

# **The Magic School Bus Lost in Space (excerpt)**

## **By Joanna Cole & Bruce Degen**

Adapted for educational purposes only for the Twin Rivers USD

### **Readers:**

Ms. Frizzle

Narrator 1 (for Ms. Frizzle)

Janet 1

Student 2

Student 3

Narrator 2

### **Script:**

**Narrator 2:** The story opens after the Magic School Bus has magically blasted off through the atmosphere for a field trip to the solar system.

**Narrator 1:** The Friz said

**Ms F:** our first stop would be the moon.

**Narrator 2:** We got off the bus, and looked around.

**Janet:** There was no air, no water, no sign of life.

**Student 2:** We are so light on the moon.

**Ms F:** That's because the moon has less gravity than the earth.

**Student 3:** All we saw were dust and rock and lots and lots of craters.

**Narrator 1:** Miss Frizzle said the craters were formed

**Ms F;** billions of years ago when the Moon was hit by meteorites. Meteorites are falling chunks of rock and metal.

**Student 3:** It was fun on the Moon, but Miss Frizzle said it was time to go.

**Ms F:** We'll start with the Sun, the center of the solar system.

**Narrator 1:** said the Friz and we blasted off.

**Narrator 2:** We zoomed toward the Sun, the biggest, brightest, and hottest object in the solar system.

*(Student mime covering their eyes from something bright)*

**Student 2:** Jets of super-hot gases shot out at us from the surface.

**Student 3:** Thank goodness Ms. Frizzle didn't get too close!

*(Students all go WHEW!)*

**Narrator 1:** She steered around to the other side and pulled away.

**Ms. F:** We'll be seeing all the planets in order class. Mercury is the first planet closest to the Sun.

**Student 2:** The sun is so hot it heats planets that are millions of kilometers away.

**Student 3:** My school is heated with solar energy.

**Student 2:** I have a sun deck.

**Janet:** I have 10 pairs of sunglasses.

**Students 2 & 3:** Give us a break, Janet.

**Narrator 1:** Mercury was a dead, sunbaked planet.

**Ms. F:** This planet is a lot like our Moon. There is no water and hardly any air. Notice the crater on its surface as we pass by.

*(Students mime looking at something like they are passing by)*

**Narrator 2:** Before long, we felt ourselves being pulled in by the gravity of Venus—the second planet from the Sun.

**Janet:** Venus was completely covered by a thick layer of yellowish clouds.

**Ms. F. :** We will now explore the surface of Venus.

**Student 2:** Earth's clouds are white because they are made of water vapor. Venus' clouds are mostly made of a deadly yellow poison called sulfuric acid.

**Janet:** Below the clouds Venus was as dry as a desert. The ground was covered with rocks.

**All the students:** And it was HOT! (*Students fan themselves*)

**Student 3:** It was about 460 degrees Celsius. Hotter than an oven baking cookies.

**Student 2:** The air was so heavy we could feel it pressing down on us!

**Ms. F.** There might be active volcanoes around here too!

**All the students:** Let's get out of here!

**Ms. F:** Our next stop is Mars, the red planet, fourth from the Sun. On our way, we'll be passing through the orbit of Earth, the third planet.

**Narrator 1:** The bus lifted off with a roar. (*everyone leans back like they are going fast*)

**Narrator 2:** As we came close to Mars, we passed its two moons, which are called Phobos and Deimos. Compared to our Moon they were tiny and not even round.

**Ms. F:** This huge canyon is as long as the United States. And that volcano is three times taller than the tallest volcano on Earth.

**Student 2:** All around there were channels that looked like dried up riverbeds.

**Ms. F.** Ice can be found under the soil.

**Student 3:** No life has been found on Mars. Living things need water and there is no liquid water on Mars.

**Ms. F:** Mars is the last of what we call the inner planets! Now we will be going through the asteroid belt to the outer planets. Isn't space travel exciting?

**Student 2:** I really like video games.

**Student 3:** Thousands of asteroids were spinning all around us.

**Janet:** all at once, we heard the tinkling of broken glass. One of our taillights had been hit by an asteroid.

**Narrator 1:** Ms. Frizzle put the bus on autopilot and went out to take a look. She kept talking to us on the bus radio.

**Ms. F:** The largest asteroid is only  $\frac{1}{3}$  the size of our moon. Most asteroids are the size of houses or smaller.

**Narrator 1:** Suddenly there was a snap. Ms. Frizzle's tether line had broken!  
Without warning the rockets fired up and the bus zoomed away!

**Janet:** On the radio, Ms. Frizzle's voice grew fainter and fainter. Then she was gone.

**All the students:** We were on our own! We were lost in the solar system!

**Narrator 2:** Janet started searching the bus. In the glove compartment, she found

**Janet:** Ms. Frizzle's lesson book.

**Narrator 2:** As she began reading from it, a huge planet came into view.

**Janet:** Class, this is Jupiter. It's the first of our outer planets and the largest of our solar system.

**Student 2:** We thought the school bus was going to land.

**Student 3:** But there was no solid ground to land on. Jupiter is a gas giant, a planet made almost entirely of gas. It is so big 1000 earths could fit inside.

**Janet:** As we left Jupiter we wondered and worried.

**All the students:** Would we ever get home? Ms. Frizzle where are you?

**Narrator 1:** The next sight made us forget our troubles.

**Student 3:** It was Saturn, a gas planet like Jupiter. It had swirling clouds and lots of moons.

**Janet:** There are thousands of rings around Saturn. They look like the grooves in an old phonograph record.

**Student 3:** Saturn is the grooviest planet, man!

**Student 2:** It was the most beautiful planet in the solar system.

**Narrator 1:** Next was Uranus, a blue-green gas planet with faint grey rings and moons.

**Janet:** Some scientists think they may be made of chunks of graphite like pencils on Earth. Methane gas in the atmosphere makes Uranus look blue.

**Student 2:** I am freezing (*mime being cold*)

**Student 3:** That is because we are so far from the Sun.

**Narrator 2:** The bus was going faster and faster and we swept past stormy Neptune another blue green planet and eighth from the Sun. All we could think about was

**All the students:** finding Ms. Frizzle!

**Janet:** Neptune is the last of the giant gas planets.

**Student 2:** We are almost out of gas and the nearest service station is 4,000 million miles away!

**Narrator 1:** We were going so fast we almost missed seeing Pluto and its moons, Charon, Hydra and Nix.

**Student 3:** We were so far away from the sun that it didn't look big anymore. It looked like a very bright star.

**Narrator 2:** Janet found something new, instructions for the autopilot. We punched in Asteroid Belt and the bus turned around.

**All the students:** Hooray! It was working, we were going back!

**Narrator 1:** When we reached the asteroid belt.

**Student 2:** Hey, that asteroid is dressed funny.

**Student 3:** That's not an asteroid, it's Ms. Frizzle.

**Janet:** Boy, am I glad to see her.

**Narrator 1:** With Frizzie back at the wheel the bus head straight for Earth.

**Ms. F:** Boys and Girls we are arriving on Earth, the third planet from the Sun.

**All the Students:** Yay!! Back home

THE END

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