

The Universe and other poems

Summary

This anthology of poems focuses on the planets, moons, and other bodies of our solar system and the ways in which people are exploring space.

Features of the Text

- Free verse
- Rhyming quatrains
- Haiku
- Descriptive language

Purpose

The Universe and other poems can be used for the following purposes:

- introducing the ideas and vocabulary in the associated nonfiction title;
- encouraging students to enjoy poetry;
- identifying the features of poetry;
- exploring the author's use of descriptive language;
- using different kinds of poems;
- discussing the factual information in a poem;
- creating a glossary.

Following Up

The students can:

- use the copy master on page 31 to write a glossary for the space terms
- choose a poem from the book to read to the class with fluency and expression
- write a haiku about a planet in the solar system.

Guided Reading Summary

Introducing the text

Look at the cover of the book and discuss what the students know about the universe.

Reading and discussing the text

Read aloud the free verse poem on page 3 and discuss the setting.

- How does the author describe the feeling of being in the spaceship?
- Is his description effective?

Ask the students to read "Sun Ode" on page 4. Explore the rhyme patterns in the poem. Compare "Sun Ode" with the poems on pages 6 to 10. Discuss who is speaking in each poem.

- Why is "Space Station" divided into verses?

Explain that a haiku has seventeen syllables, which are divided into three lines of five, seven, and five. Now ask the students to read the haiku on pages 11 to 13.

- What images have been used to describe the moon?

Ask the students to read the acrostic poem on page 14. Discuss the way it has been structured.

- How does the photograph help you to understand this poem?