Alannah and the Sky's Secret Switch



A magical adventure about day, night, the Sun, Moon, and stars.

A story from Alannah Dior's Learning World

The Morning That Wouldn't End



Alannah woke to birds singing and warm sunshine. She ate breakfast, played outside, and painted a picture - but the Sun never moved toward bedtime! Then a glowing compass floated into her room. 'The sky's rhythm needs you,' it chimed.

Sunny's Important Job



Sunny the Sun explained, 'I give Earth light and heat, but I do not travel around Earth every day.' Alannah studied the tiny Earth beside Sunny. She learned that the Sun is a star and looks bigger than other stars because it is much closer to Earth.

Earth Does the Turning



Alannah gently spun the model Earth. The side facing the Sun became bright. The side turned away became dark. 'Earth spins like a top!' Alannah cheered. One full turn takes about twenty-four hours and makes one whole day.

The Colors Between



Alannah set the compass to evening. The sky filled with peach, pink, purple, and blue. Birds flew home, shadows stretched longer, and fireflies blinked awake. This beautiful change from day to night was sunset. Sunrise would welcome morning again.

Moonlight's Gentle Glow



Moon floated into view with a silver smile. 'I do not make my own light,' Moon said. 'Sunlight shines on me, and I reflect it toward Earth.' Alannah polished the Moon side of the compass until it gleamed, and peaceful night spread across the town.

A Sky Full of Stars



Thousands of stars sparkled overhead. 'The stars are there during the day too,' Moon explained, 'but the bright daytime sky hides them.' Alannah learned that stars are huge, hot, glowing balls far away. Our Sun is one of billions of stars in the Milky Way.

The Final Sky Puzzle



Three glowing choices appeared: the Sun, the Moon, and Earth. The compass asked, 'Which one makes its own light?' Alannah thought carefully. 'The Sun!' she answered. The Moon reflects sunlight, and Earth does not make its own light. The compass clicked open!

The Rhythm Returns



Alannah raised the repaired compass. Morning flowed into afternoon, sunset softened into night, and sunrise returned right on time. The Sun, Moon, and stars took their places again. Alannah had discovered the secret: day and night change because Earth keeps turning.

Alannah's Sky-Watcher Promise



That night, Alannah looked at the sky with a grown-up. She found the Moon and counted five bright stars. 'I will stay curious, observe safely, and keep reaching for the stars!' she promised. Can you tell what causes day and night and why the Moon shines?

After the Story

Talk, remember, sequence, and create!

1. What causes day and night on Earth?

2. Is the Sun a star? What does it give Earth?

3. Does the Moon make its own light? Explain.

4. Why are stars harder to see during the day?

5. About how long does Earth take to make one full turn?

Put the sky in order

Number these from 1 to 4: night - afternoon - morning - sunset

Draw and discover

Draw the daytime sky on one side and the nighttime sky on the other.

DAY

NIGHT