

GRADE

3

# Leveled Reader in English

## Wonders in the Sky



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The sun is always bright on Lola's hill. It helps all the crops grow. It keeps me very warm. Sometimes I think I see it smile at me.

But I don't understand where the sun comes from in the morning and where it goes during the nighttime. I feel a little lonely when the sun goes down.



I can see that in the morning, the sun comes up over one side of Lola's hill. In the late afternoon, the sun goes down over the other side of the hill. It feels like the hill squeezes the light from the sun. Then it is dark.

I want to know about why the sun shrivels away in the late afternoon. Did it hide behind the hills or sink into the ground?





One morning, Lola came to sit with me on the hill. I showed her some squiggles or wavy lines I drew. These squiggles looked like the rays of the sun as it came over the hill this morning.

“Lola,” I said, “Where does the sun go at night? And where does it come from when it rises in the morning?” I asked with a shrug.



“Well Cecile, those are good questions. I can tell you some things about how daytime and nighttime work.”

Lola knows a lot about our world. She loves nature and has read a lot of books about the way things work on earth. When I have questions, I always ask Lola. I always listen and never squirm in my seat when she is talking.



Lola began, “Cecile, you know that there is daytime and nighttime. You go to school and play in the daytime when you see the sun. You sleep in the nighttime when you can’t see the sun. But remember your riddle—even if we don’t see the sun, it is always there.”



## Phonics: Consonant Clusters (**thr**, **shr**, **squ**)

### Spelling Words

squeeze	squash	thrive
squiggle	shrivel	three
squirm	shrug	throat

A. Fill in the blanks with **thr**, **shr**, or **squ** to complete the words.

- 1) Worms \_\_\_\_irm on the ground.
- 2) They can't \_\_\_\_ug because they have no shoulders.
- 3) They \_\_\_\_ive on fruits and vegetables.
- 4) An overripe \_\_\_\_ash is something they eat.
- 5) Plants \_\_\_\_ivel when worms eat them.

B. Use the picture clues to complete the words.  
Write **thr**, **shr**, **squ** on the blanks.

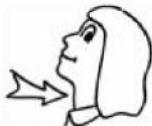
1) \_\_\_\_ee

3

2) \_\_\_\_iggle



3) \_\_\_\_oat



4) \_\_\_\_eeze





Lola reached into her bag and gave me rice, squash, and fish. While eating, she asked, “What do you think will happen if there is no sun?”

I thought about her question then said, “The sun gives us light and heat. The sun helps our plants and crops thrive. Without it, the earth would be cold and dark. Plants could not grow. We would not survive.”

Then I said, “But how come we do not see the sun at night?”





Lola took a santol and a guava from her bag.

“Let’s pretend that the santol is the sun and the guava is the earth.” Lola put a little mark on the guava with my pencil. “We can say that mark is where the Philippines is on earth. Daytime is when the Philippines is facing the sun.” Lola held the guava so the mark showing the Philippines faced the *santol*.

“The earth rotates or turns around on its axis. So the Philippines is not always facing the sun,” she explained.



“Nights are when the Philippines does not face the sun,” continued Lola. She turned the guava and made the Philippines turn away from the santol. “The rotation of the earth is what causes night and day.”

“The earth turns in the same direction. As long as you live, the sun will always come up at the beginning of the day in the same direction—the east. And, as long as you live, the sun will go down at the end of the day in the same direction—the west.”





“I love the daytime,” I said. “Everyone is out in the barangay and there is a lot to do. It is time for me to meet my friends and go to school. Without sunshine, it is not easy to see, work, and move around.”

“I am going to watch the sun set today and think of you, Lola,” I said.

Lola smiled and took my hand. “As long as I live,” she said, “I will always love you.” Then she gave my hand a squeeze.





Lola told me that we were having a blue moon this evening.

“What is a blue moon?” I thought to myself. “I would like to see a moon that is blue!”

Even though there was a sprinkle of rain today, I went straight to the hill as darkness came. I waited patiently for Lola to come up the hill.



The moon was a full moon. But it looked like other full moons I have seen. It was not blue. I wondered even more what my Lola meant by a blue moon.

