



# READ. SHARE. CONNECT



## Activity Guide Clear Skies

Book by Jessica Scott Kerrin

**Themes:** Unlikely friends / Focus / Overcome obstacles / Work hard to realize your dreams / Stay calm / Perspective Changes when we look back / Confronting fear or worry

Looking at our lives through a slightly different lens (or telescope) can help put things into a fresh perspective. Check out the activities below to find new ways to explore the things you love and connect with those you care about.



### Journal It!

Arno LOVES Astronomy! So much so that he keeps a notebook about it. Pick a topic you love—maybe it's music or mythology, or monster movies or monkeys—and create your own! Arno's always thinking about, reading about or engaging in activities related to astronomy—he even named his dog Comet. Devote time to learning more about and trying new experiences related to your own topic.

Write down your thoughts, ideas, experiences and knowledge about it. Include articles or images, or quotes or fascinating facts. Add drawings, entries or pictures from your real life experiences (like going to a concert, making your own short film or meeting a zoologist). Document your dreams (like designing your own roller coaster or living in a house made of Lego blocks). Try to add new things as often as you can until it's overflowing with facts and fun!



### Create a Mantra!

Like Arno, many of us have fears and challenges. To help conquer yours, create your own personal mantra (positive words or a phrase to help motivate and inspire you or calm you down in times of stress). Examples might be "I'm smart," "I'm strong," "I'm brave," "I'm a good listener," "I can do it," "I'm calm" or "I'm thankful." Say it with deep and focused breaths, only use positive words and picture images that make you feel calm and happy.



### Discover the Perfect Planet

Arno and his friends' thoughts are almost always in the stars and on the planets! If you could travel to or discover any planet in the universe, what would you hope to find there? What kind of planet would it be? Who or what would live there (if anything does)? Do they eat? What do they do for fun? What are their homes like? What kinds of plants and animals might live there? What would they think of you?

Create your own perfect planet! It can be as realistic or as fantastical as you like. What color would it be? Would it be made of french fries? Would it be underwater, or a giant amusement park? Draw and write a story about it, or create a whole star system! Ask friends and family to do the same and share your newly "discovered" planets with each other.



### **Planetary Perspective**

Arno, Buddy and Robert all love Space—but in completely different ways! Arno wants to learn everything he can about it, Buddy wants to become an astronaut and Robert is intrigued by what the planets can tell us about ourselves. They all have different perspectives as to why they love Space (and other things as well).

Choose a chapter or scene and tell it from the point of view other than Arno (even Comet!) Does it change the feeling of the scene? What do we learn from the other character's perspective? Try telling this part of the story from as many perspectives as you can!



### **Dad's Perspective**

Arno's dad talks about how your perspective often changes when you look back on something. Has that ever happened to you? Think about a time in the past—it could've been a moment full of big emotion, or something a bit more mundane. Do you feel differently about it looking back? Why do you think that is? Have you had new experiences or gained new information since then?

Now think about something going on right now. Try to imagine how you might feel about it 10 years from now. 20 years from now. Do you think you will feel the same or differently? Why or why not? Write it down and save it. See what you really think in 10 or 20 years.



### **Taking Care of Our Planet**

Arno's dad talks about how we each need to do our part to protect our fragile Earth. What can you do today to help? Make a list, and try out as many ideas as you can over the weeks and months ahead.