

Title: Goodbye Moon (2024 YR4, part 2)

Synopsis:

In this blog, The Snark explores the absurdity and chaos of a hypothetical disaster scenario involving the asteroid 2024 YR4 hitting the Moon and causing it to wobble - sending chunks of it crashing to Earth. The blog imagines what happens when the Moon begins falling apart, wreaking havoc on Earth, and highlights the emotional, apocalyptic absurdity of such an event. The post uses humor and snark to discuss how humans might react to cosmic chaos, while also tapping into deeper themes of life's unpredictability and the strangeness of the world around us. It's an exploration of embracing the weirdness and the unknown while having a little fun with disaster, with plenty of room for writers to draw inspiration from the chaos.

The Snark's Blog: [here](#)

Discussion Questions

Use these questions to spark conversation and reflection in the classroom:

- **What is the significance of the Moon's wobble in the blog?** How does the wobble of the Moon symbolize the fragility of life and the unpredictable nature of existence? What does it say about the things we take for granted?
- **The blog refers to a "3.8% chance" of asteroid impact.** Why is it important that the chance of disaster is small? How does the small probability add tension to the situation? What does it tell us about how we tend to ignore small risks until they become imminent?
- **The blog uses humor to talk about a global catastrophe.** How does humor make the idea of an asteroid disaster more bearable? Can humor be used effectively in writing about dark or serious topics? How does it affect your emotional response to the subject matter?
- **The Moon is used as a metaphor for both cosmic unpredictability and human life.** How do you think the Moon in the blog represents the unexpected twists in our own lives? Can you think of other examples in literature or film where a seemingly stable element becomes chaotic?
- **The blog imagines how an asteroid hitting the Moon might lead to ongoing small impacts on Earth.** How does this metaphor work for how smaller, everyday issues can escalate into larger, more disruptive consequences? What can writers take away from this idea?
- **What does the blog suggest about the human tendency to focus on small, immediate problems while ignoring larger existential risks?** How does this apply to the way people engage with current global issues like climate change, pandemics, or political unrest? What can we learn from the idea of being too distracted to see the "big picture"?

Writer's Prompts

Creative exercises to help students apply the themes of the topic:

- **Prompt 1:** The Wobbling Moon Disaster. Write a scene where your characters witness the beginning of the Moon's wobble. The first signs are small - just an eerie change in the night sky - but they are unmistakable. How do your characters react to this subtle but terrifying shift? Does it lead to panic, or are they too distracted by their own personal issues to care?
- **Prompt 2:** A Tiny Chance of Impact. Imagine a world where an asteroid has a 3% chance of impacting Earth, and the authorities are downplaying the situation. Your protagonist dismisses the warning as unlikely - but what if it happens? Write a scene where they face the reality of the situation. How do they cope with the unknown, especially knowing that their prior dismissal of the risk might have been wrong?
- **Prompt 3:** End-of-the-World Humor. Create a scene where a group of characters faces a looming disaster, but instead of panicking, they resort to dark humor to cope. How does the humor reveal their characters? Is it an attempt to avoid the terrifying reality of their situation, or is it a way to embrace the chaos?
- **Prompt 4:** Escalating Cosmic Wreckage. In your story, the Moon has shattered into pieces, and Earth is now dealing with ongoing cosmic debris. Each day brings new challenges as the falling Moon rocks cause chaos in different parts of the world. Write a scene where your protagonist faces the aftermath of an impact - maybe their town is destroyed, or they're forced to flee. How do they react to the absurdity and unexpectedness of it all?
- **Prompt 5:** Humans Ignoring the Big Picture. Write a scene in which your character is so obsessed with a small, trivial problem (like a flat tire or a forgotten anniversary) that they completely ignore a much larger, more urgent issue (like a growing storm or a global crisis). How does this affect their relationships? What does it say about the character's priorities and perceptions?
- **Prompt 6:** The Moon's Destruction as Metaphor. Write a scene where the Moon's destruction mirrors a personal crisis. Maybe the destruction of the Moon symbolizes the crumbling of a relationship, a family dynamic, or a personal dream. How does the character cope with the metaphorical collapse? Do they find ways to rebuild, or are they overwhelmed by the chaos?

Class Activities

These activities will help expand on the themes of the topic:

- **Group Discussion:** Have students discuss the symbolism of the Moon wobbling in the blog. What does it represent about the fragility of life, and how do we react to things that feel beyond our control? How can these themes be applied in fiction?
- **Design Exercise:** Students will design an imaginary "Moon disaster" scene, illustrating how the Moon's destruction might impact Earth. They should focus on how small impacts escalate into large-scale chaos. How do they want their characters to respond to the absurdity of it all? This can be a visual design, storyboard, or detailed written scene.
- **Debate:** Host a class debate on whether humans tend to focus too much on small, personal crises rather than larger, existential ones. How does this play out in the story world?

versus real life? How do we deal with immediate dangers compared to distant or unlikely ones?

- **Collaborative Story-Building:** In small groups, have students create a story about an impending cosmic disaster. The group will need to decide how the characters deal with the situation - whether they take it seriously, ignore it, or try to make the best of a doomed world. The group should focus on how personal drama plays out alongside the larger disaster.

Closing note from the blog's writer, The Snark

Well, well, well - what a cosmic mess we've gotten ourselves into! Imagine that: a world where the Moon decides to start wobbling, sending giant chunks hurtling towards us, as we all stand around wondering whether it's too late to buy bottled water or rearrange our sock drawer. But honestly, that's life, isn't it? Filled with chaos, uncertainty, and those tiny chances that things could go catastrophically wrong.

And you know what? That's exactly what makes for great stories. The unexpected, the bizarre, the weirdly amusing moments that get us to the real heart of things - the things we usually ignore until they explode in our faces. So, go ahead and write about the chaos. Because whether the Moon crashes down on us or we're just dodging an avalanche of bad decisions, it's the unpredictability that makes it worth telling.