



ALVIN DREW
NASA ASTRONAUT

1
00:00:02,356 --> 00:00:04,606
>> Dan Huot: So dozens of
new experiments being brought

2
00:00:04,606 --> 00:00:06,016
up to the International
Space Station

3
00:00:06,016 --> 00:00:07,496
by the Cygnus cargo craft,

4
00:00:07,816 --> 00:00:10,296
one among them giving a
very unique opportunity

5
00:00:10,296 --> 00:00:13,936
for astronauts to get involved
in the classroom and give kids

6
00:00:14,326 --> 00:00:15,586
around the country a look

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00:00:15,586 --> 00:00:18,226
at life onboard the
International Space Station.

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00:00:18,656 --> 00:00:22,466
Joining me now, NASA astronaut,
veteran space flyer Alvin Drew.

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00:00:22,986 --> 00:00:24,836
Alvin, first of all, thanks
so much for joining me.

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00:00:25,506 --> 00:00:26,126
>> Alvin Drew: You're
quite welcome.

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00:00:26,126 --> 00:00:27,366

It's good to be talking
to you today.

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00:00:27,836 --> 00:00:28,206

>> Dan Huot: All right.

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00:00:28,206 --> 00:00:31,016

And this experiment is
called Story Time From Space,

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00:00:31,316 --> 00:00:33,576

and I know you were
very involved

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00:00:33,926 --> 00:00:35,946

with getting this thing
often the ground literally

16

00:00:36,246 --> 00:00:38,616

when it first kind
of became an idea.

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00:00:38,956 --> 00:00:40,976

Tell me about where the idea
for this project came from

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00:00:40,976 --> 00:00:42,416

and kind of what it entails.

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00:00:42,996 --> 00:00:43,156

>> Alvin Drew: Okay.

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00:00:43,346 --> 00:00:47,556

While I was preparing
for STS-133 back in 2010,

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00:00:47,556 --> 00:00:49,046

that was going to
be the final flight

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00:00:49,046 --> 00:00:52,776
of the Space Shuttle Discovery,
and I was talking to a friend

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00:00:52,916 --> 00:00:55,696
of mine named Patricia Tribe
who's been the director

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00:00:55,696 --> 00:00:57,416
of education over at
Space Center Houston

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00:00:57,906 --> 00:01:00,866
about what a good time and what
a rewarding experience it had

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00:01:00,866 --> 00:01:04,646
been for me on STS-118 to be
working with Barbara Morgan

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00:01:04,646 --> 00:01:07,866
on the Teaching From Space
Program that she had.

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00:01:07,966 --> 00:01:10,986
Tricia had the idea of reading
story time, bedtime stories

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00:01:10,986 --> 00:01:13,636
to kids from space and asked
me if I would be willing

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00:01:13,636 --> 00:01:18,616
to go do a demo tape onboard the
space station during STS-133.

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00:01:18,826 --> 00:01:20,606
And I was quite frankly
a little surprised

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00:01:20,606 --> 00:01:22,216

that we hadn't already
done something like that,

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00:01:22,216 --> 00:01:23,396

and it's usually
my first indication

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00:01:23,396 --> 00:01:25,086

that something's a
good idea when I go,

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00:01:25,246 --> 00:01:26,966

We aren't already doing that?

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00:01:26,966 --> 00:01:28,886

[Laughter] I was
happy to oblige.

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00:01:28,886 --> 00:01:30,986

We just need to go find a
book that we could read.

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00:01:31,326 --> 00:01:33,936

Hi. I'm Astronaut Alvin
Drew aboard the Space

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00:01:33,936 --> 00:01:34,666

Shuttle Discovery.

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00:01:35,106 --> 00:01:36,446

I'd like to read
you a bedtime story.

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00:01:36,446 --> 00:01:39,336

This one is called Max Goes to
the Moon by Jeffrey Bennett,

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00:01:39,526 --> 00:01:40,966

illustrated by Alan Okamoto.

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00:01:45,356 --> 00:01:47,816

This is a story of how Max
the dog helped return people

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00:01:47,816 --> 00:01:49,596

to the moon, this time to stay.

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00:01:50,726 --> 00:01:52,256

It all began the
morning of the parade.

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00:01:52,816 --> 00:01:54,966

Max had just returned from
his trip to the space station.

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00:01:54,966 --> 00:01:55,836

He was a hero.

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00:01:55,836 --> 00:01:57,166

After all, none

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00:01:57,166 --> 00:01:59,966

of the astronauts could have
come home safely without him.

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00:01:59,966 --> 00:02:02,506

As Max's car drove down Pearl
Street, Max looked to the west

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00:02:02,506 --> 00:02:05,336

and began to howl just as the
moon set over the mountains.

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00:02:08,026 --> 00:02:09,376

>> Dan Huot: And what
are some of the books

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00:02:09,376 --> 00:02:11,116

that the crew are
going to be reading,

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00:02:11,116 --> 00:02:12,186

and how are they chosen?

