

Tips for Families

Level 3 Module 2 | *Outer Space*

We are excited about the skills and knowledge that your student will build in *Arts & Letters*™ level 3 module 2. Read on to learn more—and for ideas about how you can support learning outside of school.

What topic is my student studying?

Arts & Letters students build knowledge of important topics in history, science, and literature. They build their vocabulary and background knowledge so that they are ready to learn more. In level 3 module 2, *Outer Space*, students turn their gaze to the night sky to learn how humans across time and place have developed an understanding of space. They answer the module's Essential Question: How do people learn about space?

Support your student by asking questions like these about the topic:

- How is space different from Earth?
- What do we see in the daytime sky that is different from the nighttime sky?

What is my student reading?

Arts & Letters students read books, poems, and articles. They study art. They watch knowledge-building videos. Together, these resources build students' knowledge and literacy, including their understanding of different text genres. In level 3 module 2, students read and learn from these books:

- *The Star People: A Lakota Story*, S. D. Nelson
- *Starry Messenger: A Book Depicting the Life of a Famous Scientist, Mathematician, Astronomer, Philosopher, Physicist, Galileo Galilei*, Peter Sís
- *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*, Brian Floca
- *One Giant Leap: A Historical Account of the First Moon Landing*, Robert Burleigh and Mike Wimmer
- *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*, Margot Lee Shetterly, Winifred Conkling, and Laura Freeman

Support your student by talking about books and reading together at home. Have your student keep track of the books that they've read and their reactions to the books. Discuss your student's entries to identify genres, authors, or series that they enjoy.

What is my student writing?

In *Arts & Letters*, students write about what they are learning, and they build their skills by writing narratives, opinion essays, and informative essays. Each module focuses on one type of writing. In *Outer Space*, students plan, organize, and write opinion pieces about topics related to space exploration.

Support your student's writing by ensuring they have tools, technology, and opportunities to write. Ask your student to write a review to share their opinion about a book they have read or a movie they have watched.

What vocabulary is my student learning?

Learning more words enables students to read, write, and speak at higher levels and about different topics.

In this module, your student will study and use these words:

- astronaut
- astronomer
- calculate
- constellation
- contribution
- lunar
- mathematician
- mission
- observe
- orbit
- space
- trajectory
- universe

Engage your student in talking about and using these words and in exploring words more broadly. Stop and talk about interesting words while reading, and use new words in context.

What else can we do to continue learning outside of school?

If you speak a language other than English, engage your student in speaking, reading, and writing in your home language. Engage in some of the literacy activities above in that language.

View the nighttime sky with your student on a clear night, preferably away from light sources. Invite your student to share what they know about the starry sky and what they want to know. Work together to research the answers to their questions either online or at the library.

Encourage your student to research a question they have about space or space exploration.