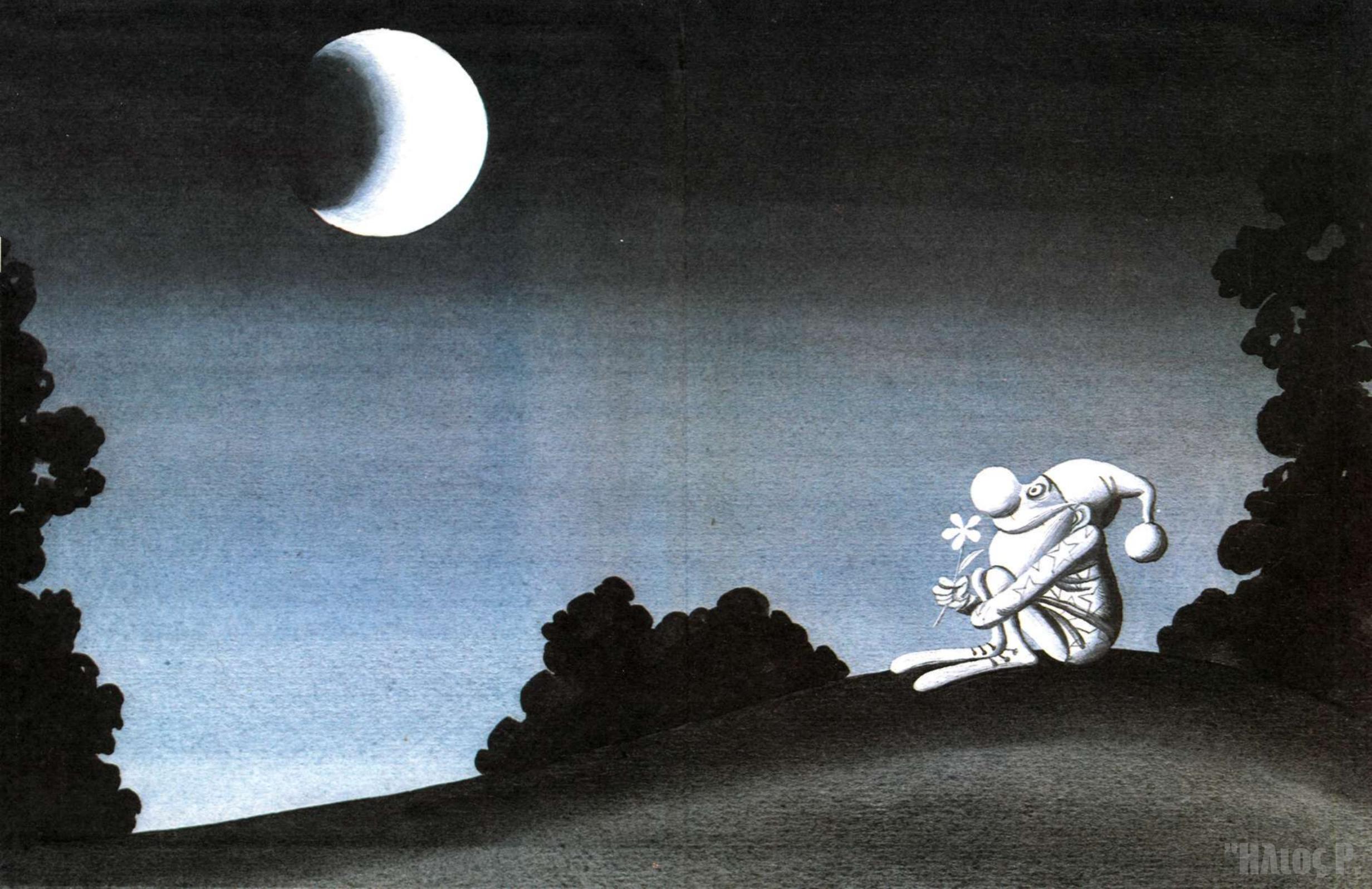


Yefrem Levitan

***A BOOK  
ABOUT STARS  
AND PLANETS***

***TO BE READ TO CHILDREN***

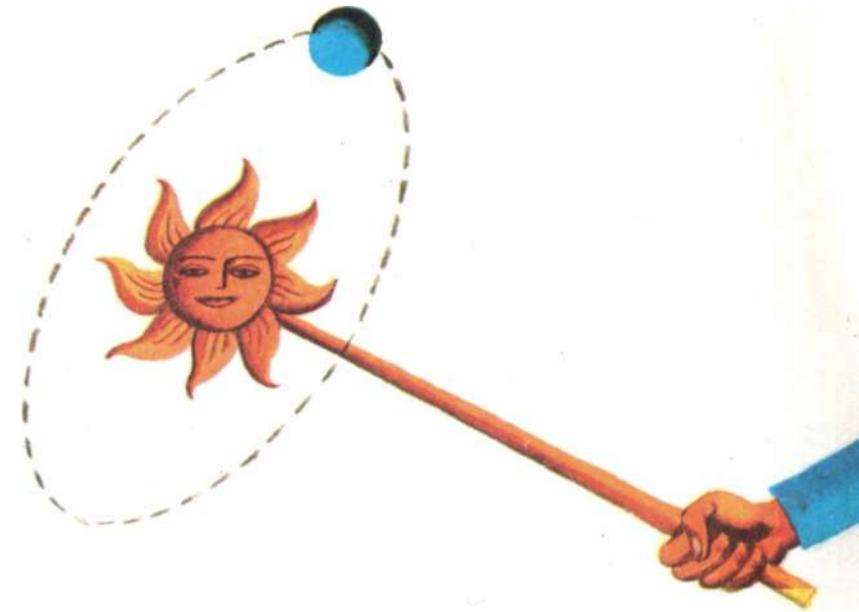






