Jo-Kin Battles the It by Karen Tyrrell

Teacher Notes: Jo-Kin Battles the It by Karen Tyrrell

A read-aloud, illustrated novel suitable for children 7+, teachers, librarians, parents, school counsellors, reluctant readers and scifi fans.

Age Level: 7 – 12 years Word Count: 20K
Reviewed and supported by Buzz Words, Creative Kids Tales, teachers & school counsellors, children's authors, reviewers and parents
Aligned with Kids Matter & primary Science Australian curriculum

Discussion Ideas

Knowledge and Literal Understanding
- Humour is a powerful coping skill for both children and adults.
- We can empower ourselves to live strong with humour, resilience, perseverance, brain power and working as a team
- We can use our imaginations to create adventurous, fun stories.
- We can learn about space and the universe through observation and science.

Inferential and Critical Thinking
- How did Joshua Atkins change to super space kid, Jo-KIN?
- What problems did Josh Atkins have, BEFORE he became a super space kid?
- How did Josh and Sam succeed at Space School?
- How did Josh and Sam capture the It?
- How did Josh save Captain Astra?
- What positive self-talk did JO-KIN say to empower himself?

Literacy Skills
Word Building
- Word Endings – adding '*ed'- dreamed, launched, tracked, banned, slammed, screamed,*
- *E*nding rule – change y to i – *hurried, tried*,
- Adding ING*: blasting, building, launching, crashing, twinkling, gazing, orbiting, destroying, playing,*
- Vocabulary *Space School : uniform, training robot, space rider, NASA, capsule, pod, theme park, fire alarms, ground control, zero gravity.*
- Emotion Words*: gulp, nervous, shake, angry-looking, afraid, clenched,*
- High Frequency Words –*super, space, kids, galaxy, battles, commander, captain, universe, computer, spaceship, alien, laser, codes, enemy, galaxy,*
- Onomatopoeia – (see Drama) *BAM, POW, ZAP, Zoom, Kaboom, buzzed, phew!*

Grammar
- Naming Words – nouns – find the naming words in the story.
- Action Words – verbs – (see also Word Endings and Drama)

Comprehension
- Jo-Kin Quiz Questions - Activity sheet
- Space Quiz Questions- Activity sheet
- How did Jo-Kin save Astra and the galaxy from the IT? - Brainstorm Activity sheet

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Literature
- Read fiction and non-fiction texts about space adventures.

Writing
- Have you ever dreamed of zooming off into space? What did you do? Who did you meet? Write a story from your imagination.
- Have you ever wished you had SUPER Powers? What would YOU do?
- Acrostic Poem – SPACE or SUPER
- Creative Writing Activity Sheets -- Create a Robot - Create a Monster – Create a Space Ship - Create an Alien

Cross Curricular

Science
- Describe our universe, our galaxy, our solar system. What is a planet, a star, a meteor, an asteroid, a sun and a moon? How do they interact with each other?
- Name the nine planets in the solar system in order from the sun.
- What can you see in the Night sky? And the Day sky?
- Describe how the moon rotates itself around the earth.
- How do rockets launch into space?
- What is gravity? How does it work?
- How do telescopes work? What can we discover using a telescope?
- Activity sheets — Moon and solar system

Social Skills
- Discuss how to make and keep a friend … and act as a team?

Maths
- Draw a star using two triangles. How else can you draw a star?

Craft
- Create ***Jo-Kin Battles the It*** posters *(SEE Literature) Use textas, crayons, paint, pencil. collage, art paper, cardboard,*

Art
- Illustrate a scene from the text or from the 'people' story as outlined in *Writing.*
- Colour-in ***Jo-Kin Battles the It*** sheets using bright colours. Activity sheets

