



## **October sky worksheet**

SUBJECTS - Space exploration; United States/1945-1991 - West Virginia; Science and technology; SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING - RAISING CHILDREN; Friendship; MORAL-ETHICAL EMPHASIS - Responsibility; Caring. AGE: 10 years; MPAA Rating - PG for language, brief teen sensuality, and alcohol consumption, as well as for some thematic elements; Drama; 1999; 108 minutes; Color. Available from Amazon.com. Inspired by the launch of Sputnik (October 1957), a high school student in a coal town in West Virginia decides to make his own rockets. Despite his father's initial opposition, Homer and his alien friends persist and succeed. They have the support of their science teacher and Homer's mother, who decided that her son would not end up as a miner. Despite all the difficulties, the boys win a national science fair with a record describing their missiles. All the boys were going to college, something unusual in a coal country at the time. Homer becomes a NASA engineer. October sky is a charming fairy tale, and the success of the boys inspires. The film is taken from the autobiographical novel by Homer H. Hickam, originally titled Rocket Boys. The book was republished under the same name as the film. October 4, 1957 - Satellite destroys complacency U.S. Favorite Awards: No. Featured actors: Jake Gyllenhaal, Chris Cooper, Laura Dern, Chris Gwen. Directed by Joe Johnston. This film can be used to illustrate an important event in American history, the launch of Soviet Russia's first space satellite. This can cause or increase interest in space science, engineering or mathematics. This can inspire children to work hard to make their dreams come true. October Sky demonstrates the rewards of working towards a goal against frightening odds. The film shows the positive influence of teachers on their students, the mother's support for her child's dreams. her son's love for the father and his need for the approval of the father, as well as the value of people who are different from most of us. The fact that the film is based on true storytelling adds an emphasis to these lessons. Minor. The film contains soft profanity used in stressful situations. The film changes the true story in a number of ways. See the discussion below. Make sure your child understands that in almost every way this is a true story. See the movie is finished, check with your child what is true and what is not. Watch after watching the movie. When your child is ready to read the book, get it for him or her from the library. It's better than a movie. The film teaches important lessons of social and emotional learning. This shows that a child with a dream can go far beyond family expectations. This concept is emphasized in the and parents can reinforce it by commenting on the topic or giving examples of people known to the child who did with their lives, which were very different from what was expected of them. Also highlighted in the film is the concept that children can prevail over challenging odds. Parental comment about how great it was that these kids didn't give up would help highlight this idea. In addition, the film tells us that more often than not the superiority is the result of community efforts or at least comes with the help of many people, as it was in this case. Parents can explore this guestion by asking and helping their child answer a guick discussion. See also the Social-Emotional Learning Discussion Issues and Moral and Ethical Discussion Issues discussion. The following will greatly enhance the child's understanding and appreciation for this film: from 1946 to 1991, the United States was locked in a Cold War with Russian communism. The Soviets argued that communism was the wave of the future and that it would bury capitalism, democracy and the United States. Russia and communism were a serious threat to the United States believed that its technology was the best in the world. We had more cars than any country in the world. We had the best TVs, refrigerators, recording players and a lot of other consumer goods. At that time, American factories were building these products. Japan is still underdeveloped. We were the first with an atomic bomb and first with a hydrogen bomb. Our planes and fighter jets were the best in the world. We thought our military equipment was better than the Russians. Americans comforted the belief that we have the best scientists and engineers that have ever lived. Faith in American technical superiority changed in 1958. The satellite was the first human-made satellite to be launched into Earth orbit. It was sent not by the Americans, but by the Russians. The Americans looked up to see the communist star crossing the skies, and realized that in the important arena of space, our technology is inferior to the Russians. People were worried about what would happen if the Russians put an atomic bomb on one of their satellites. This insecurity has increased as the first few U.S. efforts to put the satellite into orbit failed miserably. The rockets exploded at launch pads or crashed shortly after liftoff. All this was happening live all over the world. It was more than embarrassing. It was scary. For years, the Soviets have waged a space race. lifting more payload into space than the United States, including the first animal in space and the first human in space. All this happened during one of the most incredulous and competitive periods of the Cold War. The satellite launch has shaken the United States to our roots. October sky shows the