

Through the Eyes of a Young Stargazer



More to Take Away

Before going into space, astronauts must go through a series of physical and technical training, including land and sea survival courses, language courses and public speaking courses.

Let's Think!

1. What is your favourite book?
2. Can you recommend a book to your classmates?

To the Stars!

The First American Woman to Walk in Space
by Carmella Van Vleet and Kathy Sullivan

As the book title suggests, Kathy Sullivan, the first female
5 NASA astronaut, is destined to be special. Throughout the book, Kathy's curiosity and courage are so vividly depicted and illustrated by every decision and act of hers. As a child, she liked to study the blueprints her aircraft engineer father had brought home. She also liked to go fishing with her
10 family. She even dared to hop on a stranger's aircraft. All these tiny, apparently minor details add to the portrayal of her thirst for adventure, and her determination to be herself.

Despite having been questioned why she wasn't like other so-called 'ordinary' girls, she never faltered in her belief;
15 otherwise she would have been a nurse or a wife. She made up her mind, came up with plans and implemented them, and that was her approach to achieving goals, both short-term and long-term. Her path to becoming the first American woman astronaut to the uninhabited territory was surely not a walk in
20 the park, and her success has shown me the power of the mind.

As a girl who aspires to be a computer programmer, I find Kathy's story very relatable, not to mention unexpectedly inspiring. The invaluable lesson I have learnt from Kathy's journey can be summed up in one line: opposition is
25 nothing to passion and ambition. I am genuinely glad that Kathy decided to share her story and that I have had the luck to come across it.

Space Robots (Robots and Robotics)

by Tony Hyland

30 This book offers a broad, comprehensive overview of space technology, with a focus on robots used in outer space. In general, this book briefly deals with robots that have been sent beyond Earth's atmosphere. Some of them engage in scientific projects, while some involve in studies
35 relating to Earth and objects beyond it. It explains how they work and predicts how they will evolve. With illustrations, complicated concepts concerning space and the robots are much easier to understand for laymen like me.

What fascinates me the most in the book is 'Voyager 1',
40 a space probe launched by NASA in 1977. It was announced to be the first man-made object to travel to interstellar space in 2013, meaning that it had left the solar system—how incredible that was! It was even said to be the man-made object which had travelled the
45 longest distance through space. I wonder what other information about space it can get to amaze us!

Having read about different robots and space missions in detail, I realise that none of us seems to see that we may have taken our knowledge about outer space
50 too much for granted. What astronauts and scientists have contributed to the field is the fruit of numerous experiments, which I highly appreciate and respect. All in all, this book is exemplary for those who wish to get a brief idea of space robots.

~490 words



STEAM
CLASSROOM

Not all the stars we see at night are really out there in space! Most of the stars we can see from Earth are very far from us—so far that it may take millions of years for the light they give out to reach Earth. So, by the time the light arrive, the star that gave it out might have already disappeared!

Looking into Grammar

'None of' is used with a plural or uncountable noun to form a noun phrase. It is followed by a singular verb.

✓ None of us **knows** (✗ know) how to drive.

? Circle a similarly structured clause in the last paragraph of the second book review.

Part A Multiple Choice Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the book reviews. Choose the best answer by blackening the appropriate circle.

1. *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space* is _____.

- A. a science fiction
- B. a graphic biography
- C. a fairytale
- D. a book review

1 Look at the book cover and the authors' names for clues.

2. Which of the following is TRUE about Kathy Sullivan?

- A. She dared to challenge others.
- B. She did not like trying new things.
- C. She wanted to be a nurse at first.
- D. She did not worry much about the opinions of others.

3. In lines 19-20, 'a walk in the park' means _____.

- A. something that is tiring
- B. something that is done in spare time
- C. something that is easy to achieve
- D. something that is uninteresting

4. What information does *Space Robots* include?

- I. the space robots' functions
- II. the space robots' inventors
- III. the space robots' achievements
- IV. space robots' future development

- A. I and II
- B. I and III
- C. I, III and IV
- D. all of the above

5. Which of the following best captures the main idea of paragraph 3 in the review of *Space Robots*?

- A. The world needs more astronauts.
- B. The efforts of astronauts and scientists are underrated.
- C. Scientific experiments are important.
- D. Robots are our faithful companions.

