabet book like the one featured below!

**Prompt #3: List all the neat things you've seen while looking at the night sky.**

Everyone knows the night sky is made up of the moon and stars. But what else might you spot while gazing up at the heavens after dark? Ask your students to do a bit of easy homework one night and simply take a few minutes after dinner to go outside and look up at the night sky. While they're looking, ask them to think about everything they see up there. Are there clouds? Is the sky different colors? Did they see a bird, a bat or even an unidentified flying object while they were looking up? The next day, ask them to write about what they saw, listing as many things as they can remember in detail.

**Project Idea: Class Book of the Night Sky**

This prompt can also serve as step one of a beautiful class project, if you're looking for a more in-depth lesson on the night sky. Once your students have finished their lists, ask them to choose one or two things to describe in detail. Then, ask them to create illustrations to accompany their descriptions. Finally, publish their writing and art in a lovely collaborative class book all about the night sky!

