

**Grade 1 EL Education**  
**Module 2: *What's Up in the Sky: A Study of the Sun, Moon, and Stars***

**Guiding Questions and Big Ideas:**

- **Why do authors write about the sun, moon, and stars?**
  - *Authors write books to describe, imagine, and explain the objects we see in the sky.*
- **What patterns can we observe in the sky?**
  - *The sun and moon appear in different places in the sky during different times of day and of the year.*
  - *Stars are visible during the night, but not during the day.*
  - *Patterns of motion of objects in the sky can be described and predicted.*
  - *Scientists use a process of inquiry in order to understand patterns and make predictions and comparisons.*
- **How do authors use their knowledge and observations to write a story?**
  - *Authors select a topic and observe and study it.*
  - *Authors plan out what they want to write by talking about it and trying it out.*
  - *Authors use beautiful language to show, not tell, about the topic of their choice.*
  - *Authors write a narrative with a beginning, middle, and end.*

**What will your child be doing at school?**

During Unit 1 of this module, your student will generate questions about the sun, moon, and stars and begin to consider how the sun and moon have inspired storytellers. Students will build skills of retelling role-playing and writing in response to text. Students will begin to study the topic by reading various narrative stories about the sun, moon, and stars and considering how they inspire each story. As students read, they gather and record descriptive language used to describe the appearance and position of the sun and moon, and work to retell key events from each story. The learning will be focused on these ideas and reading literature skills:

- The sun, moon, and stars are always there and affect our lives in different ways.
- The sun, moon, and stars inspire us and make us imagine.
- Retelling stories, including key details and demonstrating an understanding of their central message or lesson
- Describing characters, setting, and major events in a story, using key details
- Identifying words in stories that suggest feelings or appeal to the senses

During Unit 2 of this module, your student will dive deeper into the study of the sun, moon, and stars as the class transitions from their reading of narrative texts to reading informational texts. By the end of the module, students will be able to participate in a discussion around the unit's guiding question: "What patterns can we observe in the sky?" Through a combination of read-alouds, hands-on experiences, authentic writing

tasks, and small group discussions, students take on the role of astronomers. The learning will be focused on these ideas:

- The sun and moon appear in different places in the sky during different times of day and year; stars are visible during the night, but not during the day.
- The pattern of motion of objects in the sky can be described and predicted.
- Using frequently occurring adjectives and prepositions

During Unit 3 of this module, your student will continue to observe and describe the sun and moon at various positions in the sky throughout the day. By the end of the module, students will use their observations and their knowledge of the sun and moon to create narrative poem. In this unit, students will conclude a module study that has been ongoing for the past several weeks. This unit specifically focuses on describing both the sun and moon, their position in the sky, and what the sun and moon “see” during various times of day when they are visible in the sky. Your student’s learning will focus on the following area:

- Writers can use their knowledge and observations of the sun and moon to write a narrative poem.
- Writing a narrative poem that includes sequenced and detailed events, temporal words, and use of details to provide some sense of closure.

Throughout the unit, your student will **read, think, listen, talk, write, and ask questions** about the topic of why we need tools. Students will participate in these activities, among others, to build their literacy skills:

- Listening to read-alouds of a variety of texts about the sun, moon, and stars
- Closely observing and examining pictures of the sun, moon, and stars to generate notices and wonderings
- Singing songs and engaging in movement routines about the sun and moon
- Engaging in role-play with peers to act out and retell various parts of stories read aloud
- Responding to text through writing and drawing
- Listening to read-alouds of informative texts about different patterns that we can observe in the sky
- Reciting poems about the sun, moon, and stars to learn about adjectives and prepositions
- Engaging in hands-on science demonstrations and activities to make the learning come to life•Participating in Science Talks, using student-created notes as evidence for their discussion
- Participating in shared and independent writing practices to describe the appearance and location of the sun and moon
- Closely observing and examining pictures of the sun and moon to generate noticings of what the sun and moon “see” in the sky
- Engaging in role-play with peers to aid in the planning process of writing

- Participating in shared and independent writing practices to craft a narrative poem about the sun and moon
- Giving and receiving kind, specific, and helpful feedback regarding their narrative poems

Central to EL Education's curriculum is a focus on **"habits of character"** and social-emotional learning. In this module, students work to become **ethical people: habits for how we treat others**. Students also continue practicing respect by treating themselves, others, and the environment with care.

These are the specific skills students will focus on:

- I behave with **integrity**. This means I am honest and do the right thing, even when it's difficult, because it is the right thing to do.
- I show **respect**. This means I appreciate the abilities, qualities, and achievements of others and treat myself, others, and the environment with care.

### **How can you support your child at home?**

- Read books and sing songs about the sun, moon, and stars from home or at the library.
- Read books and sing songs that describe the patterns of the sun, moon, and stars.
- Observe the sun, moon, and stars at different times of the day and discuss their appearance and position in the sky.
- Observe the sun, moon, and stars at different times of the day and discuss what each "sees" at this time of day.
- Observe the sun, moon, and stars at different times of the day and discuss what each "sees" at this time of day.
- Ask your student to talk with you about this question: Why do authors write about the sun, moon, and stars?
- Ask your student to talk with you about this question: What patterns can we observe in the sky?
- Work with your student to recreate science experiments from class at home and discuss what is happening and why.
- Ask your student to talk with you about this question: How do writers use their knowledge and observations to write a story?