

Astronaut Adventures Primary Story Writing Course

This course aims to develop students' knowledge, understanding and enjoyment of writing, and to meet National Curriculum, Lower Key Stage 2 Framework requirements.

It is designed to make students confident and enthusiastic writers, using the space theme to engage and excite them as authors as they write their own astronaut adventure story.

They will plan their writing by discussing similar texts in order to understand and learn from the structure, vocabulary and grammar, recording their ideas.

During the course we will follow the story of 'Jazz Harper' Space Explorer and complete activities related to each chapter of the story. Each day we will read and watch a new chapter of the book.

The second part of the lesson will focus on students developing their own 'Astronaut Adventure' story – we will look at how to write a story, characters, plot, and dilemmas.

10, 2 hour - lessons

Lesson 1	Chapter 1: Get Ready for Lift-Off	<p>Jess's 'vintage' paper diary, from the year 2060, recounts having to say goodbye to her Gran, a former adventurer and explorer, before she and her mum to travel to Mars. Jazz's mum is an extra-terrestrial-life researcher. As she goes to pack her suitcase Jazz writes that the journey itself will take four months and that they will be away for a total of five years.</p> <p>Next, we see an equipment list for the voyage to Mars along with a list of banned items.</p> <p>Finally this is followed by a newspaper article from January 2060, which reports that the Argo spacecraft (which jazz is travelling in) has successfully launched with 46 passengers it tells us some of the Mars colony's history, along with future details of the craft.</p> <p>The second part of the lesson will look at characterisation and planning our own astronaut adventure Story.</p>
Lesson 2	Chapter 2: Voyage to Mars	<p>Jazz continues to write in her diary throughout the voyage through space and she lists some of the 'weird' things about living on a spacecraft. We find out about life on the spacecraft, including living without gravity</p>

		<p>eating meals, keeping entertained, exercising and sleeping. Jazz also makes her first friends on the voyage – a boy called Elijah and his little sister, Ellie-May. They discussed the view of earth from space and the notion of sunset and sunrise.</p> <p>The second part of the lesson today will look at setting where is the story set? we know it is going to be in space but what part of space? On what planet? or are you going to set your story in a spacecraft .</p>
Lesson 3	Chapter 3: Welcome to the Marineris Colony	<p>This chapter opens with an email from Jazz to her Gran, Ellen Sweeney, announcing their arrival on Mars. She describes the Valles Marineris and the landing, followed by her initial adjustment from spacecraft residence to being on another planet. Gran replies, offering Jazz some advice based on her 2031 mission to the Arctic. We then return to another diary extract where Jazz describes the colonies living quarters. In this extract she also describes walking and running on Mars, her new home and the landscape. There is also some discussion between Jazz and Elijah covering the length of days and years on Mars and the notion of a Mars calendar.</p> <p>The second part of the lesson today will be about the opening of the student's story to introduce the characters and the location of the story.</p>
Lesson 4	Chapter 4: Minor Emergencies	<p>Jazz cannot sleep the night before she starts Mars school. When she does attend class for the first time, she is surprised that the lessons are old-fashioned and dull. Jazz and Elijah also meet Leticia another pupil who has been on Mars for a long time and who is not very nice to them.</p> <p>The second part of the lesson today will focus on the build up</p>
Lesson 5	Chapter 5: First Expedition	<p>Just send an email to Gran explaining how much she is disliking Mars school and Gran replies with her own good advice, including how to deal with unpleasant people. Elijah takes over one of the diary entries,</p>

		<p>explaining some of the ways that he and Jazz have entertained themselves . They visit the lab where Jazz's mum is working, but Jazz gets into trouble when she accidentally knocks one of the scientists' rock samples onto the floor, smashing it into tiny pieces</p> <p>The second part of the lesson today will talk about 'dilemma'. We will write about a problem that is happening in the story. What is it that has gone wrong?</p>
Lesson 6	Chapter 6: Vital Equipment	<p>The chapter begins with a stern note to all residents with reminder to be careful about important equipment. Jazz's next diary entry recounts another- even more serious - incident that she gets in trouble for. This time she accidentally breaks one of the greenhouse heating lamps with an inflatable ball.</p> <p>At the end of the chapter, a newspaper report details a simultaneous issue of a failed cooling system, which resulted in one of the scientific experiments being ruined. Jazz's incident with the heating lamp is also discussed as it is suggested that she has endangered the colony's food supply.</p> <p>The second part of the lesson today we will look at resolution we will write about how the problem will be fixed we will think about how the characters might work together to solve whatever has gone wrong.</p>
Lesson 7	Chapter 7: Odd Jobs	<p>Gran tries to offer jazz reassurance following her accident in an email. A diary entry from Jazz later explains that her mum will be going on an expedition outside of the colony to look for Martian life. A second entry announces that Jazz's class took part in an expedition, but Jazz and Elijah were banned from joining due to the accident in the greenhouse. Instead, they are given the dull jobs of sorting out old equipment [dating from the 2040s] in the communications room, laundry work and shelling cockroaches to prepare them for curry. Letitia is smug upon the classes return from their field trip.</p>

		The second part of the lesson today will look at the closing of the student's stories, bringing everything in the story to an end and making sure the problem has been fixed.
Lesson 8	Chapter 8: Top-Secret Mission	<p>Elijah takes over Jazz's diary once again. The pair have embarked on a 'top-secret mission' as undercover agents to find real-life aliens. Without the knowledge or permission of any adults, Jazz and Elijah put on space suits and aim to sneak out through the coded air lock onto the red, rocky surface of Mars. They climb into the stationary Mars buggy and begin role-playing as space explorers. The diary ends abruptly as Jazz says that the Martian police are approaching...</p> <p>The second part of the lesson today will be grammar we will focus on the correct grammar required for a story including speech marks and punctuation.</p>
Lesson 9	Chapter 9: Is There Life on Mars?	<p>With Jazz taking over the diary again, we learn that the Martian police is actually her mum taking to the buggy to begin her expedition. We discovered that it was Jazz's plan all along to be in the back of the buggy when her mum departed to seek alien life. The plan comes to fruition as mum drives the buggy across the rocky landscape and we hear about the change in temperature and the views of the unfamiliar planet. Eventually, the buggy arrives at a cave and mum disembarks. Jazz and Elijah follow in secret. While collecting samples, mum collapses suffering from hypothermia. Fortunately, the children are there to rescue her, get her back to the buggy and take her back towards the colony.</p> <p>The second part of the lesson today will involve the students reading their own stories and having help from other students on how their story could be improved.</p>
Lesson 10	Lesson 10: The Greatest Explorer on Mars	This chapter begins with a transcript of a conversation between Jazz, who is driving the buggy, and the

		<p>Marineris base. They communicate with her to understand the events that have unfolded. A news article follows and reports on the incident, crediting Jazz and Elijah as the first to discover evidence of life on Mars. We learn that the 'alien' life is in the form of microbial organisms from the soil sample. A final email from Jazz to her Gran passes on the news of them being on the front page of the newspaper and she gives her own recount of the events following their return to base. Grand replies to express her pride.</p> <p>We will finish the lesson today with students reading their finished stories to the other students.</p>
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