I heard Lola come up the hill cautiously with little splashes in the wet grass.

“Lola,” I asked as I helped her up the hill, “Why is this a blue moon?”



Lola carefully split a slice of pineapple and gave a piece to me. Then she slowly began to explain.

“A blue moon means that there are two full moons in one month. Today is July 31 and we have a full moon. There was also another full moon last July 2.”



**Phonics: Words with Consonant Clusters  
(scr, str, spr, spl)**

**Spelling Words**

<b>scruffy</b>	<b>straight</b>	<b>spread</b>
<b>splashes</b>	<b>scribble</b>	<b>stroke</b>
<b>sprinkle</b>	<b>splendid</b>	

Match each word in Column A with its meaning in Column B.

<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>
1) scribble	– to scatter in drops
2) sprinkle	– to wet or spatter with liquid
3) splash marks	– to write carelessly; meaninglessly
4) spread	– to open or unfold



“Oh!” I said as I stretched out in the cool grass.

“Blue moons do not happen very often,” said Lola. “In fact, they happen every 2.7 years! The next blue moon will be in January 2018.”

I looked up at the sky and smiled warmly at Lola. “I will be here in January 2018, Lola. We will come straight to this hill and enjoy another blue moon.”



The next morning, I sat at the kitchen table. I could see the little stream that runs through the farm. A truck was bringing straw for the farm animals.

After breakfast, I helped Lola scrub the frying pan until it was shiny and silvery like the moon. I was still thinking about the blue moon and how the shape of the moon seems to change.

