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ABSTRACT

Young people are encouraged to use this writing journal for kids as a means to think, write, and be creative. The journal helps children to explore their worlds, learn about their families, and record their memories, feelings, and dreams. Following explanatory sections for parents, teachers, and the writer, the journal contains these sections: This Is My Galaxy!; All about Me; My Favorite Things; Pages for Family and Friends to Complete; The Lights in My Galaxy Diary Pages (instructions; Diary Pages); Everlasting Lights; Twinkle Lights; Exploring My Galaxy; Using My Imagination (My Imagination in Art Form; My Imagination in Written Form; My Imagination in Musical Form); and Reflections and Resolutions. (NKA)

My Galaxy

*of Memories, Feelings,
and Dreams*

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**GEORGE AND
MARILEE TOMEK**

A WRITING JOURNAL FOR KIDS!

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CS 510 880

My Galaxy

OF MEMORIES, FEELINGS, AND DREAMS

by George and Marilee Tomek

ERIC
Learning
Fundamentals™

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My GALAXY

OF MEMORIES, FEELINGS, AND DREAMS



CONTENTS

DEDICATION	4
A MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS	5
GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS	6
A NOTE TO THE WRITER	7
THIS IS MY GALAXY!	9
ALL ABOUT ME	10
MY FAVORITE THINGS	11
PAGES FOR FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO COMPLETE	12
THE LIGHTS IN MY GALAXY DIARY PAGES	17
<i>Instructions</i>	
<i>Diary Pages</i>	
EVERLASTING LIGHTS	20
TWINKLE LIGHTS	21
EXPLORING MY GALAXY	23
THE SKY IN MY GALAXY	25
USING MY IMAGINATION	26
<i>My Imagination in Art Form</i>	
<i>My Imagination in Written Form</i>	
<i>My Imagination in Musical Form</i>	
REFLECTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS	30



DEDICATION

*This journal is dedicated with our love to all of
our family and friends, especially*

*George Michael Tomek
Brian Everett, Nancy, and Christian Tomek
Joy and Zachary Tomek
Pamela Cordell
George Warren Tomek III
John Joseph Tomek*

and

*Gil and Caroline, Blain and Gilbert Kennedy
Dan and Ann Lacy
Marilyn Corbett
Susanne Christ, Ph.D.
Lucille Garness
Sabina Nelson
Stanley Babinski*

and

*the endorsers of this journal
for their endless encouragement and support.*

*In memory of
John and Stephany Babinski
George and Merle Tomek*





A MESSAGE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

When our boys were young, we devised a journal to provide them with a sense of history and connection to family, friends, and the fascinating world around them. As we shared our journal with others, it was greeted with an enthusiasm that delighted us. Educators, doctors, and school counselors have endorsed *My Galaxy* as a much needed tool for family communication, as well as an invaluable teaching aid for educators, parents, and students.

Now we share our journal with you. *My Galaxy of Memories, Feelings, and Dreams* is written as a personal journal for children and adolescents and their families. With it, you can encourage reflective thinking, promote family communication, and give children a chance to express themselves creatively. When a young person has completed *My Galaxy*, the tangible result is a treasured keepsake for the benefit of present and future generations.

We believe that in addition to strengthening their writing and thinking abilities, *My Galaxy* will provide all young people with a fun, creative outlet for self-expression. As Kieth D. McKee, a counseling psychologist told us, "I found *My Galaxy* to be an exciting and rewarding journal and believe it can help a person understand that his or her life story is really a wondrous adventure."

Let us help our children appreciate this wondrous adventure!

Best wishes,

George and Marilee





GUIDELINES FOR PARENTS AND TEACHERS

You may wish to guide your child or students in using the *My Galaxy* journal. Encourage young writers to use their journals as a means to think, write, and be creative. They will learn about themselves and the important people and events in their lives. Here are some suggestions for completing the journal:

- Pages 9–11 offer a place for the writer to provide some basic information about himself or herself. These pages should be completed first.
- Pages 12–16 are for family and friends to share information about themselves and to write special messages to the child. These may be completed at any time. If loved ones are far away, they can mail their comments and the child can fill in the pages. If any page does not fit a particular family's circumstances, it may be left blank.
- Pages 18–19 are the diary pages for *My Galaxy*. Make as many copies of these pages as necessary and have the child fill them out at regular intervals. The length of the intervals will depend on your schedule and the age of the child. Younger children may prefer to have longer periods between writing, while older kids may have lots to say each week.
- Pages 20–29 offer special prompts for writing and other creative activities. These may be filled out whenever you choose.
- On pages 30–32, “Reflections and Resolutions,” the writer is offered the opportunity to reflect on the experiences of the past year and possible directions for the year ahead. These pages are intended to be completed last.

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A decorative header on the right side of the page features a vertical trail of stars and planets. At the top, there are several stars and a planet with a ring. Below this, a dotted line leads to another planet with a ring, followed by more stars. Further down, another planet with a ring is shown, followed by a cluster of stars. The trail continues with more stars and planets, ending with a planet with a ring and a star at the bottom.

A NOTE TO THE WRITER

Dear Friend,

Take a journey through the galaxy of your life!

Explore your world, learn about your family, and record your memories, feelings, and dreams.

As you travel through your life, you create new memories every day. When you write them down, you save them before they disappear into the past and are forgotten.

Your *Galaxy* journal will help you chart the course you will take in your life's journey. It will help you remember forever the important events and people of your life. It will also help you set your goals for the future.

Write from your heart!

Search your heart and imagination for words and let your thoughts flow through your pen. *My Galaxy* will be fun for you, your family, and your friends. When you are finished, you will have a book that will enrich your life for years to come.

Have a safe and well-charted journey!