Drama
Body language:
- Show how to stand and walk likes a hero. Hero pose: head up, shoulders back, hands on hips.
- Walking a straight line showing self-confidence: walking tall, shoulders back, chin up.
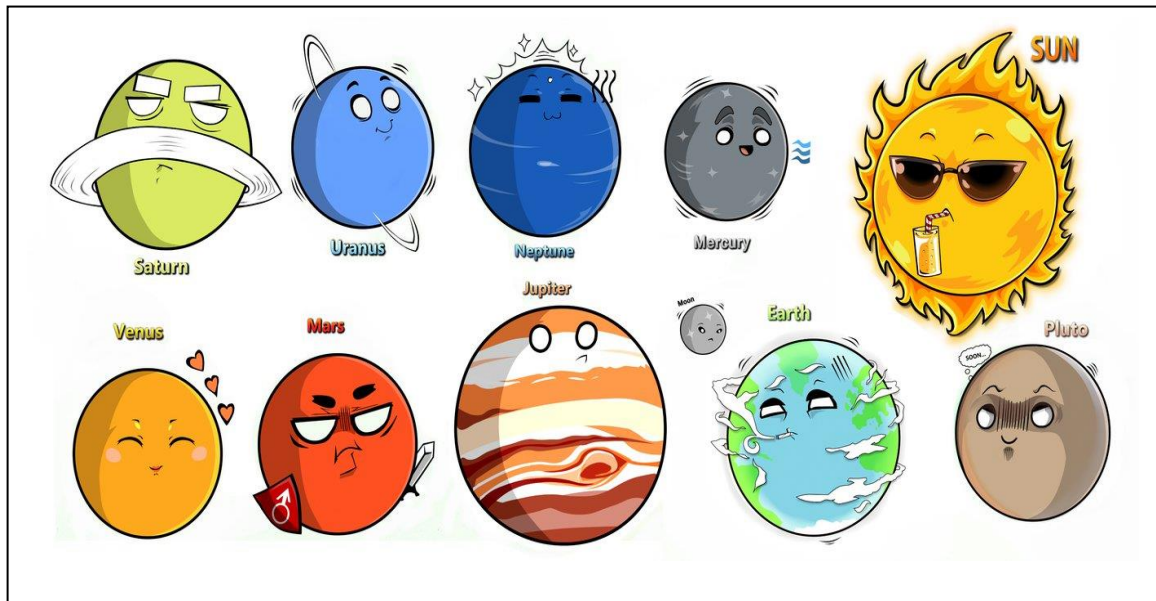- Nerd pose: shoulder & body slumped, dragging feet, head down, and sad face.

Present a ***Jo-Kin Battles the It*** PLAY or pantomime.
Show range of emotions using facial expressions and hand gestures …
Scared, sad, confident, assertive, friendly, unfriendly, mean, aggressive, guilty, proud, nervous, caring, sorry, kind.

Name _____

Solar System

What are the nine planets in order from the sun?

_____

_____

_____

What is the centre of the solar system? _____

What revolves around the earth? _____

Which planet is the largest?_____

What planet is the coldest? _____

Where is the asteroid belt? _____

What star is the closet to earth? _____

What star comes next? _____

How long does it take the earth to revolve around the sun?_____

Name _____

Moon

Draw the moon's rotation around the earth and label

1. What mass rotates around the earth? _____
2. How long does it take the moon to revolve around the earth? _____
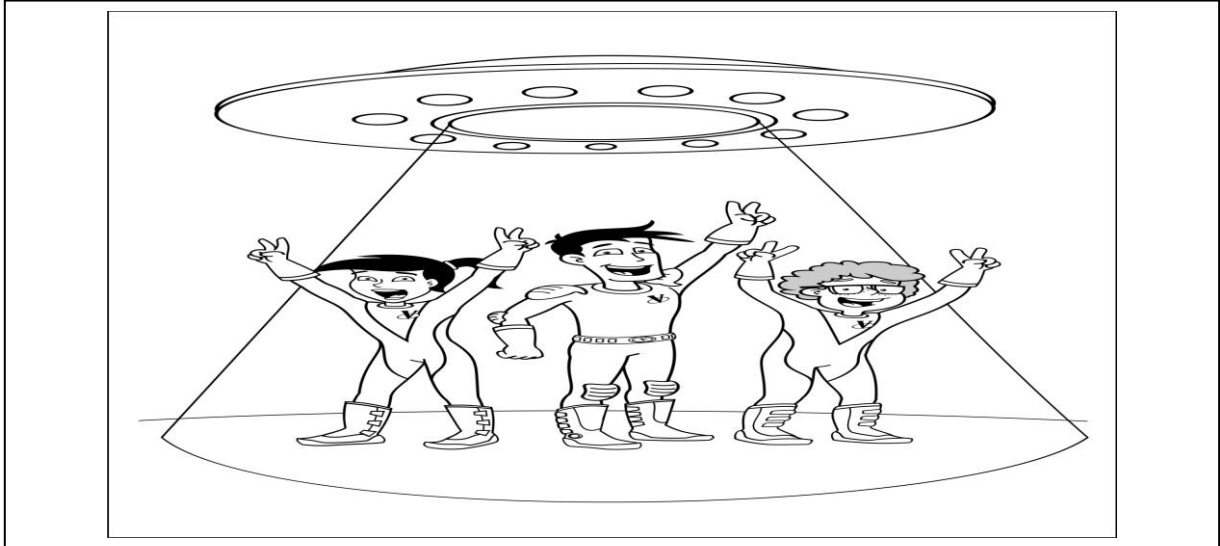3. What are the phases of the moon?

