



# Wish Upon a Star:

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When the hour is late, the night brings a peaceful silence. Nothing beckons for your attention more than the lustrous glow of the moon and its accompaniment of twinkling stars. As if to present an illuminating show, each precious part of the galaxy invites observers to gaze into its wonder. Suddenly, a curious dash of light strikes the sky. With only a moment to witness the magic, most viewers are quickly prompted to their feet as they recognize the special spectacle of a shooting star and their chance to bestow upon it, the perfect wish.

Sending our wishes to the stars has long been a fascinating custom defined by the hope, desire and imagination that bring it to life. A well-established icon in support of this precious practice was animator, voice actor and film producer Walt Disney. Appealing to the hearts of children and adults everywhere, the animated features produced by his company captured the creative potential encompassed in this short, but special moment of the sky. In

beloved sing-a-longs such as “When You Wish Upon a Star,” which debuted in *Pinocchio* (1940), and “A Dream Is a Wish Your Heart Makes,” presented in *Cinderella* (1950), the impossible was made to feel possible with the help of our shining friends. Possessing vision and a catchy tune, these and many other timeless tales awakened the creativity within individuals all over the world, reminding us that our biggest dreams are only a wish away.

Naturally, these defining displays can be unpredictable and come as quite a surprise to the lucky onlookers who spot them. Such a rush of excitement can cause sightseers to miss their chance at making a wish; however, with the help of some simple stargazing traditions, this precious moment can easily be seized. One such custom is for hopeful hearts to close their eyes and quietly recite, “Star light, star bright; first star I see tonight; I wish I may, I wish I might; have this wish I wish tonight.” Once the verse is whispered, their desire can be fulfilled, provided that these sightseers do not reveal to anyone what they requested.



# Beckoning Brights of the Night

Although some spectators choose to believe in the power of shooting stars, others prefer to credit the science behind our cosmos. With these soaring lights being special to all who observe them, many questions exist about the origin of shooting stars. Astronomers have discovered that these blazing bursts of light are not considered to be stars at all. Instead of being created from hydrogen and helium as our true glimmering greats are, these fantastic flares are made up of iron, rock and various elements from the planets within our solar system and are referred to as asteroids. Occasionally, these precious pieces penetrate Earth’s atmosphere and begin their descent. Speeding up as a result of our globe’s gravity, they are then able to emit the captivating illumination that inspires us to make these special wishes.

For some, the chance to wish upon a star may seem like a rare opportunity, but

with a curious eye for the sky, these dazzling lures of light are sure to reveal themselves. This month as you venture out for an evening stroll or moonlit bike ride, take notice of our divine atmosphere above, where you may just discover a little magic.



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