

THE SOLAR SYSTEM





Talk About It

Why do you think people want to learn more about what they see in the night sky?



Find out more about the solar system at

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Vocabulary

spicy	broadcast
unsatisfactory	calculations
undone	vigil
ravaged	marveled



Dictionary

A **Pronunciation Key** is a list of letters and symbols that helps you figure out how to say words correctly.

vigil (vij' əl)



The Night of the Northern Lights

by Ayisha Johnson

Tyrell was grumpy. He didn't want to go, and he told his parents that. But now he was packing his suitcase. His family was traveling to Minnesota to visit his grandma. He would miss school and football practice for a few days. But that wasn't the worst of it. He would miss a chance to go somewhere new.

Tyrell had been to Minnesota before. It was a fine state, but it wasn't very different from his home state of Indiana. Tyrell dreamed of seeing the

world. He wanted to touch the white, sandy beaches of the Caribbean. He wanted to taste the hot and **spicy** foods of Mexico. He wanted to ski in the Swiss Alps. To fulfill Tyrell's big dreams, a drive to Minnesota was **unsatisfactory**, not good enough.

To make matters worse, the drive was a disaster. The straps holding the family's luggage to the car roof came **undone**. Luckily, only one suitcase flew loose before Tyrell's dad stopped the car. They retrieved the suitcase, but it

and the items inside of it were **ravaged** from the fall. What wasn't destroyed was very dirty.

It was almost dark when Tyrell's family finally reached his grandmother's house. When they walked in, she was watching a television news **broadcast**. She greeted each of them and said, "You picked a great day to visit Minnesota!" Then she pointed to the television.

"Scientists have made some **calculations**," the announcer explained. "The results say that the northern lights will be brighter this week than they have been in years!"

"Some people are holding a **vigil** down the road at the Johnston farm," Tyrell's grandma said. "I would love to

stay up all night to see those beautiful lights!"

The family drove to the farm and joined a group of people in an open field. Tyrell looked up to where everyone was pointing. There were strange waves of red and green light in the sky! The waves seemed to be dancing to the beat of a silent song. Tyrell **marveled** at the northern lights for a long time. He was amazed by what he saw!

Tyrell's dad came next to him. He winked and said, "I bet you couldn't see this in the Caribbean."

And that's when Tyrell understood that he could find something amazing no matter where he was on Earth. All he had to do was give it a chance.

Reread for Comprehension

Generate Questions

Make Inferences

Generating questions as you read can help you make inferences. You make inferences when you combine your prior knowledge with evidence in the text in order to understand what the author does not state directly.

Use an Inferences Diagram to make inferences as you reread "The Night of the Northern Lights."