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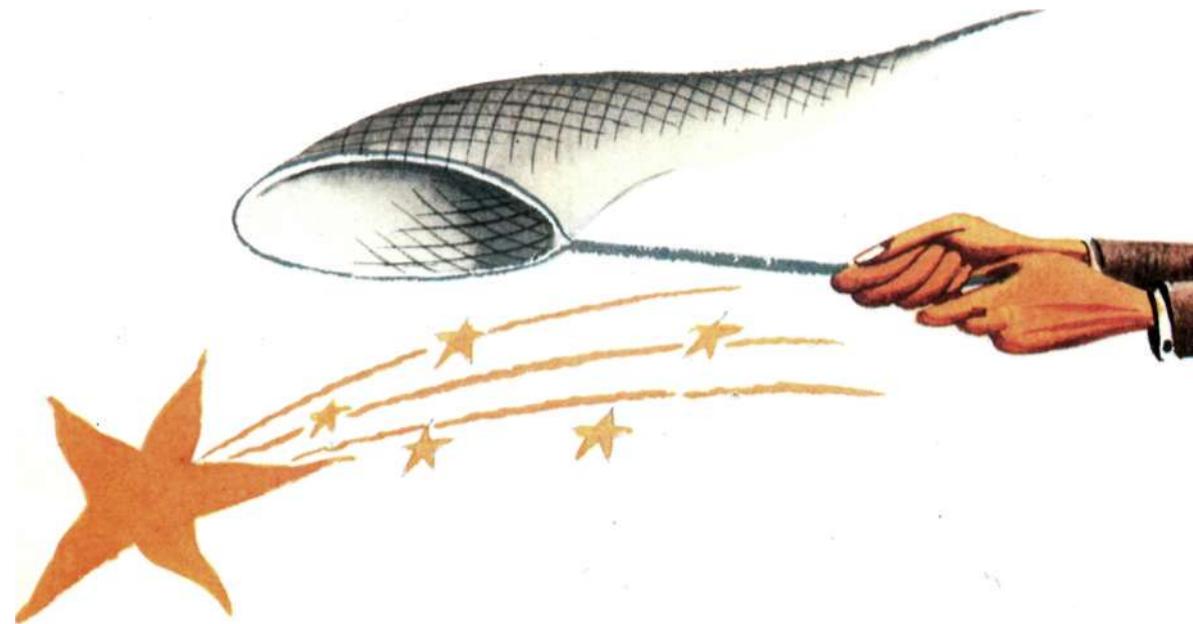
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"Ηλιος Ρ.



