

Springboard into Comprehension

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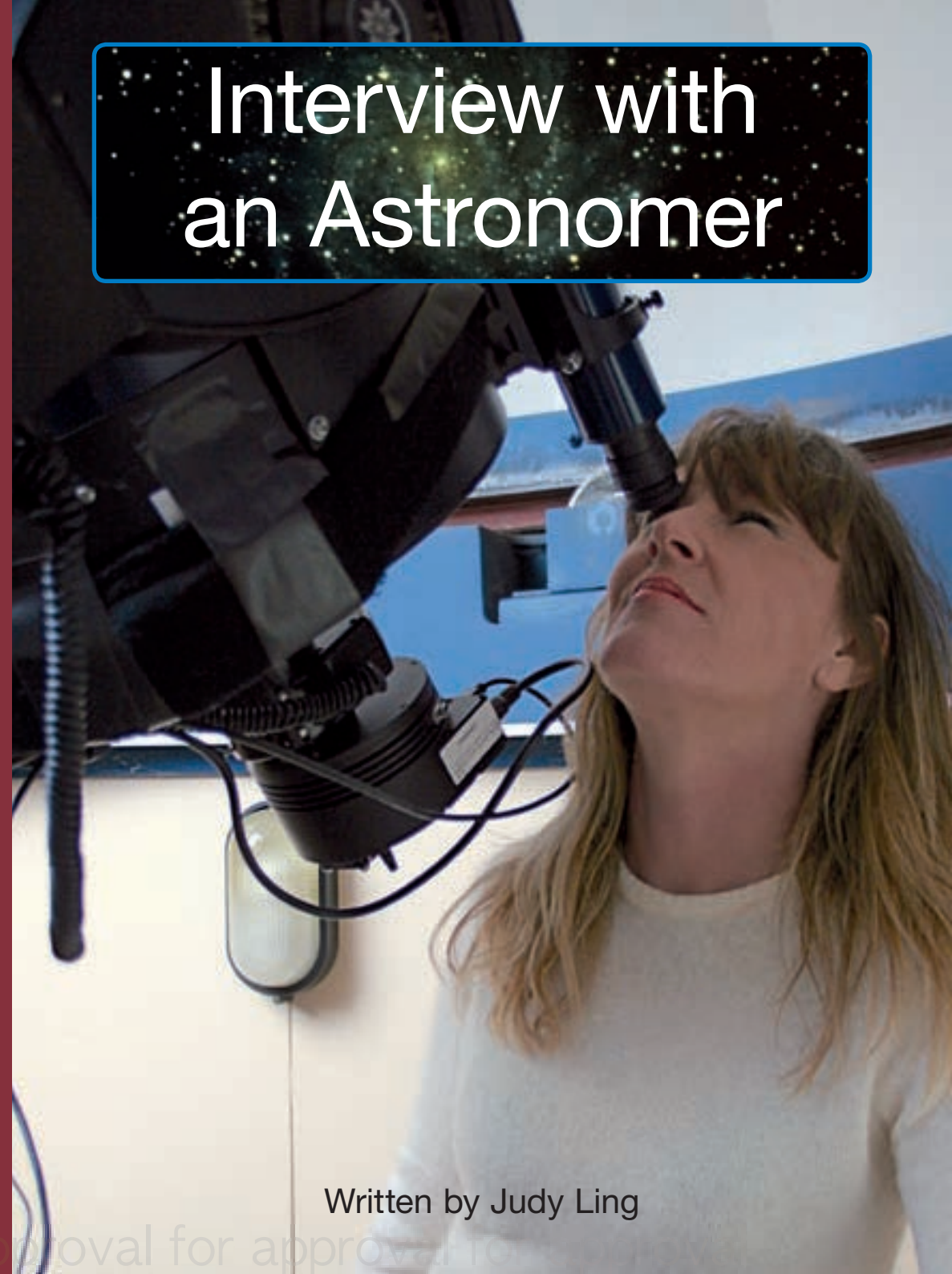
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Interview with an Astronomer



Written by Judy Ling

Interview with an Astronomer

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Introduction

Recently, Springboard interviewed astronomer Jennie McCormick.

Springboard: What are astronomers, Jennie?

Jennie McCormick: Astronomers are scientists who find out about stars and other things in space. Astronomers find out about the large objects that travel around stars. These objects are **planets**. Astronomers find out about smaller objects, such as moons, that also travel in a fixed path, or **orbit**. Stars help us understand why Earth is here and what could happen to it. They help us find out about new planets. One day, they might even help us find life out in space.

Jennie has a normal job during the day. She studies the skies in her free time.



Springboard: Where do astronomers work?

Jennie: Some astronomers work for universities. They use devices that make distant objects appear closer and larger, or **telescopes**. Some astronomers work at other jobs in the daytime. In their free time, they use telescopes to do work that helps people learn more about space.



Astronomers see more details when they look at objects, such as Earth's moon, through a telescope.



Jennie's telescope helps her see stars and planets millions of kilometres from Earth.

Learning about Space

Springboard: Did anyone help you learn about space?

Jennie: I was always interested in space, so I hired a small telescope. It was then that I came to love the night sky. I spent a lot of time with a group of people who knew much more than I did. I learned from them. I went to many talks on the night sky.

People can learn about space and enjoy space-themed shows at planetariums such as this one.

