

## APPR Reading Challenge

Have you read one of the All Pikes Peak Reads 2009 selections? (For a complete list, visit [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) and click on the APPR 2009 link.) If so, from September 20 - October 30 you can receive a free Frisbee from your local library and be entered to win a big blow up alien! Visit any branch for more APPR 2009 and Teen Read Week programs during September and October, including:



### Cosmic Bling

For the crafty teen or tween: get your hands on your own piece of the All Pikes Peak Reads action and create cosmic decorations. Make space-age necklaces and futuristic bracelets or alien-tastic decorations for your cell phones, backpacks, hats, shoes and hair. (Check [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) or with your local branch for dates and times.)

### Space Foundation Program

For teens: LCROSS Design Challenge. Design a vehicle similar to the LCROSS impactor that will be released and will impact the moon. Teens will design and build a vehicle that will release an impactor into a simulated lunar surface. (Check [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) or with your local branch for dates and times.)

### Improv Club

If you are interested in drama and acting, or just like performing, this club is for you. For teens in grades 6 and up, or ages 11 - 18. No experience or registration is required. The first meeting will be 4 - 5 p.m. on Wed., Sept. 16 in the East Teen Center.

For more information, contact [akrupicka@ppld.org](mailto:akrupicka@ppld.org) or [khoke@ppld.org](mailto:khoke@ppld.org).



### Fun Facts about Space

- ♦ If you attempted to count all the stars in a galaxy at a rate of one every second, it would take around 3,000 years to count them all.
- ♦ The odds of being killed by space debris are 1 in 5 billion.
- ♦ If you shouted in space, even if someone was right next to you, they wouldn't be able to hear you.
- ♦ One day on the planet Pluto is about the length of a week on Earth.
- ♦ Jupiter is larger than 1,000 Earths.
- ♦ The sun, composed mostly of helium and hydrogen, has a surface temperature of 6,000 degrees Celsius.

## East Chess Club



Join others in playing chess! Every third Friday of the month, the East Chess Club will be meeting from 3:30 - 5 p.m. at East Library. Hope to see you there! For more information, contact [akrupicka@ppld.org](mailto:akrupicka@ppld.org).

### Space Books for Teens

#### Fiction

*Starclimber* by Kenneth Oppel  
*Starcross, or, The Coming of the Moobs!, or, Our adventures in the Fourth Dimension!* by Philip Reeve  
*Alien in a Bottle* by Kathy Mackel  
*Ark Angel* by Anthony Horowitz  
*When the Tripods Came* by John Christopher  
*Dancing with an Alien* by Mary Logue  
*Rules of the Universe* by Austin W. Hale  
by Robin Vaupel  
*Galax-Arena* by Gillian Rubinstein  
*Monks in Space: Trapped in a Fatal Orbit* by David Jones  
*The Last Universe* by William Sleator  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

#### Nonfiction

*Space on Earth: Saving Our World by Seeking Others* by Charles Cockell  
*Final Frontier: Voyages into Outer Space* by David Owen  
*Stephen Hawking: A Biography* by Kristine M. Larsen  
*Sally Ride: First American Woman in Space* by Carole Ann Camp  
*Space People from A-Z* by Ray Spangenburg  
*Almost Astronauts: 13 Women Who Dared to Dream* by Tanya Lee Stone  
*UFO Headquarters: Investigations on Current Extraterrestrial Activity* by Susan Wright  
*The Complete Idiot's Guide to NASA* by Thomas Jones

## Homeschool Hub

Want to get connected with local homeschool groups and learn about resources available here at PPLD? Log on to the Homeschool Hub resource website. View a database of local homeschool groups, sign up for monthly newsletters and booklists, and connect with other homeschool families all in one place. Just visit [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) and click on **Homeschool Hub**.



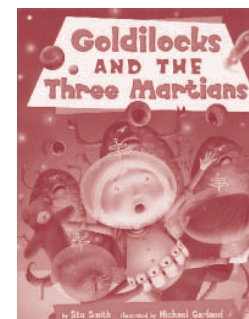
# EDUCATION CONNECTIONS

Autumn 2009

## A Homeschool Resource Tool

## Out of This World Books

Children of all ages have always looked out at the night sky and thought about zooming to the moon, the stars, the planets, or farther out from our solar system. Perhaps a trip to another planet will solve the daily troubles of a child.

