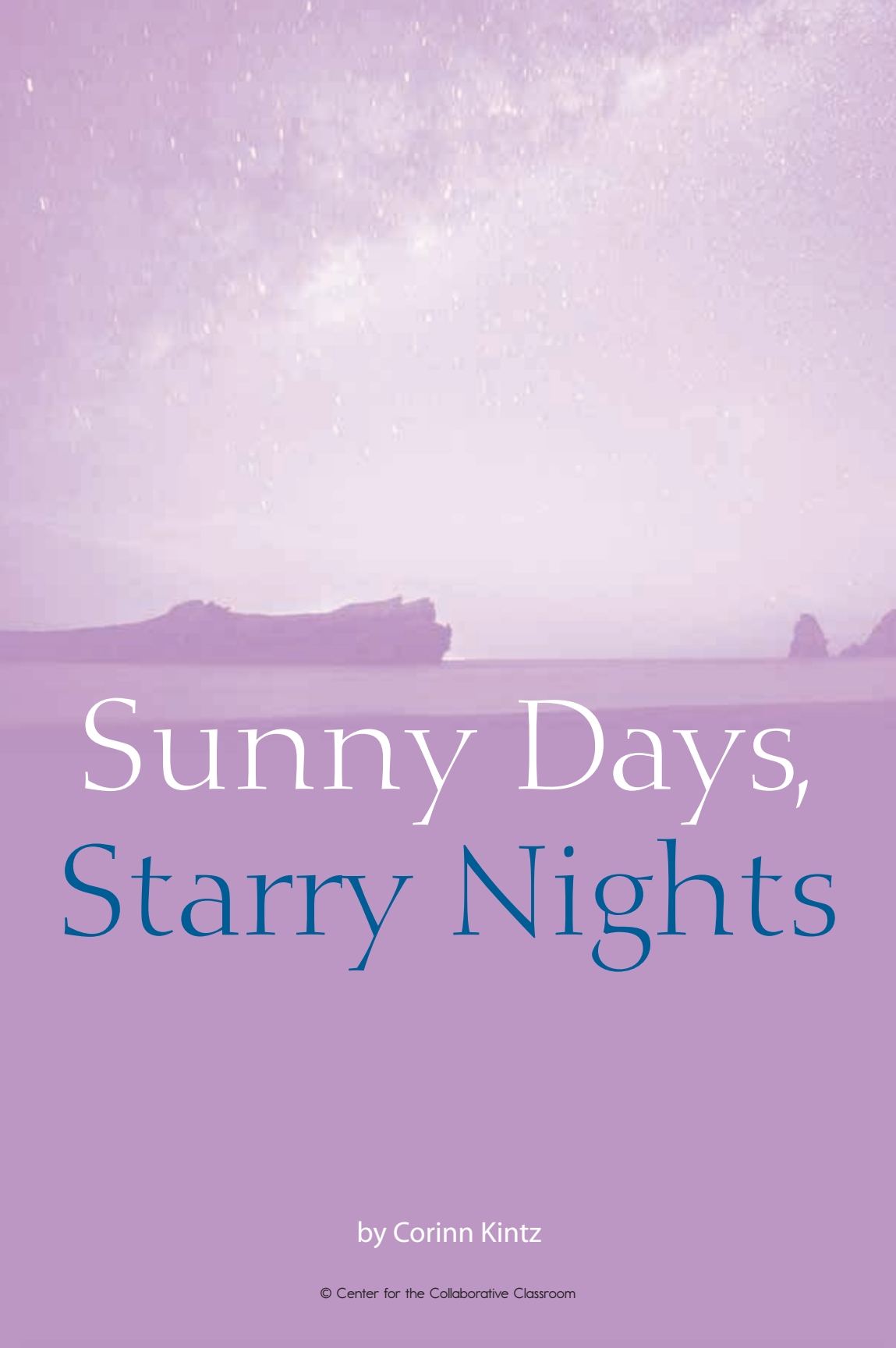


Sunny Days, Starry Nights

by Corinn Kintz

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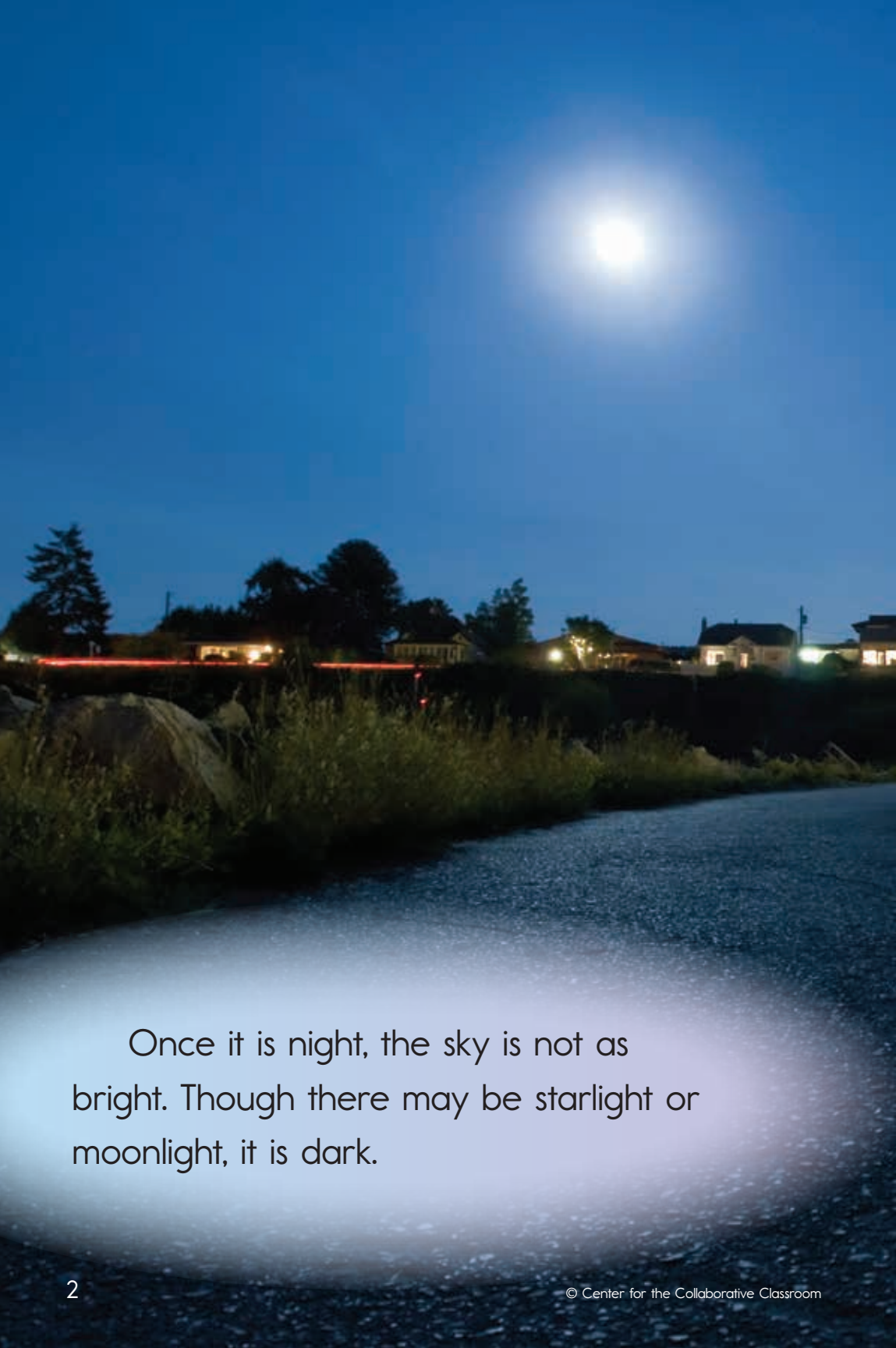
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Look outside. How can you tell it is daytime? Can you see the sun high in the sky? You can see it on a sunny day. But even on a rainy day, it is light outside. It is light on foggy and snowy days, too. The sun is there.





