

# FROM THE SUN TO BEYOND PLUTO



## Characters

Luke

Karl

Luke's Mom

Navigator

Maude

Ms. Kern

## Setting

This reader's theater takes place in Luke's home and within a dream on a spaceship.



LUKE



KARL

## Act 1

**Luke:** We have so much work to do. Our solar system project is due next week.

**Karl:** Our science teacher, Ms. Kern, doesn't like regular reports.

**Luke:** She wants us to be creative and use our imaginations.

**Luke and Karl:** We aren't creative at all! What are we going to do?

**Karl:** We read *The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System* today.

**Luke:** We learned a lot, but there is so much information. How can we make a project?

**Karl:** Should we go back to the library to get more ideas?

**Luke's Mom:** Why don't you two sleep on it? Karl, you can spend the night here. You'll both feel better after a good night's sleep.

**Luke and Karl:** Anything sounds better than being creative.

**Luke's Mom:** You'll feel more creative in the morning.



**Song: Imagination Can Be Fun**

# Solar System Lesson Plan

## Objectives

- **Fluency:** Students will deliver a group oral presentation and read passages fluently after practicing and monitoring fluency with repeated readings.
- **Content Area:** Students will learn interesting and important facts about the solar system.

## Summary

Luke and Karl have been studying the solar system in school and have read *The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System*. They have to do a creative project for science class, but they don't have any ideas. One night their dreams take them on the greatest journey of their lives. As they travel, they learn many new facts, plus, they come up with a great project.



## Materials

- *From the Sun to Beyond Pluto* script booklets
- *Solar System Character Masks*

## Introduce the Literature

Read the book, *The Magic School Bus: Lost in the Solar System* by Joanna Cole, to your students. Ms. Frizzle is a nutty teacher who always wants to provide up-close-and-personal science experiences. When teaching her students about the solar system, she decides that the best way for her students to learn is to take them to outer space. As she loads up the class for a field trip, the bus transforms into a rocket and off they go!



## ELL Support

The concept of the solar system can be difficult for all students since they have never visited outer space. Your English language learners may have difficulty understanding this concept as well. Be sure to review essential vocabulary and explain that the script and story are make-believe because usually only trained astronauts travel into space.

## Involving All Students

While this script has only six roles, there are various other ways to involve all of your students. For this reader's theater, allow all students to practice reading the script for fluency practice, but only assign "official" character roles to six students. Explain that the remaining students will create props and backdrops for the performance to make it visually appealing.