

Next Time You See a SUNSET

BY EMILY MORGAN


NSTA Kids
National Science Teachers Association



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Arlington, Virginia



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For my dad, Jim Stevens,
my very first teacher.



“Happy is he who gets to know the reasons for things.”
—Virgil

A NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

The books in this series are intended to be read with a child after she or he has had some experience with the featured objects or phenomena. For example, sit down and watch a sunrise or sunset with your child. (You can find the exact times of sunrise and sunset for any given day in the newspaper or on the internet.) Find a place, without a lot of trees or buildings, where there is a clear view of the western sky. Be sure to bring a flashlight so you can find your way back after the sunset. Watch the colors of the sky change. Discuss what colors you see, how the air temperature feels, and how watching the sunset together makes you feel. Share your ideas and wonderings about what is happening. Why does the sky change color? Why does the Sun look more red or orange than it did earlier that day? Why are your shadows so long?

After you’ve experienced a sunset or two together, read this book. Take time to pause and share your learnings and wonderings with each other. You will find that new learnings often lead to more questions.

This book does not present facts to be memorized. It was written to inspire a sense of wonder about an ordinary phenomenon and foster a desire to learn more about the natural world. We see sunsets every day and often don’t give them a second thought. But when you stop to consider the fact that you are standing on a ball of rock that is turning away from a star into the darkness of space, the experience becomes so much more remarkable. My wish is that after reading this book, you and your child feel a sense of wonder the next time you see a sunset.

—Emily Morgan

*Safety note: Looking directly at the Sun can cause eye damage.



Next time you see a sunset, stop and sit down for a while. Stay very still and watch the sky change.

What colors do you see?

Do the colors change?

Do you feel the air get cooler?

What words would you use to describe the sunset?

How does it make you feel?



Sunsets are some of the most beautiful sights in nature. You might hear people say, “The Sun is ‘going down,’” but that’s not what is actually happening.

Have you ever wondered what’s really going on?

Next Time You See a SUNSET



"Next time you see a sunset, stop and sit down for a while."

This book's tempting opening line invites children and adults to take in a daily phenomenon with fresh eyes. By reading *Next Time You See a Sunset* together, you can learn to appreciate the spinning of Earth, the progress of day into night, and the reasons for the spectacular colors and shadows that accompany sunrise and sunset.



Awaken a sense of wonder in a child with the *Next Time You See* series from NSTA Kids. The books will inspire elementary-age children to experience the enchantment of everyday phenomena such as seashells and sunsets. Free supplementary activities are available on the NSTA website.

Especially designed to be experienced with an adult—be it a parent, teacher, or friend—*Next Time You See* books serve as a reminder that you don't have to look far to find something remarkable in nature.

Grades K-6


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