

Content and Curriculum-Based Reader's Theatre Script:  
Pluto is Not a Planet?  
By Victoria Schubert

- 1: Guys listen up! [gesture]  
2: Pluto is NO longer a planet!  
3: We now only have 8 planets!  
ALL: [sound effect] WHAT?  
4: Who decided this? [gesture]  
5: Why do they always pick on the little one? [gesture]  
6: So my sixth grade teacher lied to me? [gesture]  
7: Can someone explain this tragedy to me? [gesture or sound effect]  
ALL: Ummmm . . . [gesture]  
8: Actually,  
9: this decision was a major argument between . . .  
10: scientists, [sound effect or gesture]  
10-11: astronauts, [sound effect or gesture]  
10-12: and historians. [sound effect or gesture]  
10-13: But . . .  
14: an official definition of what makes a planet has been decided.  
ALL: A planet is . . .  
15: WAIT! [gesture] Shouldn't we know what the old definition was first?  
ALL: [sound effect]  
16: The only requirement used to be . . .  
17-18: that a planet had to be round as a result of their own gravitational force around the sun. [gesture]  
19: Due to this old definition . . .  
20: scientists would have had to grant about 50 other objects in the solar system planet status.  
ALL: [sound effect] 50 planets!?!  
21: Can somebody PLEASE give me the new definition of what makes a planet?  
22: Alright already! [gesture and sound effect]  
1: Not only does a planet have to be round . . . [gesture]  
2: and have a gravitational pull around the sun. [sound effect]  
3: It also has to dominate the neighborhood around its orbit!  
ALL: Huh? [gesture]  
4: Planets that dominate their neighborhoods sweep up . . .  
4-5: asteroids, [sound effect or gesture]  
4-6: comets, [sound effect or gesture]  
4-7: and other things to clean up their paths around the sun. [sound effect or gesture]  
8: Oh I get it! Pluto is untidy!  
ALL: Duh! [gesture]  
9: I still think that Pluto should be recognized for something!  
10: Well it is!  
11: It's been considered a dwarf planet. [gesture]  
ALL: What does that mean? [gesture]  
12: That all other large objects that don't fit into the official "planet" [gesture] definition are considered dwarf planets!  
13-14: So let's give Pluto an official welcome into his new home! [gesture]  
ALL: [*Ringing* sound effect]  
15: Class dismissed!  
ALL: [*Shrugging shoulders* gesture and *individual* sound effects]