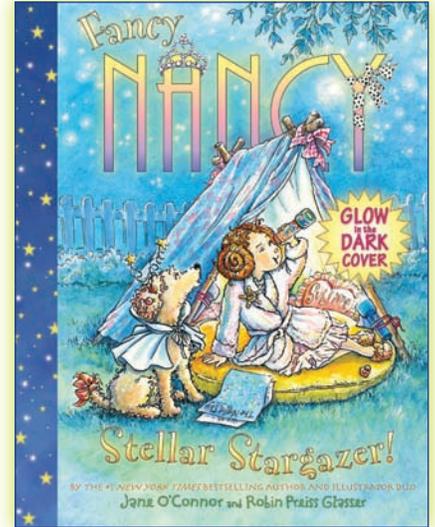


Fancy NANCY Stellar Stargazer!



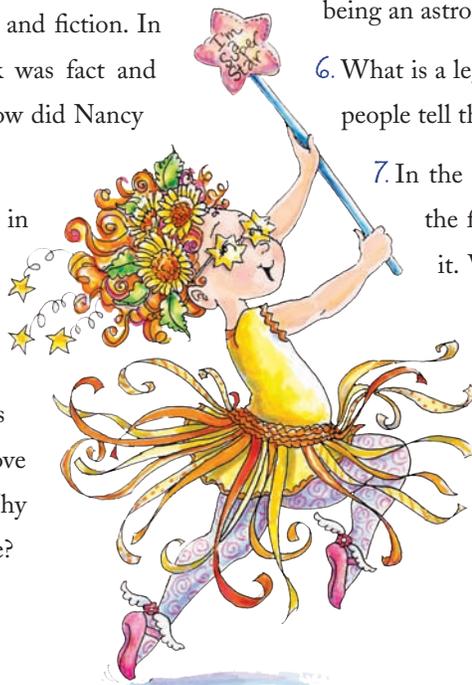
A Teaching Guide

About the Book

Who better to bring the glitter and drama of the galaxy to your students than Fancy Nancy? From star, sun, and moon facts to constellation stories, Nancy delivers the information with her trademark high style. Your students will enjoy learning from a fanciful night under the stars!

Discussion Suggestions

1. Prior to reading, ask children what they know about the stars, the sun, and the moon. After reading, find out what surprised your students. What was new to them?
2. Discuss the difference between fact and fiction. In this book, what did children think was fact and what did they think was fiction? How did Nancy use her imagination?
3. What new words did students hear in the story? What words did they like? What do these words mean?
4. Nancy says that she and her dad both love to stargaze. Ask students if they think Nancy and her dad love stargazing for the same reasons. Why or why not? Why do people stargaze?
5. What do your students think it would be like to be an astronaut? What qualities would make someone a good astronaut? What do they think would be hard/interesting/fun about being an astronaut?
6. What is a legend? Are constellation legends real? Why did people tell them?
7. In the book, Nancy slept outside under the stars for the first time. Ask students if they think she liked it. Would they like to do this someday? Why or why not?
8. Give the class a second look at Nancy and her sister moon-bathing. Ask why the sun is more dangerous than the moon to people on Earth. Why would someone never get a moon burn but could get a sunburn? Why can people safely look directly at the moon but not the sun?



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Teaching guide prepared by Emily Linsay, teacher at the Bank Street School for Children, New York City.

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Extension Activities

- 1. Blastoff!** After children examine the illustrations showing Nancy and her sister playing space explorers, generate a list of what they think they would use to pretend to be astronauts. Fill your dress-up area with these supplies.
- 2. Who's in the Moon?** Show children Nancy's drawing of the lady in the moon. Prompt them to imagine a face in the moon. Whose would they want to see there? Why? Have them draw or paint their moon face ideas.
- 3. Space Moves.** Get students on their feet to mime actions having to do with space, including putting on a space suit, shaking during takeoff, bouncing on a moon walk, and eating astronaut food. Welcome other suggestions.
- 4. "Spinning, Spinning, Far Planet . . ."** Highlight aspects of space by writing new lyrics to the melody of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star." Ask the music teacher to accompany the group singing the complete song.
- 5. What's Up?** Brainstorm a list of things children have seen in the sky. Students can draw, paint, or collage these images to make a wordless class book about the sky.
- 6. Wishing on a Star.** Ask students what Nancy wished for near the beginning of the story. Find out what they would wish for and have them write about and draw their wishes.
- 7. Out in Space.** Use a story starter from the book: "We go get our space suits and soon we are ready to blast off." Have students write and/or draw their own space adventures.
- 8. Legends of the Stars.** Students can create their own constellations, drawing stars along the outline of a person or an object. They can write or dictate the story to accompany their drawing.
- 9. Moon Journal.** Give children small notebooks they can use to keep a record of what they see of the moon each night, including when they don't see it. Chart and discuss their findings and what they notice over time.
- 10. Far-out Facts.** Create a class book of information about space. Students can research facts and illustrate them to make individual pages.
- 11. Professional Stargazers.** Help children define the word "astronomer" and find out what an astronomer does. How does someone become an astronomer? Interested students can learn about real astronomers and share their new knowledge with the class.
- 12. Who's Who in Space?** Have children research astronauts, including Neil Armstrong, Mae Jemison, John Glenn, Sally Ride, and Guion Bluford. Small groups can design informative posters about these heroes.

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