Best wishes,

George and Marilee

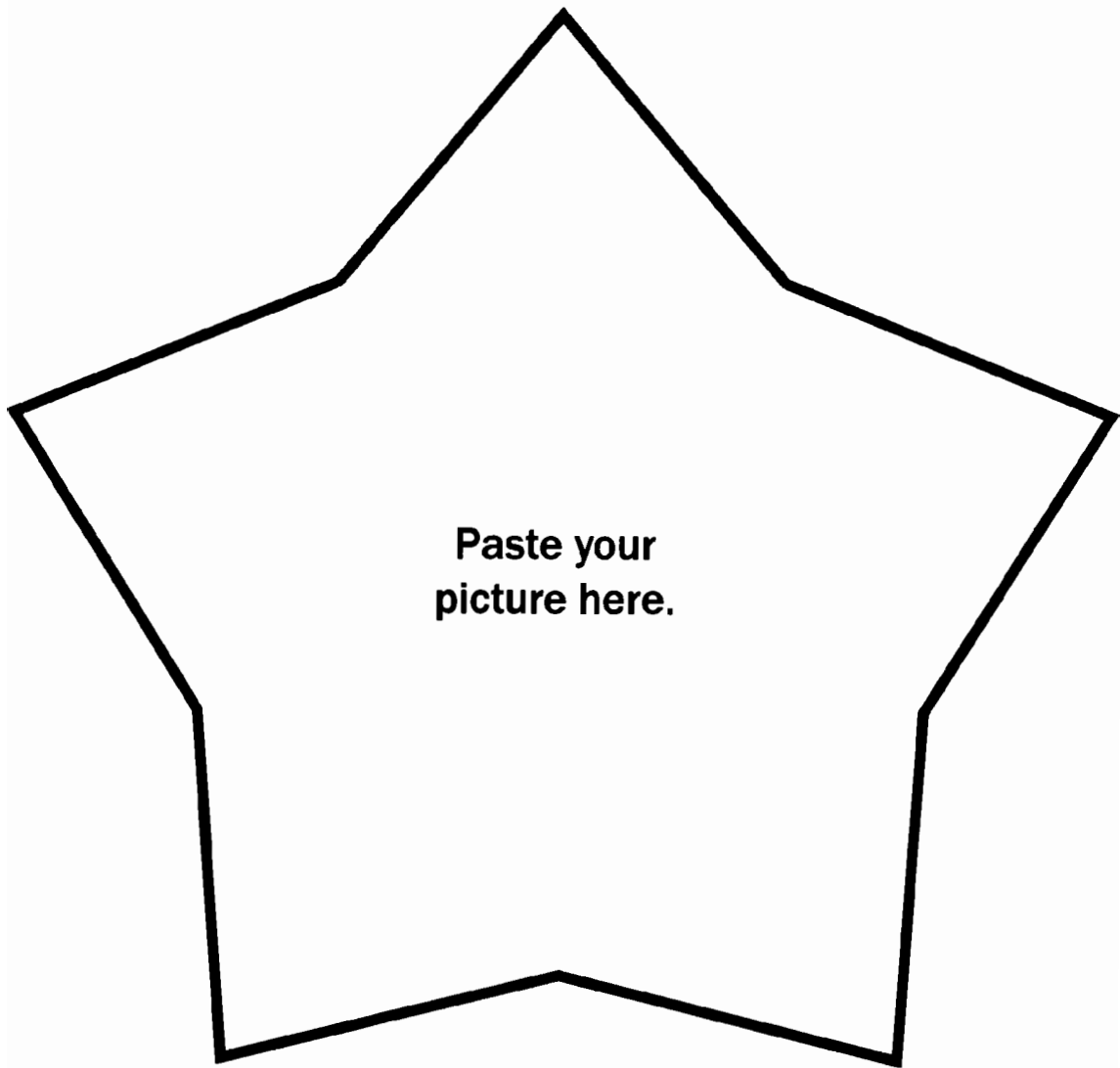


MEMORIES, FEELINGS and DREAMS

*As I stroll through the myriad of time,
I listen to precious memories
echoing deep in my mind.
They hold such great feelings and dreams
within the depths of my soul –
I must record them and share with you
my story never told.*

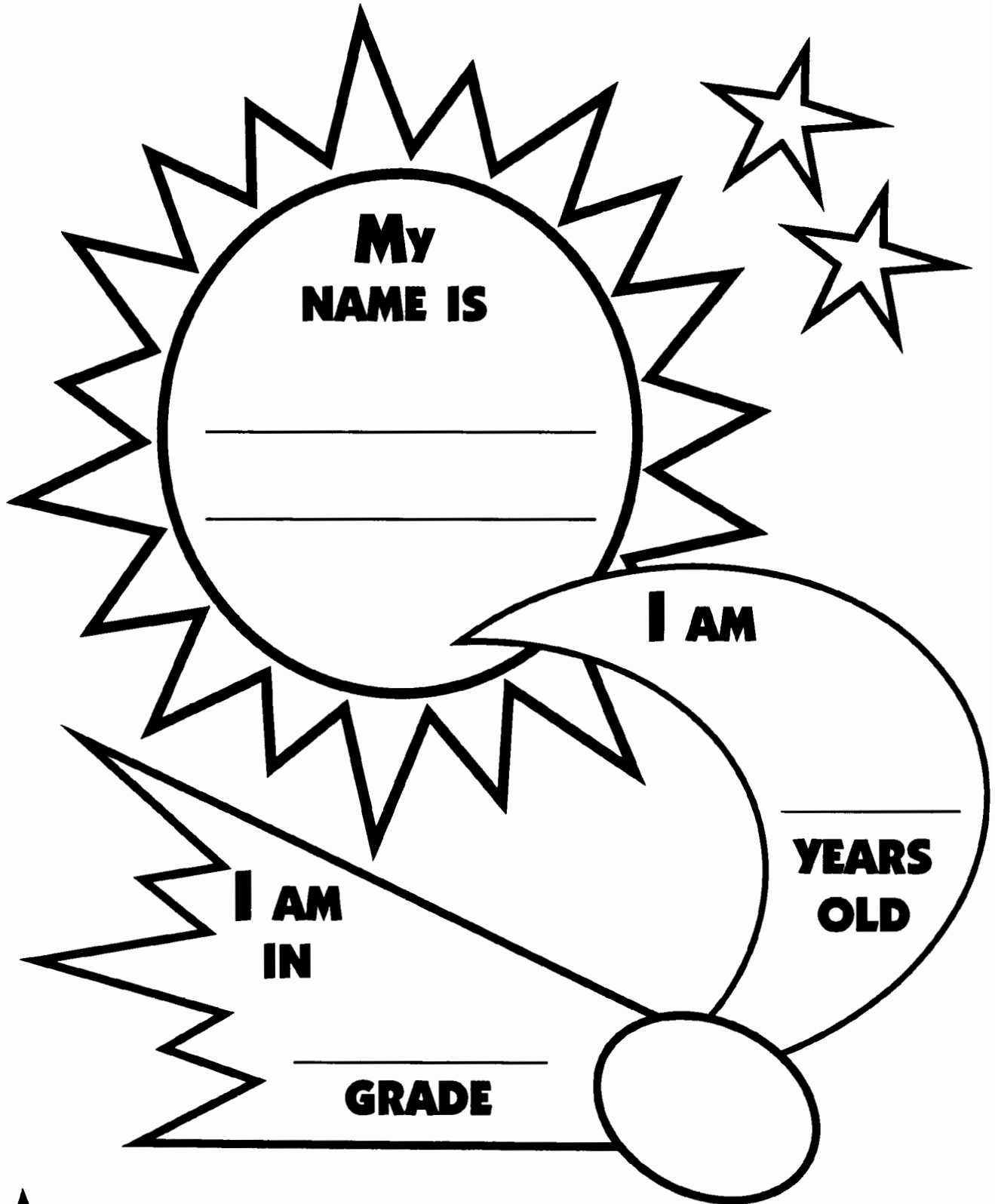


This Is My Galaxy!



