

9-25-2014

Theme A: Day 3 Plan

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Recommended Citation

Purdue University College of Education, "Theme A: Day 3 Plan" (2014). *“Becoming a Spacewalker: My Journey to the Stars” Teacher Resources*. Paper 4.
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DAY THREE PLAN

BECOMING A SPACEWALKER: MY JOURNEY TO THE STARS BY ASTRONAUT JERRY L. ROSS

FOCUS: LANGUAGE ARTS

TEACHING CONTEXT: Interactive read aloud, whole class or small group

EXTENSION ACTIVITY: Story map graphic organizer

Materials needed: book, chart paper, overhead, or smart board

Day Three stories: *Supersonic Flight, Try, Try Again, Space Traveler, Life in Zero Gravity, Space Family, Frequent Flyer, My Next Mission, My Challenge to You, additional images (pp. 21–35)*

Purpose of day three:

- Revisit/summarize what we have learned and are learning as we read about Jerry Ross
- Revisit timeline and map to activate prior knowledge and make predictions
- Discuss significant accomplishments and sequence of events
- Search for evidence in text to support thinking
- Internalize new language, technical vocabulary, connect to real-life experience
- Activate children’s prior knowledge from yesterday’s reading and introduce last part of story

Before Reading

- Activate prior knowledge: Reread title, *Becoming a Spacewalker: My Journey to the Stars* by Astronaut Jerry L. Ross. What have we learned about Jerry Ross so far in our reading? Review: The story is told by Jerry Ross. He grew up in the 1950s in the farm country of northern Indiana. He was intrigued by the night sky and outer space. We learned about his dream. We learned about all the problems and obstacles he faced, the plans he made, scrapbooks he created, and what actions he took to solve problems. When we ended yesterday, where was Jerry in his journey to space? What other questions do you have? What would you like to find out today?
Revisit map: Let’s look at the map to see all the places he moved to in the last part of the journey. (Study map with children.)
Revisit timeline: Now let’s study the timeline. Can you find the date on the timeline when Jerry graduated from Purdue? Now find the box that tells you when he became an astronaut. How many years did he work toward his dream? Can you find out how many times Jerry was launched into space from the timeline? What happened in 2014?
- Set a purpose for reading: Today we will go on the final parts of his journey, when Jerry is an adult. We will learn about a big problem that he had to solve so that he could become a spacewalker. Let’s read to find out what other problems Jerry encounters on his journey.

During Reading: *Supersonic Flight, Try, Try Again, Space Traveler, Life in Zero Gravity, Space Family, Frequent Flyer, My Next Mission, My Challenge to You, and additional photos*

- Model fluent expressive reading, quick think alouds, and demonstrate reading for a purpose. After each story, prompt with quick extension questions about story elements, character development, evidence to support thinking, and/or using text features to extend the meaning.
- *Supersonic Flight*
Introduction Before Reading: In this story, Jerry and his family moved from Purdue University to Dayton, Ohio, and on to the desert of southern California to Edwards Air Force Base, where he learned how to be a flight engineer (remind children that he could not become a pilot). He learned

something important about the new Space Shuttle program. Let’s read to find out what that is and what happens when he takes his first supersonic flight.

Conversation After Reading: So what was the big news about the Space Shuttle, and how did that help in his journey to become an astronaut? What happened when he took his first supersonic flight? At the end of the story, Jerry excitedly applied for the first class of Shuttle pilots. Let’s keep reading to find out what happens.

- *Try, Try Again*

Introduction Before Reading: The title of this story is *Try, Try Again*. Could that be a clue for the reader? What do you think happened? Next, new Air Force orders take Jerry and his family to Houston, Texas, where he worked as an engineer in the space program. But, another big problem. Let’s read to find out how he solved this problem.

Conversation After Reading: How did Jerry feel when he was not selected? Which words help you know? Which word tells you that Jerry was nervous about applying again? How do you know he was happy about being selected? How did he try to solve his swimming problem? What finally worked?

- *Space Traveler*

Introduction Before Reading: This is the story of Jerry’s first launch on the Space Shuttle *Atlantis*, from launch to landing. While I read today, think about how Jerry might have felt on this first trip to space and his first time walking in space. Do you think he was excited? Think about which words and pictures help you know this. We hear lots of new words and facts about space travel in this story. One is G-force (quickly define for children—other terminology as needed for understanding).

Conversation After Reading: How did Jerry feel about his first flight? His first spacewalk? What words or pictures tell you this? What facts did you learn about space travel?

- *Life in Zero Gravity*

Introduction Before Reading: In this story, Jerry tells us about what it feels like to live in space where there is no gravity. What questions would you ask Jerry Ross about living in space if he were here right now? Let’s read to see if our questions are answered.

Conversation After Reading: So what did you learn about how astronauts eat, sleep, exercise, and use the bathroom? Jerry tells us about the moment when he flew over Crown Point on his second Shuttle flight. What connection does he make to his childhood?

- *Space Family*

Introduction Before Reading: Jerry’s family was a bit different from most families. Let’s read to find out what they did to be part of a space family.