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Illustrated

**Е. Левитан**

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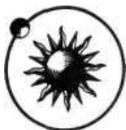
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*This book will help you give 6- to 8-year-olds an idea of one of the most thrilling sciences, astronomy. A knowledge of astronomy is very useful for children because first, it plays an important part in forming a wide view of the world; second, the study of astronomy develops in children the power of observation and the ability to make deductions from their observations; and third, a child interested in astronomy will study nature, geography, mathematics, physics, chemistry and his or her other school subjects with greater interest.*

*Can preschool children understand the elementary scientific information explained in this book? Modern educational sciences and psychology have reached the conclusion that a child's intellectual potential is much higher than was formerly believed. Scientists believe that it is possible for preschool children to develop not only visual image thinking but also, to some extent, abstract thinking.*

*That is why books on mathematics, physics and biology have appeared on children's book shelves next to the familiar fairy tales and story-books. This book is about astronomy.*

*It is not enough just to read it. The reading must be supplemented by observations, experiments and discussion of what has been observed and read. Children will not be able to understand the material contained in this book without working on it with their parents.*

*Before reading the book to children, please look through it yourself, paying particular attention to the instructions at the beginning of each section.*

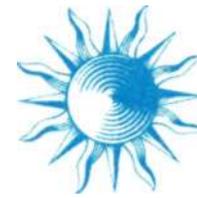
*The book has many illustrations which when being examined together with a child will enlarge*

Dear  
Parents

and deepen the knowledge gained in reading. A child's attention to begin with will be drawn to the large colour pictures. You can use these to discuss what has been read, or even suggest that the child make up his own stories about the pictures. The documentary photographs, engravings and drawings in the margins will help you to explain the astronomical concepts and phenomena to the child more easily and graphically.

After reading each story with the children, find out what they have understood and remembered, if the material has proved difficult for them, read it once again and look at the illustrations.

Our purpose will have been attained if our readers and listeners become interested in astronomy and will want to learn as much as possible about the stars and planets.