Paste your
picture here.

ALL ABOUT ME



**My
NAME IS**

I AM

**YEARS
OLD**

**I AM
IN**

GRADE



My FAVORITE THINGS

FOOD

BOOK

COLOR

HOBBY

SONG

GAME





Make a copy of this page for every special person you live with. Then get the stickers from the Family Fun Sticker sheet and stick one on each page. You can make your own stickers too!

Name _____

Birth date _____ Birth place _____

I grew up in the city/town of _____

and went to school at _____

My favorite subjects to study were _____

My favorite hobbies were _____

My special childhood memories are _____

I got my first job as a _____

Later in my career, I became a _____

Some other important experiences I have had are _____

When you were born I felt _____

To me you will always be _____

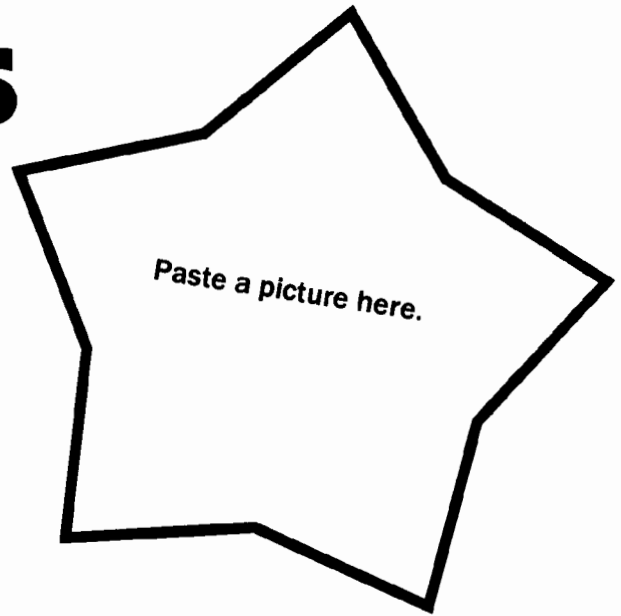
I'd like you to remember these words of wisdom: _____



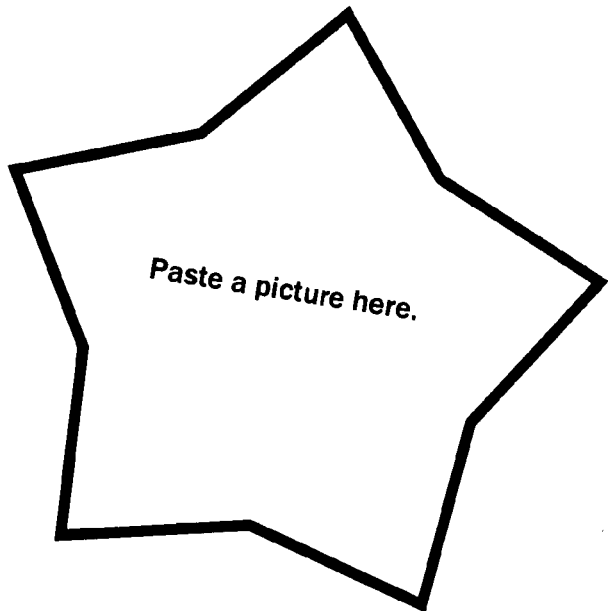
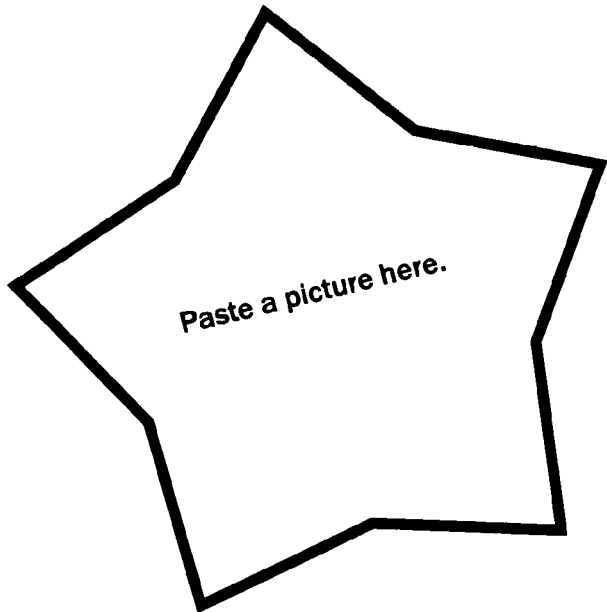
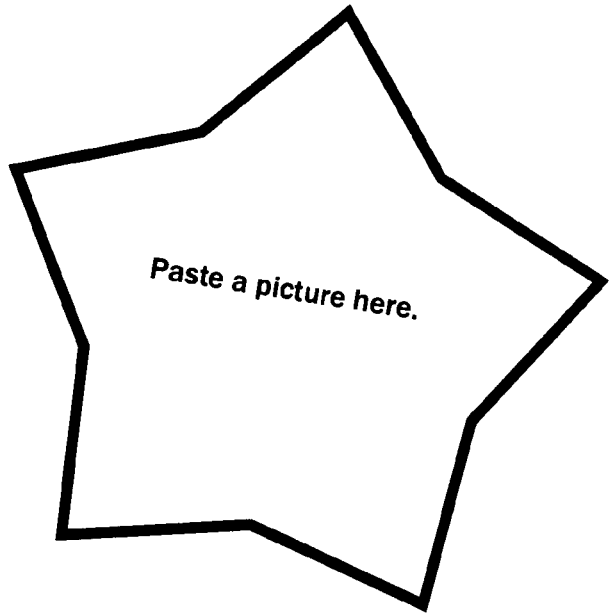
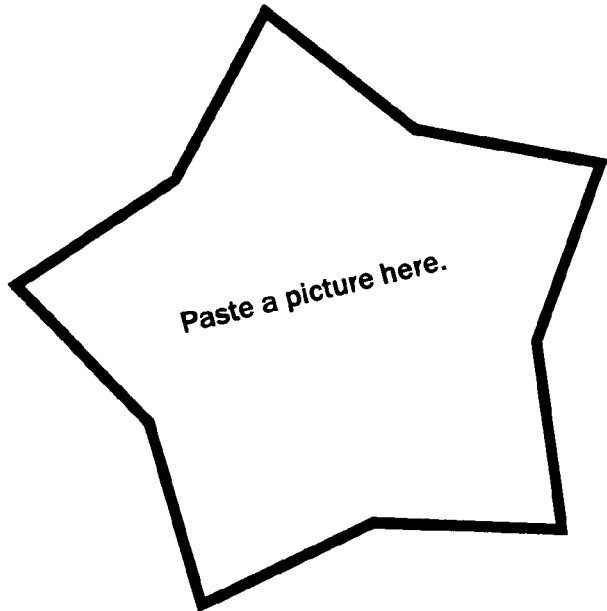
(Write the name of the special person you live with here.)