reaction of one boy to this event. The story told by this film degree is correct. The film is set in a coal town in the West West Coal cities existed for the sole purpose of coal mining. Everything in the city belonged to a coal company: shops, churches, schools and houses in which the miners lived. If the miner was incapacitated and could no longer work, his family was forced to move out of the company's house, which meant leaving the city. Often, when the father is injured, the children have to work in the mines, his family had a very short time (usually two weeks) to move. The coal company didn't want the grim reminders of the dangers of the mine to be around for too long. Coalwood, where Homer lived, was one of the company's best cities, but it was still subject to harsh practices by mine owners. In the mine, coal dust pollutes the air and literally covers everything. A common ailment among miners is black lung disease (pneumoconiosis), caused by inhalation of coal dust. Homer's father suffered from the disease. Mine owners refused to compensate the miners for this occupational hazard, so the federal government intervened and created a compensate the miners for this occupational hazard. workers. December 6, 1957: Two seconds after launch, Vanguard was four feet from the site. The pull stopped, it was washed up, and then exploded. It was very unusual for any boy from Homer's hometown to go to college except for a sports scholarship. However, each of the Rocket Boys graduated from college and Homer Hickham fulfilled his dream by becoming a NASA engineer. The U.S. eventually matched the Russians in the space race and won the Cold War. Russia renounced communism in 1991 and adopted a capitalist model. It is no longer a superpower that competes with U.S. space exploration in the current joint international effort. Expats make money by charging very wealthy people (often Americans) millions of dollars for a trip to space in a Russian space capsule. Homer Hickam's book, Rocket Boys, is better than the film and contains a number of wonderful vignettes that are not in the film. For example, when the boys were building more complex rockets, Homer realized that they needed to learn to calculus to take the next steps in rocket design. Homer and a science teacher convinced the high school principal to offer a new calculus course. Enrollment was limited to six people, the exact number of boys involved in efforts to make the rockets. No one expected anyone else at school to sign up for class. However, the girl that Homer was in love with signed up too, and since Homer's grades in math were the worst of all applicants, he was expelled from the class. Chief at this point was not sure that the Rocket Boys were really up to any good and their bombers, a reference to their first effort which Homer's mother's fence was blown up. The principal did not increase enrollment per class per person to allow Homer felt that his dreams of a career in the rocket industry were over, but in the depths of his depression, he found calculus text on a bookshelf at home. His father's handwriting included notes showing that his father, who had never attended college but was called to lead engineers, had learned to calculus. Homer began to study the text, and other members of the club helped him. Homer learned calculus without class, to his own amazement and from his teachers and principal. The film does not represent a sympathetic view of the United Miners of America (UMW) local in Coalwood. It's a departure from the book. While Homer's father was a mine manager and a man of the company throughout and through, and although he believed the reasons for the strike were trivial, it was not clear whether he was right. Moreover, the allied men supported the Rocket Boys long before Homer's father did, and they played an important role in knocking down the company when it wanted to close the boys' training ground (it was in a massive tailings dam space from the mine). Overall, UMW has made an important positive contribution to U.S. history by forcing coal operators to make mines safer and pay the living wage. For a film that shows some difficulties, the miners were in the organization of their union and get recognition from the owners of the mine, see Matewan. Also in the book, not in the film, there is a clear explanation of how the Rocket Boys got the nozzle accuracy needed to fly their missiles. After Homer's father sent Mr. Bikovsky (the first machinist to help the Rocket Boys) to the mine as punishment, the city merged behind them. Homer then persuaded the head of another mine machine shop to make nozzles, and Homer's father allowed the company's time and materials to be used. The fundamental truth of this history is that in order to accomplish amazing feats, people not only have to be committed and work hard, but often need the support of their communities. They should also seek and receive this help. This is especially true in today's challenging environment. The sequence in which Homer drops out of school and goes to work in the mine is fictional, but the rings are true from the former time when mine owners provided no benefits to the miners or their families. (The real Homer Hickam worked in the mine during the summer after his first year of college, but he wasn't forced to take the job.) Homer Hickam had it to say about the film and about this incident: It was a lot of fun to see the Rocket Boys become the movie October Sky. Of course I thought they should have just filmed it exactly as I had written it in my book, but