

KIDS DRUG FREE READING

<http://www.drugfreereading.com>
or available on a data DVD

**"I had a drug problem.
My teacher drug me to reading 'till I got addicted.
Now I'm a drug free reader!"**



*Reading Comprehension Tools for Kids**

*(Much of the content of the adult resources works equally well for Kids.)

Most educators and psychologists agree that a person's enjoyment and proficiency in reading and writing are cast at an early age. Exposure to newspapers, books, periodicals, and even comics in a child's life sets a course toward "drug-free-reading". NASA performed a study decades ago about factors leading children into the pursuit of science, mathematics and engineering. Early exposure to a pair of topics proved most beneficial, space exploration and dinosaurs. There is something mystic and winsome about those themes. Things existing in antiquity and the distant future excite the curiosity of young minds.

The purpose of *Drug Free Reading for Kids* is to channel

that excitement into a want to read and write.

The author, Jerry Woodfill, has created numerous space education resources designed to capture a young person's interest. All, like the adult drug free reading resources, are in the public domain, either authored for NASA by Jerry or donated by him to the project, website, and DVD. They may be freely used, downloaded or printed for classroom or other use deemed worthy by instructors or parents. Many are resident in Woodfill's creation for NASA known as THE SPACE EDUCATORS' HANDBOOK. Included are space comics, text narrated space coloring books, and science fiction content made appealing through descriptive prose, images and videos.

All are offered as classroom and home study products accessible through the Drug Free Reading Web Site or DVD. Perhaps, their use will preclude many children from becoming developmental education adults needing the content of the DRUG FREE READING *One Nation Under God* stories, audios, and exercises. Such would be enormously encouraging.

Below are helpful resources along with descriptive prose describing how the content might be used to promote reading comprehension. All are resident at the Drug Free Reading Web Site or accessed on computers with the Drug Free Reading DATA DVD.

A Seuss-like Poem as a Developmental Reading Resource

If I Ran NASA

by Kerner VonBuzzenship



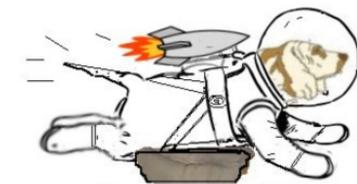
"...BESTIAE AD ASTRA!"
"Animals to the Stars..."

- There is a poster describing the Animal Astronaut Space Agency (A.A.S.A.) Reading Program.
- There is the Seuss-like story of the Animal Astronaut Space Agency
- There is a power point show of the A.A.S.A. story.
- There is a printable presentation (.pdf version) of the A.A.S.A. story.
- There is a video of the story being presented to school children.

Discussion: In conjunction with the 2007 national reading emphasis "Read Around the World" based on the annual celebration of Dr. Seuss's birthday, NASA speakers were invited to read Seuss books at elementary schools throughout the Houston area. The author composed a Seuss-like booklet akin to Theodore Geisel's "If I Ran the Zoo." The main character, Kerner VonBuzzenship, a junior astronaut, had the title - Animal Astronaut Trainer of the Animal Astronaut Space Agency, the AASA for short.

Likewise, the author created both a NASA-like logo along with an accompanying *official* AASA membership card. Those who participated in the program, reading and singing along with Mr. Woodfill, received the AASA membership card as an official animal astronaut trainer at the conclusion of the one hour activity.

The various books, activities, videos, song, and resources are accessed by clicking on the respective website or DVD links. Reading is enhanced by singing the lyrics of the song, "Did Ivan Ever Return" as well as reading along with the power-point slides telling the three children's space stories: If I RAN NASA, NAME THE PLANETS IN ORDER, and IVAN IVANOVICH, FIRST MANIKIN IN SPACE. The program was well received at elementary schools.



Doggy-naut "MO"

So I've decided who will go.
I'll pick my dog named Mo!
He'll need a canine suit
With four, not two, space paw boots.

**Jules Verne's FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON
as a Developmental Reading Resource for Youth and Adults**



There are printable versions of both Verne's
FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON.
And *AROUND THE MOON.*

Ask those who enjoy reading, "What do you recall first led to your reading interest?" My answer would be, "I liked building Revell model airplane kits. While the instruction sketches helped most, I had to read as well." Others might respond, "I enjoyed Sunday school and wanted to read Bible stories in my class workbook." Then, there are those who may recall Christmas Sears toy catalogs appearing in mailboxes each Thanksgiving. The photos of bikes, games, dolls, and sports items surely enticed youngsters, but the accompanying text was essential to fully appreciate those desired gifts. If Santa Clause could read a Christmas letter, wouldn't a child want to know the words to write?

