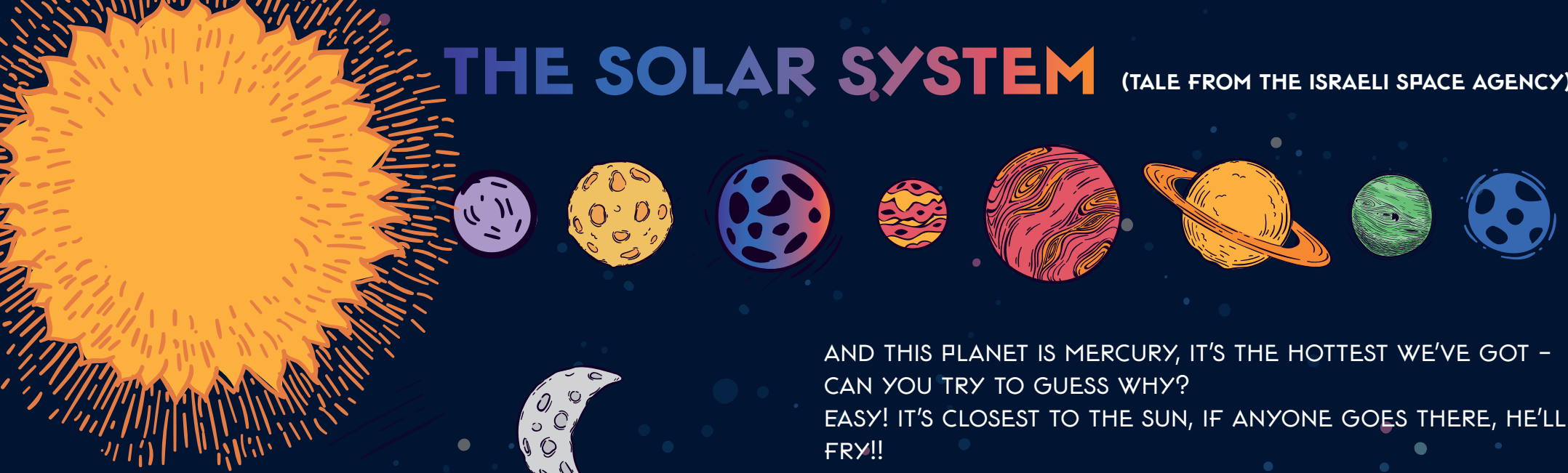


# THE SOLAR SYSTEM

(TALE FROM THE ISRAELI SPACE AGENCY)



EVERY EVENING, BEFORE FALLING ASLEEP WITH THE SUN ALREADY SET AND THE STARS BARELY WINKING, THE SKIES CHANGE FROM BLUE TO DARK AND TWINKLING WHAT'S GOING ON UP THERE IN THE HEAVENS?

MOM SAYS THERE'S THE SOLAR SYSTEM, AND IT'S WAY HUGE, ENORMOUS!

IT'S GOT STARS IN IT, AND A SUN THAT'S HOT AS A FURNACE, PLANETS WITH WEIRDLY ODD NAMES, JUST BETWEEN US:

JUPITER, SATURN, MARS AND BRIGHT VENUS.

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE A TRIP 'MONGST THE STARS?  
(NOW TAKE OUT YOUR THIMBLES!)

OUR SUN'S AT THE CENTER OF EVERYTHING THAT SURROUNDS IT 'CAUSE ALL OF THE STARS ARE IN ORBIT AROUND IT THE SUN'S HUMONGOUS, IT'S ORANGE AND HOT, IT SHINES LIGHT ON US ALL WHETHER WE LIKE IT OR NOT.

AND THIS PLANET IS MERCURY, IT'S THE HOTTEST WE'VE GOT - CAN YOU TRY TO GUESS WHY?  
EASY! IT'S CLOSEST TO THE SUN, IF ANYONE GOES THERE, HE'LL FRY!!