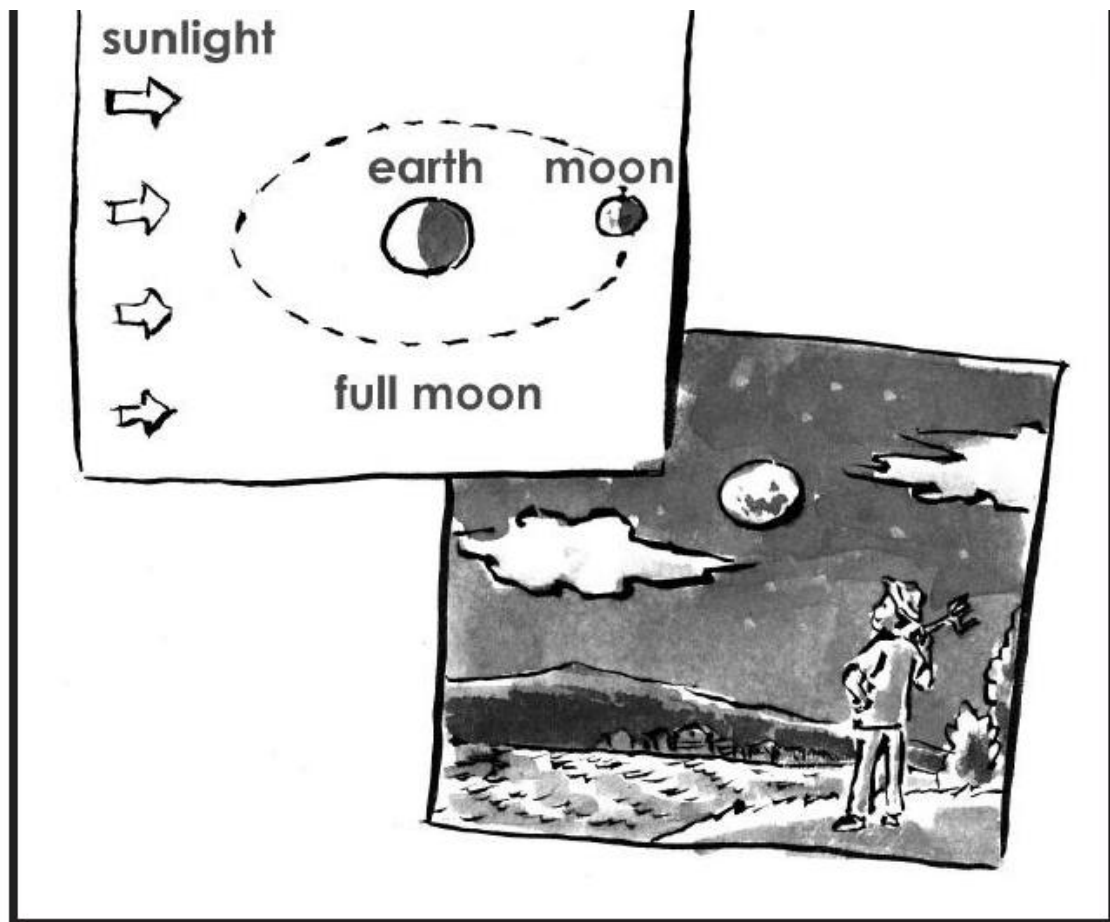




“Lola, I am thinking about the moon we saw last night. It had a big, round shape. But sometimes the moon looks like a *bangka*. How does the moon change its shape?”

“The moon’s shape doesn’t change,” Lola said patiently. “The moon moves around or orbits the earth. A part of the moon is always lit by the sun. It is the lit part of the moon that we see from the earth that gives it the shape we see.”

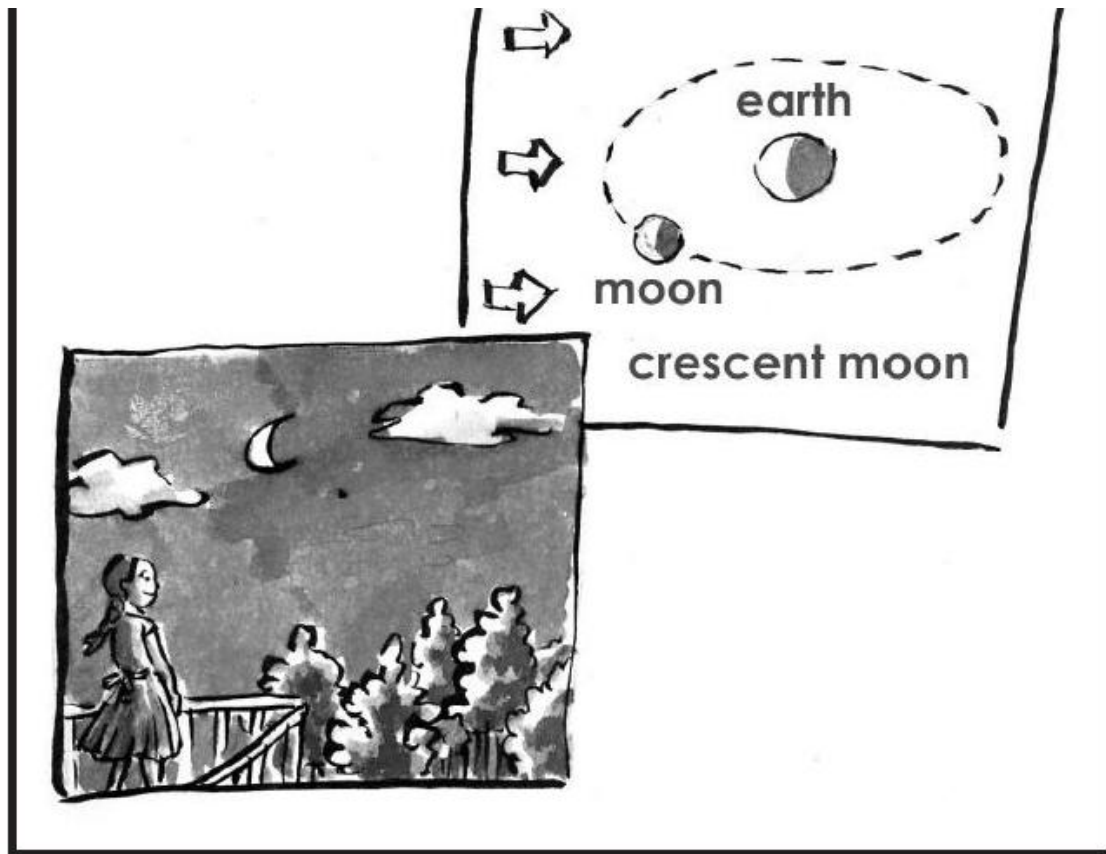
To show me, Lola used a *santol* for the sun, a guava for the earth, and a *kalamansi* for the moon.



