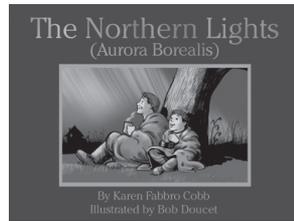


# THE NORTHERN LIGHTS

By - Karen Fabbro Cobb  
Illustrated by - Bob Doucet  
Genre – Report, Recount  
Set 20 - 447 Words

## Building Anticipation - Setting the Context

Using a globe, show the students the North Pole and the South Pole. Talk about the hemispheres. Use an atlas or a reference text and look at illustrations of the northern sky and the southern sky. What is the same? What is different? Name some of the different constellations.



## Introduction

Ask students to close their eyes and think about the night sky. Be sure to mention, *meteor showers* and *faces of the moon* if the students do not. Write the words *Aurora Borealis* and *Aurora Australis* on chart paper. Read them aloud and then write the words, *Northern Lights* and *Southern Lights*. Match the word phrases and talk about their meanings.

Ask children to read pages 2 to 5 to find out some facts about aurora. Tell them they are going to read a story about a boy and his father who go out at night to watch something special in the sky. Read to find out what they see.

## Discussion - Book Talk

*Right there questions:*

What is another name for the Southern Lights? For the Northern Lights?

Where do the rays of light seem to dance?

How did the author describe the lights?

How did the boy wake his father?

What colors are in the Northern and Southern Lights?

*Think and search questions:*

Which part of the book is more scientific? Why?

Why did Jordan smile to himself?

Besides wrapping up in blankets, how else did Jordan and his father keep warm?

How were the Northern Lights described?

*On your own questions:*

In which hemisphere did Jordan and his father live? How do you know?

The author uses similes to describe the lights. Why did she do that?

When Jordan fell asleep, what do you think he dreamed about?

What do you think Jordan will do the next night?

Which part of the book did you like better, *Facts about Aurora* or *The Dancing Lights*? Why?

## Creative Response – Independent Practice

*Descriptive Language*

Ask students to find examples of descriptive language on pages 2, 8, 11, 12, 17. Then look at the pictures and write their own descriptive language to tell about the Aurora Borealis and the Aurora Australis.

*The Character's Feelings*

Ask the students to look at the figure of Jordan on the reproducible master. Read the words aloud that are all around the figure. Ask students to think about Jordan and how he felt that night. Students list words to describe how he felt under each of the categories.

*Art*

Give students painting materials. Introduce the concept of a horizon by drawing a line on the board. Talk about the horizon and what is above and below that line. Use landscape prints or pictures to illustrate the concept. Read the author's figurative language that was used to describe the Northern Lights. Ask the students to paint the Aurora Borealis.

*Role Play*

Tell student to be a news reporter and report on the sighting of the Northern Lights. Describe the lights to your viewers as if you are there. Include descriptive language. For example: *I am here in the backyard with Jordan and his father. We are watching the Northern Lights. Right now they are . . .*

## Read aloud and Poetry Connections

*Northern Lights* by D.M. Souza, Carolroda Books, 1994.

*Reach for the Stars* series by Kids Can Press. Titles include: *The Earth, Comets and Asteroids, Exploring Space, The Moon, The Planets, The Stars, The Sun.*

*Skysisters* by Jan Bordeau Waboose, Kids Can Press, 2000.

*The Fiddler of the Northern Lights* by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, Cobblehill Books, 1996.

## Learning about Language – Focused Teaching

High Frequency Words - north, south, quietly, watch, watched,

Interest Words - horizon, aurora, vivid, pinwheel, swirl, awesome

Word Families and Letter Clusters - *z* sound: horizon - Silent letters: wrap, lights, nights, whispering

Structural Features of Words - Past tense: *ed* words: crawled, pulled, looked, tapped, moved, sipped, watched, called, danced, stayed, picked, carried, whispered

Text Features - Scientific vocabulary: Aurora Borealis, Aurora Australis, faces of the moon, meteor showers – Similes - The *said* marker

# A Look at the Character