has their own ways, and they're usually not the same as book writers. But the only good things came out of it, I would have to say, although I didn't like that the movie showed me guit school. I would never drop out of school. My parents would have lived in a tree before they would ever let this happen! But so many people around the world were inspired by the film. Many astronauts even watch it the night before they board the shuttle. Now, it's very special! A guote from Bookwire speaks to Homer Hickam. This is a reference to the Red Tailed Angels of the entire African-American 332nd Fighter Group. During World War II, 332 was the only fighter group that never lost a bomber to enemy aircraft, thus destroying the prejudice that blacks cannot fly modern fighter jets. See the Tuskegee Pilots training guide. There are two main methods of coal mining. A band of coal mining close to the surface is the most economical, but also the most environmentally destructive. Power equipment (power shovels or drag lines) removes the ground and stone to expose the charcoal. The coal is not located close to the surface, a method called underground or deep mining is used. The shaft is dug up to the location of the coal seam, either vertically, on a sloping, or if the coal is located in the mountains, horizontally. Coal is cut down by machines or controlled explosions. The key to deep mining is controlling cave inserts, scattering gas, especially methane and carbon dioxide, and suppressing coal dust. Coal pillars remain to help support the roof. Steel beams are placed all over the roof to prevent the rock from falling on the miners. In some mines the roof behind the coal head may collapse as the face moves forward along the seam. Huge fans and sophisticated ventilation systems are used to pull out gases and bring in clean air. Coal dust is very flammable and should be strictly controlled. Limestone dust is sprayed in the mine to keep the coal dust under control. Work in deep mines is as automated as possible. Continuous mining machines combine separate stages of cutting, drilling, exploding and loading coal at speeds of up to 10.8 metric tons of coal per minute. The charcoal is then transferred on an electric trolley to the surface, where it is taken to the preparatory installations. There it is checked, washed, sorted in size and crushed before sending. 1. See Discussion Issues to use with any film that is a work of fiction. 2. Should people at the beginning of the U.S. space program be deterred by their many failures in rocket launches? Answer: Daniel S. Goldin, a former NASA administrator, said he should be building blocks for better success. An address to graduation in 2001 at the University of California, Berkeley School of Engineering. 3. What would have happened to Homer's family if no one had worked in the mine, even though his father was still recovering from his injuries, saving the lives of other miners? Suggested answer: If no one in the family would be evicted from their home by a coal company. This is true even if the miner is still recovering from injuries sustained in a mine accident. (We don't know if mine owners applied the same standard to management staff as Homer's father. If the miner died or was too injured to work, the mine owners evicted the family. This meant forcing them to move out of the city, as the mine company owned everything in the city. The family usually have to move within a few weeks of the miner's injury or death. The company did not want any grim reminders to stay around and scare off other miners. 4. What proved the rocket boys their success? Suggested answer: What you can achieve big things if you put your mind to it. Success and achievement can come from very unlikely places and you have to keep an open mind about people. 1. Everyone in Homer's family wanted to get out of Coaglywood, except his father. (Remember the mural my mother painted throughout the film.) How does each member of the family cope with this desire? Suggested answer: Mother introduced. Brother excelled in football, a way to get out approved and accepted by the community. Homer went his son's changing as the film evolves. Describe how Homer's father felt to his youngest son in each of the film's following moments: a) when Homer begins to experiment with rockets; after Homer went to work in the mine; (b) When Homer leaves the mine; (c) at the end of the film. weaknesses of Homer's father as a parent. The proposed answer: The weakness is that Homer's father has for too long seen his son as a man who will go his own way, and that thus may not be the way his father went. The father obviously loved his son and eventually came to support his efforts to be an engineer. When students respond ask them to illustrate their point of view with a direct reference to the film. 4. Here are a few examples of education between individuals and from the perspective of the community as a whole. Suggested answer: Almost everything in this film, and of course all the main characters bring up others. Make sure the class sees educational qualities in the father and in the community as a whole. His father was raising Homer when he entered the Rocket Boys. FRIENDSHIP 5. How does friendship help Homer break away from the path of work in a coal mine? What was the strongest act of friendship shown in this film? Suggested answer: Individual responses may vary. Any well-supported responses may vary. Any well-supported response would be adequate. film to teach ethical principles and critical viewing. For more questions, see below. RESPONSIBILITY (Do what you should do; Persevere: Keep trying!; Always do your best; Use self-control; Be self-control; Be self-disciplined; Think before acting - consider the consequences; Be responsible for your choices) 1. Persistently continue the course of action, despite the difficulties and lack of success. I will give examples of perseverance in this film. Suggested answer: In this film, the Rocket Boys continued to try to perfect their rockets despite their initial lack of success. The theme of perseverance is also related to the American space program, which, despite its failures in the beginning, eventually defeated the Russians in most areas of space exploration. See also a quote from Daniel Goldin, a former NASA administrator, in a suggested response to the discussion of #2. 