HEART LIGHTS

Heartfelt messages from the special person in your home. Be sure to put the date for each message!



MORE SPECIAL PEOPLE I LIVE WITH



HEART LIGHTS

*Heartfelt messages from special people I live with.
Be sure to put the date for each message!*



OTHER SPECIAL PEOPLE

Paste pictures of other family members and good friends. Then write their names next to their pictures and have them write heartfelt messages to you. Be sure to put the date for each message.



HOW TO USE THE LIGHTS IN MY GALAXY DIARY PAGES

Look at pages 18 and 19. On each page, you will write about the experiences, feelings, and dreams you've had. Have an adult make you as many copies of these pages as you need. Be sure to write the date at the top of each page!

HIGH LIGHTS

Here you will list the happy times you've had.

LOW LIGHTS

Here you will list the sad times you've had.

HEART LIGHTS

Here you will list the family members and friends that you've talked to. Try to remember what you talked about and write that, too.

MOON BEAMS

Here you will write about the dreams you've had. You can write them down in your diary right after you wake up, when they are easiest to remember.

SUN LIGHTS

Here you will talk about any problems or worries you've had recently. How did you solve them? What alternatives did you have? Why did you choose the solution you did?

STAR LIGHTS

Here you will list your achievements and good deeds. What goals did you accomplish? What did you do to help people and make them feel better?

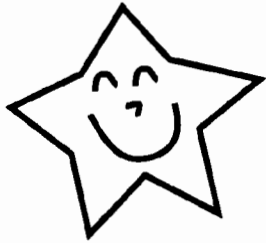
GUIDING LIGHTS

Here you will list your goals for the following week or month, like reading a good book, eating nutritious snacks, or remembering to say "Thank you!"



THE LIGHTS IN MY GALAXY

Name: _____ Date: _____



**HIGH
LIGHTS**



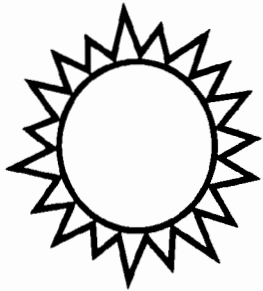
**LOW
LIGHTS**



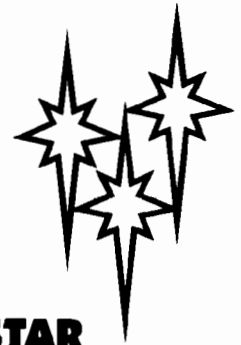
**HEART
LIGHTS**



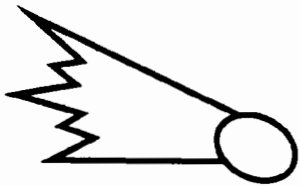
**MOON
BEAMS**



**SUN
LIGHTS**



**STAR
LIGHTS**



**GUIDING
LIGHTS**



EVERLASTING LIGHTS

If you have lost a special person or pet through death, you will feel strong emotions. Do the best you can to remember the things about this loved one that are most important to you.

I REMEMBER _____

I REMEMBER WHEN WE USED TO _____

I REMEMBER THESE THINGS SAID TO ME: _____

I REMEMBER THESE LESSONS I LEARNED: _____

I MISS MY LOVED ONE BECAUSE _____



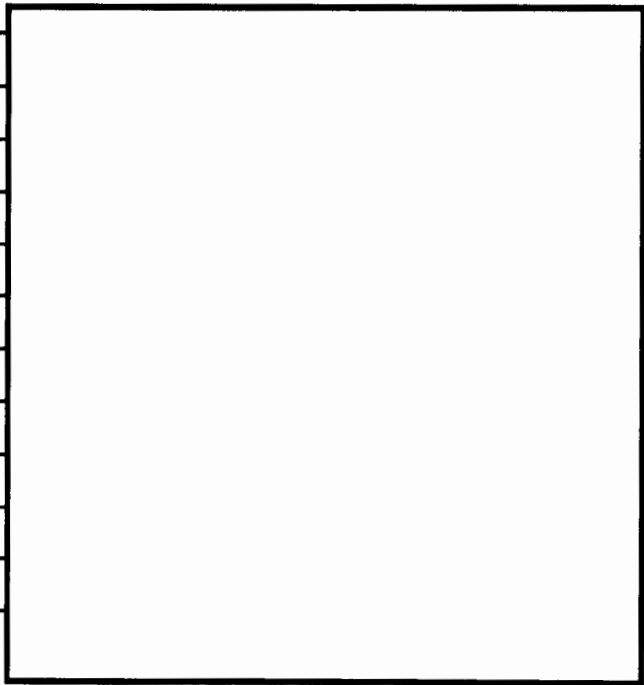


A series of horizontal lines for writing, with a large rectangular box on the right side of the page.

EXPLORING My GALAXY

Write about trips you have taken with your family, friends, or classmates. Paste favorite photos or draw pictures of your trips next to your writing and write the date.

