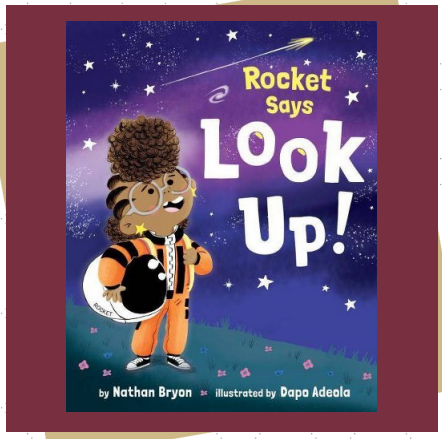


BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

Rocket Says Look Up! by Nathan Bryan

Book Summary

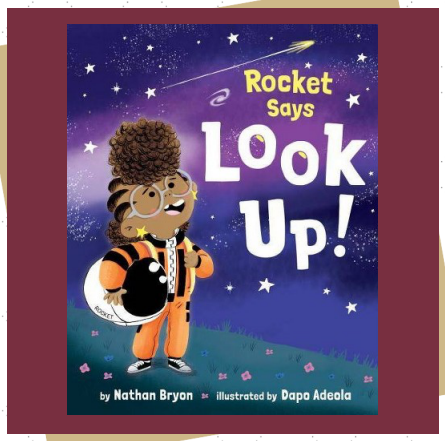
Rocket, an aspiring astronaut, is always looking up to the sky. By passing out flyers and telling everyone she sees, Rocket draws her community together to see a rare appearance of the Phoenix meteor showers. She hopes that her big brother, Jamal, will look up from his phone long enough to see the magic of the night sky!

Before Reading the Story

- Discuss what you see on the cover of the book.
- Make predictions on what the story may be about and the setting.
- Have you ever seen a meteor shower?
- Discuss whether you would like to be an astronaut.
- Rocket was inspired by astronaut Mae Jemison. Search Youtube to learn more about Mae's adventures.

Target Vocabulary

- **telescope**: a device shaped like a long tube that you look through to see things that are far away
- **fiery**: having or producing fire
- **orbit**: the curved path that something (such as a moon or satellite) follows as it goes around something else (such as a planet)
- **meteor (mee-dee-er)**: a piece of rock that burns and glows brightly in the sky as it falls from outer space into the Earth's atmosphere
- **defied**: to go against something
- **annoyed**: to feel somewhat angry or irritated
- **atmosphere**: the whole mass of air that surrounds the Earth
- **binoculars**: a device that you hold up to your eyes and look through to see things that are far away



BEYOND THE BOOK GUIDE

During the Story

- Read the book aloud with the pictures facing your child.
- Make predictions about the story based on the pictures.
- Provide definitions and connections for any of the target vocabulary words that may be unfamiliar.
- Have your child repeat the words that they do not know.
- Relate the details in the story to events and experiences in your everyday life.
- Ask questions throughout the story to help your child understand what's being read.

After Reading the Story

- Have your child retell the story in their own words using the pictures.
- Watch a video of a real meteor shower on YouTube. Discuss what it looks like.
- Search the internet to see when meteor showers are happening.
- Do you ever feel you or someone in your family looks down at a device too often? Make a list of at least five non-screen time things to do for fun.

Example Questions to Ask

- Why is the main character named Rocket?
- When Rocket grows up, she will be the greatest *astronaut*, *star catcher*, *and space* _____ .
- Describe Rocket's big mission in the story.
- Why do you think Jamal is always looking down at his phone?
- Jamal was annoyed with Rocket in the grocery store. Tell me about a time you were annoyed with someone.
- According to Rocket, what is the best time to see a meteor shower?
- Who shows up to Rocket's house? Why?
- Why did Rocket say the Phoenix meteor shower may be a myth?
- If you could invite anyone to watch a meteor shower with you, who would it be?