

Beyond the Moon: "Way Out There"

by Leonard Karauna



SUMMARY

Galaxies and constellations are some of the things in space that can be seen using a telescope.

STOP Marks stopping points in both this plan and the text

Indicates possible student responses

INTRODUCING THE TEXT



- Read the article title, "Way Out There," and the introductory sentence. **STOP**

I chose this text because I know many of you are fascinated with space. What do you think this text might tell us about? (👤 moon, stars, telescopes, galaxies) Let's share what we know about these things.

READING THE TEXT



- Set the focus for reading, reminding students that they need to be asking questions of themselves as they listen to or read a text. Read the section on telescopes. **STOP**

When I read, I ask questions of myself by thinking about what I know about the topic. I also ask questions to clarify whether or not I understand what I'm reading. As I read this text to you, let's think about what we know and what the text makes us question or ponder.

- Pause in your reading after the subhead, "What Are Galaxies?" Focus on questioning and on understanding vocabulary. Continue reading, pausing after the third sentence. **STOP** Then complete the selection.

I asked myself if I knew what galaxies are and what this word means. A good strategy is to ask myself this question and then keep reading, even if I'm not sure. Sometimes authors explain important words. Let's see if that happens as I read the next few sentences. (👤 yes, the author explains it; it's a collection of huge stars, held together by gravity.) Now, as I read to the end, let's think about questions we'd ask to see if we understand the author's message.

DISCUSSING THE TEXT



- Guide the discussion by first modeling a clarifying question that you asked yourself. Then encourage students to share their own reflections.

When I read this last section, I wondered if I was sure what the author meant by people in the Southern Hemisphere seeing constellations differently than people in the Northern Hemisphere. How were your questions like mine? Let's hear some other questions you had. (👤 it's the first time I thought about constellations looking different depending on where you live; viewing the stars from a different angle makes them look different.) Remember, when reading nonfiction, it's useful to think about questions we can ask ourselves about the topic. We can do this by thinking about what we already know, and by pausing to clarify what we're reading.

FLUENCY

Allow yourself to vary the fluency rate based on the complexity of the passage you are reading.

TEACHING FOCUS

Questioning

To help students ask questions of self by accessing prior knowledge or clarifying overall understandings