

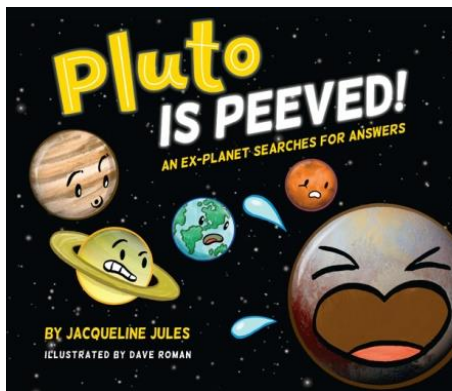
# Reader's Theater

## A Scientific Journey in Four Acts

# Pluto Is Peeved!

## *An Ex-Planet Searches for Answers*

**R**ead the book *Pluto Is Peeved!* aloud to the class so that they will be familiar with the story and vocabulary. Then pass out copies of The Reader's Theater script for engaging and interactive reading practice. Encourage your students to be expressive. Enjoy!



Pluto is peeved. And who can blame him? He was proud to be a member of the solar system's nine planets, until Poof!, he was kicked out—and no one told him why. Now Pluto is on a mission to find out why he was expelled. While traveling through the science museum, he meets Earth, some wild-and-crazy germs, and a friendly dinosaur. It turns out that Pluto is not the only one whose life has been turned upside down by scientists. Illustrated in a comic book style, *Pluto is Peeved!* is a lively exploration of the scientific method, as seen through the eyes of one no-longer-angry ex-planet. For more information, visit [www.jacquelinejules.com](http://www.jacquelinejules.com).

Written by Jacqueline Jules  
Illustrated by Dave Roman  
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### ROLES:

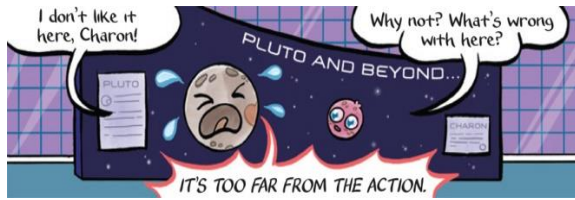
<i>Narrator</i>	<i>Jupiter</i>
<i>Pluto</i>	<i>Saturn</i>
<i>Charon</i>	<i>Dinosaur</i>
<i>Neptune</i>	<i>Germs</i>
<i>Earth</i>	<i>Rock</i>
<i>Sun</i>	<i>New Horizons</i>
<i>Venus</i>	



# Pluto Is Peeved!

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### SCENE 1: SPACE HALL

**NARRATOR:** In a museum, just after closing, Pluto grumbles in his exhibit.

**PLUTO:** I want to be special, like the big guys Jupiter and Saturn.

**CHARON:** Oh, Pluto, don't tell me you're still upset.

**PLUTO:** Of course I am. For decades, I was the ninth planet and you were my big moon. I felt important. Then boom! Everything changed and suddenly I'm no longer a planet.

**CHARON:** You'll always be number one with me, Pluto.

**PLUTO:** Thanks, but I need answers. Why did scientists change their minds about me?

**CHARON:** Where are you going?

**PLUTO:** To investigate!

**NARRATOR:** Pluto leaves his place in the museum and visits an eight-planet display.

**NEPTUNE:** You again? How many times are you going to invade my orbit?

**PLUTO:** What's the big deal? I never bump into you.

**NEPTUNE:** I like my own space in the universe.

**PLUTO:** You're not my boss.

**NEPTUNE:** And you're not a planet.

**PLUTO:** Who kicked me out? Was it you?

**EARTH:** Stand down, Pluto. Neptune doesn't have that power. Blame the International Astronomical Union.

**PLUTO:** So what happened? Is it because I'm smaller than all the rest of you?

**EARTH:** It's not that simple. In 2006 astronomers created rules for what makes a planet.

**PLUTO:** Like a test?

**EARTH:** Sort of.

**PLUTO:** And I failed?

**EARTH:** You're not the only one to get bumped down, Pluto. For centuries, people thought I was the center of the universe.

**SUN:** Ridiculous! Anyone can see that the planets revolve around me, not you!

**EARTH:** If you're in space, you can see that. On Earth, it's hard to tell.

**VENUS:** Copernicus saw it. Galileo, too.

**JUPITER:** Galileo studied my moons through a telescope. He loved looking at me!

**VENUS:** What about me? I shine the brightest.

**SATURN:** And me! I have amazing rings.

**SUN:** Stop bragging. You're all worth looking at!

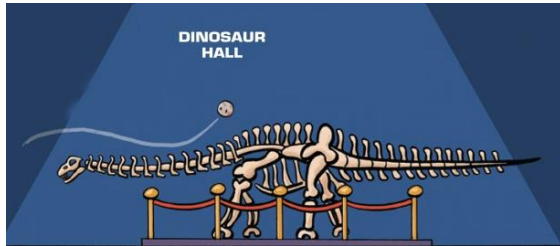
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**PLUTO:** *Sniff!* Except me! I'm not a planet anymore.

