

Our Beautiful Green Earth



A Jewel In the Universe

Written by Roland Gahler

Our Beautiful Green Earth: A Jewel in the Universe

Written by Roland Gahler

Illustrated by my very good, longtime friend



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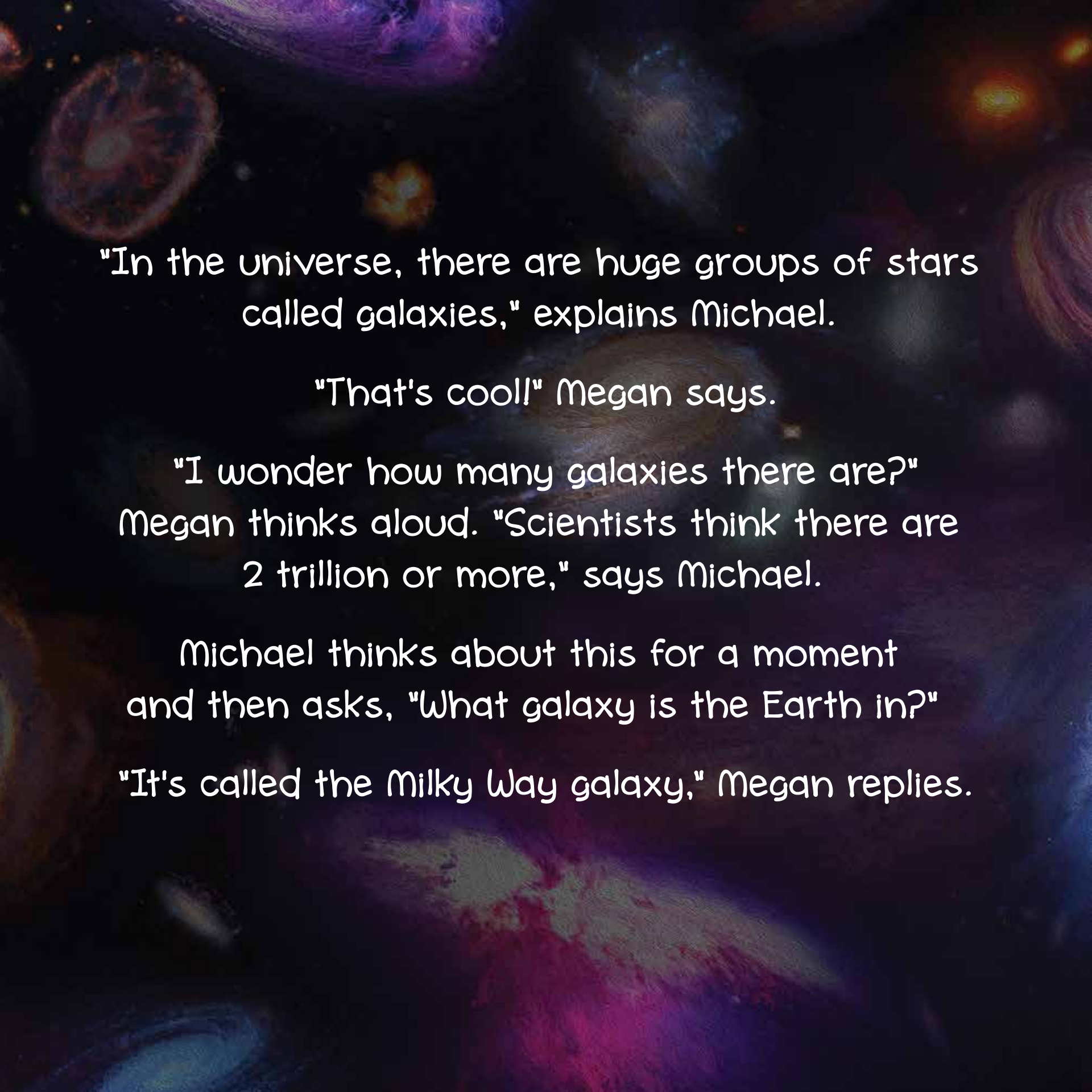


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"In the universe, there are huge groups of stars called galaxies," explains Michael.

"That's cool!" Megan says.

