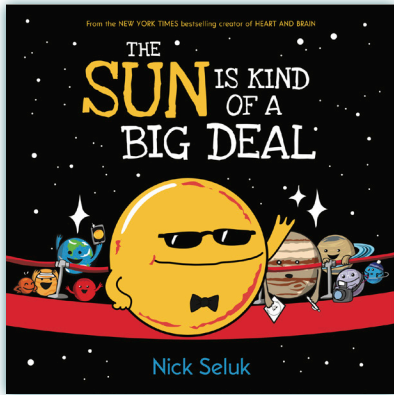




## Curriculum Guide

# The Sun is Kind of A Big Deal

Written and Illustrated by Nick Seluk



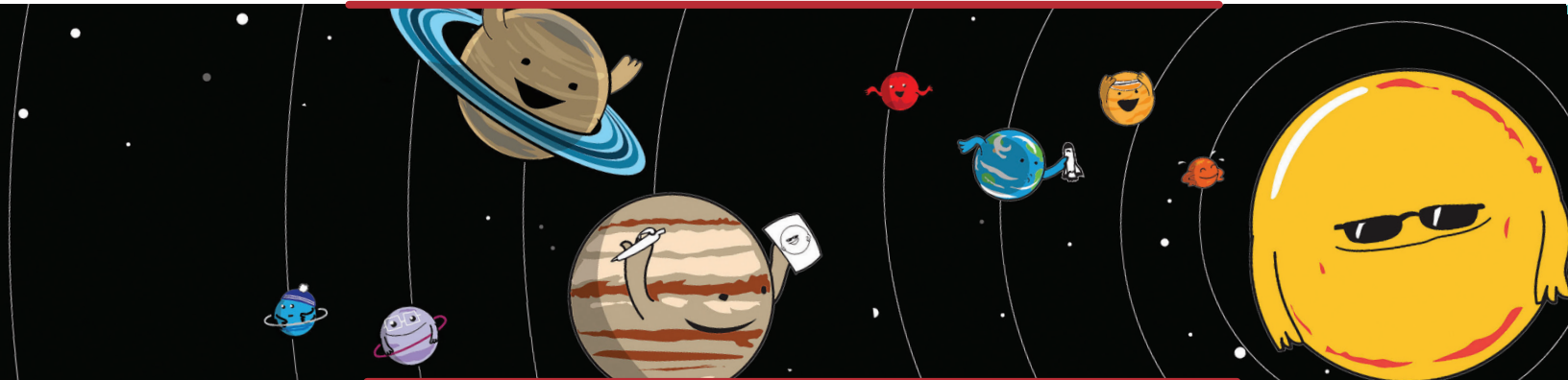
## SUMMARY

In this story, young readers learn about the greatest star in our galaxy-- the Sun! And it's kind of a big deal. Such a big deal, in fact, that all life on our planet depends upon it. But the sun isn't just for us; it's the center around which an entire family of planets revolves!

Students will learn and laugh as they discover why the sun is kind of a big deal.

## THEMES

Solar System, Space, Humor



## COMMON CORE CONNECTIONS\*

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.3

Describe the connection between a series of historical events, scientific ideas or concepts, or steps in technical procedures in a text.

### CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.7

Explain how specific images (e.g., a diagram showing how a machine works) contribute to and clarify a text.

## MATERIALS

- Easel/whiteboard and markers
- Sticky notes
- A.V. equipment
- *The Sun is Kind of a Big Deal* movie
- *The Sun is Kind of a Big Deal* book copies
- Large, lined index cards
- Pencils
- Yellow and blue (or black) paint
- Glitter
- Paper dishes
- Paintbrushes
- Cups/water
- Tarp or newspaper
- Yarn
- Hole puncher

\*The Common Core State Standards addressed by the discussion questions and activities in this guide are noted throughout. For more information on the Common Core, visit [corestandards.org](http://corestandards.org).



# Curriculum Guide

## Activities



### OBJECTIVE

Students will use both *The Sun is Kind of a Big Deal* and other informational sources to explain how the sun affects the way we see the moon.

### BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

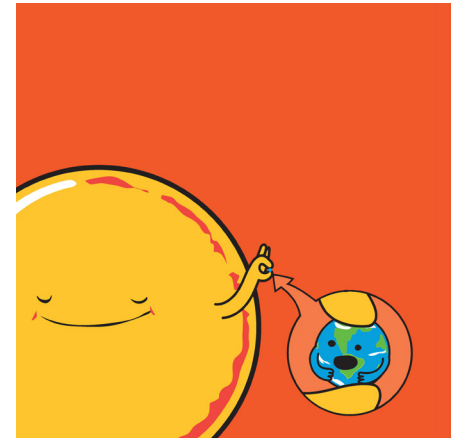
Discuss the students' background knowledge about space and the sun. During the discussion, write the students' responses on the board/easel. Guiding questions may include:

- What do you know about outer space?
- How does what's happening in space affect our lives on Earth?
- What do you know about the sun?

Next, write and pose the following question on the board/easel:

How would my life be different without the sun?

Distribute one sticky note to each child. Ask the students to respond to the question on their sticky notes. Once they've written an answer down, they can stick their note underneath the question on the board/easel. After each student has posted a response, discuss their ideas. Following the discussion, explain that the class will be viewing a short film about the sun.



### AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Reconvene the class to discuss the movie and check for comprehension. Guiding questions may include:

- What is the most interesting or surprising thing that you learned while watching this movie?
- What are some of the ways in which the sun affects life on earth?
- Did anything from the movie relate the what you previously wrote on your sticky note?
- What would you like to learn more about?

After discussing the movie, explain that the students will be learning a bit more about how the sun affects our planet's relationship with another cosmic force-- the moon! Introduce this idea by asking the students if they remember learning anything about the moon in the movie. Then have three volunteers act out the orbit/positioning of the sun, earth, and the moon! Alternately, you can separate the class into groups of three so that everyone can act in orbit!

**(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.3)**

Students will then refer back to the film (or a copy of the book,) to look for information about how the moon's appearance is affected by the sun. Then on an index card, they will then explain how the sun can make the moon appear differently (in their own words).

**(CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.2.7)**

Once they have had their work checked, students can begin painting the moon cycles onto paper plates. Glitter is not required, but it is encouraged!

When they've finished each moon cycle and the paint is dry, glue each student's index card to the back of their "full moon". Arrange their moon cycles in one consecutive line. Using the hole punch and yarn, turn each students' artwork into a festive mobile!

### OTHER TITLES ABOUT SPACE

- *Stars! Stars! Stars!*
- *Star Stuff: Carl Sagan and the Mysteries of the Cosmos*
- *Hidden Figures: The True Story of Four Black Women and the Space Race*