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00:02:12,706 --> 00:02:13,296

>> Alvin Drew: Okay.

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00:02:13,296 --> 00:02:16,706

The book that's actually
been written specifically

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00:02:16,706 --> 00:02:21,246

for this particular payload was
a story called Max the Dog Goes

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00:02:21,246 --> 00:02:22,636

to the International
Space Station.

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00:02:22,946 --> 00:02:25,446

There's an author here
in Boulder, Colorado,

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00:02:25,446 --> 00:02:28,246

by the name of Jeffrey Bennett
who wrote a trilogy of books

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00:02:28,606 --> 00:02:31,216

about his Rottweiler
by the name of Max.

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00:02:31,636 --> 00:02:33,726

He has an adventure where
he goes to the moon.

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00:02:33,906 --> 00:02:37,966

Later on, he goes out to Mars,

and then he writes a final piece

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00:02:37,966 --> 00:02:40,476

where one of the Max's
descendants goes out to Jupiter.

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00:02:41,306 --> 00:02:46,516

And, in the first book, the book
I read was Max Goes to the Moon

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00:02:46,516 --> 00:02:49,366

when I was on the Discovery
mission to the space station.

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00:02:49,886 --> 00:02:52,576

And I'd asked Jeff in
the beginning of the book

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00:02:52,576 --> 00:02:54,586

that it almost seems like
a setup for a prequel

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00:02:54,586 --> 00:02:56,186

where Max would go
to the space station.

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00:02:56,656 --> 00:02:58,926

And sure enough, a couple
years later, we got together

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00:02:58,926 --> 00:03:01,036

and talked about what that
prequel might consist of,

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00:03:01,036 --> 00:03:03,526

and out of that came
the story Max Goes

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00:03:03,526 --> 00:03:04,816

to the International

Space Station

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00:03:05,196 --> 00:03:07,196
which will be the
inaugural book read as part

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00:03:07,196 --> 00:03:08,376
of Story Time From Space.

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00:03:09,286 --> 00:03:10,646
>> Dan Huot: And, again,
this is going to be more

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00:03:10,646 --> 00:03:12,716
than just the astronauts
reading these books.

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00:03:12,716 --> 00:03:14,476
They're going to be doing some
of the demonstrations too.

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00:03:14,476 --> 00:03:15,886
What are some of the concepts

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00:03:15,886 --> 00:03:17,906
that the crew are going
to be demonstrating?

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00:03:17,906 --> 00:03:19,606
What are they going to be
working with to go along

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00:03:19,606 --> 00:03:21,366
with the actual reading
of these stories?

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00:03:21,856 --> 00:03:22,046
>> Alvin Drew: Okay.

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00:03:22,316 --> 00:03:25,456
One of the things I liked best
about Jeff Bennett's books was

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00:03:25,456 --> 00:03:28,616
that there is a -- there are
these sidebars for the stories,

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00:03:28,616 --> 00:03:31,896
so you can either -- you can
read the story to a 3-year-old,

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00:03:31,896 --> 00:03:33,626
and they would just enjoy
the story about a dog going

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00:03:33,626 --> 00:03:34,766
on adventures in space.

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00:03:35,156 --> 00:03:36,666
But there's -- it's
packed with a lot

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00:03:36,666 --> 00:03:39,546
of scientific principles
in there.

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00:03:39,546 --> 00:03:42,946
Jeff Bennett in his regular
job writes physics texts

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00:03:42,946 --> 00:03:46,606
for universities, and so he
got this science tucked away

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00:03:46,606 --> 00:03:47,976
in all these different
corners of the story.

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00:03:48,216 --> 00:03:51,826

And in these sidebars you want to get deeper into the science.

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00:03:51,826 --> 00:03:55,566

For older, more sophisticated children, you can talk

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00:03:55,566 --> 00:03:58,936

about concepts dealing with space travel, things like being

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00:03:58,936 --> 00:04:03,396

in microgravity, you know, the feeling of being weightless;

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00:04:03,776 --> 00:04:07,496

dealing with the light and radiation in space.

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00:04:07,496 --> 00:04:10,686

And then -- and so, when we put this Story Time

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00:04:10,686 --> 00:04:13,216

From Space together, we decided we would take advantage of that

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00:04:13,216 --> 00:04:16,516

as an opportunity for teachers to not only read these stories

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00:04:16,516 --> 00:04:20,296

but have demonstrations to go with lesson plans to teach some

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00:04:20,296 --> 00:04:22,386

of those scientific principles to the students.

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00:04:22,736 --> 00:04:26,586

So we have things like how do
you weigh something in space

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00:04:26,586 --> 00:04:27,986
with [inaudible] centrifuge.

