

BEYOND

Beyond: Discoveries from the Outer Reaches of Space

Written By Miranda Paul - Illustrated By Sija Hong



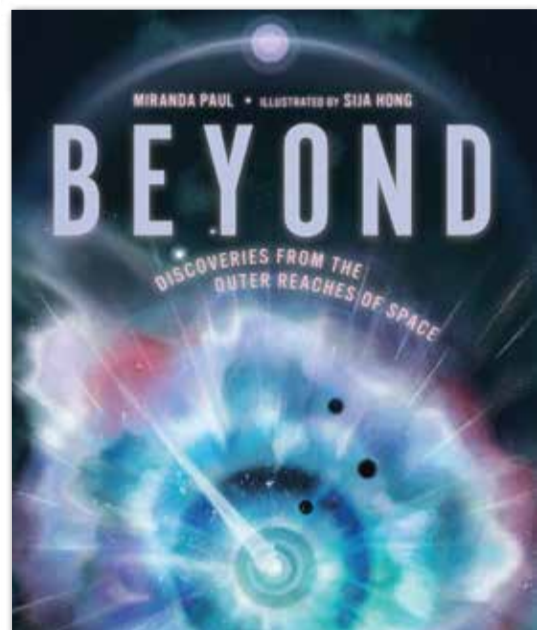
The farther you go,
the closer something
becomes ...

the adventures that
await you are infinite

A LESSON PLAN AND
ACTIVITY GUIDE FOR
EDUCATORS AND PARENTS

Out of this World Comparisons:
Metaphor and Simile

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Out of this World Comparisons: Metaphor and Simile

Figurative language is made up of words or phrases that aren't meant to be taken literally—they mean something other than their most obvious definitions.

When the classroom gets loud and a teacher says, “**This classroom sounds like a zoo!**” or when a student complains about an old, slow computer by saying, “**It’s a dinosaur!**” these are examples of figurative language. Two specific kinds of this language that compare one thing to another are called **metaphor** and **simile**.

A metaphor compares one thing to another directly.

A simile compares one thing to another using the words “like” or “as.”

In Miranda Paul’s book, *Beyond*, she uses metaphors and similes to compare objects in space to things on Earth.

Metaphors

- “We’ve become familiar with our closest neighbors” — Planets in our solar system are called “neighbors.”
- “Hang on—we haven’t even left the neighborhood.” — Here, the Solar system is referred to as “the neighborhood.”
- “A glowing, glaring eyeball of ash.” — The Helix Nebula, a dying star with a glowing center, is described as an eyeball made out of ash (dust).

Similes

- “Like a snowy fog covering our distant, traveling neighbor.” — The Oort Cloud is compared to “snowy fog” using the word “like.”
- “Sending swirls of gas spinning like a supersonic merry-go-round.” — The gas that circles within the accretion disk of black hole Sagittarius A* is described “like” a “merry-go-round” ride.

What other comparisons can you find in *Beyond*? Your turn! Create your own similes and metaphors.

How might you describe a supernova? Dwarf planets? A black hole? Here are some steps to help you get started describing the universe using figurative, poetic comparisons:

1. Decide which space object interests you. Read about it or look at a photo or drawing. Once you're able to describe it using your own words, move to step 2.
2. Compare the object or its features to something on Earth that has a similar shape, size, color, sound, movement, or purpose.
3. Decide if you will compare it directly (example: The old computer is a dinosaur) or indirectly using "like" or "as" (example: The class sounds like a zoo).
4. (Optional) Use the templates below if you get stuck.

Simile Starters

A black hole is powerful as a _____.
The solar wind pushed my rocket like _____.
Most of space is as dark as _____.

Metaphor Starters

Space is a wide-open _____.
The Orion Nebula makes stars; it is a hot _____.
Jupiter is so big, it is the _____ of all the planets.

Bonus Step #5—share your comparisons with *Beyond* author Miranda Paul by asking a grown-up to tag @Miranda_Paul on Twitter or @mirandapaulbooks on Instagram!



Miranda Paul is the award-winning author of more than a dozen books for children, including *One Plastic Bag* and *Boston Globe-Horn Book Honoree Nine Months Before a Baby Is Born*. Miranda is a founding member of *We Need Diverse Books* and serves as its mentorship chair. Learn more at mirandapaul.com.



Sija Hong is an award-winning Chinese illustrator who once dreamed of being an astronaut. As she created this book, she drew on all her love and passion for the universe. The scope of her work includes magazines, murals, games, and apps as well as books. Sija lives in New York City, and *Beyond* is her US debut. sijahong.com