“When we see more and more of the lit part of the moon each night, we say it is waxing. That means we see more of the lit part of the moon from the earth.” Lola turned the guava and the *kalamansi*, while I kept the *santol* steady.

“When do you think we see the most of the lit part of the moon?” Lola asked.

“The full moon!” I readily answered.



“Now when we see less of the lit part of the moon each night, we say it is waning. That means we see less of the lit part of the moon from the earth.”

Lola continued, “The little crescent moon that looks like a bangka is when we see just a small part of the lit moon.”





“Now I understand better, Lola,” I said, quite excited with what I learned. A big smile spread on my face as I understand more about the earth and the sky.

I gave Lola a tight hug. Then one more question sprang quickly into my mind.

“Lola, is there a man in the moon?”

Lola sat silently for a minute and then said, “What do you think?”

## Word Webs

Put the spiders on the correct webs. Match the word in the spider to its synonym on the web.

**Hint:** There should be three spiders on each web.

valuable



wonderful



necessary



huge



marvelous



gigantic



significant



enormous



fabulous



**Tip:** Start with the words that you know. This will limit the choices for those you are not sure of. Then find clues inside the given words.

Example:

gigantic – Does it sound like there's a giant in there? How would you describe a giant?



From my studies in school I know that stars are as many as the grains of sand in all of the beaches of the world. Think about that. If you have been to the beach then you know how many grains of sand there are.

A long time ago, people could see 6,000 stars just by looking up at the sky. Now with powerful telescopes, we know that there are billions and billions. That is a lot of stars!





I also remember hearing an old Filipino legend about how the stars came to be.

The legend says that a long time ago, the sky was close to the earth. There were no stars yet, just clouds. Because the sky was so low, the women would hang their necklaces on the clouds.



One day, a woman was pounding rice. As she pounded the rice, she would raise the pestle high before bringing it down. She did not notice that she was hitting the sky each time she raised her pestle.

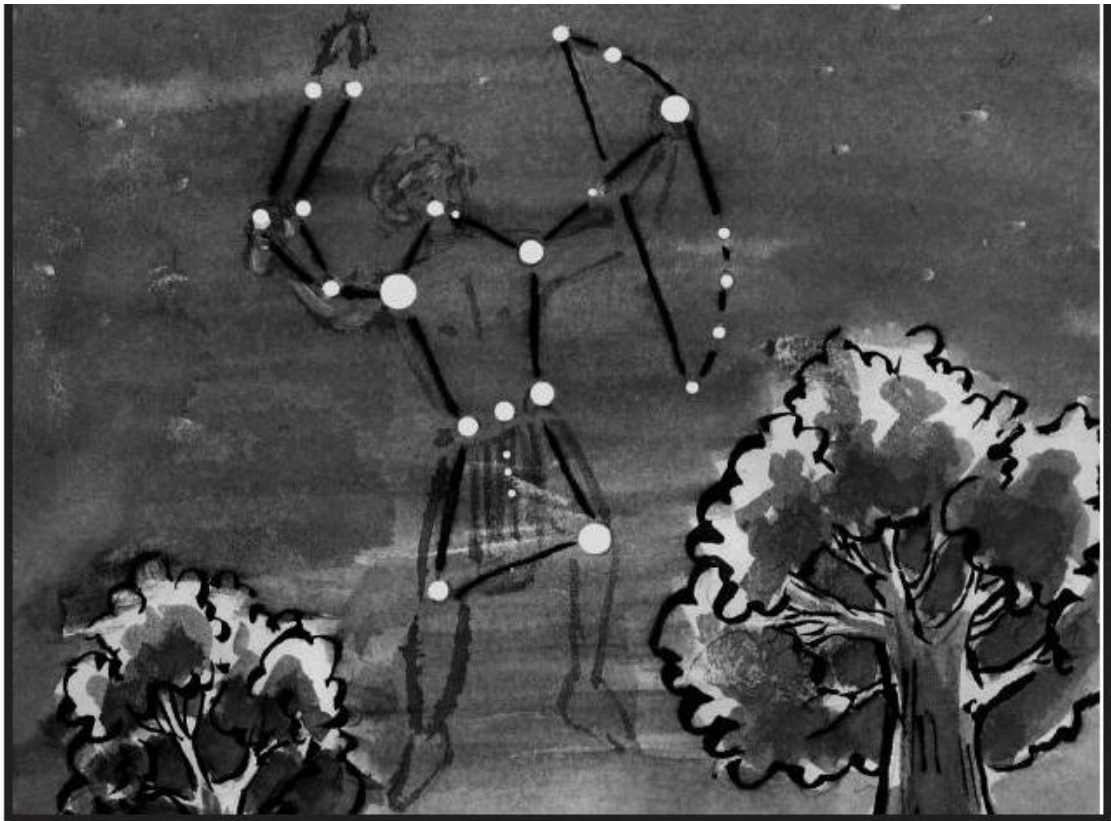
The sky moved up as steadily as the woman was pounding. Soon, the sky was way beyond reach. The necklaces left hanging on the clouds became stars.



