International School of Monterrey

Junior High School **7th Grade**
Trimester ___ **Literature**

Name _____ **Date** _____ **List #**____-____

DIRECTIONS: It can be helpful to formulate some questions before you read to help you focus on the details. <u>FIRST</u> read the questions below <u>BEFORE</u> you read the passage. <u>THEN</u> go back and answer them. (6 pts.)

1. Name five different types of objects in our solar system: _____

   _____ _____ _____ _____

2. How many stars are in our solar system? _____
3. What well-known comet will reappear in the year 2061? _____
4. What is a meteor? _____
5. Name a natural satellite of Earth. _____
6. Where is the asteroid belt located? _____

You may think of our solar system as just our sun, the only star, and the nine known planets. But other things are in the solar system, too.

First, there are many satellites. A satellite is any small body orbiting a larger one. The moon is Earth's natural satellite. There are also many artificial satellites orbiting Earth, which are used for observation and communication.

Within the space of our solar system are also countless asteroids—chunks of rock or metal that range in size from small planets to grains of sand. The heaviest concentration is the asteroid belt, where thousands orbit the sun between Jupiter and Mars. Sometimes asteroids enter the Earth's atmosphere. We call these meteors.

Our solar system is also host to comets—chunks of rock, ice, and gas—that pass through our space. Occasionally we can see their telltale vapor tail. The best-known of these is Haley's Comet, which passes into our view every 76 years. Its next sighting should occur in 2061.



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