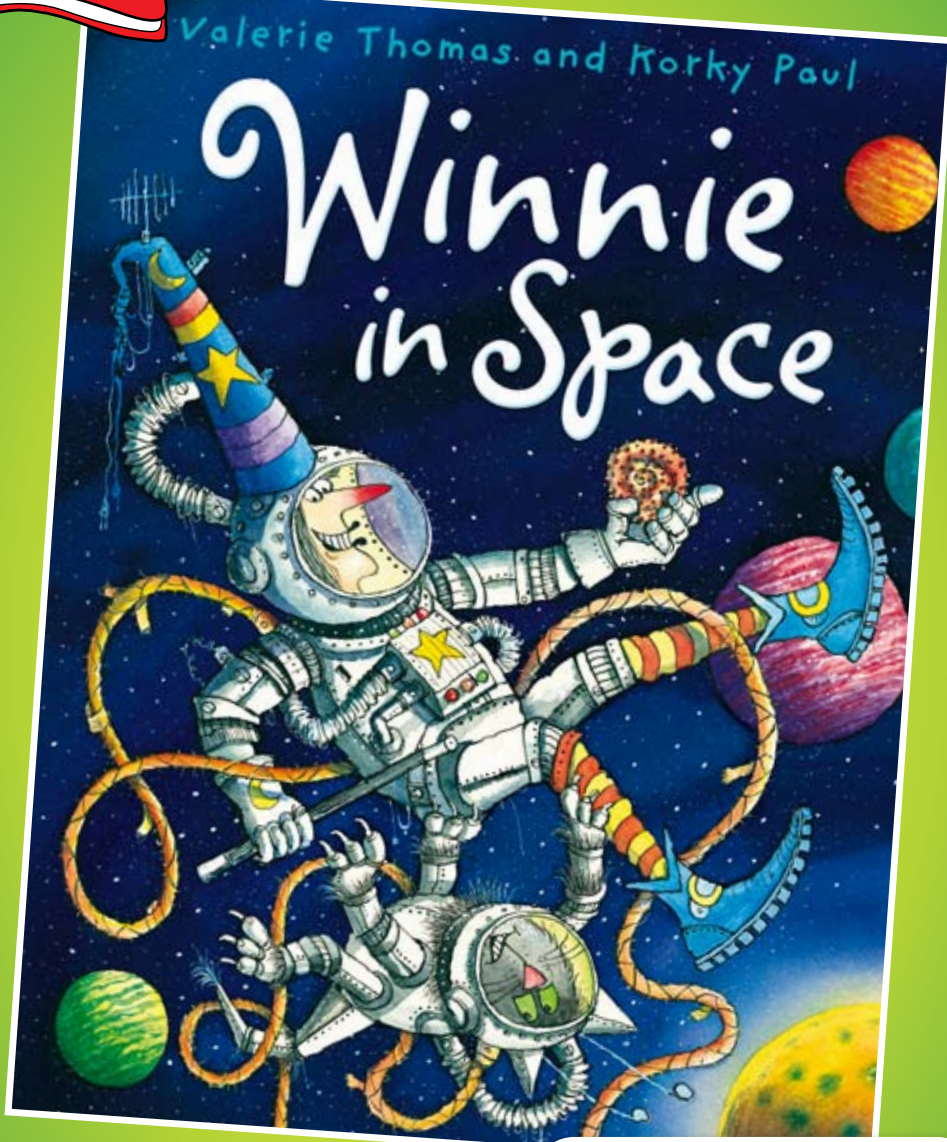


SCHOLASTIC
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21
years

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Book
Talk



AGES 2+

Engage and inspire your
pupils with a Book Talk!

Illustrations © 2010 Korky Paul from *Winnie in Space* by Valerie Thomas and Korky Paul, published by Oxford University Press



Look out for me at
your Book Fair!

AGES 2+

Price	£5.99
Case	Welcome to Reading
Author	Valerie Thomas
Illustrator	Korky Paul
Publisher	Oxford University Press

Using this book in your classroom

Themes

A lively and entertaining story about **space exploration, adventure** and **problem-solving!**

Summary

Winnie the Witch loves looking at the night sky through her telescope. But more than anything, she would love to actually go into space! Her big black cat, Wilbur, is not so sure... One night, Winnie uses her magic to make a space rocket of her very own. She takes a picnic, her spell book and a reluctant Wilbur, and they set off for space. After a few hair-raising near misses with satellites, shooting stars and flying saucers, they land on a planet and get out the picnic. But what should come up from the holes on the planet surface but a crowd of hungry space rabbits! Winnie tries to fend them off with magic carrots and lettuces, but unfortunately space rabbits only eat metal ... and metal space rockets in particular! They munch up Winnie's rocket – but fortunately, she has a magical plan to get herself and Wilbur home again!

Did you know?

- The Winnie the Witch books have been published in over 10 languages, including Afrikaans, Greek, Japanese and Dutch.
- In 1987, the first Winnie the Witch book won the Federation of Children's Book Groups Award – an award Korky Paul is particularly proud to have won because all the judges are children!



The Story Session

1. Introducing the book

- If the children have read other Winnie the Witch books, share their thoughts about the main characters, Winnie and Wilbur, and make some predictions about what might happen if Winnie went into space. If children haven't read other Winnie books, it doesn't matter – read the back cover blurb and flip through the pictures, and encourage the children to make predictions based on these.

2. Reading the story

- Read the whole story aloud to the children. Read it through once from beginning to end so that they can enjoy the story uninterrupted, and then reread it, pausing to look at the pictures in more detail and discuss the story.
- Ask: "Why do you think Winnie wants to go into space? Why doesn't Wilbur want to go? Would you want to go?"
- At the end of the story, ask: "Why do you think Winnie is glad to get home? Who else has come home with Winnie and Wilbur?" (A few space rabbits have stowed away and are eating the rocket!) Ask: "What do you think will happen next? Will Winnie get rid of the rabbits? Or will she keep them as pets?"

3. Follow-up

- Ask the children to draw their own picture of a magical space rocket for Winnie and Wilbur. Suggest that they make it space-rabbit-proof!
- Ask the children to imagine that Winnie and Wilbur go to space again and visit a different planet. What adventures might they have? Discuss this as a whole group, and then ask the children to act out their ideas in pairs or small groups.
- Give children an insight into what space is really like by looking at books about space or visiting an age-appropriate website such as NASA's Kids' Club: <http://kids.msfc.nasa.gov>

YOU TELL US

- Did you use these notes to have a Book Talk in class?
- Were they helpful?
- Are there any changes you'd like to see to make them more useful?

We're always happy to hear your comments, so please email us!
Please email: bookfairs@scholastic.co.uk