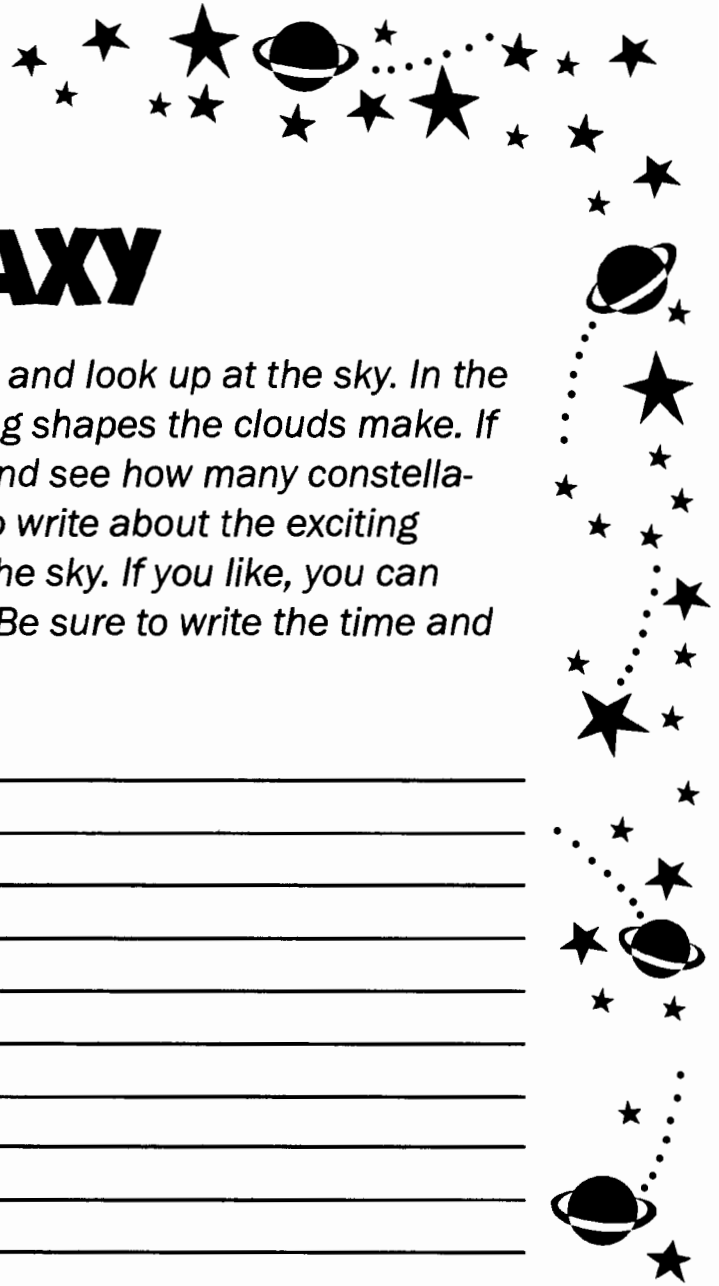
Handwriting practice area consisting of 18 horizontal lines. The first 10 lines are full-width. The last 8 lines are partially cut off by a large rectangular box on the right side.



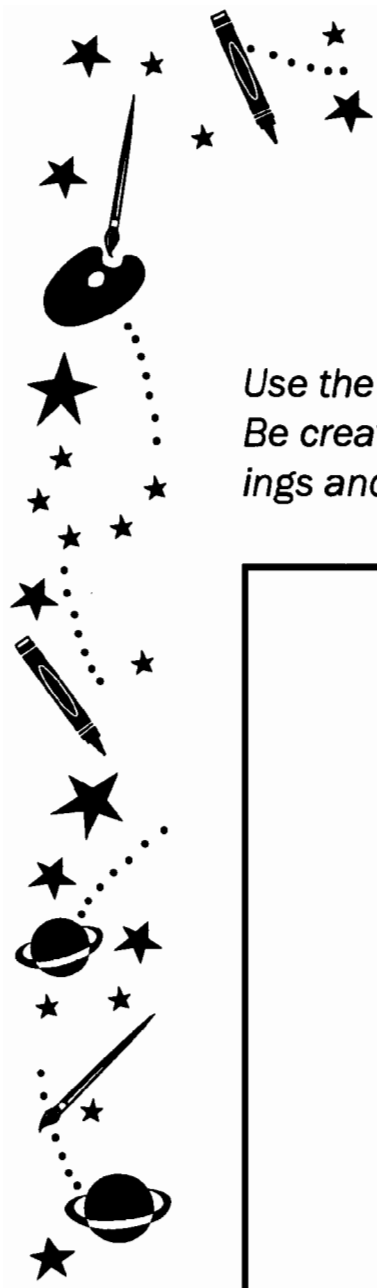


A series of horizontal lines for writing, with a large rectangular box on the right side of the page.

