

Meteors and Comets Readers Theatre Script

Developed by Dr. Rosalind M. Flynn from a workshop script by
Teachers of Charles County, Maryland

1 Hey! What are you doing?
11 I'm wishing on a shooting star!
1-10 Better than wishing on a meteor!
11-20 Wait just a minute, here! [gesture]
12 A shooting star IS a meteor!
12-20 So there! [gesture]
All: Meteors, Meteoroids, Meteorites. [sound effect] [gesture]
12 They're all part of the same thing.
11 Yeah?
13 Yeah.
2 All three are part of the same thing?
3 Part of what?
4 A comet.
5 A comet that had a close encounter [sound effect]
All With the sun. [sound effect] [gesture]
11-20 There was a [sound effect] break up!
All [sound effect]→ (Song: "Breaking up is hard to do.")
6 What does that have to do with what s/he was wishing on up there?
7 When a comet breaks up, its little pieces are called meteoroids.
1-10 Meteoroids?
All Meteoroids--Broken up comet pieces! [sound effect] [gesture]
8 But they're not shooting stars yet.
9 Why not?
8 Because we can't see them yet. They haven't entered the earth's atmosphere.
10 When meteoroids enter earth's atmosphere, they begin to sizzle....
All [sound effect] Sssssssssssssss! HOT! [gesture]
12 And burn.
All [sound effect] SSSSSSSSSSSSS! REAL HOT! [gesture]
6-10 And then we can see them?
13 Yup. Because they leave behind a fiery tail. [gesture]
11 As they burn up?
12-20 Uh-huh!
11 Oh, that's the shooting part of the shooting star--its tail.
8 It's now called a meteor.
All Shooting stars—meteors! [sound effect] [gesture]
14 I liked it when it was called a fiery tail!
1-10 [sound effect] KABOOM!
11-20 What was that? [gesture]
1-10 That?! [gesture]

11-20 Yes! That! [gesture]
15 That was a
All Meteorite! [gesture]
11 Wait just a minute, here!
16 We've got comets
17 Exploding into
All Meteoroids--Broken up comet pieces! [sound effect] [gesture]
18 Burning up into
All Shooting stars—meteors! [sound effect] [gesture]
11 So that thing that just crashed into the earth is a meteorite? Not a meteoroid?
1-5 When a meteoroid hits us, it's called a
All Meteorite!
19 When a meteor hits, it's news!
1-10 Arizona's Meteor Crater
20 Made the news! That was when a BIG one hit.
All [sound effect] KABOOM!
1-10 Comets, Meteors,
11-20 Meteoroids, and Meteorites.
11 (looking up) For heaven's sake!
All Go ahead. You can make a wish now! [gesture]
11 I wish it was summer vacation....
All [sound effect]