   _____

   _____

4. Explain gravity with regarding the moon _____

   _____

5. Explain how the rotation of the moon on its axis makes day & night _____

   _____

6. Which NASA astronauts landed on the moon? Draw them on the back

   _____

   _____

Teamwork

Teamwork is a major theme in Jo-Kin Battles the It.

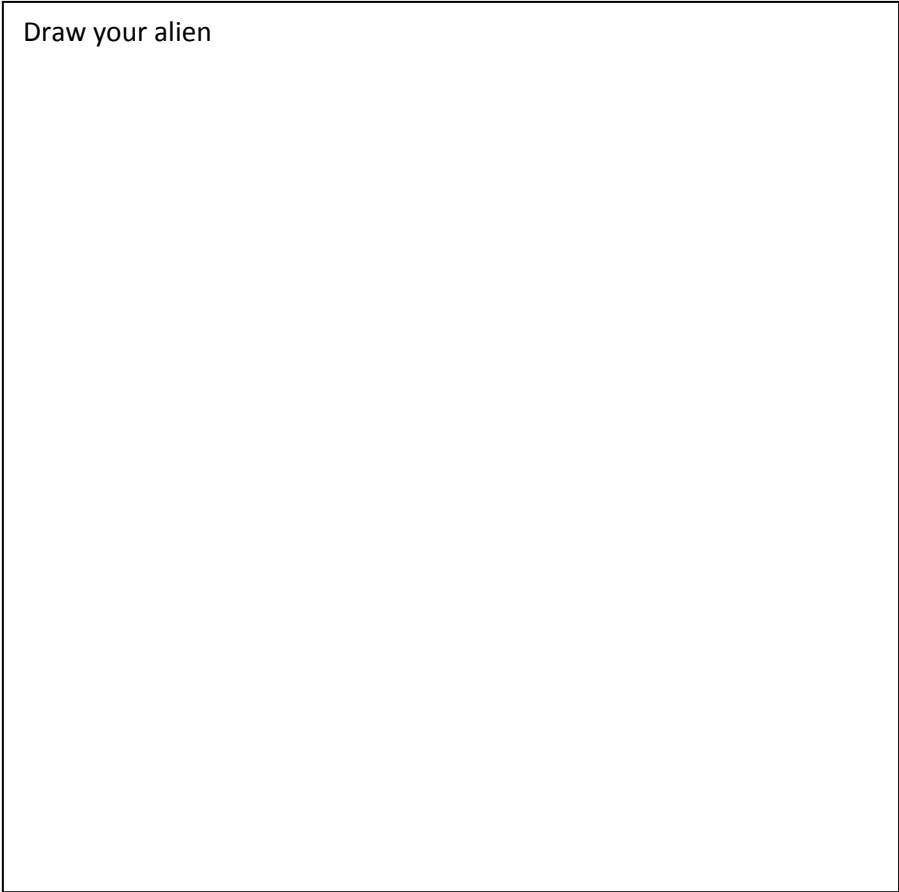**How does Jo-Kin and Sam work as a team to defeat the It … and save Captain Astra?**