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00:04:28,316 --> 00:04:33,246
There's one where we look at
how you can use the sun's rays

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00:04:33,246 --> 00:04:35,636
to create electricity and
look at how things heat

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00:04:35,636 --> 00:04:38,766
up separately, you know,
based on their colors up there

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00:04:38,766 --> 00:04:41,676
in space, so why do we put
things like foil on top of some

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00:04:41,676 --> 00:04:43,526
of our satellites and
make some things --

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00:04:43,526 --> 00:04:45,426
some surfaces white and
some surfaces black.

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00:04:46,006 --> 00:04:47,056
So we have experiments
like that,

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00:04:47,056 --> 00:04:49,756
and they're all put together
by a Canadian astronaut,

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00:04:49,796 --> 00:04:52,716
Bjarni Tryggvason, who is

also a physics professor.

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00:04:53,296 --> 00:04:53,396

>> Dan Huot: Okay.

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00:04:54,476 --> 00:04:56,986

So really just kind of
taking some of the --

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00:04:56,986 --> 00:04:59,466

and, I mean, it almost
sounds some

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00:04:59,526 --> 00:05:01,576

of the pretty complex
aspects of space flight

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00:05:01,576 --> 00:05:03,966

and just bringing it
to a new audience,

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00:05:03,966 --> 00:05:06,386

a much younger audience, kind of
your next generation audience.

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00:05:07,036 --> 00:05:07,466

>> Alvin Drew: Yes.

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00:05:07,466 --> 00:05:09,856

I mean, even though building
rockets is rocket science,

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00:05:09,856 --> 00:05:13,076

so a lot of the physics behind
it is not in this demonstrated.

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00:05:13,076 --> 00:05:15,906

Simply enough, they can
grasp that and figure

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00:05:15,906 --> 00:05:18,306

out what things they might
want to go explore themselves.

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00:05:18,806 --> 00:05:20,466

>> Dan Huot: And
then, obviously,

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00:05:20,466 --> 00:05:23,566

the plan making this
available to classrooms

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00:05:23,566 --> 00:05:25,686

across the country,
just widely available.

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00:05:26,526 --> 00:05:26,856

>> Alvin Drew: Yes.

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00:05:26,856 --> 00:05:29,516

One of the things that the group
putting together Story Time

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00:05:29,516 --> 00:05:31,806

From Space has is
a Web site that's

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00:05:31,806 --> 00:05:32,966

under construction right now.

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00:05:33,356 --> 00:05:35,326

And the plan is to
take the video

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00:05:35,326 --> 00:05:37,766

of the astronauts reading
the books and putting

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00:05:37,766 --> 00:05:41,426

that on the Web site for
free, for free download also.

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00:05:41,736 --> 00:05:44,506

The demonstration of these
science experiments also will be

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00:05:44,506 --> 00:05:50,556

available along with courseware
and lesson plans and things

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00:05:50,556 --> 00:05:51,676

like that, that they
can put together.

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00:05:51,676 --> 00:05:54,006

So that is apt to be able to --

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00:05:54,006 --> 00:05:57,606

to have a powerful tool
for teachers to excite kids

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00:05:57,606 --> 00:06:00,096

about that science; to get
their imaginations going;

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00:06:00,456 --> 00:06:03,176

and then to have, you
know, experiments,

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00:06:03,176 --> 00:06:05,256

things that are going to put
some rigor into that as well.

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00:06:05,926 --> 00:06:07,586

>> Dan Huot: It sounds
like a fantastic idea,

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00:06:07,586 --> 00:06:11,136

great way to get kids involved

and excited about concepts

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00:06:11,136 --> 00:06:13,006

and space flight and
all these experiments.

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00:06:13,006 --> 00:06:16,216

Again, the experiment called
Story Time From Space,

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00:06:16,216 --> 00:06:18,376

it will be kicking off
with this expedition.

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00:06:19,126 --> 00:06:20,516

Alvin, thanks so much
for calling in today.

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00:06:20,516 --> 00:06:21,296

Really appreciate it.

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00:06:21,806 --> 00:06:22,216

>> Alvin Drew: You're welcome.

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00:06:22,216 --> 00:06:23,286

Thanks for the opportunity
to talk

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00:06:23,286 --> 00:06:24,626

about Story Time From Space.

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00:06:25,166 --> 00:06:27,366

>> Dan Huot: And that, again, a
look at Story Time From Space,

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00:06:27,466 --> 00:06:28,986

an experiment that just launched

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00:06:28,986 --> 00:06:32,336

on Orbital 1 arriving onboard
the International Space Station

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00:06:32,336 --> 00:06:33,056
this past Sunday.

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00:06:33,326 --> 00:06:35,596
To learn more, you can go
to their Web site currently

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00:06:35,596 --> 00:06:37,566
under construction, but it
will have more information

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00:06:37,566 --> 00:06:39,706
at storytimefromspace.com