THE SKY IN My GALAXY

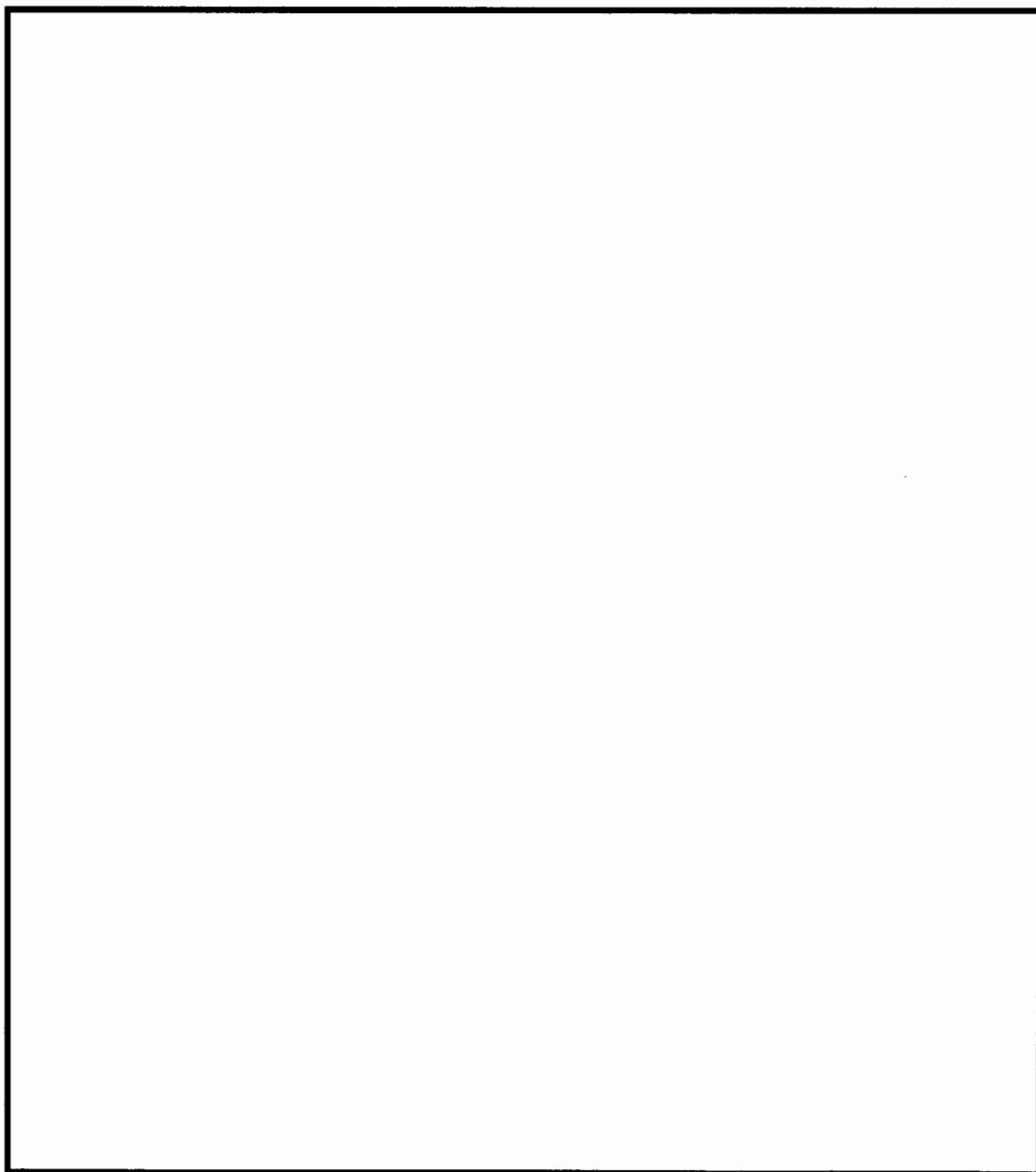


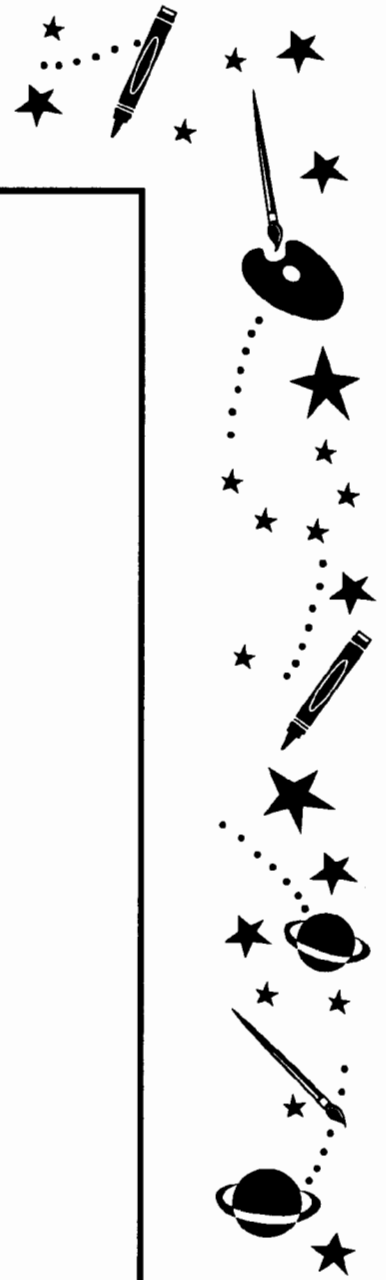
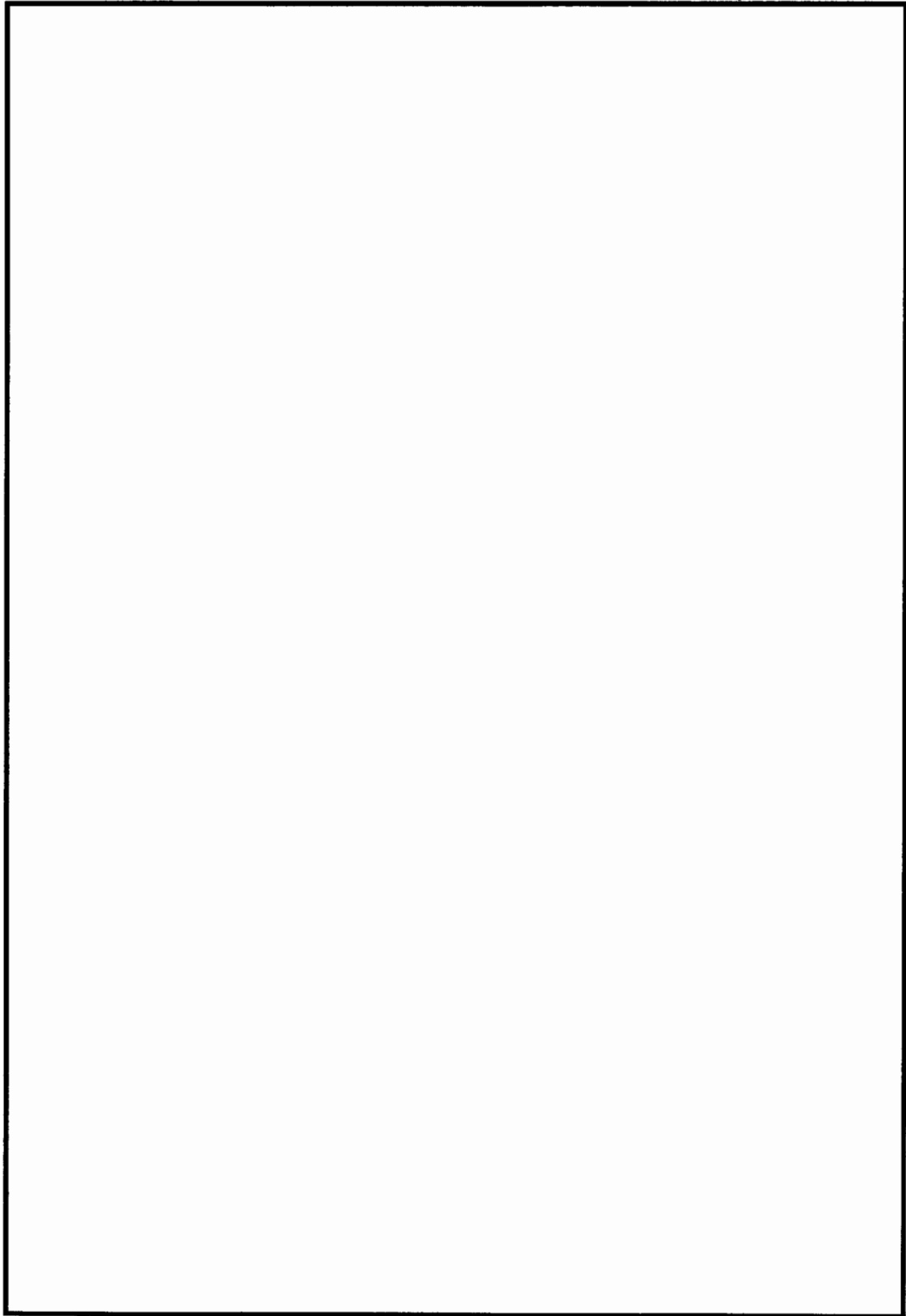
Sometimes it's fun to lie in the grass and look up at the sky. In the daytime, you can see what interesting shapes the clouds make. If it is dark, you can look at the stars and see how many constellations you can name. Use this page to write about the exciting things you've seen while looking at the sky. If you like, you can draw pictures of the things you see. Be sure to write the time and date, and anybody you were with.