2. Put yourself in Homer's position in this story. Your father is badly injured and can't work. Someone has to work in the mine if the family wants to avoid eviction from the housing company and are forced to move out of the city. Your brother is on his way to escape to college on a football scholarship, but he has to finish school. He'll never get another chance to go to college. If you go to work in the mine you will probably do well and climb to a position in management, just like your father. What would you do if you were in Homer's shoes? Suggested answer: This guestion checks the limits of responsibility and care. Homer and his brother were obliged to help the family save the house. It does not require that one of them work only in the mine, but they had to shoulder the burden or at least part of the burden that their father could no longer bear. Homer, because he cared about his brother, didn't want him to miss the chance to go to college on a sports scholarship. There is also a feeling that Homer knew that when he went into the mine risky, his father made a good career there. Homer will probably also rise to the position of manager. Given these facts, what Homer did was the most ethical, based on his responsibility to the family and his love for his brother. Have other interesting moments about this story. First, there are limits to what a child may be asked to do for the family. If going into the mine was a complete dead end for Homer, the answer would be different. See, for example, Glass Beast. Secondly, the real Homer Hickam worked in the mine only during the summer during college. This storyline is one of the few parts of the film that didn't really happen and he didn't like it. He commented, referring to the situation in which Homer Hickam's character in the film dropped out of school: My parents would have lived in a tree before they ever let this happen! This fact shows that there are many situations in which both parents and children are responsible. Third, compare the scene in which Homer has to put his dreams aside and work in the mine to It's A Wonderful Life, in which the main character gave up his dream of a career as an architect in New York so that his brother could attend college, and yet he lived a wonderful life. 3. Homer's brother was set to receive a football scholarship, which was the only way that in the past, the children got from Coalwood and in the wider world. Did Homer's older brother do the right thing to allow Homer to work in the coal mines so his brother could continue his college education? Suggested answer: Yes. There is no responsibility not to accept the gifts or moral behavior of others. However, Homer's brother really owed Homer a lot of debt. CARING (Be kind; Be compassionate and show you care; Express gratitude; Forgive others; Help those in need) 4. Name the characters in this movie who honor the concept of caring and describe what they have done, which leads you to this conclusion. Suggested answer: Mother because she always wanted what was best for her sons. The teacher who encouraged the Rocket Boys. Rocket Boys. Rocket Boys. Rocket Boys. Homer's father, who finally came to his senses. (See the question below for more about Homer's father.) 5. Who, in this film, had the most trouble practicing the concept of caring? What were the reasons? How did he or she solve it? Suggested answer: Our voice goes to Homer's father. In the beginning, he wanted Homer to work in the mine and eventually become the manager as he was. He saw a lot of himself in Homer, which is probably why he was so strict with the boy. When Homer began to branch out on his own path, his father felt rejected and insecure. These are not relevant feelings for the parent. Parents must recognize that children are not born to accept their parents' values in bulk, or to follow in their footsteps. Children should be able and encouraged to find life is for them. It's true. caring parent. In the end, Homer's father approved of the Rocket Boys' efforts. In doing so, he recognized and fulfilled the love he had for his son. Homer's father was forced to choose between his dream that Homer would work with him in the mine, and what was best for his son. After some delay, he made the right choice. The October Sky book (original title: Rocket Boys) is great for advanced teen readers. It contains significant additional information regarding Mr. Hickam's experience and life in the United States in the 1950s. Rocket Boys is part of the trilogy. Other volumes are Coalwood Way, which describes the summer of 1961 when Homer worked in the mine after his first year in college. The last update of this tutorial was updated on February 10, 2012. 2012.

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