Once it is night, the sky is not as bright. Though there may be starlight or moonlight, it is dark.

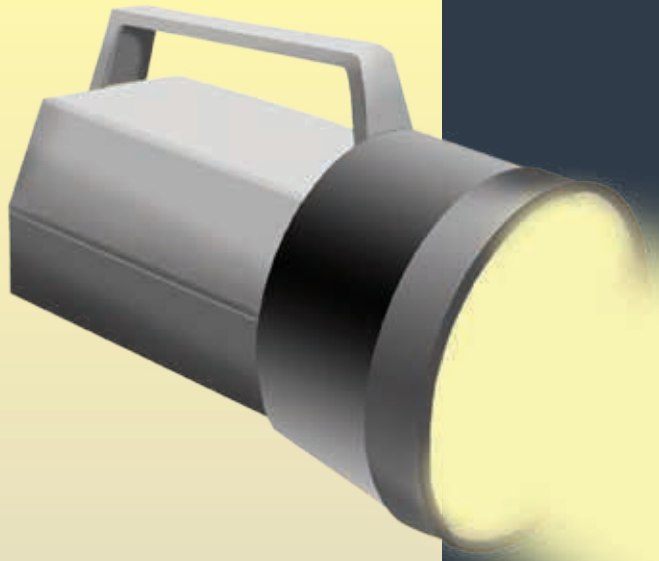




So why do we have day and night? Once nighttime comes, does the sun stop shining?



No, though the sky gets dark, the sun never stops shining. We have day and night because Earth is turning.



Try this to see how it works: Take a globe and a flashlight into a dark room. Turn the flashlight toward the globe. Once the flashlight is turned on, light shines on one side of the globe.

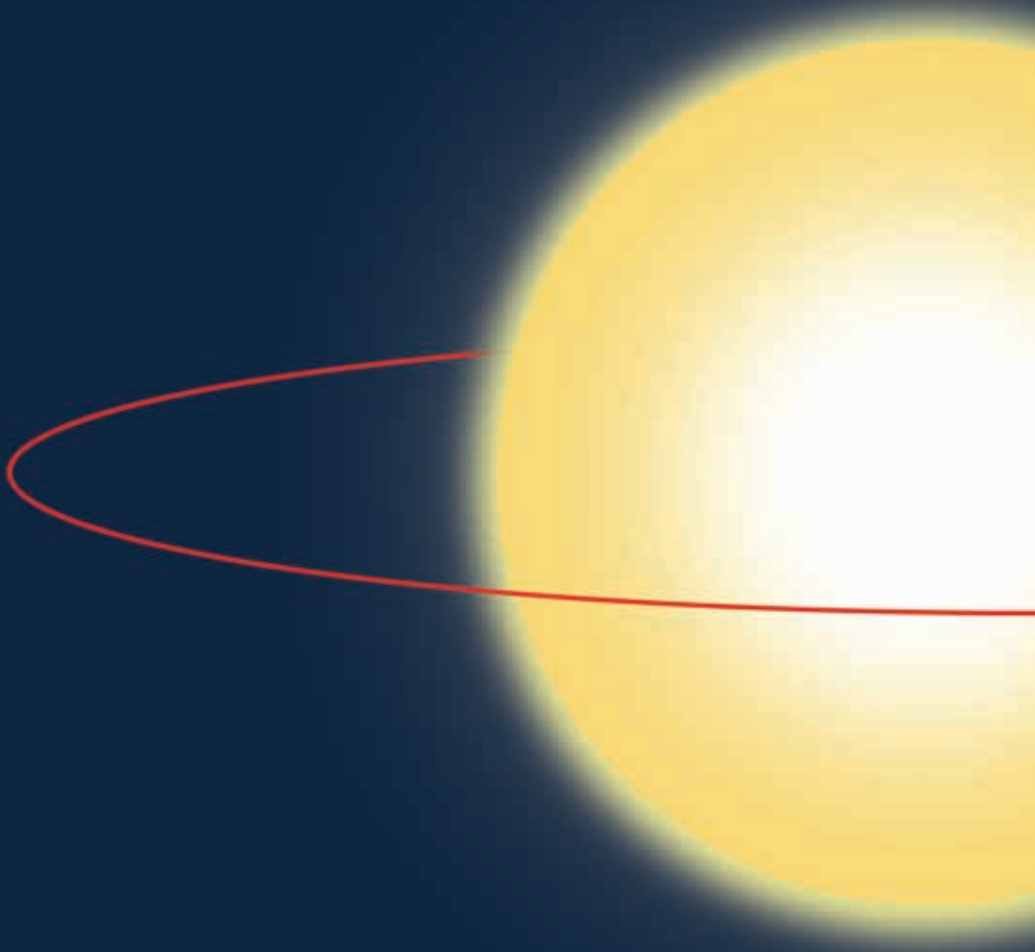
Where the light hits the globe, it is like daytime on Earth. The light does not reach the other side, though. This dark side is like Earth at night.



