

Acrostic

Juno explores it
Using her sensors
Pointed carefully
In close up, then out
Threading the doughnut
Encircling the globe:
Radiation belt

- Tracy Drain, JPL systems engineer
-

After the Plunge

Could you imagine you'd see all you saw
All those moons and rings
Saturn gave us so much to explore
Saturn became your home
In this era, after the plunge
Now we have only your photos and data
I miss you, dear explorer

- Liz Landau, JPL science writer, editor
-

Common among the rocky planets and icy worlds
Records of celestial bombardment
Attesting to a violent meteoric past
Tumultuous from start to finish
Ejecting rock blocks far and wide
Ringed mountains your circumspect marker
Still you remain for eons past

- Fred Calef, JPL data scientist/geologist
-

Epigram

Roses are red
Space is black
Put on your spacesuit
Or you'll have a heart attack

Epitaph

Look around this Solar System of heavy elements...
Here lies the body of a dead star.

- Tracy Drain, JPL systems engineer

Free Verse

Become a Sojourner
if you have the Spirit,
and the Opportunity
like a risen Phoenix
seize your Curiosity
to gain InSight

- Fred Calef, JPL data scientist/geologist
-

Go There

Stand on Europa's surface and look up,
And Jupiter is too big to grasp.
Sit on the surface — no, lie down.
How overwhelming Jupiter is in the darkness, and so bright.



On your back like this it feels like looking down, like you could fall into those churning clouds.

It's cold on icy Europa, but beneath Jupiter's clouds is a worldwide furnace.
Jupiter just loiters there, never rising or setting.

But it changes
So fast!

The clouds are in an endless race from one horizon of the planet to the other.
When you woke, the Great Red spot crept up the western horizon like a planet-sized flounder.

Now lunchtime and the Great Red Spot has already disappeared over the eastern horizon.

Jupiter changes like Earth's moon.
Crescent-full-crescent-dark...
You wake today, and Jupiter is full.
You wake the next day, and Jupiter is a thick crescent and the Sun is rising on your left.
By bedtime the Sun has disappeared behind Jupiter,
which is now mostly dark with a ring of twilight.

From here on Europa Jupiter is a campfire of clouds.
Could you watch this forever?
So still, yet not still.
But you can not stay, must not stay.
This is no place for humans.
The radiation.
Two years to get here but already you must leave and never return.
The radiation.

You must return to Earth where nature sculpted all the species to fit our planet,
Where the sky is mostly empty, and will sometimes seem dull by comparison,
Where the world in the sky is only a medium-sized moon.
But Earth is the safest planet for you
For now.

Nature still sculpts us.
And someday it will mold us into something different,
Maybe into creatures hardier and even more adaptable.
Then we'll make homes of the planets

Here and around other stars.
Maybe some of us will make spaceships our homes
So we can always be exploring

And finding new worlds to study
And to admire
And to dream about.

- Jay R. Thompson, JPL science writer

Haiku

Looking at the moon
My heart is full of wonder
I wish to go there

- Rhiannon Conrado, JPL staff assistant
-

Kepler Mission shows
Our Milky Way Galaxy
Brims with planets

- Tracy Drain, JPL systems engineer
-

Dizzying cyclones
Purple and blue, swirling clouds
Poles of Jupiter

- Tracy Drain, JPL systems engineer
-

Rusty red surface
Cratered, layered, rocky plains
Someday we'll touch Mars

- Tracy Drain, JPL systems engineer
-



Huge metal asteroid
Awaiting us in the belt
Baby planet's core

- Tracy Drain, JPL systems engineer
-

Seven Earth-sized worlds
Orbit an ultra-cool dwarf:
TRAPPIST-wonderful

- Liz Landau, JPL science writer, editor

Rhyming couplet

Mars

You going to Mars? It's far!
You better not take a car!

- Lyle Tavernier, JPL education specialist
-

Robots, big and small.
Let's go build them all!

- Lyle Tavernier, JPL education specialist
-

Parker Solar Probe

The Sun is a ball of hydrogen gas.
And around it the Parker Probe shall pass.

- Lyle Tavernier, JPL education specialist
-

InSight

Heading to Mars, it's InSight.
For a spacecraft, pretty light!

It launched from the West Coast
Not Florida, like most.

After 300 million miles
Safe landing will bring lots of smiles.

- Lyle Tavernier, JPL education specialist

Sonnet

Shall I compare thee to a Martian day?
Thou art 37 minutes longer and colder
Gentle winds may loft your dusty display
During your summer I would never smolder
Always too intense the radiation does shine
Even when the clouds may cause it to dim
Storms and dust devils appear to align
Seen from orbit, limb to limb
This red majesty can never fade
Iron bound to oxygen, the indubitable rust
A sign of past oceans and atmosphere forbade
Broken magnetic field's trust
So long as humans and robots can see
So long will you always fascinate me

- Fred Calef, JPL data scientist/geologist