

Poem for Europa

Explore Environments



RESPOND to how space exploration can create a sense of awe and curiosity and inspire poetry. Research the poem that US Poet Laureate Ada Limón wrote to celebrate NASA's Europa Clipper mission.



CREATE an illustrated poem that expresses your sense of wonder about the universe. Gather insights about the vast and beckoning seas of Jupiter's moon Europa and compare this celestial body with Earth's mysteries. Consider how descriptive words can be used to express feelings and make distant, invisible worlds feel closer. Focus on water—a commonality between Earth and this distant moon—and how it is essential to sustain life.

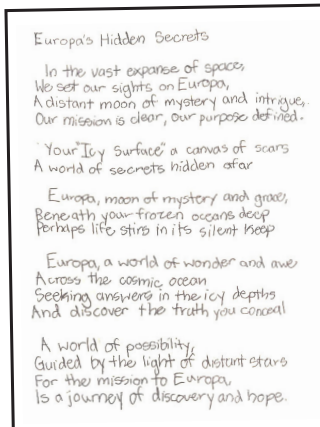
WRITE AND ILLUSTRATE YOUR ORIGINAL POEM FOR EUROPA.



PRESENT your illustrated poem in a class poetry slam. Prepare for the performance by practicing a tone of voice that radiates a sense of wonder. The event could be a non-judged celebration of poetry as spoken words. Or a panel of judges could provide feedback to student poets by evaluating how each poem incorporated facts about space or Europa, used words to paint mental images, and was illustrated to support the poem's meaning.



CONNECT the fact that Ada's poem was engraved on the Europa Clipper spacecraft to soar through space with the way uplifting poetry can help your imagination soar! Save your poem for the five and a half years it will take the spacecraft to reach Europa so that you can revisit this creative work during the next stage of the mission.



James W.