6. Elaine would like to read a fantasy story based on science. Which one should Elaine read?

- A. *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space*
- B. *Space Robots*
- C. both of the above
- D. none of the above

6 What does the word 'fantasy' mean?

Self-evaluation Checklist (✓/✗)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. I understood most of the information provided in the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. I guessed the meaning of unknown words or phrases correctly. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. I managed to answer questions by drawing inferences. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. I identified and understood the writer's / characters' feelings. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. I could identify and summarise the main idea of the passage. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. The two reading strategies taught in this module enabled me to read more effectively. | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Part B Pre-HKDSE Questions

Answer the following questions based on the information provided in the book reviews. For questions 1 and 2, answer in complete sentences.



1. What is *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space* about?

2. Why is Sullivan described as ‘destined to be special’?

2 Under what circumstances may we describe someone as special?

3. Look for words in the book reviews to match the definitions below.

- (i) _____ (para. 1-2) (*adj.*) falsely or improperly named so
- (ii) _____ (para. 2-3) (*v.*) hesitated in purpose
- (iii) _____ (para. 3-4) (*prep.*) outside a stated limit
- (iv) _____ (para. 4-5) (*n.*) people who do not have expert knowledge of a particular subject
- (v) _____ (para. 5-6) (*n.*) the pleasant result of something



4. Which of the following about Voyager 1 is NOT true?

- A. It had gone out of the solar system.
- B. It was launched before 2013.
- C. It is the first piece of man-made space equipment.
- D. It had travelled a long way in space.

4 A missing keyword in an option may give it a meaning entirely different from the passage's.

5. Match each of the following names of the chapters with the book in which it is most likely to be found.

- (i) How They Assist in Space Exploration •
- (ii) The Challenges in Spacemen Training •
- (iii) Skills Required for Space Travel •
- (iv) The Mechanics of the Curiosity Rover •

• *To the Stars! The First American Woman to Walk in Space*

• *Space Robots (Robots and Robotics)*

Part C Vocabulary Bank

Label the photos below with the names of the planets in the solar system from the word box.