That was an interesting story. And there was another interesting thing Lola told me when I was a little girl.

Lola said that because there are so many stars, it is hard to name them all. A long time ago, humans who studied the stars put them in groups and gave them a name. The names are things everyone knows, like animals.





The names of groups of stars are called constellations. There are 88 identified constellations in the sky.

People long ago had very good imaginations. They could see the stars forming animals, things, and even humans. They named the constellations based on what they saw.

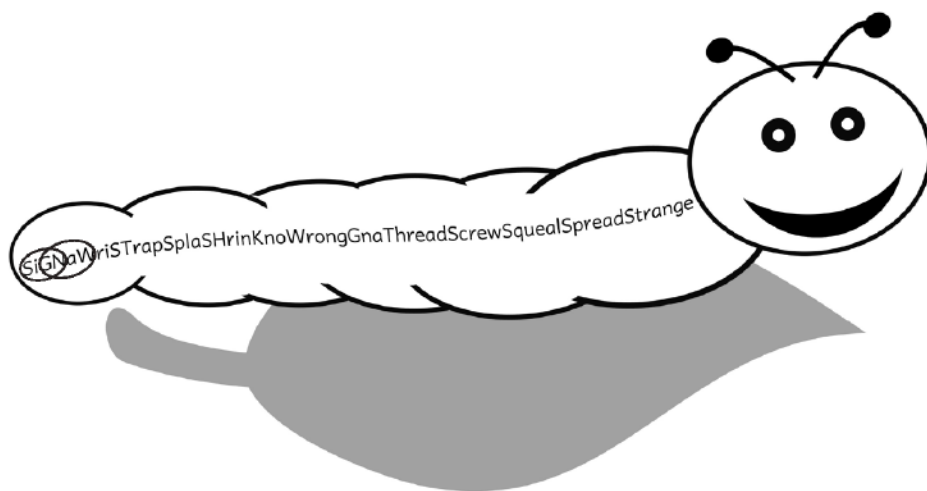
Do you know any names of groups of stars or constellations in the sky?

## Phonics: Review of Consonant Clusters

### A. Consonant Caterpillar

Find the words with consonant clusters. Circle them. The first two have been done for you.

**Hint:** The capital letters are both the end of a word and the start of another one.



B. Write the words you encircled above under the correct column. Underline the consonant cluster. The first one has been done for you.