Nearly a century and a half in the past, a popular French Author named Jules Verne wished to excite youth about the wonders of geography. Like the authors of DRUG FREE READING, he chose a fictional story about a manned journey to the Moon. What could be more appealing to children than a voyage beyond Earth? For French kids, he wove into the story "far away places with strange sounding names" like FLORIDA and TEXAS. While his extra-terrestrial tale partially served his purposes, it was *AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY DAYS* which fully accomplished his desire to acquaint youth with the Earth's geography.

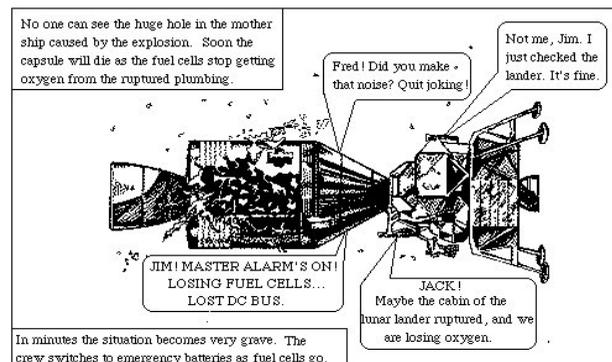
The content of DRUG FREE READING has the entire text with the original lithograph images of both *FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON* and Verne's sequel *AROUND THE MOON*. Both are in the public domain, though the translated

French to English text is a bit dated based on 21st century prose. However, it, like *ETHAN FROME*, has much appeal for application to a developmental reading program.

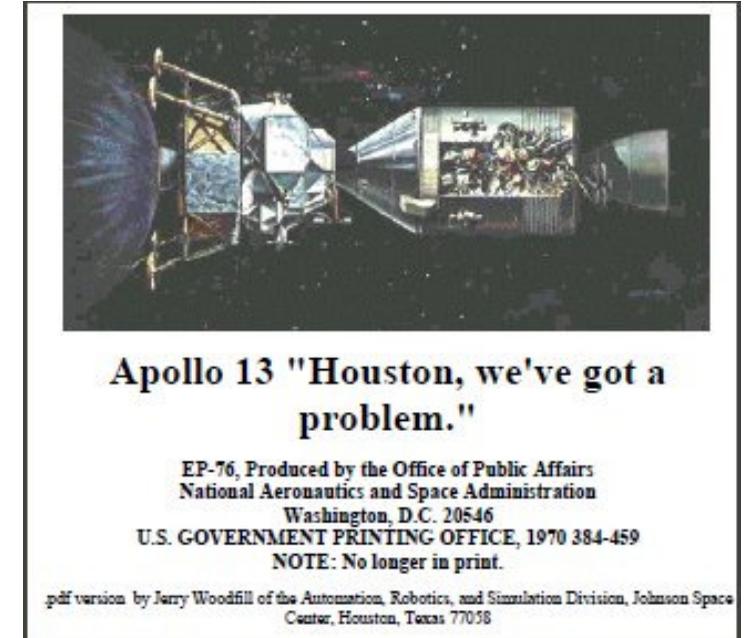
Apollo 13 as Developmental Reading Resource



Where Jules Verne succeeded in exciting youth about geography over a century past, Hollywood did likewise capturing youth's interest in space exploration with the movie **APOLLO 13**. The movie explains in non-fiction screen play fashion how NASA space technology accomplished lunar landings, a century after Verne treated the topic in his fictional novel *FROM THE EARTH TO THE MOON*. Likewise does the DRUG FREE READING program employ the tale for developmental reading purposes. To that end, three versions of the Apollo 13 account are resident on the website and the DVD. The first and least difficult word-wise is the comic. The comic-book panels may be printed from the .pdf file. The .htm format is provided for reading on a computer display.



**Apollo 13 NASA Report
as a Developmental Reading Resource**



While the text of Astronaut Jim Lovell's book is not in the public domain, there is an excellent NASA version with ample text and images to use as a developmental reading tool for both adults and elementary students. The .pdf version is available from the DRUG FREE READING website and the DVD.

Though the publication is long *out-of-print*, Mr. Woodfill recreated the document in electronic format so that it can be freely used as a developmental reading resource. Because the text is fashioned as an air-to-ground exchange, the story can be utilized in class as an acted-out docu-drama, assigning students the roles of crew members Jim Lovell, Fred Haise, and Jack Swigert as well as the capcom and the NASA narrator.

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