



stellar author

All around the world, people have been telling stories about the stars in the sky for thousands of years. Some of these tales were created to help explain how the stars appeared. *Her Seven Brothers* by Paul Goble is actually a retelling of the Cheyenne legend about the creation of the stars in the Big Dipper.

Other stories were created because people long ago who studied the night sky saw shapes and patterns among the stars and made up stories to describe what they saw. The same groups of stars were seen differently by people from different parts of the world. In this writing activity your child will compare her imagination with stargazers from ancient times.

Supplies

- >> Paper and pencil
- >> Sky view charts or star maps (from your books or the Internet)

Getting Started

Talk with your child about what a constellation is and how these man-made groupings of stars help make it easier to recognize which star is which. During your reading, you and your child may have already discussed that some constellations look like what they are supposed to represent but many do not.

Many of the constellations take names and have stories from Greek and Roman mythology. If your child is not familiar with mythology, talk with her about some of these myths and mythological creatures, such as the Centaur, Hydra, and Pegasus.

Look together at the stars on your chart. What kinds of patterns does your child see? Ask her to find a cluster of stars and design a new constellation with its own modern-day myth. Ask her to draw her constellation first. While she's drawing, you may want to remind her that a myth is a story that tries to explain how something came to be and often involves a hero or heroine. Her constellation myth should explain how and why her particular constellation is in the sky.

When her myth is complete, plan a nighttime read aloud of her starry tale outside under the stars!

Look for more titles about Stars in a library near you: www.worldcat.org/profiles/ReadingRockets/lists/2976304.

Extra Resources

This website provides mythology and more on all the constellations: http://starryskies.com/The_sky/constellations/index.html

Want to make more constellations? Try this interactive from PBS: www.pbs.org/parents/creativity/ideas/stars.html