BETWEEN THE EARTH AND MERCURY'S A STAR THAT'S SO FINE - WE CALL IT VENUS, THE SECOND PLANET IN LINE.  
OUR VENUS SHINES SO BRIGHT, SO WHITE.  
WE CAN SEE IT FROM HERE AT THE START OF THE NIGHT.

THE THIRD ROCK FROM THE SUN, WELL I'M SURE YOU CAN GUESS- IT'S OUR GOOD OLD EARTH, WHERE WE ALL LIVE, YES YES YES!  
ON OUR ROCK WE'VE GOT KIDS AND ANIMALS AND PLANTS SO TALL,  
IT'S THAT MOST UNIQUE SPECIAL BALL,  
BECAUSE LIFE AS WE'VE GOT HERE - THERE'S NOWHERE ELSE, NOT AT ALL.

AND OUR EARTH'S GOT A COMPANION, A FAITHFUL OLD FRIEND,  
WE CAN SEE IT OUT THERE, ALL WEEK LONG, END TO END.  
WHO IS THAT RISING, EACH NIGHT IN THE EAST?

IT'S THE MOON!

PEEPING DOWN FROM THE HEAVENS,  
THAT'S WHEN WE KNOW -

IT'S TIME TO SAY GOOD NIGHT, TO OUR PARENTS AT LEAST.



LET'S REACH OUT TO THE SKY, HIGH UP TO THE STARS -  
WHO'LL STRETCH THEM THE HIGHEST, WHO'LL TOUCH LI'L RED  
MARS?

MARS COMES AFTER EARTH, OUR GREAT LOVELY HOME -  
A RED-LOOKING BALL MADE OF SKY, ROCKS AND STONE.  
ENGINEERS, SCIENTISTS, TEACHERS, WONDER EVERY DAY -  
DO YOU THINK FOLKS'LL GO OUT TO LIVE THERE SOMEDAY?



TAKE A LEAP OUT FROM MARS, JUPITER'S THE NEXT ONE,  
IT'S A PLANET, IT'S BIG, AND IT'S FIFTH FROM THE SUN.

THE GAS GIANT WE CALL IT,  
'CAUSE THAT'S ALL IT'S MADE OF -

TWO GASES THAT SWIRL LIKE A MILLION TORNADOS.

LET'S MOVE ON AHEAD, WHO'S THAT WITH THOSE  
STRANGE-LOOKING THINGS?

IT'S SATURN, ROLLING MAJESTICALLY WITH ITS FABULOUS RINGS.



AND IT TURNS ROUND AND ROUND...

IT'S THE SIXTH PLANET, THE LAST WE CAN SEE FROM THE  
GROUND.

WITH FREEZING COLD WEATHER AND A GRAY GLOOMY MOOD

WE'VE REACHED THE SEVENTH PLANET AND THE GOING IS GOOD.

IT'S FROSTED WITH ICE, AS THICK AS A MOUNTAIN

BUT NO SUGAR ON IT, NO SPARKLING FOUNTAIN.

IT'S CALLED URANUS, IF YOU WANTED TO KNOW.

WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT, BUT WE THINK IT'S GOT SNOW.

WE'VE REACHED THE EIGHTH PLANET,

AND THAT'S ALL WE'VE GOT.

WHEN IT COMES TO OUR PLANETS,

FAINT, LITTLE NEPTUNE'S AS SMALL AS A DOT.

NEPTUNE'S WINDS BLOW SO FAST THERE,

THEY'D BLOW OFF YOUR HAIR!

SO THE NEXT TIME YOU GAZE UP AT THE SKY,

LOOK AT THE PALMS OF YOUR HANDS.

CLASP THEM TOGETHER, ONE TO THE OTHER:

THERE'S THE SUN AT THE CENTER AND THE PLANETS SURROUND  
HER -

IT'S THE SUN'S SOLAR SYSTEM, AND WE ALL ORBIT AROUND HER.