Conversation After Reading: Let’s summarize—how was each family member connected to space: Karen, Amy, Scott, and Jerry’s mother? What did Jerry’s mother do?

- *Frequent Flyer*
Introduction Before Reading: This is the story of Jerry's record-setting seventh spaceflight. It was also his last flight and his last spacewalk. Let's look at the timeline. Find Jerry's first flight. Now find his seventh flight. How many years are in between the two flights?
Conversation After Reading: What did Jerry think about as the International Space Station came into his view? How do you think Jerry felt about taking his last spacewalk? Which words help you know?
- *My Next Mission and My Challenge to You*
Introduction Before Reading: Once Jerry no longer flew on the Shuttle, he continued to work with the space program and new classes of astronauts. Let's read to find out what he did, what he is doing now, and his message to you.
Conversation After Reading: So what is Jerry's message to you?
- Additional images: Study the images with the children. Ask them what they see/notice.
pg. 34: Point out the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station. Find Jerry.
pg. 35: Locate the solid rocket boosters referred to in *Space Traveler*.
pg. 36: Find ROSS on each patch. What else do they notice? What image is included on each patch?
What is different on each patch?

After Reading

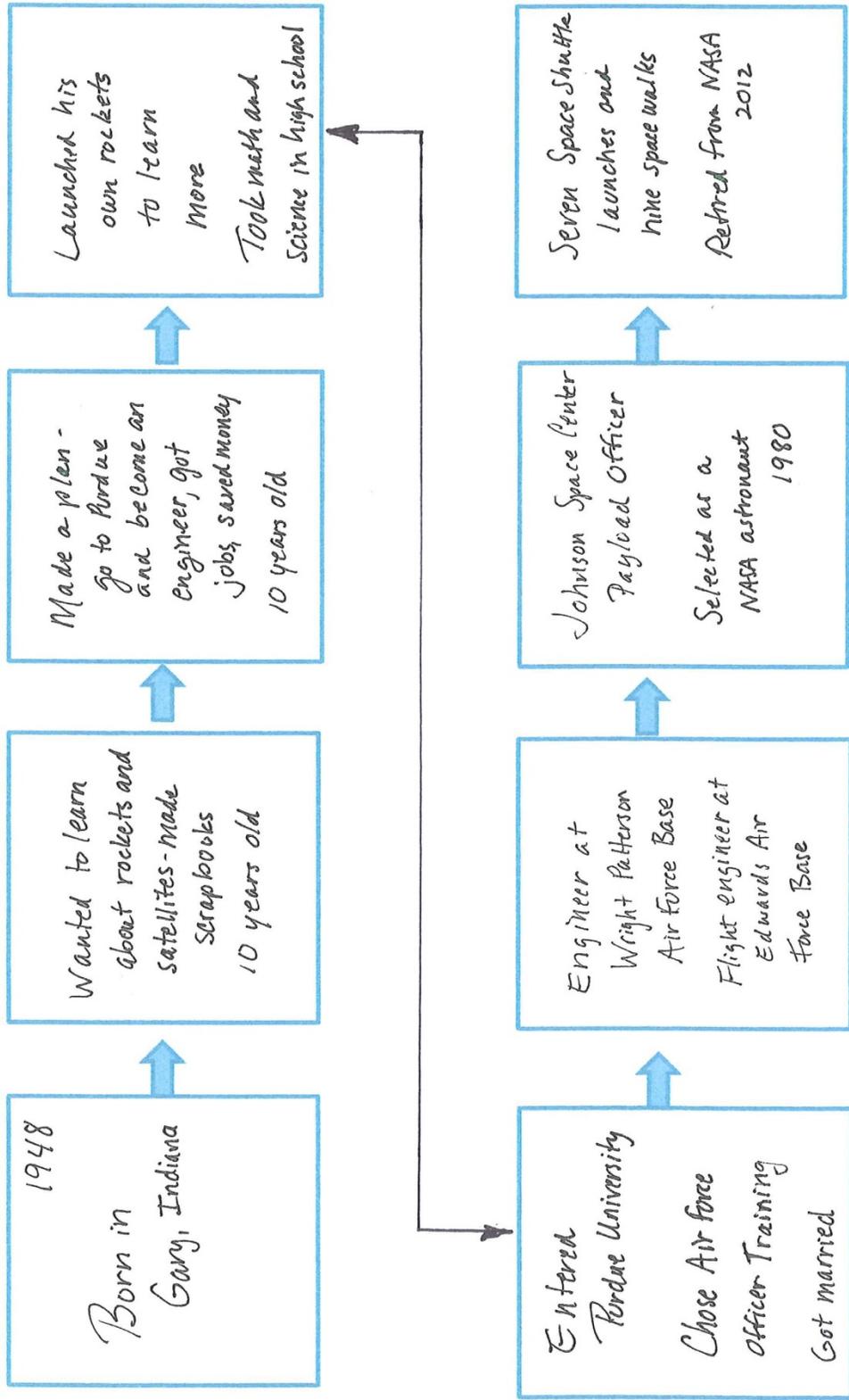
Encourage Personal Response

So what new things did we learn about Jerry Ross? About space? Let's add to our space web!
What is your favorite story in this part of his journey? Why?
What is your favorite picture? Why?
(Children could write in response journals.)

