

International Award Winning
Dot to Dot in the Sky

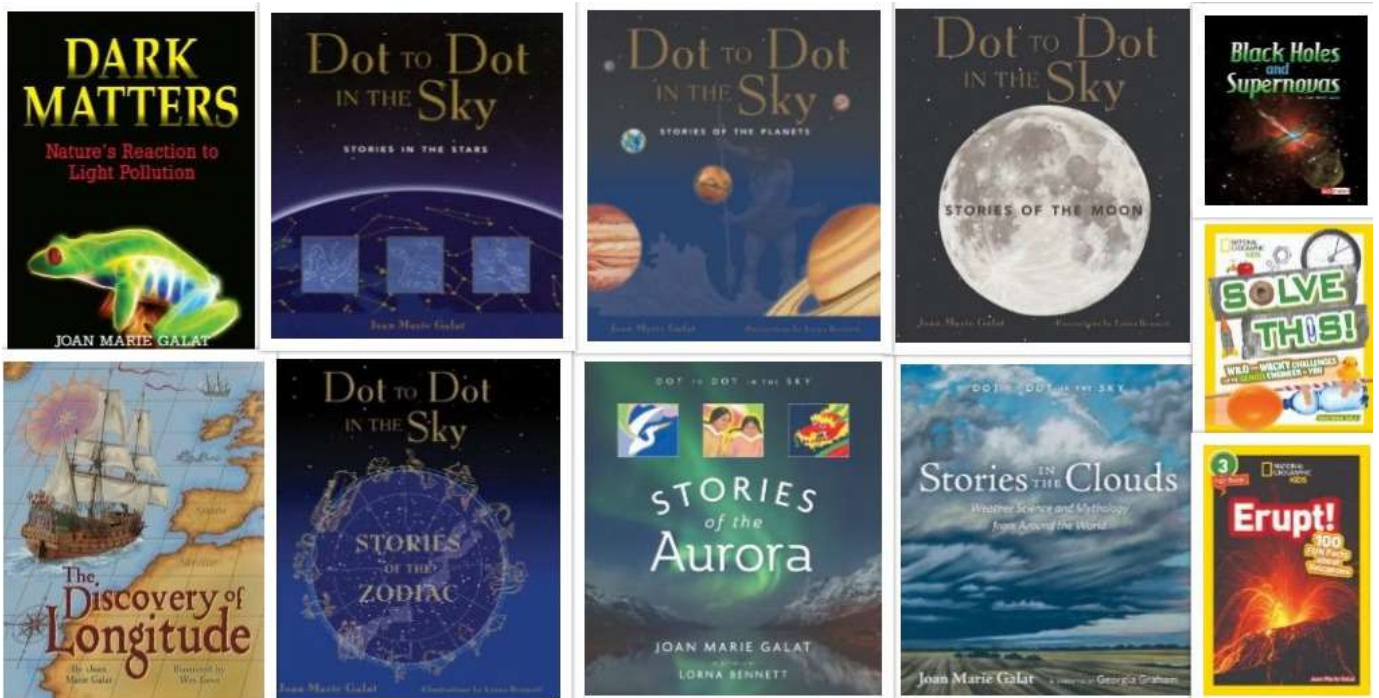
Author

Joan Marie Galat

from Canada

is now accepting expressions of interest for
presentation bookings in February/March 2020

Please contact by September 20, 2019 to receive updates.



Astronomy – Light Pollution – Mythology – North American Indigenous Tales – Ecology – Nature

MEET JOAN

Joan Marie Galat is a Canadian-based international award-winning author whose career began at the age of 12, when she was hired as a newspaper columnist. Now she is the author of more than 20 books, including a Canadian best seller. Joan shares her love of the night sky in her *Dot to Dot in the Sky* series (Whitecap Books), which partners sky science with the stories early cultures first told to explain their observations. *Dark Matters—Nature’s Reaction to Light Pollution* (Red Deer Press) offers personal stories, revealing how light at night impacts wildlife. Other titles include *Black Holes and Supernovas*, *The Discovery of Longitude*, and an upcoming title: *Absolute Expert – Space* (National Geographic Kids).

A professional speechwriter, former radio show host, and frequent presenter, Joan has traveled from Canada’s Arctic Circle to South Korea to deliver presentations promoting science and literacy. In 2016, Joan spoke about the night sky environment at a United Nations event in Seoul. Featured at the Jasper Dark Sky Festival and numerous other night sky events, she presented at the International Dark-Sky Association annual meeting in 2018 and toured in Australia in 2019. When not writing or talking about the night sky, Joan enjoys stiltwalking and can sometimes be seen in costume at Edmonton festivals.

PRESENTATIONS and WORKSHOP

Joan is available for adult, family, and student presentations that explore the world through science and story. Please visit joangalat.com to view a speaker demo, book trailers, and book titles.

The Nature of Night – Adult audiences

People have always sought connections between what happened on Earth and what occurred overhead, telling stories to explain the stars, auroras, and other night sky phenomena. Discover tales of the night sky, the relationships in our Earth-sky environment, and what happens when light pollution interferes.

Dark Matters – Nature’s Reaction to Light Pollution – Request adult or student version (ages 10+)

What happens when humans tamper with the age-old balance of day and night? From nesting turtles to migrating birds, light pollution affects more than just humans. Find out how our need to light the world affects species that take their cues from the moon and the stars, and hear stories that link us to nature and the sky.

