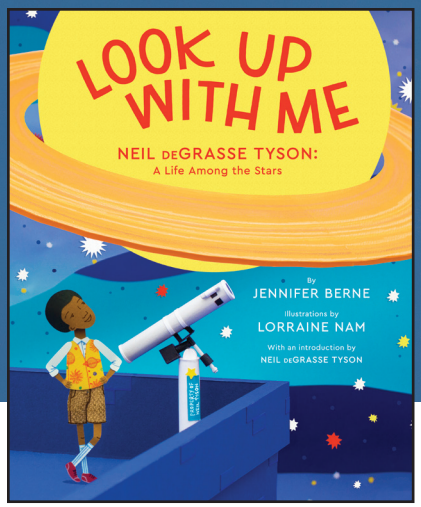
"EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THEIR MIND BLOWN ONCE A DAY."



LOOK UP WITH ME

NEIL DEGRASSE TYSON: A Life Among the Stars

By JENNIFER BERNE Illustrations by LORRAINE NAM

About the Book

This book celebrates the life and accomplishments of Neil deGrasse Tyson, a scientist, astronomer, researcher, and educator, and the current director of the Hayden Planetarium in New York City. Tyson inspires readers of all ages to look beyond what they can see, ask challenging questions, ponder the immense complexity of the universe, and embrace their curiosity and wonder.

Discussion Questions

- Read Neil's introduction aloud. He says, "Scientists are kids who never lost their natural childhood curiosity about the world." Do you agree? Why or why not?
- What experience changed Neil's life? Why?
- What did young Neil do when he became fascinated with planets, moons, and stars?
- How does Neil earn enough money to buy a new telescope?
- What happened one night when Neil was on the roof with his telescope?
- When did Neil realize that he could earn a living talking about the universe?
- When Neil grew up, how did he pursue his love of the cosmos?
- What special job did Neil consider the "coolest job on earth"?
- Read the facts aloud on the page that says, "Neil believes everyone should have their mind blown at least once a day." Which fact do you think is the most mind-blowing?
- What does Neil wish every person would do? Why?

Extension Activities

Scope Things Out. Have the students build a simple telescope. Websites such as National Geographic Kids provide instructions for creating a telescope using cardboard tubes and two convex lenses (https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/nature/make-a-telescope/). You can create one telescope as a class, or have students create their own individual telescope.

See the Stars. Neil's life was changed forever after he visited the Hayden Planetarium. If possible, plan to take your students to a local planetarium. Afterwards, have the students write about their experience.

Spacing Out. Have the students research our solar system and challenge them to build a model using materials of their choice. Students may design a large poster, a pop-up picture, or a three-dimensional model of our solar system using materials such as clay, balloons, or paper maché. Display the models and have the students design invitations for other classes to visit the "Space Show" in your classroom.

Shoot for the Stars. Ask the students to research a constellation. What is it called? Why? When is it visible in the sky? Then have the students create a constellation chart or build a 3-dimensional constellation using materials such as toothpicks and mini-marshmallows. Display the constellations and add them to the "Space Show" in your classroom.

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