My IMAGINATION IN ART FORM

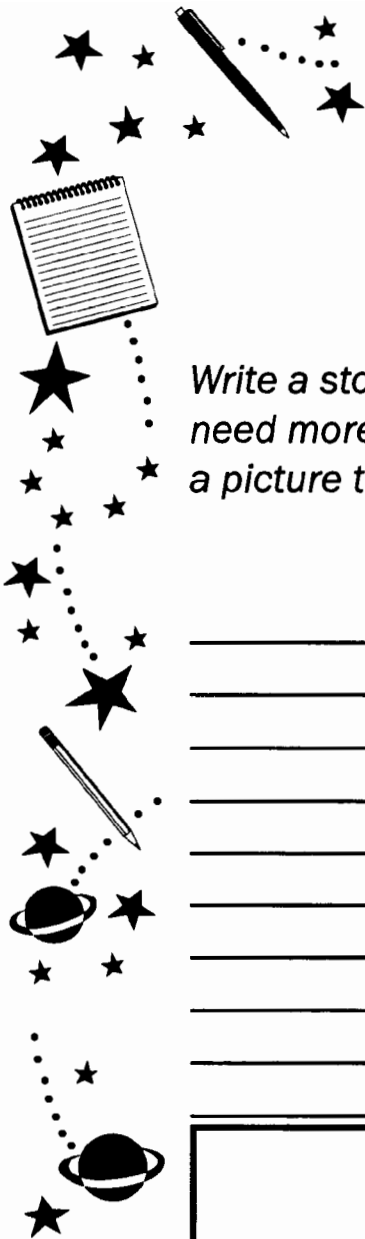
*Use the next two pages to draw pictures of anything you want.
Be creative! If you want, you can write stories about your drawings and put them underneath.*





My IMAGINATION IN WRITTEN FORM

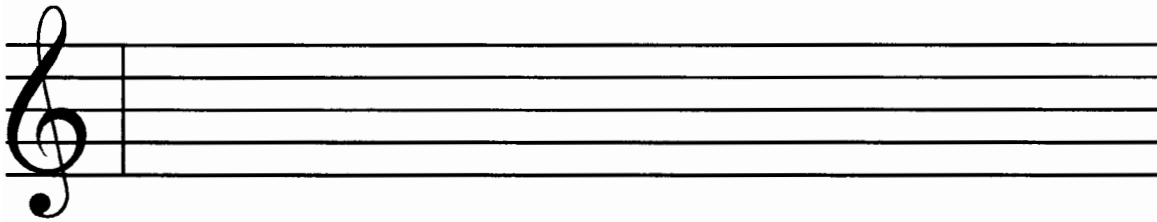
Write a story or poem. Use your imagination and be creative! If you need more room, just start on a new sheet of paper. You can draw a picture to go with your story or poem, too.



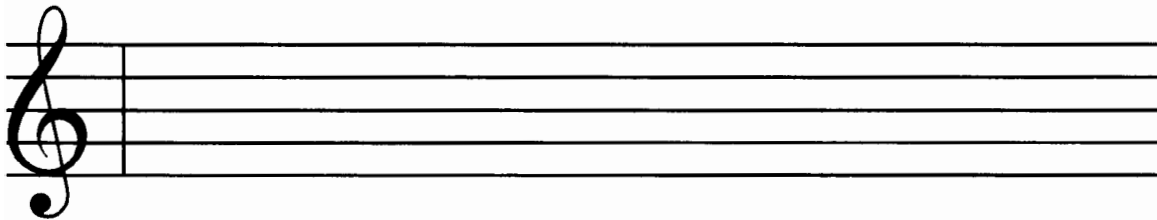
My IMAGINATION IN MUSICAL FORM

Now you can put musical notes to one of your poems. Just write your poem on the "Verse" lines, then ask a music teacher to help you write the notes of a melody you would like to use.