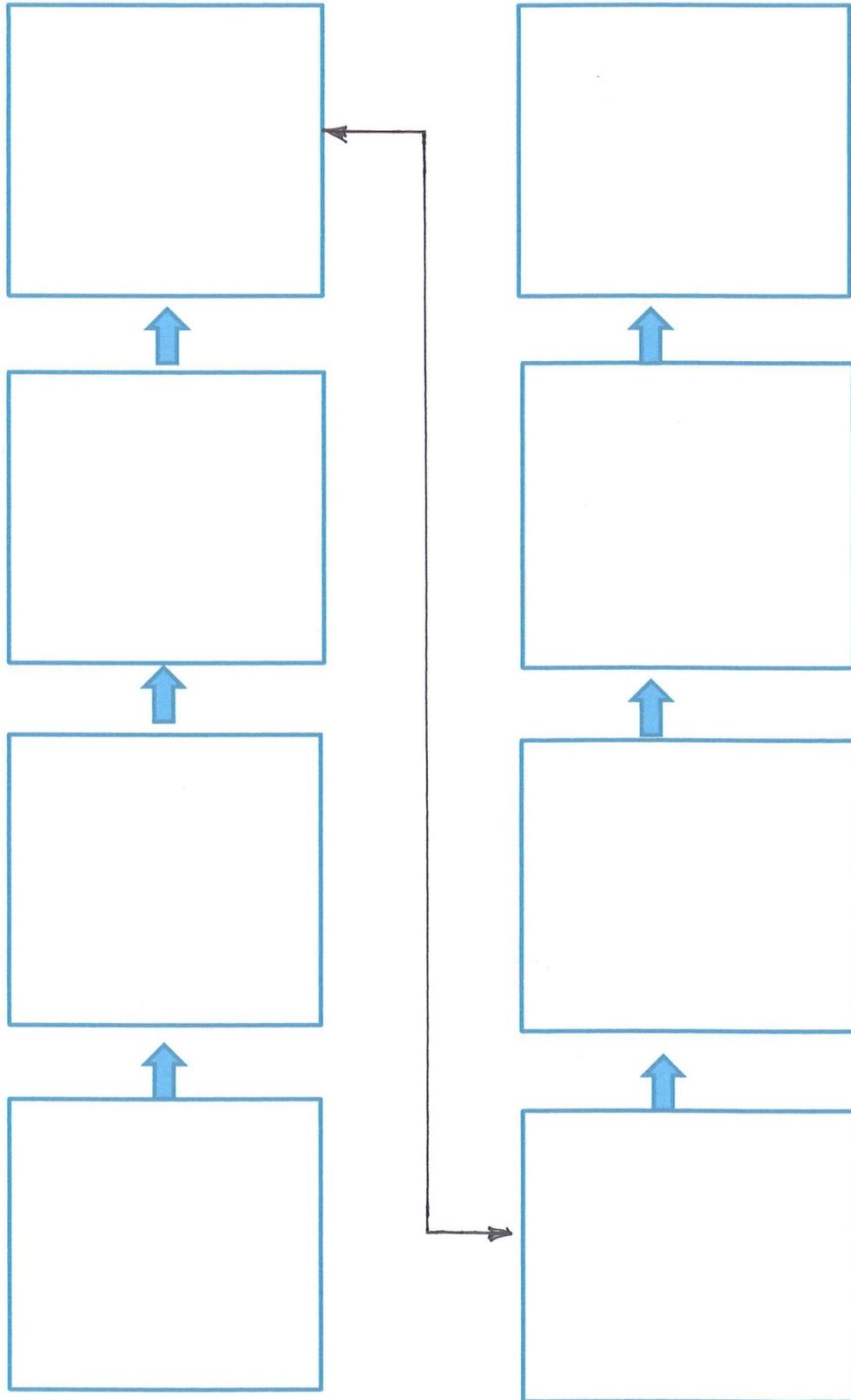
Extension Activity

- Create a graphic organizer: Sequence of Important Events
- Goal: To provide an opportunity for children to understand a sequence of important events and to distinguish between important events and less important events in a character's life.
- Rationale: Allows children to make deeper-level thinking connections, to link ideas, to see a visual representation of their thinking, and to use evidence from the story to put events in a chronological sequence. Helps children see how certain life events are related to outcomes.
- Discuss Jerry Ross's accomplishments.
- Using a sequence of important events chart, show the children how to search for and identify important events in Jerry Ross's dream.
- The completed chart can be used to retell the story or displayed in the classroom as an example of how a subject's history unfolds chronologically in sequence. (See example and blank handout on following pages.)

Sequence of Important Events in Jerry Ross's Life



Sequence of Important Events in Jerry Ross's Life



Summarizing

- We've read about Jerry's childhood and his adventures in college, in the Air Force, and how he finally reached his dream. Do you have a dream? What is your dream? (Children could write in response journal.)