



05 MISSION PREP ZONE

Looking Toward the Next Adventure



Challenge Question: What Will Space Adventures Be Like in the Future?

Key Themes: Imagining a space adventure; listening to contemporary repertoire inspired by space

- » **Challenge Activity:** Create an original space adventure story inspired by musical ideas from *Rocketship!* by composer Kevin Day; imagine additional music to support storytelling.
- » **Standards:** [NCAS Anchor Standards](#) #1, #2, #6, #7, #8, #10, #11
- » **STEM Highlights:** A Starship to Mars; Representation in Space



30 mins



Activity framing to share with learners:

Even while still in the middle of the Polaris Dawn planning and preparation, the entire team is also busy thinking about what will come next. The Polaris Dawn mission is part of an even bigger Polaris Program that plans to carry out two more missions in future years. And, the Polaris Program is part of an even larger community of space adventurers, all with big goals for the future of humans in space. Each mission like Polaris Dawn is one more step towards interplanetary existence for humans, and moves humanity that much closer to a future where space adventures and life beyond earth can be accessible and available to all.

Hear about ideas for the future that make Sarah Gillis eager for what comes after Polaris Dawn, and find out in her conversation with superstar composer Kevin Day how his own enthusiasm and curiosity about the future of space adventure fires up his musical creativity.



Sarah interviews
Kevin Day



Looking Toward the Next Adventure

Challenge Activity

Put on your storyteller helmet, step into your composer boots, and get ready to imagine your own musical space adventure. Starting with small moments of composer Kevin Day's music as inspiration, you'll create a mini story and add thoughts for ways music can help express your story's action and emotion. And, the musical story you create will be an answer to this zone's Challenge Question:

What Will Space Adventures Be Like in the Future?

01

Listen to two small moments from Kevin Day's piece *Rocketship*! One moment is from the very start of the piece, like a musical **introduction**. The other moment is the final notes of the piece, what could be called an **epilogue** in a story. As you listen, let yourself imagine what could be happening during these musical moments and write your thoughts on a story chart like the one below.

- >> What kind of mood or scene do you imagine as you hear the introduction?
- >> What feeling and energy do you hear in the epilogue? Does it feel final, or like a cliffhanger with more adventure yet to come?



Learning Idea

This activity's double focus on storytelling and music exploration can be framed and weighted to create a good fit for your learning environment.

Music classrooms: facilitate a deep dive into music perception and creation, with an extension into storytelling

Language arts, science, or general classrooms: use this to lead a storytelling project with an added musical angle to unlock extra creativity

- >> Introduction (:00-:18)
- >> Epilogue (3:50-4:08)



Learning Idea

Have learners to use sentence starters like the ones below to describe their listening observations:

- >> I hear...
- >> I feel...
- >> I think...

A Musical
Space Adventure

Kevin Day's Introduction	My Beginning	My Middle	My End	Kevin Day's Epilogue

02 With these Introduction and Epilogue ideas in mind, now it's time to dream up the big action of this Space Adventure story. Create the plot using a simple Seven Sentence Story structure: two sentences to describe the beginning, three for the middle, and two more sentences for the end. Use the questions below to help build your story, and write your sentences on your story chart.

- » Where does this adventure take place?
- » Who is the hero, or who are the main characters?
- » Is this inspired by real life, something fantastical you've invented, or a story you already know?
- » What kind of challenges or problems happen? Or is this adventure just smooth sailing?

03 Next, imagine what kind of music could help show the big events in your new Space Adventure. Listen to three important musical ideas, called themes, from Kevin Day's piece. They each have a unique musical sound and express their own feeling or energy.



Learning Idea

While listening and composing, challenge learners to make specific observations and choices with a variety of key musical elements from the list below in mind.

Musical Elements

- » **Rhythm:** unique combinations of lengths of notes
- » **Tempo:** the speed of the music
- » **Register and Pitch:** high, medium, or low musical voices and the specific notes they play
- » **Contour:** how the pitches move—leaping, by step, repeating
- » **Instrumentation:** which instrument(s) will play this music
- » **Dynamics:** how loud or quietly the music is played

- » If you were going to borrow musical ideas from Day to help tell your story, which of the three themes would you want to use?
- » Which part of your story does the theme(s) connect best with? Why?

- » Smooth Woodwinds Theme (3:02-3:12)
- » Punchy Brass Theme (:18-:36)
- » Super Percussion Theme (1:19-1:44)



Add the names of any themes you'd like to borrow from Kevin Day to the ideas you already have on your story chart. (Maybe none of Kevin Day's themes are a good fit for your story—that's okay, too!)

04 For any sections of your story still missing music, imagine your own sounds or musical ideas. Singing or humming your thoughts is a great way to get started. You can also tap, clap, or stomp rhythms, and use your voice to imitate any special sounds you think will help show the big ideas from your story. If you have musical instruments available, try playing your ideas, too.

On your story chart use words, drawings, or music notation to describe your ideas for your own Beginning, Middle, and End. Not sure what a story chart might look like at this point? You can click [here](#) to see one that's in progress.



Learning Idea

Give motivated or advanced learners more working sessions to expand and realize their musical ideas into a performance piece. Some final project ideas: solo, small group, or ensemble instrumental works, a narrated story with background music or musical interludes, a skit with incidental music.

Looking Toward the Next Adventure

A Musical
Space Adventure

Kevin Day's
Introduction

- Tense, but excited
- lots of brass
- quiet and loud moments
- Like the minutes right before a launch

My Beginning

Borrow
Smooth
Woodwinds

↳ calm opening
before the
dangerous middle

My Middle

Switch to
electronic blips
and boops, metal
sounds for
ship breaking

- Starts with
big Clang

My End

Kevin Day's
Epilogue

- * Loud, full Sound
- * Deep drums, Sound powerful
- * long chords, like looking out over a far distance

- * Kind of mysterious, but also heroic! Successful!
- ↳ but... more to come..!

Finally, make an audio or video recording of the musical ideas you like best!



Want to share your Musical Space Adventure? Describe your ideas or make a video of your music and post on social media using the hashtags [#space4music](#). We will be sharing selected musical ideas in this Zone's **Challenge Accepted!** space.

05

Listen to the full exciting musical story of Kevin Day's Rocketship! and see if you can find where he used the three themes you heard earlier in the Challenge. If you like, use the timings chart to help track where you are in his musical story.

» Rocketship! (:00-4:08)

Introduction 00:00	Beginning :18	Middle 1:44	End 2:44	Epilogue 3:50
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- » What do you think happens in this space adventure? What in the music helped you imagine those ideas?
- » How does the feeling or mood of the music change during the different sections of the piece?
- » Which of the three themes—Smooth Woodwinds, Punchy Brass, and Super Percussion—were you able to hear during the piece? Did you notice if any happened more than once?