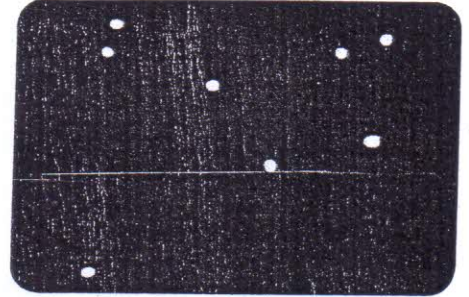


YEAR 3 READING SAMPLE

The Seven Sisters

In the winter, you can see a group of seven stars in the southern part of the sky. Near them is another star. This is one of the stories about that constellation.



Long ago, when the world was young, a mother lived with her eight children – seven girls and one young boy. The little brother had no one to play with, so he always followed his sisters around to tease and annoy them.

One day, the girls were playing a noisy game. They ran around the cooking fire, singing and shouting. Suddenly, one girl kicked over a pot full of rabbit stew. “Go and run around the big pine tree instead of my cooking fire,” shouted the mother.

The girls ran off to the pine tree to continue their game. They didn’t notice their little brother following them.

He decided to play a joke on his sisters. He crashed through the bushes, growling like an angry bear. His sisters stopped their game instantly. “Quick! Climb the pine tree!” screamed the oldest sister. The girls scrambled up into the thick branches of the tree.

The boy saw his sisters climbing out of sight. "Come back!" he yelled, "I'm not a bear! It was just a joke!" But his sisters couldn't hear him. Up, up, up the tree they climbed. The boy followed, climbing and shouting out to them, but he couldn't catch up with them.



At last, the sisters reached the top of the tree. "Jump!" yelled the oldest sister. "I can still hear the bear! He's right behind us." The sisters held hands and jumped, but the sky people caught them and pulled them safely up into the sky. Then they saw the brother was about to jump after his sisters, so they caught him and pulled him up, too.

Now, on any clear winter night, you can look up and see the group of stars called the Seven Sisters ... and close by is their little brother, still following them.