

Earth, Sun, and Moon

Grades: K-3

Sun, Earth, and Moon were always playing together, doing things best friends do. They ran foot races across the galaxy, played catch with comets, and joined in hide-and-seek among the stars. They could play for hours and laugh for days. When Earth was tired, she would sleep behind the clouds, Moon would disappear from view, and Sun would sit patiently and wait for their return. Many times the friends just enjoyed sitting together trying to capture shooting stars with their bare hands.

They were each very different. Earth rotated blue and green. Sun sizzled hot and golden. Moon was so . . . so . . .well, so . . .dusty. But the friends hadn't noticed at all.

One day as they were snatching stars and hiding them in black holes, Sun boasted to his friends. "I think I am very special and unique. I shine and make the waters of Earth sparkle. I throw fireballs. I seem to make everyone happy when I am out. It feels great to be so special."

Earth thought a minute, while making a one handed catch of very tiny star. As she stuffed it into the black hole, Earth said, "I think I, too, am special. My blue skies and green grasses please everyone. Flowers and trees like to live on me and grow. People and animals scamper about as they work and build things. I am home to the water you make sparkle, Sun. Yes, I do agree, it is great to be special." Sun looked at Earth and nodded in agreement.

Then they both looked at Moon. Moon hadn't said anything. Sun asked, "What about you, Moon? What is special about you?"

Moon shook his head, "I'm not special at all. I'm gray and covered with dust. I'm full of holes, and I don't shine."

Sun and Earth felt bad for their friend and worse for the bragging that hurt Moon's feelings. Earth said, "Everyone is special, Moon, even you." Moon shook his head and sighed, "I'm different but I don't feel special." Suddenly Sun exclaimed, "I have an exceptional idea! My light is very strong. I'll bounce my light to you, Moon, and you'll glow like a silver ball in the night sky." So, Sun shone on Moon and Moon glowed. Moon said, "This is wonderful! Now I, too, feel special."

Moon was happy. But Moon soon started to get very warm. "Wow, I'm so hot," thought Moon. "What can I do?"

INTEGRATION

Fantasy, Friendship, Observation, Story Elements

CONCEPTS/SKILLS

TEACHER'S NOTES



Moon spoke to Earth. “I don’t want to hurt Sun’s feelings but I’m too hot under all this bouncing light.” Earth had an idea. “I’ll shade you from Sun. Then you won’t be so hot.” Moon whispered back, “But Sun will be hurt if I don’t accept the shine. I can’t hurt my friend.” Earth quivered with excitement. “I know! I’ll shade you some of the time – a little bit at first, then a little more, a little more, a little more, then all the way until you almost disappear. Then I’ll take my shade away a bit at a time until you shine again as a big silver ball. I’ll do it every month. Then you will see how everyone will love you.”

“Perfect!” Moon said. The three friends were soon dancing together in the heavens. Revolving and spinning. Shining and shading. And every now and then, letting Earth hide in the clouds to get a little sleep.

TEACHER'S NOTES



Supplemental Teaching Strategies, Hints, Tips

The following pages are resources designed to help

Available to members

