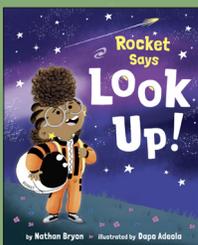


# Rocket Says!

**Dream big and tackle problems head-on  
with this plucky, young scientist!**



**Rocket Says Look Up!**  
Nathan Bryon;  
Illustrated by Dapo Adeola

Meet Rocket—an aspiring astronaut intent on getting her community to LOOK UP! from what they're doing and reach for the stars in this debut picture book.



**Rocket Says Clean Up!**  
Nathan Bryon;  
Illustrated by Dapo Adeola

Rocket returns in another inspiring picture book about getting a community to notice the world around them—this time to CLEAN UP! their shoreline.





# Rocket Says Look Up! Activities



## Shooting Stars

Ask students if they have ever seen a shooting star. Explain that shooting stars aren't actually stars but meteors. This video from SciShow Kids ([youtu.be/F4xavj2hqSU](https://youtu.be/F4xavj2hqSU)) explains the difference between a meteor, a meteorite, and a meteoroid.

## Where Are the Stars?

Depending on the amount of light pollution where you live, it may not be dark enough for you to see the stars in the sky, but this doesn't mean they aren't there. Find a small flashlight or glow stick and place it somewhere in the classroom. Ask students if they can see the light (if they can, ask them not to share the location with their classmates). Continue to make the classroom darker by turning off lights, closing blinds, and blocking light seeping in around the door. As it gets darker, more and more students should be able to see the light. Explain that the light was shining the entire time, but due to the other light in the classroom, it was difficult to see. Play students this "Where Are the Stars?" video from National Geographic ([youtu.be/0FXJUP6\\_O1w](https://youtu.be/0FXJUP6_O1w)), which shows the impact of light pollution on your view of the stars.

## Dear Mae Jemison

Mae Jemison was the first African American woman in space, but she isn't only an accomplished astronaut. She is also a chemical engineer, a doctor, a children's book author, and a talented dancer and choreographer! After sharing these and some other facts about Jemison with students, have them write a letter to her with questions about her life or her time in space.

## Astronaut Research

There have been lots of fascinating people who have had the opportunity to travel to space. Using Mae Jemison as an example, complete the graphic organizer as a class. Individually or in small groups, have students research other astronauts and fill out their own graphic organizer. Hang them around the room so students can learn all about other astronauts.

## Creating Constellations

Meteor showers are named after the constellation in which they originate. Show students pictures of various constellations. Afterward, explain that the Phoenix Meteor Shower from the book, or the Phoenicids, is a product of the Phoenix constellation. Show students a picture of the constellation and a picture of a phoenix. Explain that constellations are often named after the shapes their stars create. Using the reproducible, have students create their own constellation by coloring select stars and connecting them to form a shape. Students can then name their constellation and explain why they chose that name.



This guide was prepared by Heather Lister, a teacher and librarian with a passion for maker education and innovation. Previously a school librarian, Heather is now the founder and owner of Construct Learning. She is also a senior maker fellow with the Foundry Makerspace.

Random House Children's Books • School and Library Marketing  
1745 Broadway • New York, NY 10019 • 5.20  
[RHTeachersLibrarians.com](http://RHTeachersLibrarians.com)



# Rocket Says Clean Up! Activities



## Polluted Waters

Have your students draw pictures of the ocean (or another body of water). After the students have finished their drawings, show them pictures or video clips of bodies of water containing trash. Have students do a think-pair-share, comparing their drawings with the images shown. How do the images make them feel? How do they think the trash got there? Are they able to identify any of the items?

## Plastics and Their Uses

Although plastics aren't good for our oceans or ocean life, they have many advantages. They are often used in the medical and emergency-service fields. In small groups or as a class, make a list of things students use that are made of plastic. The list will probably get very long. Emphasize that plastics are everywhere because they are much less expensive than other materials. Have a discussion about various items on the list. Are there any alternatives to those products that might be less harmful to the environment? What would be the consequences of not using plastic?

## Let's Talk About Recycling

Depending on your location, recycling rules differ. Visit your municipality website for information about guidelines in your community. Something that is recyclable in one neighborhood may not be so in another. When things that aren't recyclable are placed in recycling, they can contaminate the entire batch, resulting in all contents going to a landfill. Gather various items (some recyclable and some not), and have students sort them based on what they believe to be recyclable. If your municipality only accepts certain types of plastics (usually indicated by a number on the plastic), have your students sort by type.

Note: Much more than plastic can be recycled! Items like electronics, building materials, and clothing can be recycled and used again, helping keep waste out of landfills and our oceans. Sites like [RecycleNation.org](https://www.RecycleNation.org) and [Earth911.org](https://www.Earth911.org) are great resources, providing information on where you can recycle materials locally and other earth-friendly tips and tricks.

## Recycled Creations

After the cleanup crew collects all the plastic, Rocket's friend's mom is able to reuse it to create trash bins for the beach. Even though many plastics are designed for single use, there are lots of things we can create with them. Challenge your students to make something new using recyclable materials. Students can either present their creation to the class or design a poster advertising it.

## Do-Our-Part Pledge

Combating the plastics crisis is everyone's problem, and we can each do our part. Just like Rocket and her friends on the beach, we can all pitch in to make our beaches and oceans cleaner and safer for marine life. After learning about the negative impacts of plastic and some strategies to use less and offset what we do use, create a classroom or school pledge to take action to protect our oceans. Simple choices like using reusable water bottles and metal straws can have a large impact on the environment. This pledge can be posted around the school and shared with parents so students can continue the good work at home.





# Astronaut Research

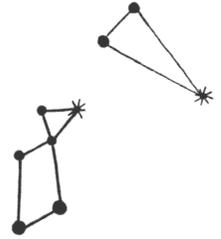


Name \_\_\_\_\_



<b>Name of Astronaut</b>	
<b>Birth Date</b>	
<b>Name of Space Shuttle or Mission</b>	
<b>Date of Mission</b>	
<b>Role on Mission</b>	
<b>Education</b>	
<b>Interesting Facts</b>	
<b>Sources</b>	

# Creating Constellations



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rocket is excited to see the Phoenix Meteor Shower! It is named after the Phoenix constellation, which is said to resemble the mythical creature of the same name. Color and connect the stars to create your own constellation below.



**Name your constellation:** \_\_\_\_\_

**I named my constellation this because:** \_\_\_\_\_