Dot to Dot in the Sky – Family audiences

Discover modern science alongside the stories early peoples and ancient cultures first told to explain what they saw in the heavens. Joan’s enthusiasm is contagious and leaves participants ready to explore the night sky on their own.

School Presentations

Dot to Dot in the Sky Literacy

In a lively presentation that blends astronomy and storytelling, Joan launches students into science. From the stories ancient cultures told about the night sky to how light pollution impacts wildlife, Joan also intrigues young writers with the story of how she became a paid columnist at age 12. Students will appreciate the excitement of engineering as Joan reveals how she “literally” launched four books in rockets and one under a weather balloon. By the end of each visit, everyone will know how to go dot-to-dot in the sky to find constellations and understand that reading leads to new adventures. Presentations tailored for grades K-12. Request a focus on sky legends or how light pollution impacts nature.

Audience Comments

Joan is a great guest speaker who has a passion for and knowledge of the environment. She captivated the audience with her engaging and inspiring speech at the United Nations Environment Programme Rendezvous of the Arts. It was a pleasure to work with Joan and I would definitely recommend her.

Sue H. Kim, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Korea, Seoul

At the International Dark Sky Association's 2018 Annual Meeting, Joan Marie Galat wowed delegates with her high-energy storytelling-based presentation that showed how best to interact with students on the topic of constellations, as well as light pollution and its negative impacts on the natural world. It's safe to say that the all-adult audience was also captured by her unique style! Using examples from her well-received books as examples, Joan Marie Galat can clearly and accurately communicate science and mythological lore like few others.

Roland Dechesne, Royal Astronomical Society of Canada

Everyone enjoyed Joan's informative presentation. It was indeed interesting to hear the many stories and tales of our astronomical bodies from the “rabbit in the Moon” to our very own emu in the sky. To be able to nurture, excite and interest the younger generation in a love of astronomy is truly amazing. Hopefully this will translate into some very keen astronomers in a few years.

Elizabeth Cocking, Secretary, Sydney City Skywatchers, Australia

If I had heard your presentation when I was in school, I would have liked science.

Darlene Hofer, Librarian, Fort Macleod Public Library, Canada

Joan's presentation brings the universe down to Earth in a way that kids (and adults) can understand. Her books are informative, colourful, exciting and fun—just like Joan.

Monique Roy, Children's Librarian, Greater Sudbury Public Library, Canada

Joan frequently presented to a mixed age-range simultaneously. At one school, 80 students from K-6 were hosted together, and in the case of the home educators association, 35 grade 1-9 students were in the same group. She managed both opportunities effectively, spreading her attention/interaction across the audience.

One public library invited two schools that together packed in 75 grade six students. Joan kept their rapt attention for the hour. Joan also presented well to the younger audiences of K-4, and one young student commented afterwards, "That was a good one." A librarian made this unsolicited, glowing remark, "I had the most favourable response that I have ever got from any author visit. The teachers raved about her. Thank-you for bringing her." A grade eight student later exclaimed, "That was an hour?! That sure didn't feel like a whole hour!" Such is the power of fascinating subjects and a good presenter.

K. Wiebe, Peace Library System, Alberta, Canada

Astronauts and Scientists – Back Cover Book Endorsements

Looking up at the Moon has inspired explorers and dreamers for eons, floating as a beacon of endless mystery. It lured me into space. The largest Dot in the night sky is the Moon, and its facts and mysteries are beautifully connected in *Dot to Dot in the Sky, Stories of the Moon*. **Chris Hadfield, astronaut**

Connecting dots in the night sky is a sensible first step to begin exploring Earth, where we live among the stars. **Roberta Bondar, scientist, physician, astronaut, photographer**

This is an excellent book (*Dot to Dot in the Sky, Stories of the Planets*). It's very interesting to read about the mythological stories behind the names of the planets of our solar system, as well as the planetary facts. I appreciate that Joan Marie Galat is very careful in making the important distinction between the myths and the facts of what we know today. I believe that star gazers of all ages will be fascinated by these stories.

Julie Payette, astronaut, and current Governor General of Canada

Having watched the aurora from space, I've known the unique thrill of seeing the lights swirl over the planet. Joan Marie Galat captures the science and remarkable folklore of the aurora in *Stories of the Aurora*, an inspirational collection of tales that makes the reader want to experience their beauty first hand.

Dr. Dave Williams, Canadian Astronaut

Stories of the Aurora by Joan Marie Galat is an engaging book that delves into why auroras both amazed and frightened our ancestors. The next time you look skyward in hopes of seeing the northern or southern lights, think of the early storytellers and their lively interpretations of this natural marvel.

James Foster, Ph.D. scientist emeritus, NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center

I remember as a child being amazed at the sight of my first real night sky, undiluted by man-made light! The exhilarating beauty, complexity and infinity of the Universe, right there before my eyes. But, as Joan Marie Galat explains in this book [*Dark Matters, Nature's Reaction to Light Pollution*], there is more to light pollution than its effect on stargazing... the whole world needs dark skies!

David Saint-Jacques, Canadian astronaut

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Websites: www.joangalat.com and www.moondotmedia.com

Questions: Joan Marie Galat: booksmatter@joangalat.com

**Contact by September 20, 2019 to express interest,
request fee schedule, and receive updates.**

Please include your physical location and audience description
(adult, family, or student).