

The Solar System Saga

by Jennifer Larson
The Teacher Next Door

Characters:

Sun	Saturn	Comet 3	Ceres	Eris
Earth's Moon	Uranus	Narrator 1	Asteroid 1	
Mercury	Neptune	Narrator 2	Asteroid 2	
Venus	Pluto	Narrator 3	Asteroid 3	
Earth	Halley's Comet	Narrator 4	Moon 1	
Mars	Comet 1	Narrator 5	Moon 2	
Jupiter	Comet 2	Narrator 6	Moon 3	

Opening Song: *Aquarius*

Narrator 1 : Not so long ago in a galaxy not so far away, there lived a solar system...you know, a star and some planets and moons that orbit around it.

Comet 1: Hey wait a minute...the planets and moons aren't the only thing that orbit the sun.

Comet 2: That's right... don't forget the comets.

Comet 3: We're the dirty snowballs of the Milky Way...and proud of it!

Asteroid 1: Hey, what about the asteroids?

Asteroid 2: We circle the sun between Mars and Jupiter, in the asteroid belt.

Asteroid 3: We're part of the part of the solar system too.

Narrator 1: So sorry...Of course you are.

Narrator 2: Continuing on with our story...the planets were happy for the most part. Only one thing bothered them... and that was the Sun.

Narrator 3: The problem with the sun is that it had become so big headed that it was difficult to be around...get it? Be around? Let's listen in and you'll get the idea.

Sun: What a glorious day to be me! This is the life...I'm the center of attention, all the planets run circles around me and why not? They know that without me, they would be in total darkness and would spin out of control. They know that it is my hydrogen-helium fusion that keeps them warm and toasty. They know that I... yes I, make up over 98% of the Solar System's mass. Yes, it's good to be me!

Venus (to the other planets): That's it! I've had it! I can't take his/her bragging any more.

Mercury: Well, I know he's/she's full of hot air...or maybe I should say hot gas but really he/she does have a point. He's/she's a very important part of the Solar System.

Neptune: You're just saying that 'cause you're his/her closest friend. You are, after all, the closest planet to the Sun. I think Venus speaks for the rest of us. Something has to be done.

Earth's Moon: I've got an idea. Maybe if we meet with the Sun and tell him/her how special each of us are, he'll/she'll realize he's/she's not the only one who matters.

Mercury: Let *me* talk to the Sun about this meeting. We have to approach him/her when he's/she's in a sunny mood and I'm the one who can see his/her sun flares, or lack of them, the best.

Narrator 4: So Mercury waited for the sun flares to pass and when the Sun looked his/her most agreeable, he/she asked him/her to come to the meeting.

Narrator 5: All the planets were on time except Venus, who had some shopping to do.

Sun: Ok. Let's get this thing going. I have a lot of responsibilities to tend to. You know me, I put the "soul" in Solar System. It's me that you circle around and don't ever forget that.

Moon 1: Well, actually we have a few issues we wanted to bring to your attention.

Moon 2: We think maybe you need to get to know us a little better.

Moon 3: Here we are your closest neighbors in this universe, and yet how well do we really know each other?

Earth: What the moons are trying to say is that we know *you* much better than you seem to know *us*.

Halley's Comet: We think it's time for us to shine for a change.

Sun: Well, if you insist but hurry it up. I'm feeling gassy as usual and I can't neglect my fusion.

Mercury: Thanks for your understanding my friend. I guess I'll be the first to start. Sun, I think you know me well, you know how scorching hot I am during the day but there are a few things you may not know, like the fact that I have no atmosphere and this makes me freezing cold at night. And the fact that all my craters were the result of being hit by meteorites. My life isn't all that easy.

Moon 1: It's Venus' turn now...but where is she?

Moon 2: Probably shopping as usual but it's weird... how many pairs of shoes does one planet need? Let's go on without her.

Moon 3: Wait a minute...I think she's coming.

Song: Venus 

Narrator 6: The planets were used to Venus' flashy appearances and the meeting continued without interruption.

