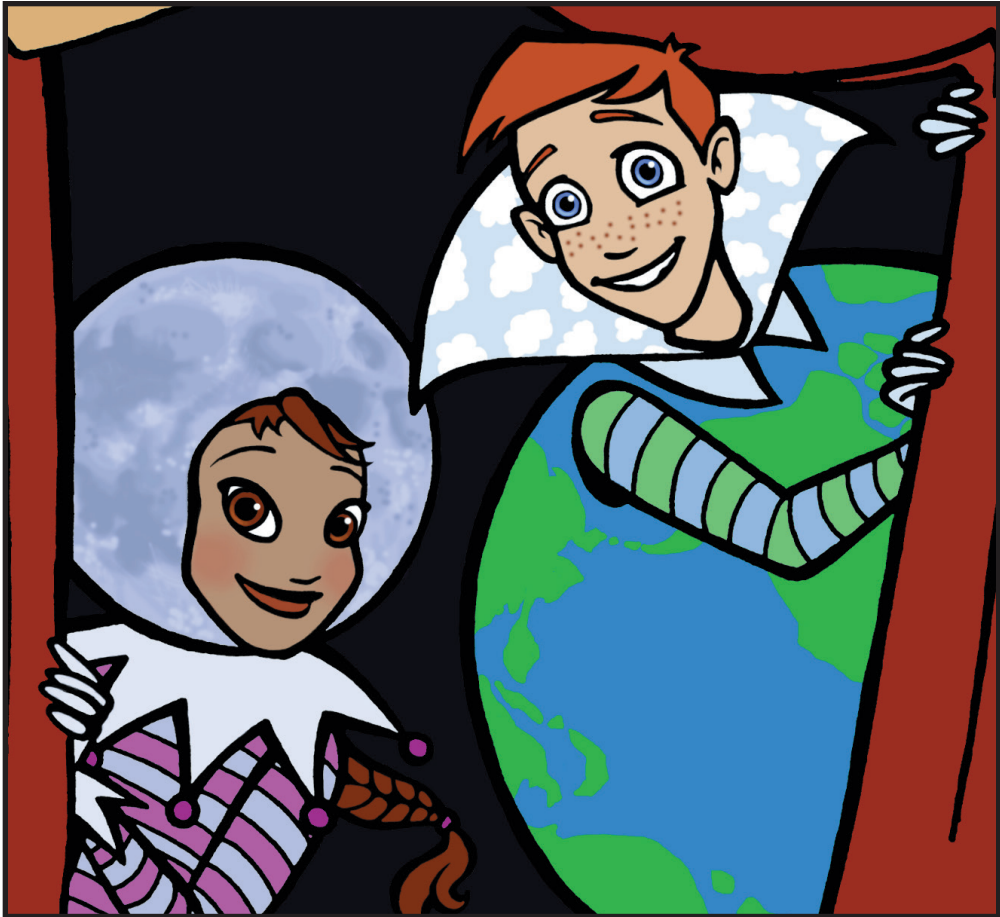


# All the Same Earth



Written by Heather Klassen

Illustrated by Maryn Roos

“Hurry, Elena,” Mr. Ling called.

“The audience is ready.”

Elena was stuffed into a huge, yellow paper ball.

Only her legs, her arms, and her head stuck out of the costume.

“You’re on,” Mr. Ling whispered.

Elena waddled onto the stage and faced the audience.

“Mr. Ling’s second-grade class presents

‘Our Solar System,’” she said.

“I am the sun. I am the biggest, hottest, brightest object in our solar system.”





Ahmed followed Elena.

He was dressed in a brownish ball.

“I’m Mercury,” Ahmed said.

“I have no water, air, or moons.”

Ahmed began to walk in a circle around Elena.





“You’re next, Mariko.” Jeff nudged her.

Mariko hurried onto the stage.

“I’m Venus,” she said.

“I’m covered with thick, poisonous acid clouds.”

Mariko smiled.

Then she joined Ahmed in orbiting around Elena.

Jeff strode onto the stage. “I’m Earth,” he announced. “I’m the only planet with flowing water to drink and plenty of air to breathe.”

Jeff also began to orbit the sun.

He almost crashed into Mariko.

She spun out of the way just in time.





“I’m Earth’s moon,” Lani said, coming onto the stage.

“I have no light of my own, but I reflect sunlight.”

Lani began her orbit close to Jeff, the Earth.

Jeff was trying to spin around and orbit the sun  
at the same time.

He looked dizzy.





Tuan threw handfuls of dust in the air as he took his place.

“Mars is called the red planet because the air is full of reddish dust. I have terrible dust storms.”

Everyone coughed and wiped their eyes as Tuan’s dust settled onto the stage.



“I am Jupiter, the largest planet,” Ingrid declared.  
She could barely get her enormous, striped costume  
onto the stage.

“My great red spot is really a huge storm.”

Ingrid began her orbit.

She bumped into Tuan, who slipped on the Mars dust.



Roberto caught Tuan before he fell.

“I’m Saturn,” Roberto told the audience.

“My hundreds of rings are made of small pieces of ice.”

Roberto spun the plastic hoops that circled his costume.





Meera entered the stage leaning over.  
“Uranus is the tilted planet,” she said.  
“It orbits the sun on its side.”  
Meera began to orbit around the sun.  
The stage was getting crowded.  
Planets bumped into each other.





“I have eight moons, blue clouds,  
and a great dark spot,” David announced.

“I am Neptune.”

David squeezed into the parade of orbiting planets.

He slipped on the dust and crashed into Uranus.

Already tipped, Uranus fell over.



“I am a dwarf planet, Pluto,” Tina said, walking onto the stage. “But I can help the others.” Tina pulled Meera to her feet.



“I’m Charon, Pluto’s big moon.”

Peter marched onto the stage in his gray paper ball. He looked at the stage, crowded with spinning, orbiting planets. “There’s no room for me,” he said.





“Stop orbiting!” Elena yelled.  
The planets slowed down.  
Then they stopped, forming a single line  
across the stage.



“We hope you have enjoyed our show,”  
Elena told the audience.

Each planet took the hand of the planet standing  
next to it.

“In our school, our families may all come  
from different countries,” Elena continued.

“But we all live in the same solar system.  
On the same Earth. That’s what’s important.”





The planets took a bow as the audience clapped. Only Uranus, already tipped, slipped on the Mars dust. This time, Saturn and Neptune caught Meera on the way down.

# Reading

**Read-along** books are designed to be enjoyed together and to foster a love of reading. These books help children build comprehension skills and learn new vocabulary. It is helpful to develop these skills in any language!

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