

**STAR STORIES
FOR LITTLE
FOLKS**

by

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PREFACE

A Letter to You

Dear

(Write your own name here.)

Before you read this little book, Dr. Lorry says I must tell you that the stars are not always in the same place in the sky. If you are not acquainted with them, it is easier to find them when they are just coming up in the east. So under the name of each group of stars, you will find the best time of year to look for it. In the winter, I always had my lessons at seven o'clock, but after April it was so light that we changed the time to eight o'clock. Since then, there is a new plan to SAVE DAYLIGHT, so from April to October while this plan lasts, you will have to go out

at *nine* o'clock on the dates printed with each lesson.

Dr. Lorry laughed when he found that his pictures were going into a real Astronomy book, and said if he had known this, he would have been more particular. But I have been able to learn the stars from them very easily.

As soon as you find a constellation, write the date under its picture. Then you will know when you have earned your diploma. I hope you will have as good a time as I did, finding the fifteen constellations.

Your little friend,

HELEN

CONTENTS

I. The Two Dippers	1
II. Auriga, the Wagoner	6
III. Taurus the Bull	10
IV. Orion	14
V. Gemini, the Twins	18
VI. Canis Major, the Great Dog	21
VII. Leo, the Lion	25
VIII. Boötes, the Herdsman	29
IX. Corona, the Northern Crown	32
X. Lyra, the Lyre	36
XI. Cygnus, the Swan	40
XII. Scorpio	44
XIII. Sagittarius, the Archer	47
XIV. The Square of Pegasus, the Triangle, and Aries, the Ram	51
XV. Cassiopeia's Chair	55
XVI. The Planets	59

I. THE TWO DIPPERS

Look for the Dippers early in November

Doctor Lorry had solemnly promised Helen that when she grew strong enough to go out in the yard at seven o'clock, he would come up on purpose to point out some of the most beautiful stars, and teach her their names.

Night after night Helen had tossed in her white bed by the window. It was only when the kind nurse had pushed the shade up—slip, slip, creak, creak,—and let Helen look out at the wonderful starry sky, that she had been able to rest at all.

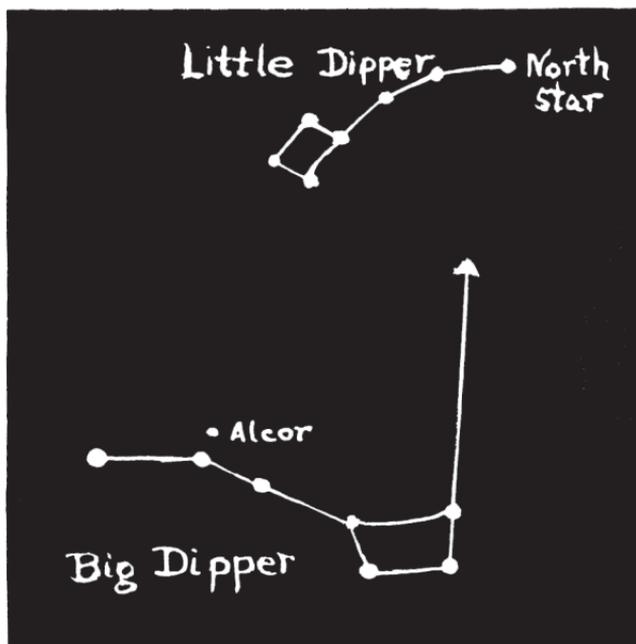
And now here she was down in the hall, dressed warmly from the top of her brown fur hat, with its scarlet rose, to her brown fur leggings, waiting for the big, burly doctor to keep his promise. And he kept it. He came chugging up in his long gray car, looking like a bear in his fur coat.

“Only fifteen minutes, sister,” he said to Helen. “We mustn’t take cold. We will go out to the garden path and face north, to get a view of the Big Dipper. No course of lectures is complete without the Big Dipper to start from.”

“*Please* let it be a course of lectures,” begged Helen.

“Very well,” agreed Dr. Lorry, good-naturedly. “Now just take a look at this.”

He turned a tiny flash-light on a black card with white stars dotted on it in the shape of the Dipper.



I found this on _____

“The Dipper is right side up, right above those trees. Four stars make the bowl and three the long handle.”

“I see!” cried Helen.

“Now,” continued the doctor, “the two stars through which the arrow was drawn are called Pointers, because they point *almost* to the North Star. Do you see it? A very faint star?”

“Yes,” cried Helen again, “and it is the very tail of the Little Dipper’s handle, exactly like the picture.”

“Good!” said Dr. Lorry, very much pleased. “You have sharp enough eyes to see little Alcor, I think. If a person can see Alcor, he has very good eyes. Look in the handle of the Big Dipper, directly above the first star from the end. Alcor is the Rider, and the bright star below it is his Horse.”

“I see both,” said Helen. “My eyes are all right.”