Venus: Sun, I think that since I am the same size as Earth, sometimes you overlook me. I am covered in thick poisonous clouds but that doesn't make me a bad planet. It actually helps me reflect light at night. Earthlings say that I am one of the brightest objects in the night sky.

Earth: Yes, my people do comment about that Venus. We'd never overlook you my dear. As far as what I want you to know Sun, I feel pretty special because I'm the only planet with plant and animal life. My atmosphere and temperatures make it just right for living things to thrive. Now if I could just get my people to take care of me better, my life would be great!

Venus: I've noticed you're in need of a little makeover Earth. Don't worry though. I'm sure the Earthlings will start making changes to make your environment a little more healthy for you.

Mars: Well, I guess it's my turn to talk to the Sun. Sunny, we've had a long history together. How many millions of years have we been hanging around with you? But have you noticed how I'm different from the other planets? I'm not only rocky, like the rest of the inner planets, but I'm red! My soil has iron oxide that makes it that way. That's what makes me special.

Jupiter: I guess I'll go next...

Asteroid 1: Oh no you don't!

Asteroid 2: You can't forget about us.

Asteroid 3: That's right... Sun...we asteroids want to remind you that we're here too. We're made of rocks and we live in the asteroid belt, where the coolest satellites hang out.

Asteroid 1: We separate the rocky planets from the gas giants and we do so beautifully!

Jupiter: All true but I do resent that "gas giant" term. I mean I may be made out of gas but it all sounds so gross.

Saturn: Don't let it get to you, man. It's just a way to group us together and show our total harmony. We're like family, man. It's totally groovy! Gas giants united!

Jupiter: Alright, I can see your point Saturn. Well...What I want to tell the Sun about myself may sound like bragging but it is the honest truth. Besides being the biggest planet, I also have the most moons. Something you may not know is that I also have rings. They may be hard to see but they're there, just the same.

Saturn: Righteous! You totally rock, for a gas giant that is. About me, I am stoked about my many moons 47 and counting...And my rings. They are cosmic and like totally rad.

Uranus: Who knew ice, gas and dust could look so cool?

Saturn: Thanks, dude.

Uranus: No problem. Well, now that it's my turn. I have to say that the thing I love the most about me beside my blue-green methane color is the fact that I'm the only planet that spins with my rings sideways. I've been called "off my rocker" or whatever for it but

once I got bumped sideways, I liked it, so I kept doing it. It does make me unique.

Ceres: I always wondered why you did that. You learn something new everyday!

Earth's Moon: It's Neptune's turn now. Go ahead Neptune.

Neptune: Thanks. I may be the smallest gas giant but I'm still pretty big. No offense Earth, but 60 of you could fit inside me.

Earth: No offense taken.

Neptune: Good...Like Uranus, my best buddy, I have methane in my atmosphere which has turned me blue. I too have rings and lots of moons, though not as many as Jupiter or Saturn.

Mars: Well, now that all of the planets have spoken -

Pluto: Wait a minute. What about me? I'm a planet just like the rest of you.

Jupiter: (coughing) Denial!

Mercury: Pluto, you know as well as we do, that you're not a real planet anymore. In 2006 the scientists renamed you a Dwarf Planet -

Pluto: LaLaLaLa...I can't hear you!

Halley's Comet: Perhaps we should continue without Pluto for the time being.

Eris: Unlike Pluto, Ceres and I have accepted our size limitations. We're happy to be Dwarf planets... just like Pluto.

Pluto: LaLaLaLa...I still can't hear you!

Ceres: That's right Eris. We dwarf planets are bigger than asteroids but smaller than official planets.

Eris: We may be size challenged but no less important than our oversized friends.

Sun: Ok time's up. I've heard about all the bragging I can take and it hasn't changed my mind in the least. Now I know for sure that Galileo was right. I am the center and you circle me, end of story. I'm big and you're little. I'm important and you're not.

Narrator 1: And with that the sun went back to focusing on shining and the planets continued to talk.

Halley's Comet: The time has come to teach the Sun a lesson. Earth, you're the only planet with intelligent beings. Do a little research and see what you can come up with, to bring the Sun's ego back down to size.

