

## **Creative Writing Activities** on Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter

The following points are designed to help students develop creative responses to Holst's Planets

- About Holst's The Planets, it has been said that each movement is a portrait of one particular aspect of personality. Identify a particular aspect of your personality; such as out-going, talkative, aggressive, shy, timid, confident, aggressive, etc. and create a free verse poem describing how you express that trait.
- The planets often inspire artists. How do you imagine the scenery looks on each planet? Draw your imaginary settings and write a detailed description of them.
- As you listen to the movements of Holst's The Planets record the mental images that come to mind. Then create a series of haikus that incorporate some of your images.
- Research and gather facts about each of the planets. Then create an acrostic for each planet that includes descriptive facts about it:

About the same size as earth, has canals  
Bringer of war, close to earth (etc)

- Holst's inspiration for his planets was the astrological significance of the planets. Using the names of the planets Mars, Venus, Mercury, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune, create a date span and original horoscope reading for all who fall under each sign.
- Collect as many facts about space as you can. Use this information in an original science fiction story. Read your story to the class whilst playing an excerpt of the Planets in the background.
- Study a legend. Write your own legend about how a planet came to be.
- Design a BIG BOOK for little children that tells the story of Man and Flight.
- Read poems and or song lyrics about space. Create your own poetry about space or lyrics to a song about space. You might use familiar songs tunes and re-write the words.
- What if Mars the Bringer of War knocked on your door with a message? What would it say? Write a detailed description of the message's content.
- Research what an astronomer does. Then imagine you have the opportunity to interview one. Create a list of ten questions and using your research, write the answers then role play your interview with a friend.