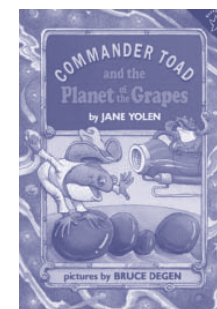


That was not what happened in *Goldilocks and the Three Martians* by Stu Smith (ages 4 - 9). This spacey version of Goldilocks features surprising aliens, including the little one who moans about "never getting to go out for fast food" as Goldilocks makes a break for her spaceship.



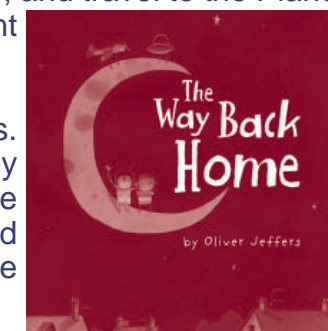
In *The Wonderful Flight to the Mushroom Planet* by Eleanor Cameron (ages 8 - 12), two boys build their own spaceship, travel to the Mushroom Planet, and help the Basidiumites by solving the mystery of what essential element was absent in the food supply on Basidium.

This peaceful story has been in print since 1954.



Join *Commander Toad* in the series by Jane Yolen (ages 6 - 10), and travel to the Planet of the Grapes, or his other adventures. Young readers will delight in both the action and the jokes that fill these far out stories.

Fiction is a fantastic way to introduce many nonfiction topics. Enjoy fun picture books together, like *The Way Back Home* by Oliver Jeffers (ages 4 - 8), and see if your children latch onto the ideas of friendship, kindness and cooperation. The world would be a better place if we could all be as kind as the boy and the Martian, who help each other so they both can return home.



Older readers may enjoy stories for children by Robert Heinlein. *Have Space Suit - Will Travel* (ages 12 - 18) is one of the titles for All Pikes Peak Reads 2009. Imagine winning a real, though used, space suit in a sweepstakes. Being handy with tools, Clifford decides to repair the broken parts. He really wants to go to the moon; getting an appointment to the Air Force Academy would be one path, or getting a degree in jet propulsion and going to work on the moon like so many others before him. Adults will enjoy the comments about Clifford's high school subjects being "twaddle" and a waste of time. Clifford goes to the moon and beyond in this 1958 book. Try the audio version of this book; you will find some great topics for discussion with your teen.

For more information about All Pikes Peak Reads, visit [ppld.org](http://ppld.org). There is also additional information about APPR events inside this newsletter.



**To contact PPLD's Homeschool Committee, please email [akrupicka@ppld.org](mailto:akrupicka@ppld.org)**



# The BookShelf

Great new books for inquisitive kids!

## **Secret of the Puking Penguins – and More**

by Ana Maria Rodriguez

In this great “Animal Secrets Revealed” series, you can read about science puzzles and how people were curious enough to study and solve the mysteries. (Ages 7 - 12)

## **Abe Lincoln Crosses a Creek**

by Deborah Hopkinson

Abe was seven when his childhood friend, Austin, saves him from drowning as they crossed a swollen creek. The author helps us to understand how some things in history are known, while other parts of the story are unknown. (Ages 6 - 10)

## **A Penguin Story** by Antoinette Portis

Take a trip to Antarctica. Our penguin is so tired of everything being black, white or blue. Surely there is something else. A red plane lands, and the expedition has lots of red things. All the penguins go to visit the camp. Now our penguin is hopeful for another color. The story ends as a green ship sails into view. (Ages 4 - 6)

## **Tillie Lays an Egg** by Terry Blonder

This is a perfect picture book for preschoolers and chicken lovers. Terry (the author) used her own chickens to pose in the photographs. The reader gets to look at each picture and see where Tillie laid an egg. (Ages 3 - 7)

The Library and local community organizations are offering an out-of-this-world calendar of programs and events to celebrate All Pikes Peak Reads 2009. Here are just some of the diverse activities you will be able to enjoy. Check your local branch or the APPR 2009 page on [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) for dates and times.



## Database Focus: Outer Space

All you stargazers, astro-explorers, and future space adventurers: **Kids Web** on [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) has some incredible sites you can venture into and find yourself lost in space.

