

MELTED STAR JOURNEY

INTRODUCE THE STORY

Introduce the idea of traveling in the car at night, when you're sleepy. Make it a familiar journey, and it's raining. Brainstorm with the students, making quick lists of what they might see, hear, touch, smell (maybe taste?). Once lots of ideas have been generated, read the story.

EXAMINE THE STORY

1. Personification is when you give an inanimate object human characteristics to make it seem human. On the page with the bridge illustration, there are two examples of this. One is the water spitting down at the ocean, as if it is a person. What is the other?
2. Why does Luke want to stay awake so badly? Give at least 2 reasons.
3. What do you think the old man in the doorway is doing? Why is he “not going in, not going out”?
4. The rain brings with it both laughing and crying. Where are each of these in the story?
5. How does the police car’s light make Luke’s brother’s and sister’s faces “people he doesn’t know, just for a moment”?
6. Karen Reczuch drew these illustrations in pastel. Do you think there is anything about the subject of the book that would make pastels an especially good choice? Try to think of at least two reasons.
7. In the middle of the story, Luke begins to get sleepy. His ride home is compared to a concert. Match the words on the left – real parts of Luke’s trip – to the words on the right, the part of the concert being compared.

The car’s movement
Luke’s eyelids
The stars
Luke’s day

Dancers
The show
The stage curtain
The orchestra

8. By the time Luke finally falls asleep, how has the position of the children in the back seat changed from the beginning of the book?

Why?

EXTEND THE STORY

1. If you could take one book on a car trip, which would it be?

Why?

2. Luke measures the length of the stores by the noise the tires make. Have you ever measured something in a similar way? Measured the sidewalk by the turns of your bicycle wheel? By how many street lamps you pass? Measured time by how many cars pass? Tell about your measuring system, or make up a new one and tell about it.
3. Is there a car trip you go on where you know the way really well? Do you know what's coming up before you get there? Is there anything special along the way that you look forward to seeing – a statue, a certain store or restaurant, a special sign? Tell about this journey.
4. At one point, the red taillights of the cars ahead are “flashing secret messages about what's ahead.” What do you think these secret messages are?
5. Imagine that you are the young driver of the car that is thumping with loud music. What kind of music are you listening to? What are you thinking as you look over at Luke? Why do you wink at him?

LINKS TO OTHER SUBJECTS

ART

Using pastels, create your own rainy night picture. It could be a car trip like Luke's, or another rainy night situation. Remember to smudge your pastels for the effect of the street and car lights and the rain.

In the story, Luke is holding his own *Melted Star Journey*, and the Luke in that book is holding his own, and the Luke in that one.... and so on. This book within a book is like a special kind of doll called a Russian nesting doll, where a tiny doll fits inside a small doll, inside a bigger doll, inside a.... and so on again! Using books or the Internet, find and draw your own set of Russian nesting dolls, standing in a row.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Using either a real car trip or making up one, create a map of your own journey. Include street names and any landmarks such as schools, churches, stores or restaurants. Don't forget a compass to show where North is, and show where the start and end of the trip are.

RELATED BOOKS

About rain:

It's Raining, It's Pouring by Andrea Spalding (Orca, 2001)

Peter Spier's Rain by Peter Spier (Doubleday, 1982)

Wet World by Norma Simon (Candlewick Press, 1954)

Also set in Vancouver:

Mister Got to Go by Lois Simmie (Red Deer College Press, 1995)

Putting Up With Mitchell: My Vancouver Scrapbook by Sarah Ellis (Brighthouse Press, 1989)

About family car trips:

My Family Vacation by Dayal Kaur Khalsa (Tundra, 1988)

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A U H U S U L E S L Z S D R N
O B N H T S L E K F U V K S B
Y E N R U O J L Y B R I D G E
Z I D O I Y A P S D N E N D X
O X G Y S O A L C R Y C I W Y
E H X W C J U M R E L I A Q N
L X J R A L E I A A E L R G J
S E A M L Y H N P M C O P V W
Q H A A E X C Q E S A P V G U
C S B L O E Y O R E L B P G B
I Y I L Z O D O S G K E K O V
E D P U D D L E S A C E D O V
S R A C W J K C E R E G H S L
A L L E R B M U H A N B I K K
R O O Q I U L N K G S M C U W

