An excerpt from

THE STORY OF DOCTOR DOLITTLE

By Hugh Lofting
Originally published in 1920

As soon as the Cat's-meat-Man had told every one that John Dolittle was going to become an animal-doctor, old ladies began to bring him their pet **pugs** and poodles who had eaten too much cake; and farmers came many miles to show him sick cows and sheep.

One day a **plow-horse** was brought to him; and the poor thing was terribly glad to find a man who could talk in horse-language.

"You know, Doctor", said the horse, "that vet over the hill knows nothing at all. He has been treating me six weeks now – for **spavins**. What I need is **SPECTACLES**. I am going blind in one eye. There's no reason why horses shouldn't wear glasses, the same as people. But that stupid man over the hill never even looked at my eyes. He kept on giving me big pills. I tried to tell him; but he couldn't understand a word of horse-language. What I need is spectacles".

"Of course – of course", said the Doctor. "I'll get you some at once."

Determining Important Ideas

Before reading

- Read the title.
- With your learning partner(s), discuss what type of character Doctor Dolittle could be.
- Skim and scan the text. Look for important (main) ideas and make a mental note of them.

During reading

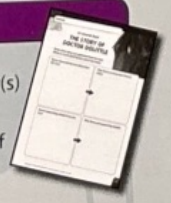
- Read the text or listen to the audio.
- Place the transparency over the page. Focus on one paragraph at a time. With your partner(s), take turns using the marker to underline any important ideas and circle any supporting details.
- Discuss the underlined sentences, and decide together on the most important ideas in the text.
- Discuss the most important idea that the horse is trying to tell Doctor Dolittle. Explain your thinking.

After reading

- Discuss the important ideas in this text and why they are important.
- Discuss how determining important ideas helped you to understand this text better.

Writing activity

- Work with your partner(s) to fill out the graphic organiser on page 67 of the Reflection Journal.



Determining Important Ideas

Before reading

- Read the title.
- With your learning partner(s), predict what your weight would be if you were on Mars.
- Skim and scan the text. Look for important ideas and make a mental note of them.

During reading

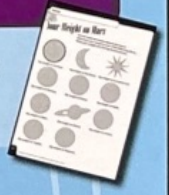
- Read the text or listen to the audio.
- Place the transparency over the page. Take turns using the marker to circle the important ideas in the text. Discuss how many important ideas there are in the first sentence and why they are important.
- Take turns using the marker to underline the supporting details in the text. Discuss why each underlined part is a supporting detail.

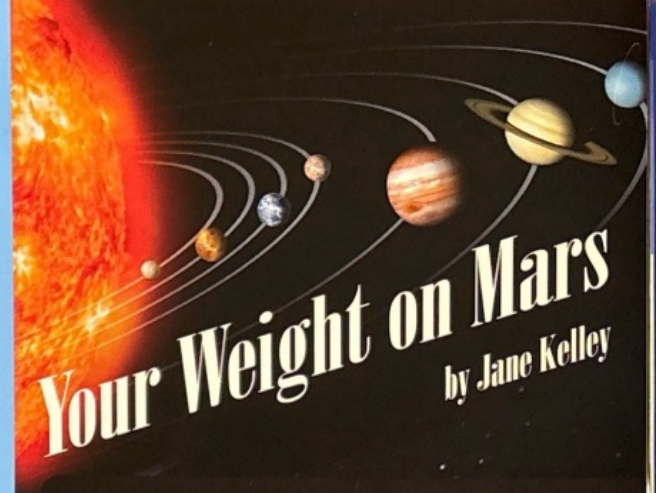
After reading

- Use the table and the important ideas in the text to figure out your weight on Mars and other planets and stars.
- Discuss how determining important ideas helped you understand this text better.

Writing activity

- Work on your own to fill out the graphic organiser on page 68 of the Reflection Journal.





Your Weight on Mars

by Jane Kelley

How much you would weigh on other **planets** and stars is determined by three things: the distance between you and the centre of the planet or star, the mass of the planet or star and the **mass** of your body.

Scientists have already figured out the size and mass of all of the planets and some stars. Using their calculations we can convert "Earth kilograms" (or "Earth pounds") into their equivalent weights on different planets and stars.

Now you can figure out how much you would weigh if you were lucky (or unlucky!) enough to visit any of those far-off places.

Conversion Table

On the Sun	1 Earth kg = 27.00 kg	1 Earth lb. = 27.00 lb.
On Mercury	1 Earth kg = 0.37 kg	1 Earth lb. = 0.37 lb.
On Venus	1 Earth kg = 0.9 kg	1 Earth lb. = 0.9 lb.
On Earth's Moon	1 Earth kg = 0.16 kg	1 Earth lb. = 0.16 lb.
On Mars	1 Earth kg = 0.37 kg	1 Earth lb. = 0.37 lb.
On Jupiter	1 Earth kg = 2.36 kg	1 Earth lb. = 2.36 lb.
On Saturn	1 Earth kg = 1.06 kg	1 Earth lb. = 1.06 lb.
On Uranus	1 Earth kg = 0.88 kg	1 Earth lb. = 0.88 lb.
On Neptune	1 Earth kg = 1.12 kg	1 Earth lb. = 1.12 lb.
On a neutron star	1 Earth kg = 140,000,000,000.00 kg	1 Earth lb. = 140,000,000,000.00 lb.

Here's how you can calculate your weight on different planets and stars, using the table:

To find out what you weigh on Jupiter, multiply your weight by 2.36. For example, if you weigh 45.5 kilograms (100 pounds) on Earth, then you'll weigh 107 kilograms (236 pounds) on Jupiter!

The **equation** looks like this:

45.5 x 2.36 = 107

So, how much would you weigh on Mars?

Extra for experts

How much would you weigh on Mars in stones?
1 Earth stone = 14 Earth lb.