SPACE
Earth and Beyond

Includes poetry and fiction
lesson plans, quiz and answers, activities

www.youngwriters.co.uk
Space Poetry

**KS2 LESSON PLAN**

**Preparation Work**
Prepare several different templates of space themes for pupils to write their poems onto – rockets, aliens, an astronaut, a star, a planet etc. Collect several items (or pictures of) space-related items.

**Introduction**
Explain to the class that today they are going to write their own poem about space. Ask the class to provide you with words they associate with space and space travel. Write them on the board. Now ask your class the following questions, noting their answers on the board. *What does space look / feel / smell / sound like? Is it lonely? What would you miss most in space? What colour(s) is space? What does an astronaut wear? How would you feel if you saw an alien? What does the alien look like? What can they tell you about space in general?*

**Main Teaching Activity**
Split the class into groups. Give each group a space-related item. Ask them to all write the same first line of ‘Up, up and away I go …’. Ask them to write a descriptive sentence or two about the space-related item. Once they have, the groups need to swap their items and repeat. This continues until all the groups have written about all the items. Hand out the space templates and ask pupils to move their lines around to structure their work and they can add in additional lines if they wish to, to enhance their poem.

**Differentiation**
To challenge more able pupils suggest key words they must use in their poem and give a selection of poetry techniques to also be included, such as onomatopoeia and rhyming couplets. Suggesting a poetic form or asking the pupil to write in the style of a famous poet, is an ideal way to challenge pupils who have a flair for language and poetry writing.

For less able pupils suggest a word they can use to form an acrostic on the theme. Ask them to describe the colours and sounds of what they are imagining. Acrostics don’t have to rhyme and as the word length can vary greatly it can be adapted to the individual’s learning needs and abilities.

**Plenary**
This is a 5-10 minute activity. Ask the children to work in pairs to read their poem to their partner. Their partner is to provide feedback; something they like about the poem and a suggestion on how it could be improved. To extend the activity to a second lesson ask the children to re-draft, copy up and illustrate their poem.

**Notes**
This is a one-hour activity. Alternatively, the introductory work can be done in class (20-30 minutes) and the poem can be written as homework.

You are welcome to send your pupils’ poems to us!
Sci-Fi Short Story

KS2 LESSON PLAN

Preparation
Photocopy the second page of this lesson plan, one for each member of your class. Your class will be finishing the story in the lesson. You’ll also need an enlarged copy for class discussion.

Introduction
Bring the class together and briefly discuss character, setting and plot. We suggest using a well-known fairy tale to help the children identify these. Make notes on the board. Next, read the introduction of the story to them. Explain to them that they each will be finishing the story later in the lesson.

Main Teaching Activity
Ask your class plenty of questions about the introductory paragraph. We suggest asking several key questions: where are they? Do they get the parts to fix the engine? If yes, what do they use? If no, what happens? What does the spacecraft / rocket look like? What has Trooper Vega seen? What do they imagine the crew’s clothes and hair are like in 5018? Do they have any gadgets? Discuss the children’s ideas and note them on the board. Hand each child a copy of the start of the story and ask them to now write the middle and the ending. Encourage them to go with their imaginations to ensure individual and exciting pieces.

Plenary
This is a 10-minute activity. Ask the children to work in pairs to read their story to their partner. Their partner is to provide feedback: something they like about it and a suggestion on how it could be improved. To extend the activity ask pupils to re-draft their story and illustrate it.

Differentiation
Less able pupils can work in pairs. Provide a list of key words they are to use. Use our handy ‘Story Writing Help Sheet’ to support the children.

More capable pupils can be challenged to write the story from one character’s point of view. Alternatively, ask them to start the story after the opening sentence, using their own ideas. Provide a list of adjectives they have to include in their story.

Notes
You can provide a word limit if you wish to. This activity is suitable for wet playtimes as well as being set for homework once the introductory work has been done in class. Pupils are welcome to change the characters’ names and the story title!

You are welcome to send your pupils’ stories to us!
The story ‘Beyond the Stars’ is started for you and you need to finish it.

When writing a story you need to make sure there is a clear beginning, middle and end, otherwise your story won’t make sense.

**The Beginning**

The beginning of your story introduces your character(s) and the setting (where your character is). It has to be interesting to draw the reader in and leave them keen to read all the way to the end!

Who is your main character? In ‘Beyond the Stars’ Commander Orion is the main character and the story is set on a new planet in space.

What is your main character like? Commander Orion is brave, strong and a good leader.

In the beginning tell us what your character is doing. Commander Orion has crash-landed on a planet and is helping his mechanic try to fix the engine.

