Free space stories for kids

Peabody · checked 2026-10-19

Peabody has 23 free space stories for kids, tales and true facts about planets, stars and the solar system. They run from levels 5 to 18 and each opens at once with no sign-up. The table shows every story's level and length, so a grown-up can pick one that fits the reader. Free through the end of 2026.

- Story: The Sun Is a Star · Level: Level 5 · Kind: True story · Words: 151
- Story: Ottilie Gets Pluto · Level: Level 7 · Kind: True story · Words: 396
- Story: The Rusty Red Dot · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 708
- Story: Just Above the Spout · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 669
- Story: Mina and the Eight Planets · Level: Level 8 · Kind: True story · Words: 730
- Story: The First Steps · Level: Level 9 · Kind: True story · Words: 755
- Story: A Day on the Space Station · Level: Level 9 · Kind: True story · Words: 661
- Story: Could We Live on Mars? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 988
- Story: The Landing That Almost Failed · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 873
- Story: How Many Planets Are There? · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,026
- Story: Too Strong for Light · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,025
- Story: Voyager's Golden Record · Level: Level 10 · Kind: True story · Words: 872
- Story: The First Picture of a Black Hole · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 873
- Story: How Did Neil Armstrong Become an Astronaut? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,261
- Story: Trouble on Apollo 13 · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,064
- Story: Why Is Pluto Not a Planet? · Level: Level 11 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,021
- Story: The Slow Leak · Level: Level 12 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,734
- Story: Rule Fourteen · Level: Level 12 · Kind: Peabody story · Words: 1,496
- Story: Dark Stars and Doubters · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,455
- Story: The Rust That Remembers Water · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,335
- Story: Reading the Apollo 11 Descent Log · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,751
- Story: Ceres Was a Planet Once · Level: Level 14 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,269
- Story: The Storm of 1859 · Level: Level 18 · Kind: True story · Words: 1,391

Picking one for your child

Every story here is sorted by Peabody's reading level, which is worked out from the text and never from the child. A lower level means shorter sentences and easier words, so start where your child can read about half of a story alone and read the rest together. If it is too hard, go

down a level. If they race through it, go up.

For growing readers

7 are at levels 5 to 9: The Sun Is a Star, Ottilie Gets Pluto, The Rusty Red Dot, Just Above the Spout, Mina and the Eight Planets, The First Steps and more. Longer stories, with more going on in each one.

For confident readers

16 are at levels 10 to 18: Could We Live on Mars?, The Landing That Almost Failed, How Many Planets Are There?, Too Strong for Light, Voyager's Golden Record, The First Picture of a Black Hole and more. These are for children who read chapters and longer passages on their own.

Reading them together

A grown-up can read any of these aloud from a phone or tablet, one page at a time, and a child who reads can take over. Where a device can speak, the story page has a Read to me button that reads each page aloud in the device's own voice. Every story page has a Print link too, if you would rather read on paper.

More free stories

- The whole library: free stories by reading level, no account needed.
- Classic stories retold short: fables, fairy tales, myths and legends.
- Free nonfiction books for kids, one topic at three levels
- Free beginning reader books for kids just learning to read
- Free short bedtime stories for kids
- By level: Level 5 · Level 7 · Level 8 · Level 9 · Level 10 · Level 11 · Level 12 · Level 14 · Level 18

Questions parents ask

What reading level are these space stories?

They run across levels 5 to 18. Peabody works each level out from the story's text: how long the sentences are, how many words fit on a screen and how common the words are. The table shows the level of every story, so you can pick a lower or a higher one.

Are any of these stories scary?

None carries a mark above gentle, and none is on the scary stories shelf. The short description on each story's page says what it covers, so read it first if your child is sensitive.

Do the stories cost anything?

No. Every story on this page is free to read through the end of 2026, with no account and no card.

Free at peabody.kids/space-stories-for-kids