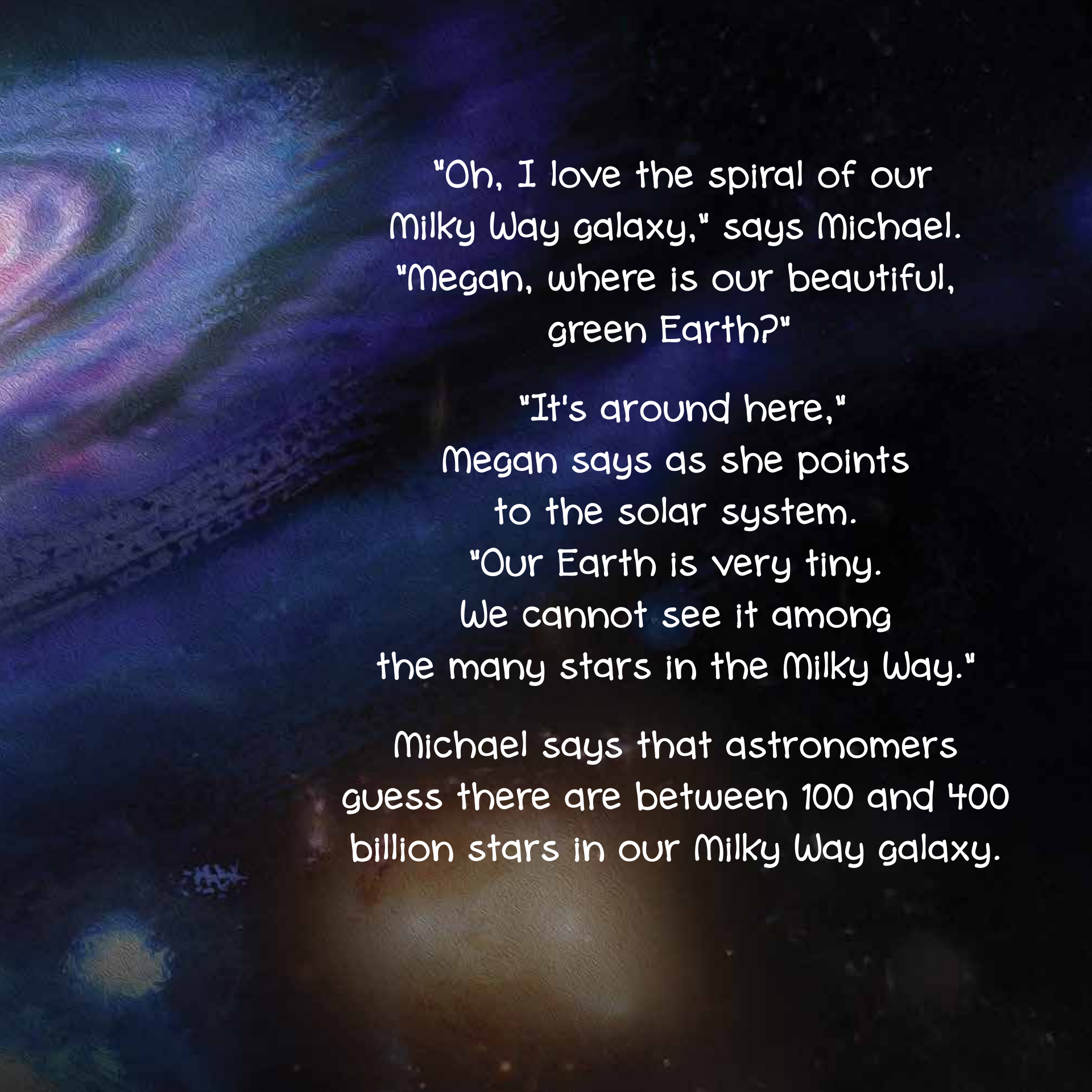
"I wonder how many galaxies there are?" Megan thinks aloud. "Scientists think there are 2 trillion or more," says Michael.

Michael thinks about this for a moment and then asks, "What galaxy is the Earth in?"

"It's called the Milky Way galaxy," Megan replies.







"Oh, I love the spiral of our Milky Way galaxy," says Michael.
"Megan, where is our beautiful, green Earth?"

"It's around here,"
Megan says as she points
to the solar system.

"Our Earth is very tiny.
We cannot see it among
the many stars in the Milky Way."

Michael says that astronomers
guess there are between 100 and 400
billion stars in our Milky Way galaxy.



Uranus

The beautiful solar system, with our Earth, is warmed by the huge Sun.