Narrator 2: Earth searched for anything negative he/she could find about the sun. Other than causing skin cancer, he/she couldn't find anything.

Narrator 3: Finally, a phrase in a 5th grade science book caught Earth's eye. It said "The Sun is an average sized star."

Earth: That's it! I've found it! An average sized star...Who wants to be only average? This is sure to pop the sun's bubble and make him/her easier to live with.

Narrator 4: Earth told everyone what he/she had discovered and the planets tried to convince Mercury to break the news to the Sun.

Narrator 5: Since Mercury refused, Venus was the one nominated.

Venus: Sun, we need to talk to you again. We have some information that we think may be of some importance to you. We have recently learned that you may not be as "bright" as you think. We now know that you are merely an "average sized star".

Narrator 6: With that, the sun was eclipsed by the moon and he/she went into a deep dark depression. He/she spoke to no one, not even Mercury and his/her sun storms were worse than usual.

Narrator 1: After awhile, everyone started to miss the Sun's old happy but braggy self.

Narrator 2: They decided to meet one more time with the sun, in an attempt to cheer him/her up.

Earth's Moon: Hey Sun...Ever think how many songs have been made about you? There's "You are My Sunshine"...

Comet 1: And "Walkin' on Sunshine"...

Comet 2: There's also "You are the Sunshine of My Life".

Comet 3: How about "The Sun Will Come Out, Tomorrow? That's one of my favorites.

Eris: I love the song "Good Day Sunshine"

Ceres: Let's sing it for Sunny!

Song: Good Day Sunshine 

Earth: Look on the bright side Sun, you *are* important to us. You keep us in place with your gravitational pull. You give my planet light for plants to grow and Vitamin D for Earthlings to stay healthy. You really do a lot of great things.

Mars: We don't really care if you're just an average sized star. You're *our* star and that's all that counts.

Saturn: Right dude. You're like the big kahuna in the sky, man...

Venus: What? Never mind Sun. The truth of the matter is that we love you but not your bragging. If you can learn to think about others instead of yourself all of the time, we'll get along just fine.

Pluto: Right! All of us planets agree on that.

Uranus: Pluto, we told you before. You're not a regular planet any more. You're a Dwarf Planet, ok?

Pluto: Just because I'm a little small doesn't mean you have to put me down. I'm still a planet.

Uranus: No you're not.

Pluto: Yes I am.

Uranus: No you're not.

Pluto: Yes, I am.

Sun: Do I have to pull over and stop this Solar System? No more arguing guys. *All* of us are important in our own way. I can see that now. Even Pluto, with his/her wacky orbit and his/her Dwarf size. He/she *also* has a role to play. In fact, we all do. I'll try to keep that in

mind.

Narrator 3: The Sun was true to his/her word and from that day forward, he kept his bragging to a minimum.

Narrator 4: Deep in his/her heart, he/she still felt he put the "soul" into the Solar system, but at least now, he/she kept that to himself/herself.

Narrator 5: He/she realized that each object in the Solar System also had value.

Narrator 6: So the planets, moons, comets, asteroids and the sun lived happily ever after.

Song: Let The Sunshine Remix 

Director's Notes

Casting Tips:

Sun: Egotistical snob

Venus: A diva

Pluto: Feisty Dwarf Planet

Saturn: Surfer/Hippie like character

Suggested Songs for This Play:

Aquarius

Venus

Good Day Sunshine

Let the Sunshine (Remix)

Stage Decorations:

Large stars made from posterboard/butcher paper. Attach these to stage curtains/wall boxes if possible.

Costumes:

Kids wear solid colored shirts (turn inside out if there's writing on it) with colors similar to his/her space character and pants.

Cut planets/asteroids/comets/moon/sun etc. from cardboard about the size of a dinner plate. Make two holes at the top, large enough for yarn to go through and use the yarn to make a necklace with the rocks. Necklaces should be worn so the space object is at chest/stomach level. Add white glitter to Venus' planet. Other space objects should be painted as realistically as possible.

Venus can wear a feather boa and diva sunglasses.

Saturn can wear an afro and a tie-dye shirt.

Props:

5th Grade Science Book