With All Pikes Peak Reads encouraging a space and rocket theme, these sites will help you find links connecting you to an explosion of information taking you to infinity and beyond!

From the **Kids Web** page, click on **Homework Help** then **Report Roadmaps**. You can choose **Space**, connecting you to links of fascinating photos from the gigantic Hubble telescope, action games and information relating to our solar system, as well as galaxies far, far away. Try **NASA's Solar System Exploring**, **Cosmos4Kids**, and **Windows to the Universe**. Up-and-coming astronauts will enjoy the **Space Exploration** links to **Basic Space Flight** and **Space Age Living**, which answer questions about how you would survive in a no-gravity environment, and why water would float upwards.

Do you love rocket ships and flying objects? Click on **Explore the Web**, then **Yahoo Kids**. Search for rocketry and you'll have many options to click on rocket building and craft, rocket kits, and what makes rockets fly (and why they sometimes don't).

Now is the time, without ever leaving your seat, to zoom off into adventures of space, space travel, and flying rockets! Perhaps you could be the next person on the moon!

- ☆ Lunar Lander Design Challenge for tweens presented by the Space Foundation
- ☆ LCROSS Design Challenge for teens presented by the Space Foundation
- ☆ Cosmic Bling (Teens and tweens: Craft your own jewelry)
- ☆ The Stellar Portal! (A portable planetarium from The Challenger Learning Center of Colorado Springs)
- ☆ Living in Space! (A simulation by The Challenger Learning Center of Colorado Springs)
- ☆ Rocketry and other Cool Science adventures
- ☆ A Nose for Space (A new, original performance by the Manitou Art Theatre)
- ☆ Author Homer Hickam will speak at The Challenger Learning Center of Colorado
- ☆ CosRocs will host a rocket launch
- ☆ Rendezvous with a Comet (A simulated space mission)
- ☆ Earn Girl Scout recognition through participation in APPR
- ☆ The Colorado Springs Conservatory will present a Flash Gordon radio show

# CHILDREN'S PAGES

## Space Race

Time yourself! How fast can you make 20 space words using the letters below? You can use a letter more than once in a word, and each letter has to be used at least once.



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_____	_____
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_____	_____
_____	_____

## 3... 2... 1... Blast Off!

The children's department is hosting several awesome Family Fun programs during September and October to coincide with All Pikes Peak Reads.

The Challenger Learning Center of Colorado Springs presents *The Stellar Portal* and *Living in Space*; Cool Science presents *Rocketry and Other Cool Science Adventures*; and Manitou Art Theatre's Jim Jackson voyages to outer space with *A Nose for Space*. Check your local branch or [ppld.org](http://ppld.org) for dates and times.



## Space Books for Kids

### J-Nonfiction

- Space Disasters* 363.1242 W896S
- Big and Busy Space* 520 B592
- Space* 520 D996S
- Life on Earth...and Beyond* 571.0919 T951L
- Kingfisher Voyages: Space* 629.45 G624SP
- The Swamps of Sleethe: Poems from Beyond the Solar System* 811.54 P924SW

### J-Fiction

- Rat Trap* by Michael J. Daley
- Mike Stellar: Nerves of Steel* by K. A. Holt
- Gathering Blue* by Lois Lowry
- ☆ *Midnight on the Moon* by Mary Pope Osborne (APPR 2009 selection) ☆
- The Green Book* by Jill Paton Walsh
- Baxter Moon: Galactic Scout* by John Zakour



### J-Easy (picture books)

- Moon Over Star* by Dianna Hutts Aston
- Star Seeker: a Journey to Outer Space* by Theresa Heine
- Space Boy* by Leo Landry
- Earth to Stella* by Simon Puttock
- Sheep Blast Off* by Nancy Shaw
- Joey and Jet in Space* by James Yang



### J-Reader (easy readers)

- ☆ *About Space* by Jana Carson (Level C) (2009 APPR selection) ☆
- Minnie and Moo and the Potato from Planet X* by Denys Cazet (Level D)
- Space Cat* by Doug Cushman (Level C)
- Up, Up, and Away* by Margaret Hillert (Level B)
- Space Dog Jack* by Susan Schade (Level B)

