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 that 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 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

This script was created to use with the Magic School Bus Lost in the Solar System, Scholastic by Nancy Andrzejczak for Twin Rivers Unified School District for educational use only.