“Good! Now we must go in.”

Helen went very obediently.

“How different the stars look when I’m outdoors!” she said.

But when she was lying in bed again, looking out at the starry sky, the Big Dipper already seemed like a dear old friend.

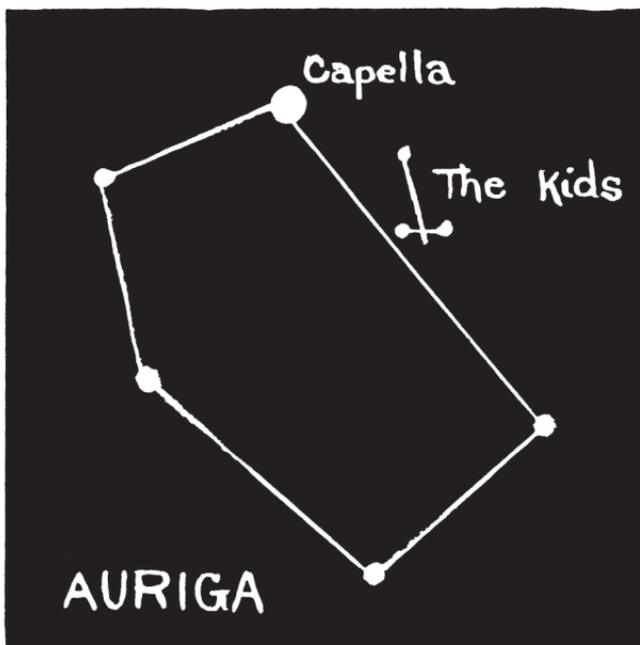
II. AURIGA, THE WAGONER

*Look for Auriga during the
middle of November*

“Do come in just a minute, Dr. Lorry, and see what I’ve made,” begged Helen, the second night the doctor came to tell her about the stars.

Dr. Lorry put on his eye-glasses and sat down near the library lamp, to look at the small blue book Helen handed to him. It was made of six squares of black paper pasted on larger white cards.

On the first square Helen had drawn the Dippers in white ink, and underneath on the card she had written all she had learned about them. On the blue cover in large white



I found this on _____

letters was printed **MY STAR BOOK**.

“That’s a fine idea!” exclaimed the doctor. “I wish every little girl in the United States had one. Tonight we’ll learn a group of stars that will be harder to draw. It is called Au-ri’-ga, or the Wagoner. We’ll go to the same place to see it, and face north.”

When they had found the Big Dipper, Dr. Lorry said, “Now, instead of using the two real Pointers to find Auriga, just imagine that the two top stars of the bowl are pointing east, or to the right. You see they point out a very, very bright star, the only bright one anywhere near?”

“Yes,” answered Helen, “brighter than even the Dipper?”

“Yes, a star of the first magnitude, we say, meaning brightness. Now, see what we are to look for.”

This time the flash-light showed a large

figure made of five stars, one of which was the bright star. When the light was turned away, Helen looked up into the darkness and saw the exact copy of the little drawing smiling down upon her—only so very large and grand.

“The bright star is named Ca-pel’-la, the Goat. Playing near her are the three little Kids.”

Helen skipped with pleasure when she found them. “This is a prettier group than the Dipper.”

“A prettier constellation, we say,” said the doctor, smiling and leading the way back to the house.

III. TAURUS, THE BULL

You can see this during December

“The moon is so bright we can’t see the stars well, now,” Dr. Lorry had telephoned, and it seemed a long time to Helen before they stood once more, looking up at the bright Capella, now much higher up in the sky.

“Helen, what color is Capella?” asked Dr. Lorry.

“White,” answered Helen. “All the stars are white.”

“Ahem!” said the doctor, “are they, though? Suppose you draw a line through Capella and the three Kids until it comes to that very bright star in the east. What color’s that?”



I found this on _____

“Why, *red!*” said Helen, in astonishment.

“Red is correct,” said the doctor. “We have yellow ones, green ones, blue ones—”

“Blue ones!”

“Bluish, we say,” smiled her companion. “That red star is called Al-deb’-a-ran, or the Bull’s Eye, because it forms the eye in the constellation of Tau’-rus, the Bull. You see it is in that V-shaped figure? That is the Bull’s face.”

“I don’t think it looks much like a bull’s face,” said Helen, after a moment.

“Neither do I,” agreed the doctor. “All these names were made up about three thousand years ago, you see. Perhaps if we were naming the constellations, we might do it differently. Now, just a little higher up, do you see a tiny bunch of stars?”

“Yes, three, four, five tiny ones.”

Dr. Lorry was silent.

“Six—seven!” cried Helen, after a moment.

“Bright eyes!” said the doctor. “I see seven, too. They are called the Ple’-ia-des, or sometimes the Seven Sisters. You’ll find the Pleiades mentioned in the Bible. Now, see if you can find where before I come again.”