**EARTH:** I'm sorry, Pluto. Change can be hard to accept.

**PLUTO:** You bet it is.

**SUN:** Don't take it so hard, Pluto. Explore the museum. See what scientific discovery is all about.



### SCENE 2: DINOSAUR HALL

**NARRATOR:** Pluto wanders into the Dinosaur Hall and circles a skeleton.

**DINOSAUR:** What are you staring at?

**PLUTO:** A big bony creature with a very long neck!

**DINOSAUR:** That would be me.

**PLUTO:** What's your name?

**DINOSAUR:** Hmmm. Interesting question.

**PLUTO:** Why?

**DINOSAUR:** When I was discovered, I was called Brontosaurus. Then later on, scientists changed my name to Apatosaurus. Now some scientists want to change me back to Brontosaurus.

**PLUTO:** That's confusing.

**DINOSAUR:** It is. But I'm not unreasonable. I don't expect perfection on the first try.

**PLUTO:** Why not?

**DINOSAUR:** I've been dead for sixty-five million years.

**PLUTO:** So that's why you look like a skeleton.

**DINOSAUR:** Gee, I thought no one noticed.

**PLUTO:** What killed you?

**DINOSAUR:** Some say it was a huge asteroid hitting Earth.

**PLUTO:** Not a pretty scene!

**DINOSAUR:** Or it could have been a combination of things. Scientists spend years studying my bones and collecting evidence to support theories.

**PLUTO:** Why are you so interesting? You don't even exist anymore!

**DINOSAUR:** I was big. That gets attention.

**PLUTO:** So if you're small, you don't matter?

**DINOSAUR:** I didn't say that.

**PLUTO:** But you think it! Even when I was the ninth planet, I was the runt of the solar system.

**DINOSAUR:** Don't be so sensitive.

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**PLUTO:** I can't help it. I feel cheated.

**DINOSAUR:** Cheer up! At least you're not a bunch of bones.



### SCENE 3: BIOLOGY HALL

**NARRATOR:** Pluto travels into the Biology Hall and looks through a microscope.

**PLUTO:** What are these wiggly things? They're so small!

**GERMS:** We're germs! Scientists study us day and night. Day and night!

**PLUTO:** Why are you so important?

**GERMS:** Some of us make people sick.

**PLUTO:** EEW! You must have trouble making friends.

**GERMS:** Not all of us are bad. We have different jobs. Even in the human body.

**PLUTO:** There are so many of you. How can anyone tell who does what?

**GERMS:** Doctors do experiment after experiment to learn how we multiply, what we do, and how to control us.

**PLUTO:** So even though you are teeny tiny, scientists love to study you?

**GERMS:** Yep! Yep! Yep! They sure do!

**PLUTO:** *Sniff!* Being small didn't help me.



### SCENE 4: GEOLOGY HALL

**NARRATOR:** Sniffling, Pluto moves to the Geology Hall where he examines a large rock.

**PLUTO:** Are you living?

**ROCK:** Not that I know of. I'm a rock.

**PLUTO:** Can you move?

**ROCK:** Ever heard of earthquakes? When I shift and twist, the whole ground shakes.

**PLUTO:** So you're a troublemaker?

**ROCK:** Hee-hee! Scientists do take notice when you make a little noise.

**PLUTO:** Maybe that's my problem. I'm too quiet.

**ROCK:** For what?

**PLUTO:** To get attention. To be special. To be somebody in this universe. WHAAH!

**NARRATOR:** Pluto cries over the rock.

**ROCK:** You're drowning me!

**PLUTO:** I can't help it. I'm just sad. Everybody is worth studying except me.

**ROCK:** Who are you?

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**PLUTO:** Pluto, the little guy in the Kuiper Belt who used to be a planet.

**ROCK:** You're Pluto? WOW! You need to meet my friend. She'll be coming through for a visit any minute.

**PLUTO:** Tell me about her.

**ROCK:** She's a spaceship called New Horizons. Her goal is to study the universe beyond Neptune.

**NARRATOR:** New Horizons enters the Geology Hall.

**NEW HORIZONS:** Pluto! We've finally found you! It's a dream come true!

**PLUTO:** What do you mean? Scientists don't care about me.

**NEW HORIZONS:** How can you think that? Scientists want to explore everything. Big and small. Dead and living. We're full of questions.

**PLUTO:** So am I! Why can't I be a planet?

**NEW HORIZONS:** It all began with an exciting discovery. An astronomer with a powerful telescope found something else in the Kuiper Belt—a dwarf planet named Eris. You're not alone.

**PLUTO:** Eris? I have a sister? Charon will be thrilled to hear this.

**NEW HORIZONS:** Your moon Charon? We want to meet her, too.

**PLUTO:** Follow me.

**NARRATOR:** Pluto leads New Horizons back to his own place in the museum.

**CHARON:** What took you so long? I was getting worried.

**PLUTO:** It takes time to learn new things.

**NEW HORIZONS:** You got that right. Scientists study the information they collect for years.

**CHARON:** Who are you?

**NEW HORIZONS:** A spaceship on a mission to find out what's in the Kuiper Belt.

**CHARON:** That's us!

**PLUTO:** Isn't it wonderful? Scientists think we're special.

**CHARON:** Silly goose! I've been telling you that all along.

**NEW HORIZONS:** Do you mind if I take a few pictures?

**PLUTO:** Not at all! Which side do you think is our best?

**The End**