Name 5 ways …

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Name _____

Create an Alien- Creative Writing

Draw your alien

What's your alien's name?_____

What does your alien look like? _____

Where does your alien live?_____

What does your alien eat?_____
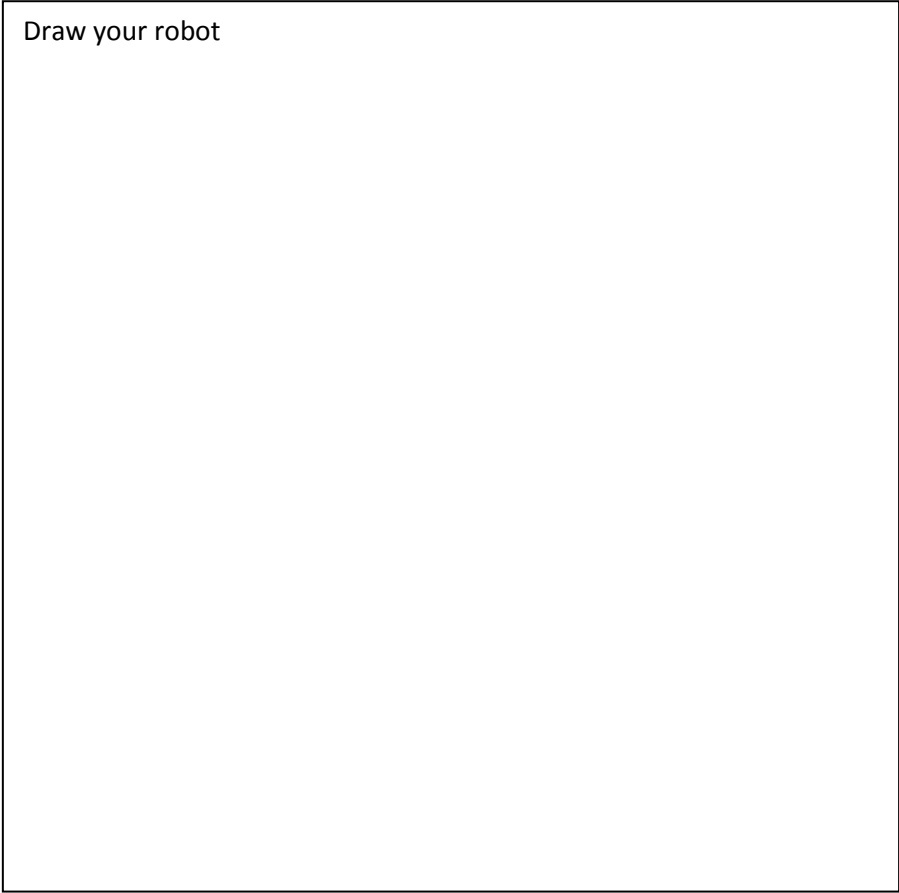
Is your alien the hero or the villain? _____

Who is your alien's arch enemy? _____

What does your alien do?_____

Write a story how your alien battles with his enemy OR how to look after an alien OR how you kept your alien secret.

