

Space in Literature

Part II

Purpose

The purpose of these activities is to understand that space has been of cultural importance over the ages, impacting several areas, one of the most significant being that of literature. Further, the purpose is to gain a greater understanding of the Shakespearean sonnet.

Students will be able to

1. Note space references in literature.
2. Write creatively about space.

Important Vocabulary (key terms in bold)

space	literature	poetry	sonnet
Shakespeare	iambic pentameter	rhyme scheme	rhythm
stanza	quatrain	couplet	

Space Tales

Students use the first five to ten minutes at the start of class to answer the following questions in writing: If you could travel anywhere in space, where would you go and why? What do you think it would be like there? Students should be as descriptive as possible within the time period given.

(** See below for printable activity sheet.)

Space Sonnets

Students work together to write their own sonnets, with a space-related theme. They can write about the universe as a whole, or about a single planet or other celestial body; they can use their vocabulary worksheet to assist them. (This activity should be completed in groups of four students each. Each student can write one of the stanzas; or they can all work together to complete the sonnet.) After the sonnets are completed, students read them aloud to their classmates.