**The Middle**

The middle of the story needs to tell us a bit more about what is happening. Where are they? (Does the planet have a name and what does it look like?) Do they get the parts to fix the engine? If yes, what do they use? If no, what happens? What does the spacecraft / rocket look like? What has Trooper Vega seen? You can go into a bit more detail about the character(s) and what they look like / are wearing as long as it flows with what you are writing.

**The Ending**

Your story needs to finish and make sense! The middle of the story will explain where the crew are, what they are like, what Trooper Vega has seen. Now you need to tell us what happens, do the crew fix the engine? Do they leave the planet? Do they get stuck there forever or choose to stay? Do they all get blown up or eaten by alien monsters instead? Does everyone live happily ever after?

If you follow these rules you will have written a story! Once you have written it, read over it and make sure it makes sense, change bits too. If you can make the story even better by re-drafting then do so!
Space Quiz

1. What was Uranus originally called?
   - Apollo
   - Planet Herschel
   - William’s Star
   - George’s Star

2. Which planet is fifth from the sun?
   - Saturn
   - Mercury
   - Jupiter
   - Earth

3. The spacecraft to land the first men on the moon was called ...?
   - Apollo 11
   - Apollo 12
   - Apollo 13
   - Apollo 14

4. What does NASA stand for?
   - National Astronauts Space Advancements
   - Never Ask Spacemen for Answers
   - Nice Astronauts and Space Aliens
   - National Aeronautics and Space Administration

5. Which of the following appears every 75 to 76 years?
   - A solar eclipse
   - Halley’s Comet
   - A meteorite
   - A black hole

6. Which planet is the only one to rotate clockwise?
   - Venus
   - Mercury
   - Pluto
   - Mars

7. Which planet has 52 named moons?
   - Saturn
   - Jupiter
   - Venus
   - Mercury

8. What is the Hubble?
   - A galaxy
   - A star
   - A telescope
   - A spacecraft

9. Which planet is the smallest in the solar system?
   - Mars
   - Earth
   - Mercury
   - Pluto

10. Which of the following isn’t the name of a constellation?
    - Ursula Major
    - Cetus
    - Gemini
    - Orion
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How to make orbiting planets

This plan is flexible and it can either be adapted by you so you can show your pupils how to make the orbiting planets, or it can be handed out to your pupils as it is. **We advise that this activity is undertaken with the assistance of an adult and / or adult supervision.**

Now you can make your own planet(s) with orbiting rockets, stars, aliens and astronauts!

**Instructions**

1. Firstly decorate your paper plates as different planets. (We’ve chosen the Earth and Mars.) Use sponges, paintbrushes and your fingers to get different effects.

2. Colour in the templates of what is going to orbit your planets. (We’ve chosen an alien to orbit Mars and a rocket to orbit Earth.) Decorate them with craft items such as glitter or tissue paper if you want to.

3. Carefully cut your templates out. Ask an adult for help if you need it.

4. Stick each template to a cardboard strip.

5. Use a pen to make a small hole at the end of your cardboard strip (opposite end of where your template is stuck on). Then make a small hole in the middle of your planet.

6. Put your planet on top of the cardboard strip and match the holes up. Push your split pin through the hole and secure.

7. Make sure you can move your orbiting item around your planet!

8. If you have 2 or more planets, attach them together with a piece of cotton or string.

9. Hang them from the ceiling for everyone to admire!

**You will need:**

- Paper plates
- Paints
- Paintbrush and sponges
- Scissors
- Split pins
- Colouring pens / pencils / crayons
- Cardboard cut into strips (to attach your planet to the orbiting item)
- Template of a rocket / star / alien / astronaut
- Sequins / glitter / tissue paper etc for decoration
- Cotton or string

**Step 1**

**Step 2**

**Step 4**

**Step 8**
Young Writers aim to encourage young people to engage in creative writing. We have worked with schools, parents and young writers for over 20 years by doing the following:

- Running national poetry and creative writing competitions through schools
- Providing resources to teachers to aid them in teaching Young Writers
- Providing poetry and creative writing workshops for Young Writers
- Publishing two leading magazines aimed at Young Writers *Scribbler!* and *Wordsmith*.

Our website – [www.youngwriters.co.uk](http://www.youngwriters.co.uk) – hosts a variety of lesson plans and workshops for children as well as recommending books, publishing children’s reviews, winners’ section, author interviews and much more! We have a blog that features all sorts of literary news, as well as provide more information about Young Writers in general. Visit the news section of our website to read our blog.

We welcome feedback, suggestions and comments from teachers, parents and young writers – please feel free to give us a call on 01733 890066 or drop us an email info@youngwriters.co.uk.

We hope you have enjoyed using our free resource pack. If you would like to send any of your pupils poetry, stories or mini sagas to us, for consideration for publication, please send them to FREEPOST RSLY-AUJA-RAHY, Young Writers OR, Remus House, Coltsfoot Drive, Peterborough PE2 9BF.