

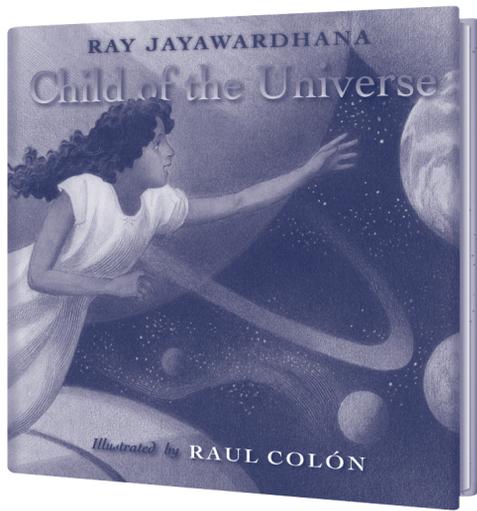
RAY JAYAWARDHANA

Child of the Universe



Illustrated by RAUL COLÓN

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By Ray Jayawardhana
Illustrated by Raul Colón

ABOUT THE BOOK

Perfect for fans of *The Wonderful Things You Will Be* and *That's Me Loving You*, this picture book is a lyrical meditation on the preciousness of one child and the vastness of the universe.

“Just like the sun gives shine to the moon,
you light up the world beyond this room. . . .
You are grand and marvelous, strong and mysterious.
The history of the world is in your fingertips.”

This gorgeously illustrated picture book shares the immensity of a parent’s love along with the message that we are all connected to the broader cosmos in important and intimate ways. A perfect bedtime read-aloud, *Child of the Universe* is a book to cherish forever.

The author is an astrophysicist who has been fascinated by the universe since he was a child. As a parent, he has developed a new appreciation for the deep connections between billions of years of cosmic evolution and one tiny human.



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PROJECTS

for before reading, during reading,
and after reading *Child of the Universe*.



Before Reading

Hold up a copy of *Child of the Universe*, and ask the readers what they think of the cover. Ask them to think about planets and stars and what they mean to them. Ask what they know about the universe. Have them look closely at the art on the cover and point out anything they find interesting. What does the title suggest?

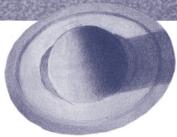
During Reading

On the opening pages, the story reads:
“My father says I am made of stars.
He turns off the light so it is dark.
We look at the moon from the edge of my bed.
‘The universe conspired to make you,’ he said.”

Ask your readers: What does it mean to be made of stars? What does *conspire* mean? How can the universe conspire to make someone? As you read the story, point out the ways in which the girl is like the universe.

After Reading

In the author’s note, Ray Jayawardhana notes that “there is no escaping the fact that the universe is in our DNA: stars made the stuff of life; meteorites delivered water and organic molecules forged in interstellar space to the young Earth; lunar tides and comet impacts shaped evolution. New findings from astronomy, geology, and biology reveal the surprising extent to which cosmic processes have affected the origin and development of life on our planet.” Discuss with your readers how we are affected by the universe in our daily lives. A simple place to start is seasons. Have a discussion about how our lives are affected by the solstice, which happens twice a year, when the sun’s path is the farthest away, north or south, from the equator. How is “the history of the world in [our] fingertips”? Who studies these connections? Why are they important to us?



IMAGINE THAT!

After reading the story, choose a spread in the book that you find especially interesting or moving. Discuss the prompts below. Then create your own story using the illustration as your inspiration. You can mirror the story in the book, or create something completely different!

Thinking prompts:

- What is happening in the illustration?
- What does it remind you of? Why?
- What do you imagine will happen next?
Remember to use descriptive language.
- How do these events make you feel? Why?

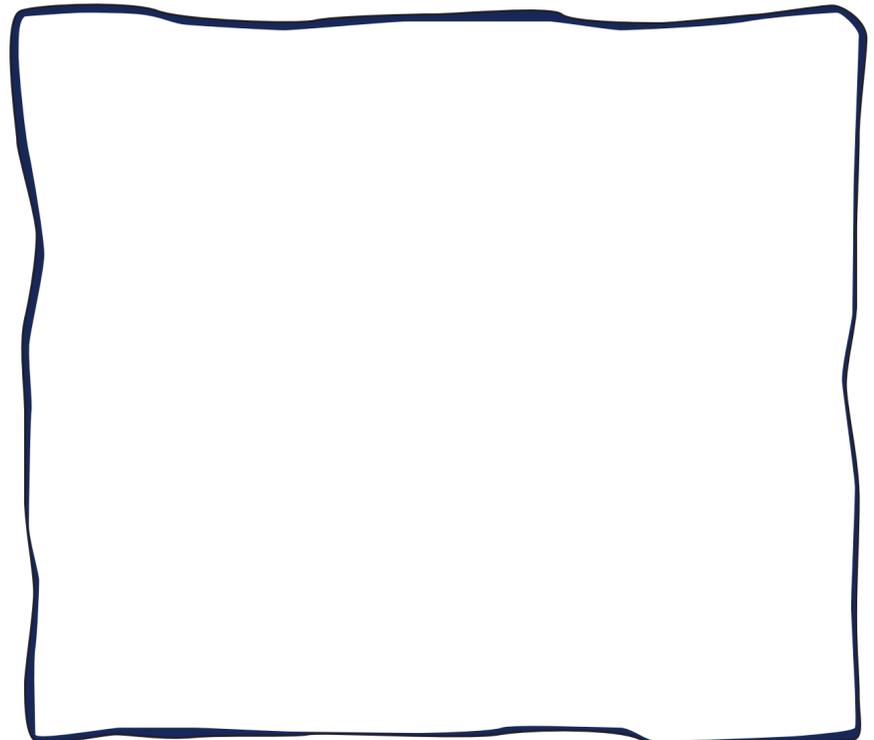


DRAW YOUR OWN UNIVERSE!

Choose one of the descriptions to illustrate and share with the class.

1. “Just like the sun gives shine to the moon, you light up the world beyond this room.”
2. “There are galaxies in your smile so wide.”
3. “Of starbursts brighter than fireworks, you are a child of the universe.”

ILLUSTRATE HERE!



Title of story: _____

My inspiration is on page _____

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REPRODUCIBLE!

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