



**Tell Me Why**

# **WHY?**

**There is Day and Night**



Linda Crotta Brennan



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# Getting Dark

Moe set up a racetrack along the sidewalk in front of his apartment. He put on his helmet and hopped on his bike. The track had taken Moe all afternoon to plan.

His dad called him. “It’s getting dark. Time to come in!”

Moe frowned. “It gets dark too early.”

Dad walked over and patted his back. “Tomorrow will be another day.”

Moe put his bike away. “Why do we have day and night, anyway?”



**MAKE A GUESS!**

**What would happen to plants and animals on Earth if we didn't have day and night? Share your ideas with a friend or classmate.**



*Sunsets often turn the clouds bright colors.*



“I wish I could stop the sun from setting,” said Moe.

“The sun doesn’t move,” said Dad. “The earth does.” He pointed to Moe’s bike. “Your wheel spins. The earth spins, too.”

“I don’t feel the earth spin,” said Moe.

Dad tapped the car. “We have to pick up Mom. Let’s do an experiment.”





*This bike wheel is spinning from a point in the center.*

# The Earth Spins

Dad drove onto the highway. “We are moving at a steady speed now. Close your eyes.” Moe did.

“Do you feel yourself moving?” asked Dad.

“No,” said Moe.

Dad sped up.

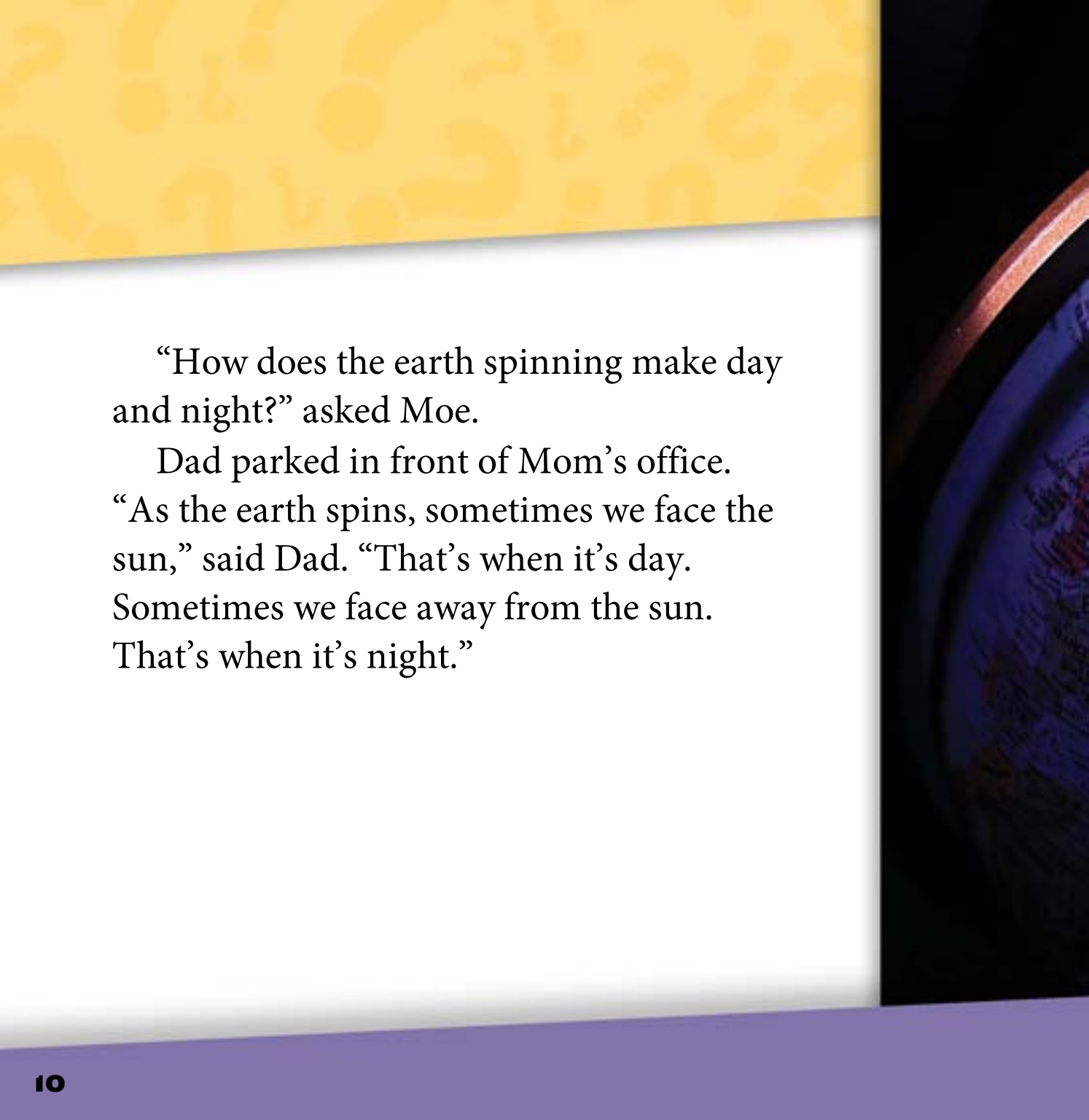
“Now I do,” said Moe.

“That’s because I changed speed,” said Dad. “We don’t feel the earth spin because it moves at a steady speed. We, and everything around us, move with it.”





*We call this a sunrise, but the sun doesn't actually move.*



“How does the earth spinning make day and night?” asked Moe.

Dad parked in front of Mom’s office. “As the earth spins, sometimes we face the sun,” said Dad. “That’s when it’s day. Sometimes we face away from the sun. That’s when it’s night.”



## ASK QUESTIONS!

**Do you know why we say there are 24 hours in a day? Hint: remember that the earth spins.**



*You can spin a globe to show how the earth spins.*

# An Experiment

Mom got in the car. She gave Moe a kiss. “How was your day?”

“Fine,” said Moe. “I just wish I had more time to play outside after school.”

“The days are getting shorter,” said Dad.

“How can days get shorter?” asked Moe.

“Let’s find our globe when we get home,” said Mom. “I’ll show you.”

Moe found the globe in his room.

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