Create a Robot - Creative Writing

Draw your robot

What's your robot's name?_____

What does your robot look like? _____

Where does your robot live?_____

What does your robot eat?_____
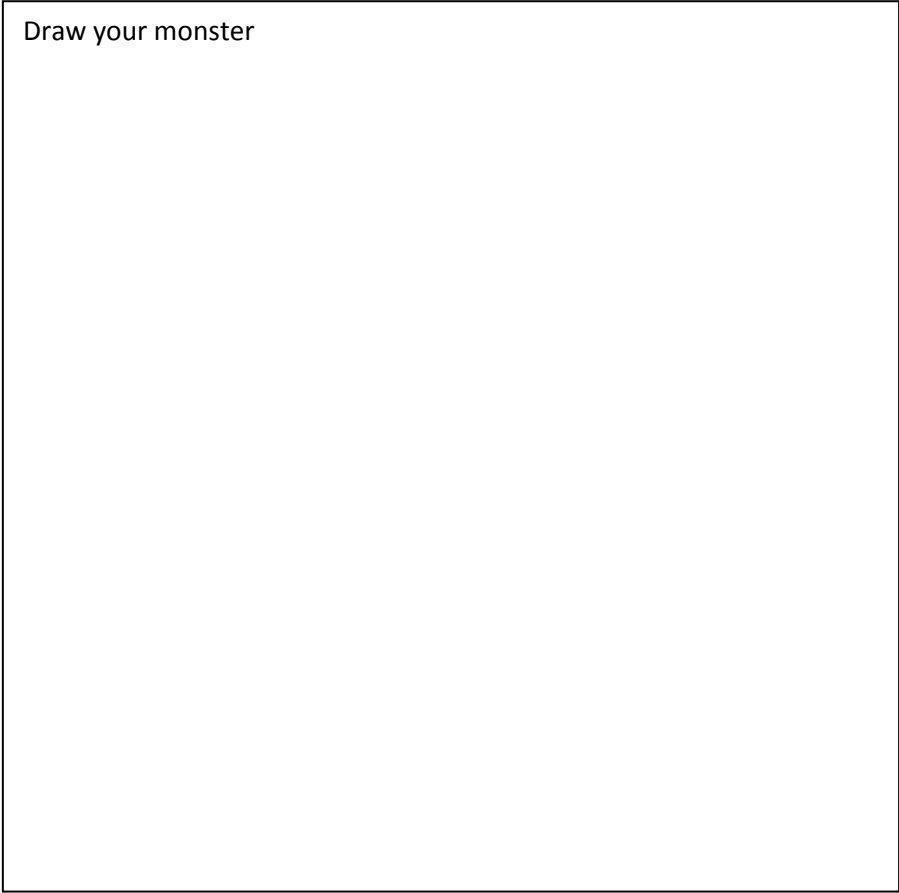
Is your robot the hero or the villain? _____

Who is your robot's arch enemy? _____

What does your robot do?_____

Write a story on how your robot battles with his enemy OR how to look after a robot OR how you kept your robot secret.

Create a Monster- Creative Writing

Draw your monster

What's your monster's name?_____

What does your monster look like? _____

Where does your monster live?_____

What does your monster eat?_____

Is your monster the hero or the villain? _____
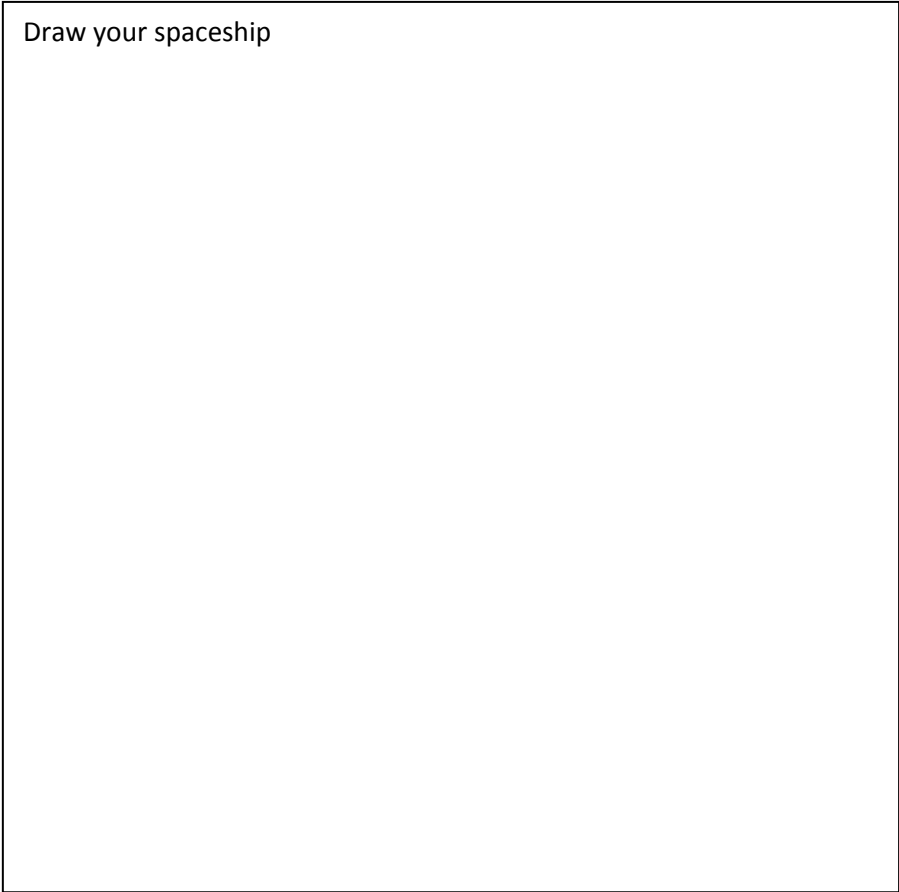
Who is your monster's arch enemy? _____