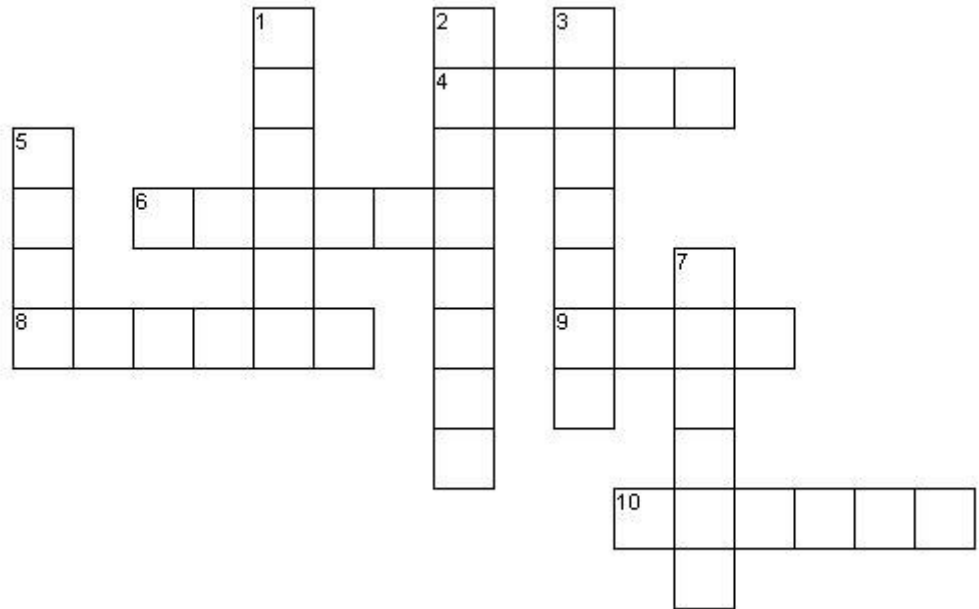
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|---------|-------------|----------|
| BRIDGE | CAR | CHARCOAL |
| DREAMS | EYELIDS | GARAGE |
| JOURNEY | LULLABY | NECKLACE |
| PAJAMAS | POLICE | PUDDLES |
| RAIN | SKYSCRAPERS | UMBRELLA |

Word Search Solution

Melted Star Journey

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|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| A | U | H | U | S | U | L | E | S | L | Z | S | D | R | N |
| O | B | N | H | T | S | L | E | K | F | U | V | K | S | B |
| Y | E | N | R | U | O | J | L | Y | B | R | I | D | C | E |
| Z | I | D | O | I | Y | A | P | S | D | N | E | N | D | X |
| O | X | G | Y | S | O | A | L | C | R | Y | C | I | W | Y |
| E | H | X | W | C | J | U | M | R | E | L | I | A | Q | N |
| L | X | J | R | A | L | E | I | A | A | E | L | R | G | J |
| S | E | A | M | L | Y | H | N | P | M | C | O | P | V | W |
| Q | H | A | A | E | X | C | Q | E | S | A | P | V | G | U |
| C | S | B | L | O | E | Y | O | R | E | L | B | P | G | B |
| I | Y | I | L | Z | O | D | O | S | G | K | E | K | O | V |
| E | D | P | U | D | D | L | E | S | A | C | E | D | O | V |
| S | R | A | C | W | J | K | C | E | R | E | G | H | S | L |
| A | L | L | E | R | B | M | U | H | A | N | B | I | K | K |
| R | O | O | Q | I | U | L | N | K | G | S | M | C | U | W |

Melted Star Journey



ACROSS

4. Luke hears a woman _____ as she runs in the rain.
6. On the way home, they drive over a _____.
8. The store lights look like _____ ice cream on the street.
9. Luke is holding his new _____.
10. The red taillights flash _____ messages.

DOWN

1. A _____ car zooms past, lights flashing.
2. Sister is _____ as soon as they're in the car.
3. The kind of music on the tape they listen to.
5. Inside the car it is dark and _____ and dry.
7. Luke knows these streets like a _____ knows the trees.

Crossword Puzzle Solution

