

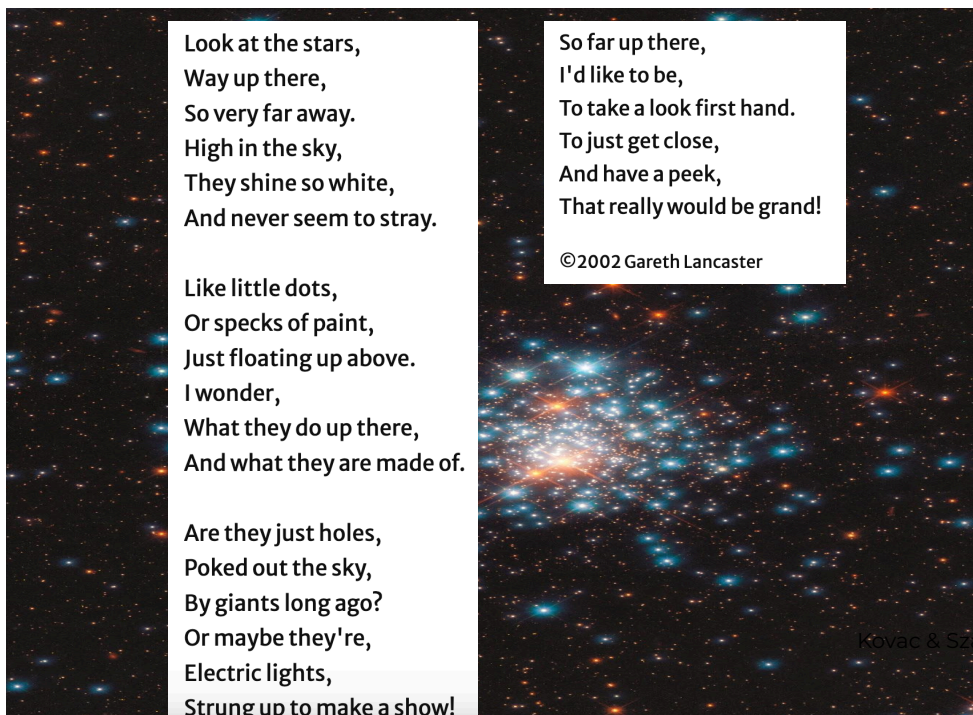
<b>Title:</b> <i>A Way to the Stars</i>	<b>Author:</b> David Almond
<b>Genre/Unit:</b> Narrative	<b>Warm Up:</b> <i>Stars</i> - Gareth Lancaster

Sparked by a child's dream to go to the stars, a father and son make many attempts to reach the goal. A tale of perseverance, imagination, and love. The author is from England. See if your students notice a difference from American expressions. British physicist and author Stephen Hawking once said, "Remember to look up at the stars and not down at your feet."

### Vocabulary

Tier 2 Word	Page	Student Friendly Definition (kids.wordsmyth.net, collinsdictionary.com, ldoceonline.com)
absolutely	10	exactly, completely, totally
definitely	10	positively, without a doubt, certainly
swirling	19	to move along or around with a spiral motion
wander	20	to move about with no purpose, aim, or plan or at no definite pace; roam
astonishing	22, 23	extremely surprising or amazing

### Warm Up Poem: Stars



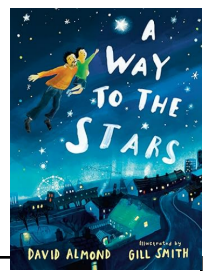
Look at the stars,  
Way up there,  
So very far away.  
High in the sky,  
They shine so white,  
And never seem to stray.

Like little dots,  
Or specks of paint,  
Just floating up above.  
I wonder,  
What they do up there,  
And what they are made of.

Are they just holes,  
Poked out the sky,  
By giants long ago?  
Or maybe they're,  
Electric lights,  
Strung up to make a show!

So far up there,  
I'd like to be,  
To take a look first hand.  
To just get close,  
And have a peek,  
That really would be grand!

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**Reading**

Page #	Accountable Talk Vocabulary, comprehension strategies, think alouds, and student talk.	JOYcabulary Getting students to own their words: speaking, reading, and writing.
<b>Before Reading</b>	Let's study the covers. It seems like the boy is trying to reach for a certain star. I think the man holding him must be his dad. People do not fly, so this story may be a fantasy. Let's read and see.	
<b>During Reading</b> P. 1-3	Study the boy's room carefully. Notice all the things in it. Did you see he has a notebook? What does all of this tell you about the boy?	
P. 4 - 5	While the boy's friends laugh at his goal, dad is ready to help. What does that tell you about their relationship?	"have a think"
P. 6 - 16	Wow! Dad and his son do not give up! And they certainly have lots of ideas. What do you think of all their attempts?	<b>persevere</b> (concept word) absolutely definitely
P. 17 - 20	Hmmm... did they give up on the dream? How will building a shed help Joe reach the stars? Did you notice the boy hanging from the tree branch? What can you infer about where this shed is located?	"in your dreams" splendid swirling wandered
P. 21 - 26	Ah! so they did take a trip to the stars in their dreams! Why do you think it was important for them to build the shed on the rooftop?	astonishing

<b>After Reading</b>	What messages/lessons is the author sharing with us? Why was the expression "in your dreams" important to the story?	
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## Extensions

## Writing

- dialogue + small action
- font change
- onomatopoeia
- listing
- tagless dialogue
- story arc
- Write a shape poem about stars:



## Other titles you may enjoy:

- *Jabari Tries* - Gaia Cornwall