What does your monster do?_____

Write a story how your monster battles with his enemy OR how to look after your monster OR how you kept your monster secret.

Name _____

Create a Spaceship - Creative Writing

Draw your spaceship

What's your spaceship's name?_____

What does your spaceship look like? _____

Where did your spaceship come from? _____

How does your spaceship travel? _____

Does your spaceship belong to a hero or villain? _____

Who is your spaceship's arch enemy? _____

What does your spaceship do? _____

Write a story -- how your spaceship battles with his enemy OR how to look after a spaceship OR how you kept your spaceship secret.

Name _____

Family and Humour

Family and Humour are major themes in Jo-Kin Battles the It.

How is Josh Atkins' family portrayed?

_____

How is humour shown through Josh's family?

_____

Describe Mum_____

_____

Describe Dad _____

_____

Describe big sister Stella

_____

_____

Describe little brother Marty _____

_____

Draw Jo-Kin and his funny Family. Label their names

Name _____

QUIZ: Jo-Kin Battles the It – Answer these questions

1. Who are the main characters in **Jo-Kin Battles the It**? Name 6

_____

_____

2. Where is **Jo-Kin Battles the It** set? Name 3 settings in the story.

_____

3. Josh Atkins, the super geek had many problems at school.

Name 2 _____

_____

4. How does Josh and Sam succeed at Space School?

_____

5. Describe the character: Sam Jones aka Sam-Wich?

_____

6. How did Josh's parents become the centre of fun and humour?

_____

_____

7. Jo-Kin said many postive words to himself to help him suceed. Discuss with your class:

What can you say to yourself to help you suceed?
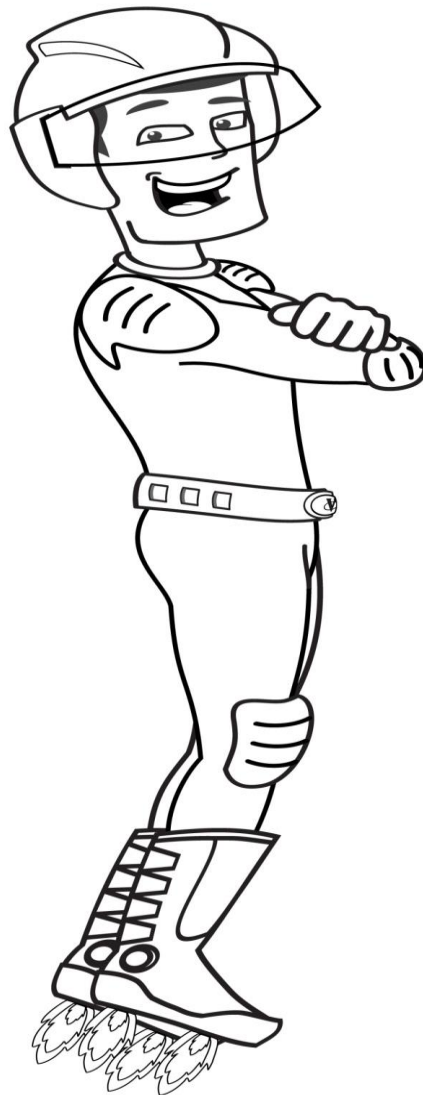
a._____

b._____

c._____

d._____

e._____

Name_____

JO-KIN Battles the IT

Josh Atkins   JO-KIN