

The curtain rises on a hillside on a starry night. The backdrop is dark blue, with lots of stars everywhere. Mrs. Aster and all of the children in the Astronomy Club are gathering around a camp site upstage left. There are sleeping bags, a tent, and other camping gear. There is one tent that is not yet set up. As the first song begins, the kids are setting up camp. Optional: a screen for projecting slides upstage right.

Scene I

Reach for the Stars

Entire Cast and Chorus

M.D. and G.L.O.S.

Mary Donnelly and
George L.O. Strid

With driving energy ♩ = 148

f

All voices ¹⁰ *mf*

1. Ev - 'ry-bod - y has a
2. If at first - you don't suc -

mf

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dream, _____ they're just like you and me. _____
 ceed, _____ just try and try a - gain. _____

Set your sights up on a star; _____ be all that you can be. _
 Keep on reach - ing for your dream _____ un - til the ver - y end. _

19
 You got-ta reach for the stars _____ if you

want a bright to-mor - row. You got-ta reach for the stars. _____ You can

make your dream come true. — You can do — it, there's

noth - ing to — it. Your dream will take you far. — Just

keep on try-ing and reach for the stars. —

1.

— You got-ta

2.

reach for the stars. — You got-ta reach for the stars!

After the song, the girls gather in a small group to talk. Kyle and Josh go to a tent, stage left, and begin setting it up. Eddie sits to the side of the group staring into the distance through his binoculars.

Jennifer: (to Kelly) This is our Astronomy Club's first Star Watch field trip. I'm really excited!

Kelly: Me, too! (looking up at the sky) You can see so many more stars out here in the country!

Chelsea: My father said that you can see them better out here because there isn't any light from houses and cars.

Mrs. Aster: Okay, everyone, let's be sure we have the camp in order. Kyle, do you boys have your tent set up yet?

Kyle: We're working on it, Mrs. Aster, but Eddie won't help us.

Josh: Yeah. He says he's keeping a lookout, but I think he's just *looking* to get *out* of work.

Eddie: No, sir! I saw something a minute ago. It was a bright flash in the sky over there.

All the kids start laughing.

Kelly: Yeah, right! Next you're gonna say we're being invaded by space aliens.

Eddie: (protesting) Really, you guys, I saw a bright flash.

Josh starts humming the theme song from "The Twilight Zone."

Mrs. Aster: Come on, Eddie. Everyone needs to help so we can begin our first lesson on constellations.

Eddie reluctantly puts down his binoculars and joins the other boys setting up the tent.

From offstage left a loud bumping sound is heard. There is a strange flickering light, as well. All the kids stop and look up nervously. The sound is heard again and all the kids jump up and run over to Mrs. Aster.

Newton, wearing a huge backpack, all kinds of camping equipment draped over his shoulder and a cooking pot on his head, enters stage left. He is carrying a flashlight which is on.

Newton: Hi, you guys.

Everyone looks around sheepishly as they let out a sigh of relief.

Jennifer: It's only Newton. Thank goodness!

Mrs. Aster: Newton Jones, you scared us all half to death! What are you doing here, anyway?

Newton: Well, I knew you were going on a Star Watch and I wanted to come along. I just love astronomy!

Chelsea: Well, that's just too bad, "Figgy." You're only in the *third* grade and everyone knows you can't join the Astronomy Club till you're in the *fifth* grade.

Kyle: She's right. We all had to wait and so do you. *(He makes a threatening fist at Newton.)*

Eddie: Yeah, Cookie Boy. You're too young to be here. Why don't you go home to your mommy!

All the kids start laughing again.

Mrs. Aster: They're right, Newton. You don't have permission to be on our school field trip. I'm afraid you're going to have to leave.

Newton: *(disappointed)* Okay, Mrs. Aster. I'll go back. *(He pretends to be frightened.)* I just hope I don't get lost out there in the dark. You know, a dumb little kid like me could really get into trouble all alone out there in the wilderness. *(He points offstage left with a dramatic sweeping motion.)*

Jennifer: What "wilderness"? We're just a half-mile down the road from the school.

Mrs. Aster: *(not fooled at all by his ploy)* All right, Newton. I have my cellular phone with me. I'll call your parents and if it's all right with them, you may stay for tonight *only*. First thing in the morning, you have to head home. Understand?

She takes a cellular phone out of her things and makes a call as the rest of the action continues. She talks silently and then nods her head, acknowledging that Newton's par-

ents have agreed to let him stay. All this is done in pantomime as the rest of the play continues.

Newton: Yes, Mrs. Aster. *(to the big boys)* Can I put my sleeping bag in your tent?

Josh: No way, Figgy.

Kyle: There's not enough room for another kid in there.

Eddie: Yeah, even a "crummy" little half-pint like you.

Mrs. Aster: You'll have to sleep under the stars tonight, Newton. But it is a beautiful night for it. *(She motions to a place away from the others, stage right.)* Now, everyone, get out your telescopes and binoculars so that we can begin.

Newton dejectedly walks to a place away from the rest of the kids, stage right, and spreads out his sleeping bag. He lies down on it and looks up at the sky through his binoculars.

Mrs. Aster: The ancient peoples from many lands saw patterns in the stars. We call these patterns constellations. Sometimes they named the constellations after common objects like tools or animals or even after gods in mythology. Sometimes, they even made up stories about the constellations, such as with Orion, the Hunter. Look at those three stars in a row right there. *(She points to the sky. All the kids turn their binoculars.)* That's Orion's belt.

Eddie: I see it! Hey, this is kind of like a "Connect the Dots" puzzle!

Mrs. Aster: That's right, Eddie. You see, people in ancient times liked to daydream and wondered about things just like we do today.

As the song begins, Mrs. Aster is pointing to the sky and giving a lesson. The other children are looking at the night sky and occasionally they ask a question or point something out to a friend. All of this is done in pantomime as the song continues.

How I Wonder

Newton, Mrs. Aster, Astronomy Club, and Chorus

M.D. and G.L.O.S.

Mary Donnelly and
George L.O. Strid

Thoughtfully $\text{♩} = 69$

mf

Newton: ⁹ *mf*

How I won - der _____

mp

as I gaze, _____ is the star - light _____

¹⁷

made of gold-en rays? _____ If I wan - der _____

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45/1046H-12 THE CCLI LICENSE DOES NOT GRANT PERMISSION TO PHOTOCOPY THIS MUSIC.

ver - y far, _____ can I trav - el _____

_____ to a dis - tant star? _____

Newton or All voices:

mf
25
If I dare to jour - ney to the rain - bow's
(we)

mp

end, Will I still be lone - ly, or
(we)

Newton, Mrs. Aster,
and Astronomy Club:

poco rit. ***mf*** *a tempo*

will I find a friend?
(we) How I won - der

The first system of music features a vocal line in treble clef and a piano accompaniment in grand staff (treble and bass clefs). The key signature has two sharps (F# and C#). The tempo markings are *poco rit.* and ***mf*** *a tempo*. The lyrics are "will I find a friend?" and "How I won - der".

Chorus: (2nd time only)

mf

where you are.

How I won - der where you are.

The second system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. It includes the instruction "Chorus: (2nd time only)" and the dynamic marking ***mf***. The lyrics are "where you are." and "How I won - der where you are.".

Are you wish - ing on the same bright star?

Are you wish - ing on the

The third system continues the vocal line and piano accompaniment. The lyrics are "Are you wish - ing on the same bright star?" and "Are you wish - ing on the".