

# PUKU –SUMMER–

## Week 4: Space Launch



3...2...1... blast off! This week we are going to be discovering words that are out of this world. Whether you prefer real life wonders like the Milky Way and supernovas or the world of science fiction and hyperspace, we've got you covered.

### Vocabulary Lists

**Science Fiction Vocabulary List** - <https://s.m-w.com/3gN4RR3>

**Outer Space Vocabulary List** - <https://s.m-w.com/2OdZdul>

### Suggested Reading and Discussion Questions

See *You in the Cosmos* by Jack Cheng

Alex's dream of sending his golden iPod into space launches him on a journey steeped in love of family, rockets, and a dog named Carl Sagan.

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*I Love You, Michael Collins* by Lauren Baratz-Logsted - <https://s.m-w.com/38GyoZL>

*I Love You, Michael Collins* is a heartwarming tale about learning, dreaming, and forging connections during tumultuous times.

### Discussion Questions

1. Do you think having a pen pal is important? Is it better for it to be someone you know, or someone you don't?
2. What do you think of Mamie's family by the end of the book? Do you agree with Mamie's assessment that none of them are so bad because they didn't realize she'd been alone?

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### Vocabulary Activities

#### Write a Letter to an Astronaut

Ever wonder what it's like to sleep without gravity? Or what astronauts eat in space? Write a letter to an active astronaut to find out. You can find a list of active astronauts here:

<https://www.nasa.gov/astronauts/biographies/active> Don't forget to include an extra envelope with your address and a stamp so they can write you back. Mail your letter to:

*NASA/Johnson Space Center  
CB/Astronaut Office  
Houston, TX 77058*

#### Science Fiction Stories

Write your own science fiction short story using the words from our Science Fiction Vocabulary list. Feel free to include all the aliens and future technology that you can imagine! Here are some writing prompts to get you started:

1. I set my time machine to the year...
2. Our android teacher was like our human teachers in most ways, except...
3. We didn't know whether we were more excited or frightened, but there could be no mistaking what we saw: it was a message from an extraterrestrial being. It said...

#### Other fun activities

- Use mini-marshmallows and toothpicks to make models of the constellations.
- Go stargazing. If you have a telescope that's great, but binoculars work well too. Try to find the International Space Station. <https://spotthestation.nasa.gov/>
- Design your own Mission Patch. You can find past mission patches here: <https://s.m-w.com/2WvToOb>
- Make half moon or crescent cookies. A delicious way to learn the phases of the moon.
- Explore the Earth at Night with Google. <https://s.m-w.com/2Zr8cPY>
- Build a model rocket. This could be with a kit, LEGO® or recycled toilet paper rolls. Be creative!
- Build a model solar system using a kit, modeling clay or paper mache.