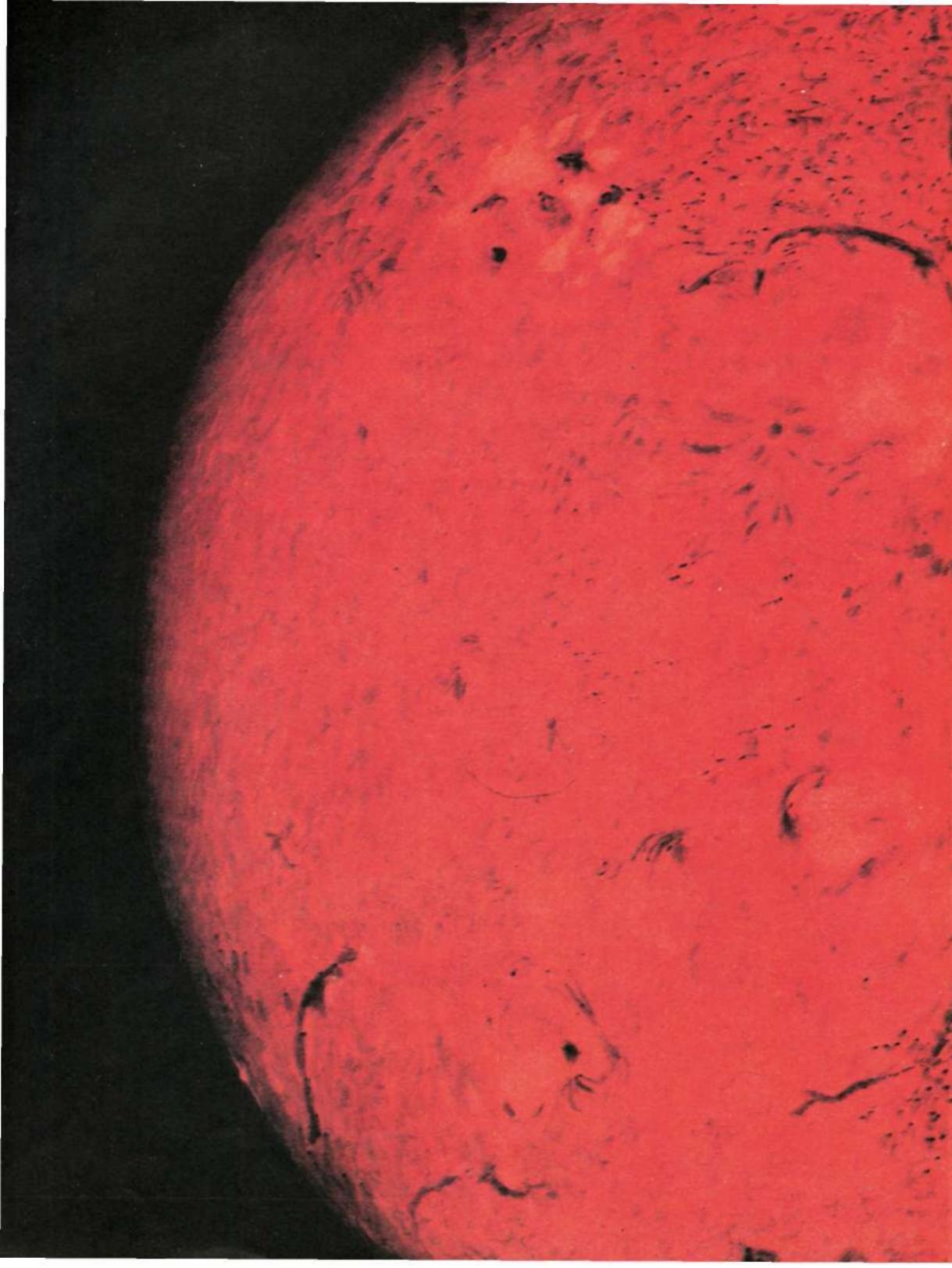
# THE SUN

Your children will begin to learn astronomy with the Sun. It is one of the first objects of inanimate nature which the child notices, and is the nearest star to us.

The purpose of the first section is to provide children with an elementary knowledge of the shape and size of the Sun, the distance to it, and the use of solar energy.

These are quite complicated questions for preschool children, so do not attempt to read and explain several stories at a time. Try to carry out the observations and experiments described with the children, and by all means discuss the results. Before beginning your observations of the Sun, make protective sunglasses and explain to the children that they should not look at a bright Sun without them, and even through the glasses, they should not stare continuously at it for more than one or two minutes. The glasses may be made in different ways, and perhaps the ones you make will be more convenient than those described in the book. The important thing is for the glasses to fit exactly so as to protect the eye reliably from direct sunlight. Only then will your child's eyesight not be harmed by the observation of the Sun.





Sveta and Alex like a good fairy tale. Their Father often tells them about Little Red Riding Hood, Pinocchio, Karlsson, Winnie-the-Pooh and Brother Rabbit.

One night, the children asked their Father to tell them a new story. How do stories usually begin? Once upon a time... or Long, long, ago... But this time Father began in a different way.

"Yesterday I had a visit from an old friend of mine, a dwarf named Doc. I was very glad to see him and asked him to sit next to the clock on my desk."

"Dad, did a real live dwarf really visit you?" Alex interrupted the story.

Sveta laughed looking at her surprised younger brother, but her Father was quite serious.

"Of course he did," said Father. "My friend Doc visits me very often."

Sveta stopped laughing and Alex crawled out from under the blanket and looked at his Father with his eyes wide open.

"What's he like?"

"He's blue," answered Father. "He wears a blue suit covered with stars and has a magic Sun wand in his hands, a gift from the Dwarf Magician."

"A magician!" Alex shouted.

"Of course. Doc lives in the fairytale kingdom of dwarfs. The chief dwarf is called the Magician and Doc is his favourite pupil. Doc's very clever, curious and kind and was given his magic wand for knowing a lot and being able to do many things."

Their Father fell silent. The children were also quiet.

"Why does Doc have stars on his suit and a

## The Appearance of a Dwarf Astronomer

The way scientists see our Sun

Astronomy is a science about the Universe. It arose in ancient times when people learned to determine the time of day and find their bearings on land and sea by the Sun and by the stars