Title of Song



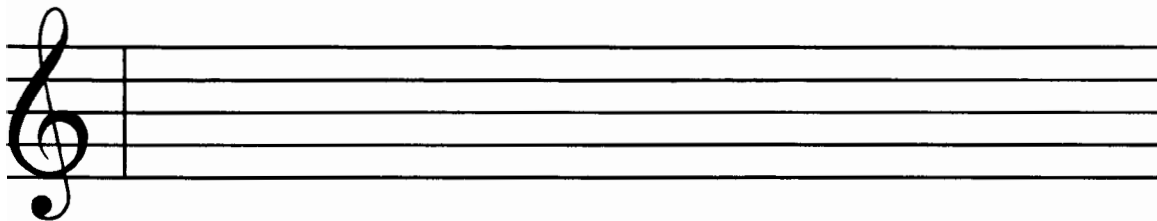
Verse



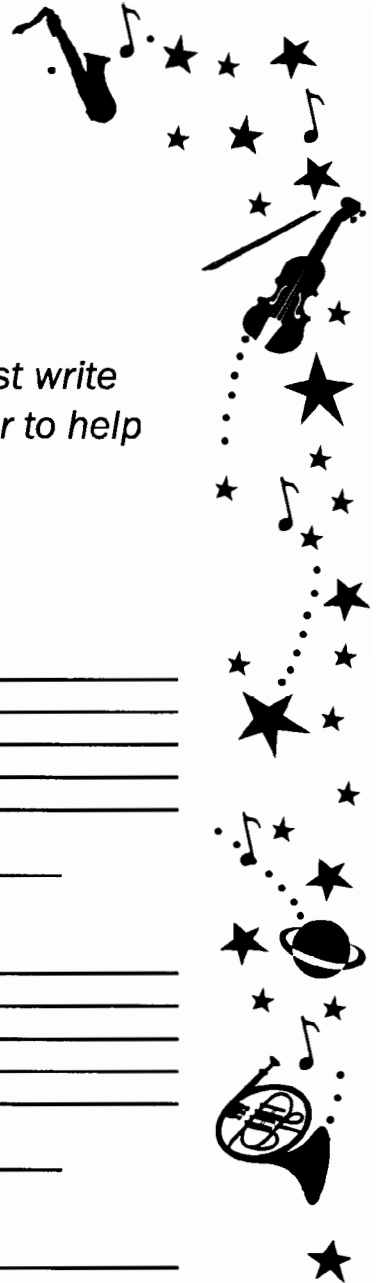
Verse

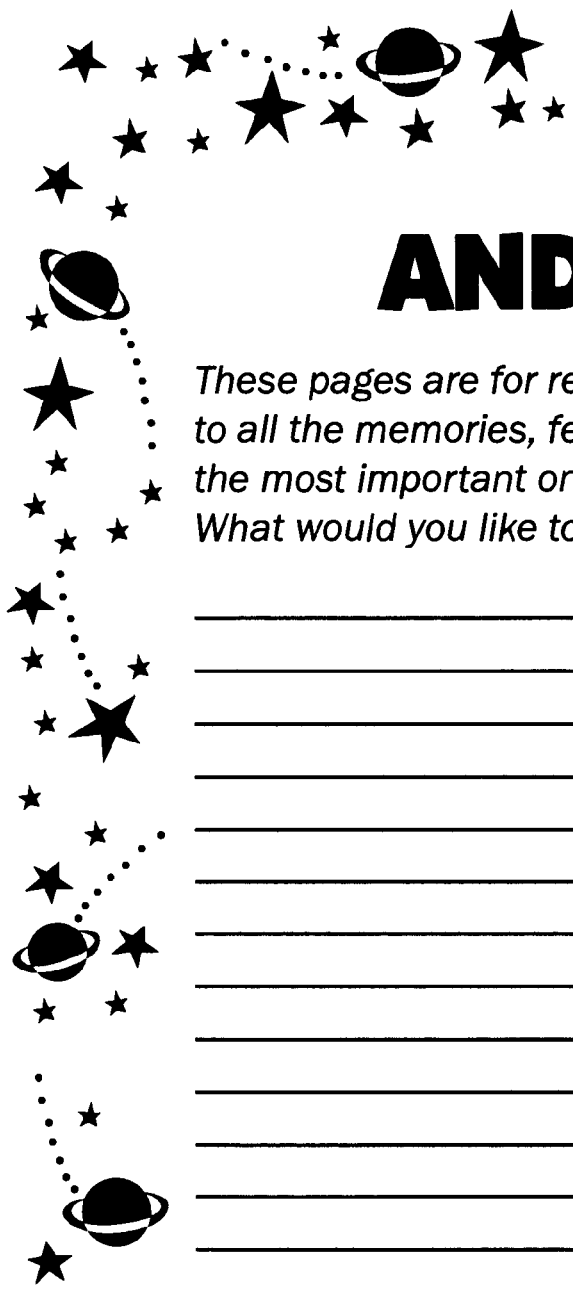


Verse



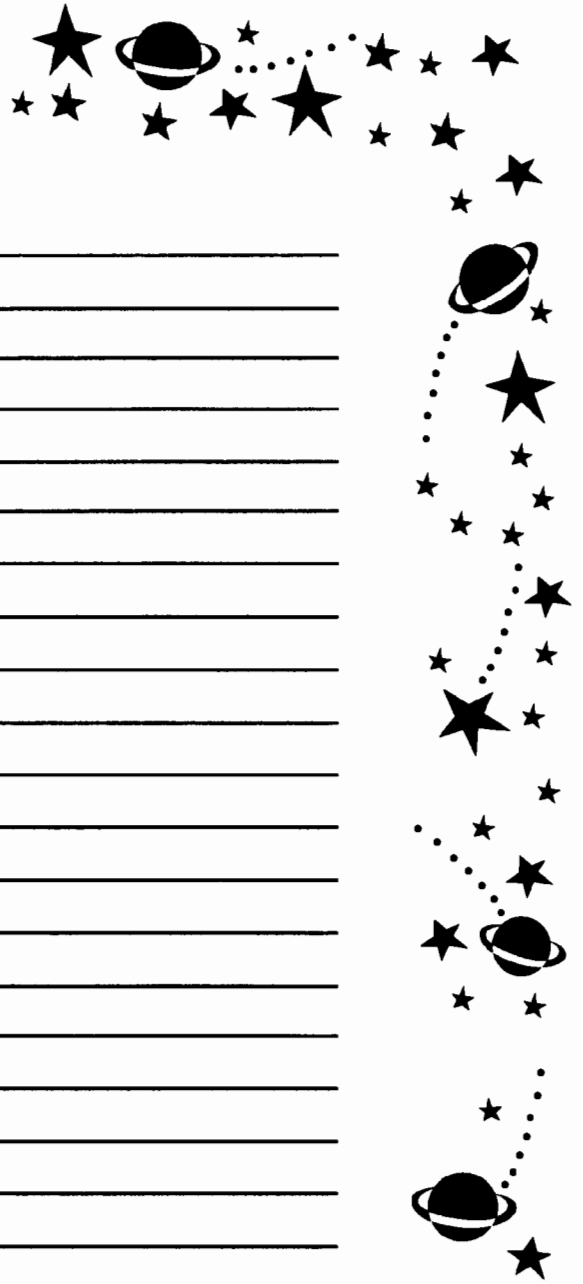
Verse





REFLECTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

These pages are for reflecting back on the whole year. Think back to all the memories, feelings, and dreams you had and write about the most important ones. It's also a time to think about the future. What would you like to accomplish in the year ahead?



A series of horizontal lines for writing, spanning the width of the page.

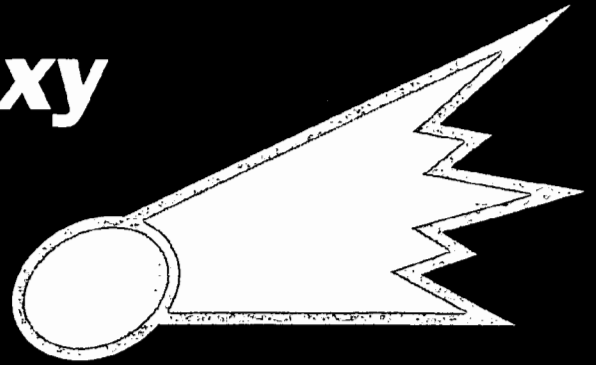


A series of 20 horizontal lines for writing, arranged in a column on the right side of the page.

My Galaxy of Memories, Feelings, and Dreams

A writing journal for kids!

Take a journey through the galaxy of your life!



WRITE ABOUT...

- ...your favorite things and your wildest dreams
- ...your special moments and funniest experiences
- ...your saddest times and your happiest days
- ...your greatest accomplishments and your highest goals!

DISCOVER...

- ...the life stories of your family members
- ...what you mean to your friends
- ...your own creativity!

"My Galaxy is an effective tool for drawing families closer together as it unlocks the potential and talents of the students involved."

—David L. Boren, Former U.S. Senator
President, University of Oklahoma

"I think that the My Galaxy journal is a wonderful book to write down heartfelt moments and little things from friends and family that you might otherwise forget. It inspires me to become a writer someday."

—Chelsie Hellige, 6th grader

"My Galaxy personal journal is a refreshing and delightful experience for children and adults."

—John R. Smith, M.D.



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