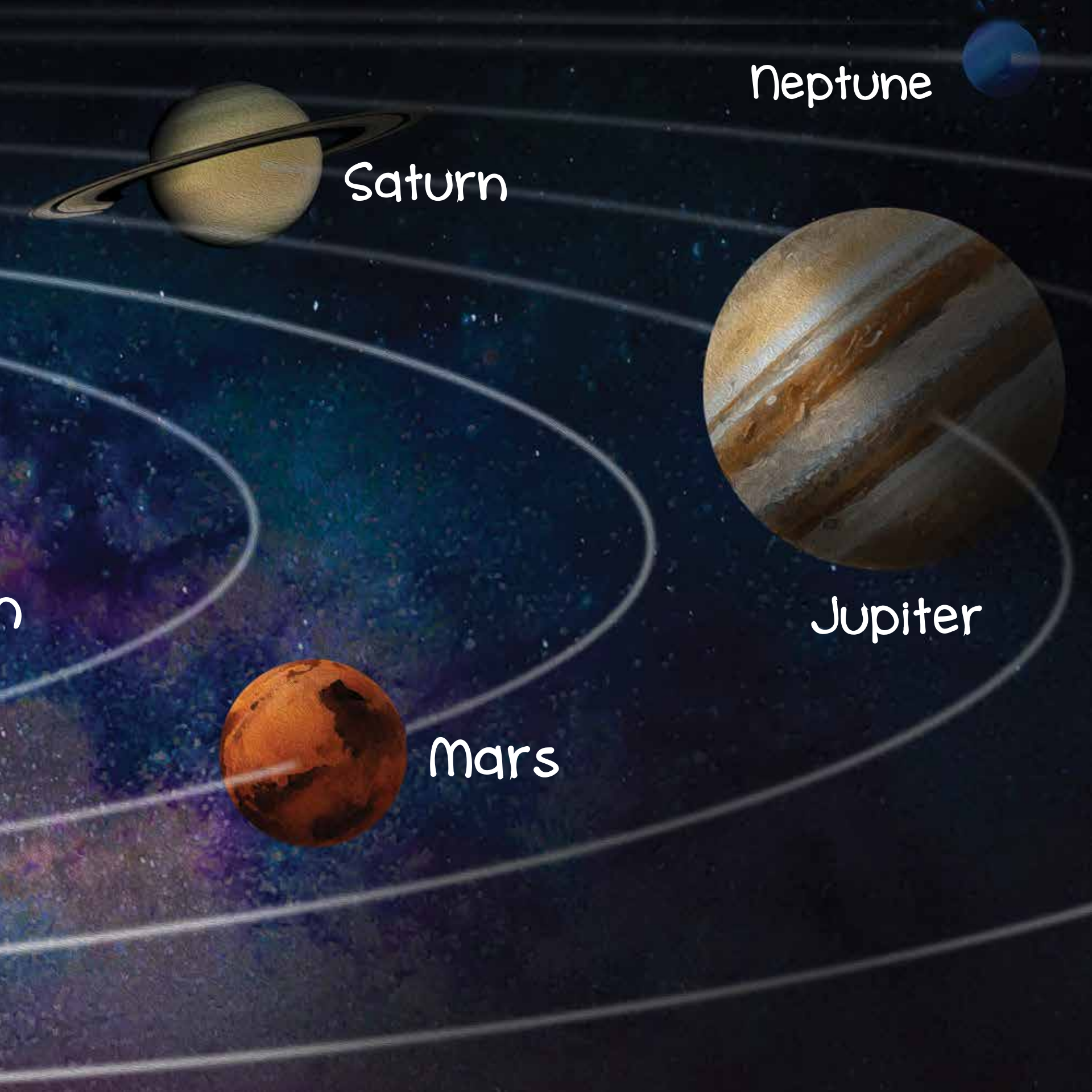
Sun

Venus

Mercury

Earth

Moon



Neptune

Saturn

Jupiter

Mars



After learning about the endless universe and the galaxies, Megan and Michael look up into the night sky. They are amazed by what they see.

"We could look at the twinkling stars all night," Megan says.

"Yes," Michael agrees. "It feels so peaceful."

It is a beautiful way to end the day for Megan and Michael.



Our beautiful, green Earth is special and unique.

It is the only planet that has a water cycle.

Water from oceans and lakes warms up and rises into the air, forming clouds that float over the land. Then the clouds release the water as rain, which nourishes all the plants and trees before flowing back through the rivers and streams to the lakes and oceans.

And then, the water cycle begins all over again.



"Healthy soil is really important for plants and trees," Megan says. "It helps hold their roots in place and gives them water and nutrients."

Michael nods. "That's how plants grow strong."

"Yes," Megan says. "Dead leaves and plants break down in the soil and make it rich and full of nutrients."

"And worms and other small bugs move through the soil," Michael adds. "They make it soft so roots can grow easily."

Megan smiles. "Healthy soil is full of living things, even ones we can't see. Bacteria and fungi help plants grow."

"In just one teaspoon of healthy soil," Michael says, "there can be billions of tiny living things!"

Megan looks thoughtful. "Isn't it amazing how alive our Earth really is?"



"From the glow of the Sun," Megan says,
"plants get the energy they need to grow.
Plants use sunlight to make their food, and without
the Sun, nothing would grow."

Michael thinks for a moment.

"So everything starts with the Sun?"

"Exactly," Megan replies. "The Sun has an incredible
amount of energy. In just one second, it produces
enough energy to power Earth for thousands
of years."

"Wow! That's a lot," Michael says.

"It is," Megan agrees. "All the energy that reaches
Earth comes from the Sun. Every plant needs that
energy to grow, and plants give us vegetables, fruits,
and other foods. When we eat, we use the energy
from the plants to stay healthy and strong."

Michael looks up at the sky.

"So all life is supported by the Sun."



You are a child of this Earth. You live here.
There is no other place we can live like here.
Because of that, it's important for all of us
to remember to care for our own backyard and
every backyard on Earth, keeping them as clean
and healthy as we can.

This matters deeply because of the people who
will come after us. We want to leave something
beautiful for them to enjoy.

We don't own the Earth, and we don't truly own
the land. Instead, we are all blessed enough to
share it. We are allowed to live here, to enjoy it,
to walk along the beach, to feel the ocean,
to climb the mountains, and to see the beauty
of our wonderful Earth.







The universe is vast, and Earth is a tiny dot in the Milky Way. On this small planet we call home, there are billions of people living together. We are all different and unique.



Always be kind to everyone and greet others with respect. Smile and say hello! By caring for one another and working together, we can help keep our beautiful, green Earth happy and healthy.



Become a Friend!



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