Mercury

Uranus

Jupiter

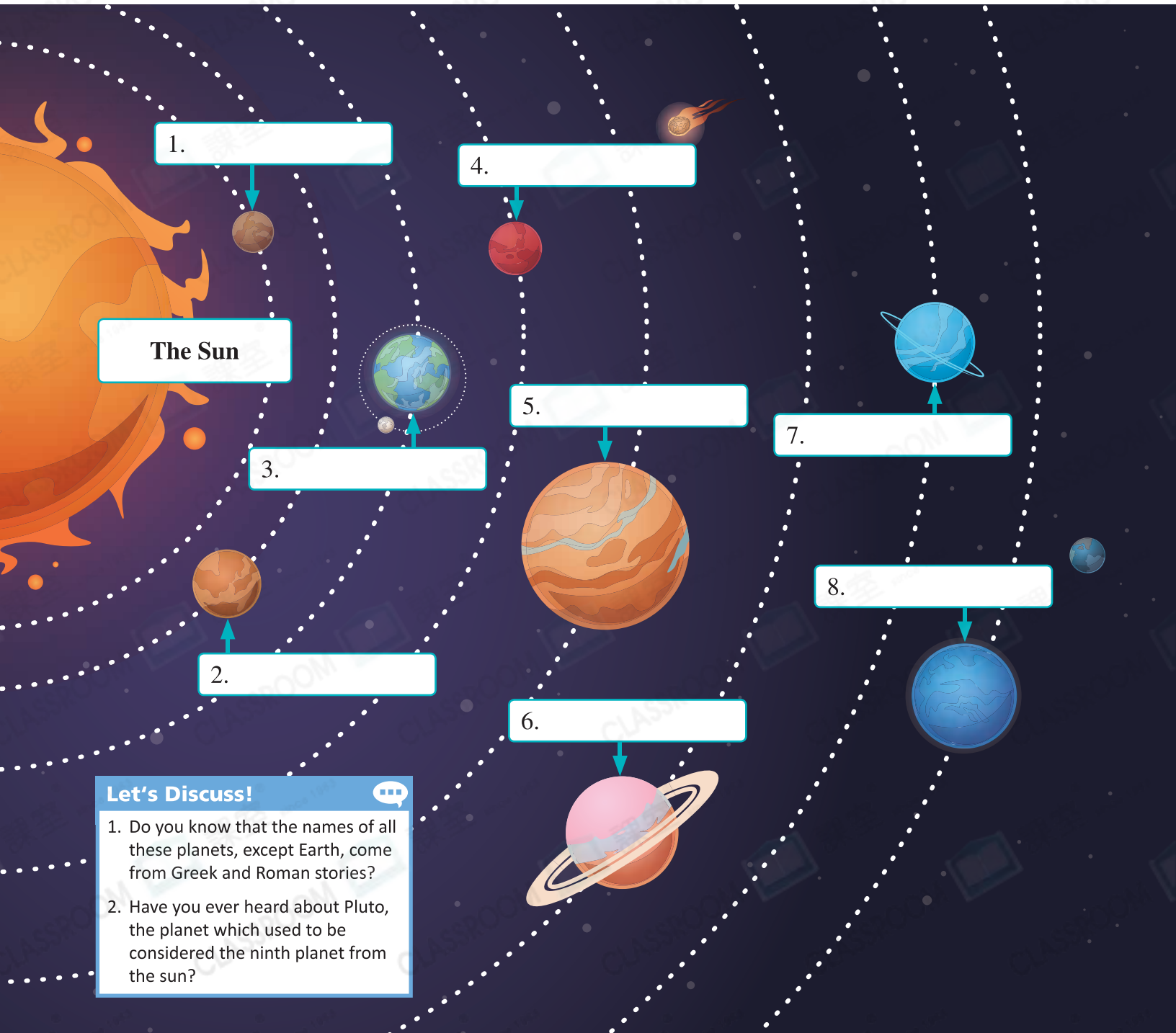
Saturn

Venus

Earth

Mars

Neptune



1.

4.

The Sun

3.

5.

7.

2.

6.

8.

Let's Discuss!

1. Do you know that the names of all these planets, except Earth, come from Greek and Roman stories?
2. Have you ever heard about Pluto, the planet which used to be considered the ninth planet from the sun?

Part D Cloze Passage

Complete the blog entry below with the appropriate nouns introduced on the previous page.

Reminder



Remember to capitalise the first letter of each planet's name.



WILSON

WILSON'S SCIENCE BLOG

In today's science lesson, Mr Chan taught us about the solar system. It was fun!

He told us that (1) _____ is the largest planet in the solar system. Its size is bigger than all of the other planets combined. How amazing is that!

(2) _____ is the smallest among the eight planets in our solar system, but the closest to the sun. Interestingly, there is no moon around this planet. It is hard to imagine a place where one could not see the moon at night!

The third planet Mr Chan talked about is (3) _____. It is the second largest planet in the solar system. With thousands of beautiful rings, it is gorgeous. No wonder people have often chosen it as the icon of space!

The planet that shares the name with the goddess of beauty, (4) _____, is the sixth largest of all the planets. Many people think that it is mysterious because its surface is covered in a thick layer of yellowish clouds, making it the third brightest planet in the solar system after the sun and moon.

(5) _____ and (6) _____ are the two farthest planets from the sun. They are giant gas planets composed of ice, frozen water and methane, blanketed in a blue-green colour.

Mr Chan told us that among all the planets in our solar system, (7) _____ is the one he is most obsessed with! That's because it is often referenced in movies and books about alien invasion!

As for me, our home planet, (8) _____, is of course my favourite. It is the fifth largest planet in our solar system. Although many scientists think it is the only habitable planet in space, I'm sure there are other life forms on the other planets!