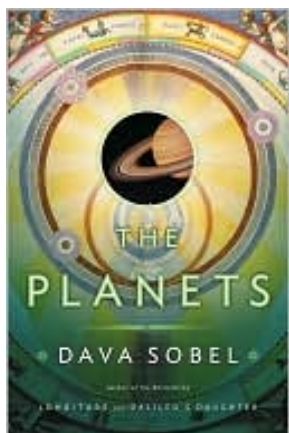


## 2009 Summer Assignment – Physics



Part 1: Read Dava Sobel's The Planets (2006).

The first great physics discoveries were made as young thinkers like Newton and Galileo wondered about the motion of the objects in the sky above them and if it was possible to understand these objects through experiments done here on earth. Your Physics summer assignment will take you on a journey through our solar system. Copies of the book are available for ISA students at Barnes & Noble at San Pedro and loop 410 (across from Northstar Mall).

There are two essential questions I want you to pay attention to as you read:

- What are the methods used by scientists to understand the motion and characteristics of the planets and their moons?
- What are the ways that understanding (or lack thereof) of the solar system has affected each of the

following:

- Culture and/or religion?
- Politics and/or economics?
- Science and/or technology?

As you read, keep a double entry journal. A double entry journal looks like a piece of paper (or pieces of paper) divided into two columns. In the right column you should write direct quotes from the text (with chapter and page numbers), either ones that answer one of the two questions, or ones that you find particularly interesting or meaningful, or ones that you do not understand. In the left hand column you will explain why that quote was selected for the right hand column. So the left hand column might have a question about something you do not understand, or statement explaining why something is interesting, or a sentence explaining how one of the essential questions is being answered. You may also choose to draw illustrations in the left hand column that illustrate the quote in the right. If a passage for the right hand column is more than a couple of sentences, you may paraphrase to shorten it. Your double entry journal must have at least two entries per chapter. It may be hand written or typed. The journal is due on the first day of class. (-10% if late)

Part 2: Write a letter to Mr. Garcia

I would like to learn a little bit about my students before they come into the classroom. In particular I would like to know about your attitudes towards science and technology. Is there a science-based TV show you like to watch? Do you enjoy learning how to do new things with computers? Is there something about the physical world around you that you want to learn about this year? Tell me about the assigned book in your letter. What do you like/dislike about the book? This letter is also your opportunity to give me information about you as a learner. What works best for you in a classroom or what can make a subject difficult for you? Make an effort to write academically in your letter (no abbreviations like :), btw, or u), however I will only be grading this letter on completion. This letter is due before the first day of school by one of the following methods:

Email: dgarci1@neisd.net	Postal: David Garcia International School of the Americas 1400 Jackson-Keller San Antonio, TX 78213
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