kn, wr, gn	thr, shr, squ	scr, str, spr, spl
<u>sign</u>		



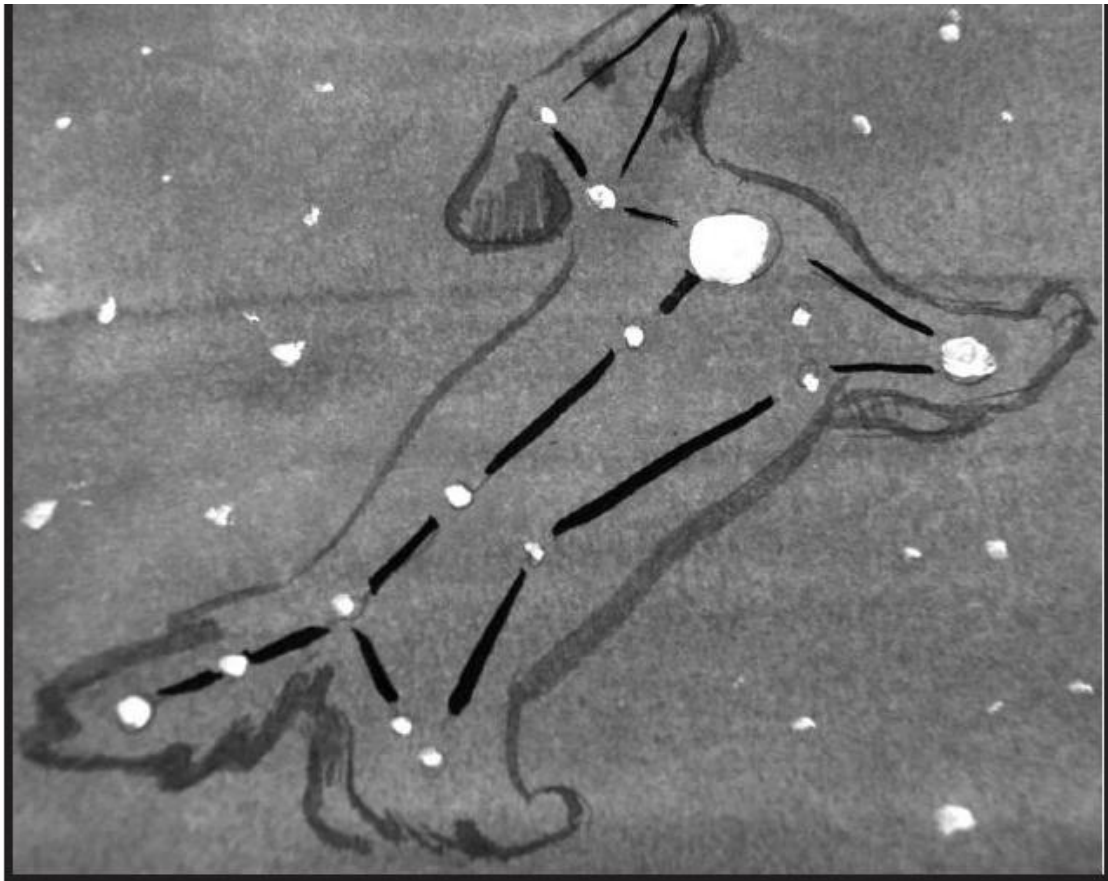
Last night, Lola, Paolo, and I looked at the sky.

“What do you see?” I asked Paolo.

“I see a dog,” said Paolo.

Lola smiled and said, “I see a dog, too. And, there is a very bright star. That bright star’s name is Sirius. Sirius is also called the Dog Star.”





“I looked at Sirius when I was a little girl,” I said. “I always wondered if other children in other parts of the world could see this same bright star. Well, they can!”

Lola turned to Paolo. “That is because the earth turns or rotates, Paolo. So when it goes around, what you could not see before, you could see now.”



Paolo smiled and I continued. "This star is so bright, it is the brightest star seen around the world. In fact, because it is so bright, some people have thought it was a flying saucer from outer space!"

"That is crazy," said Paolo.

"Maybe," I said, "but that is how bright this star is. It also changes colors so some call it the 'rainbow star'."



Lola looked at Paolo and asked him in a low voice, “Did you ever know you could see so much in the sky?”

“I always look at the sky,” said Paolo.  
“But the stars mean something different to me now.”

“I learned a lot about the sky with Lola,” I said. “I learned that I always have friends in the sky. The sun, the moon, and the stars are part of our lives—every day.” Paolo nodded and gave Lola a hug.





This is the end of my story. I have been a little girl, a school-age girl, and now a mother.

Growing up, Lola has always been part of my life. I know that we will watch the sky and the sun, the moon, and the stars as long as we live. And in some ways, she is my sun, moon, and stars. She is as warm as the sun, as amazing as the moon, and as bright as the star Sirius!

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