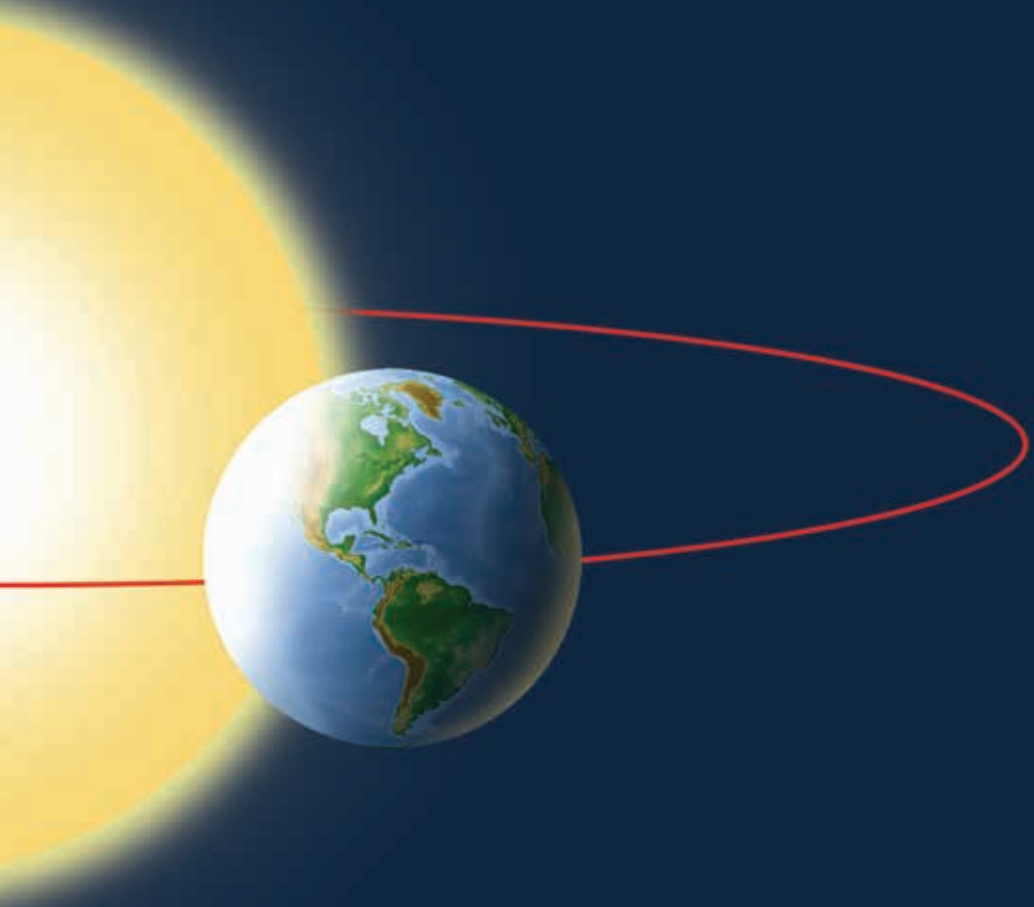




The sun is like the flashlight. Even though the sun keeps shining, one side of Earth is dark. On the dark side of Earth, it is night. On the light side, it is day.

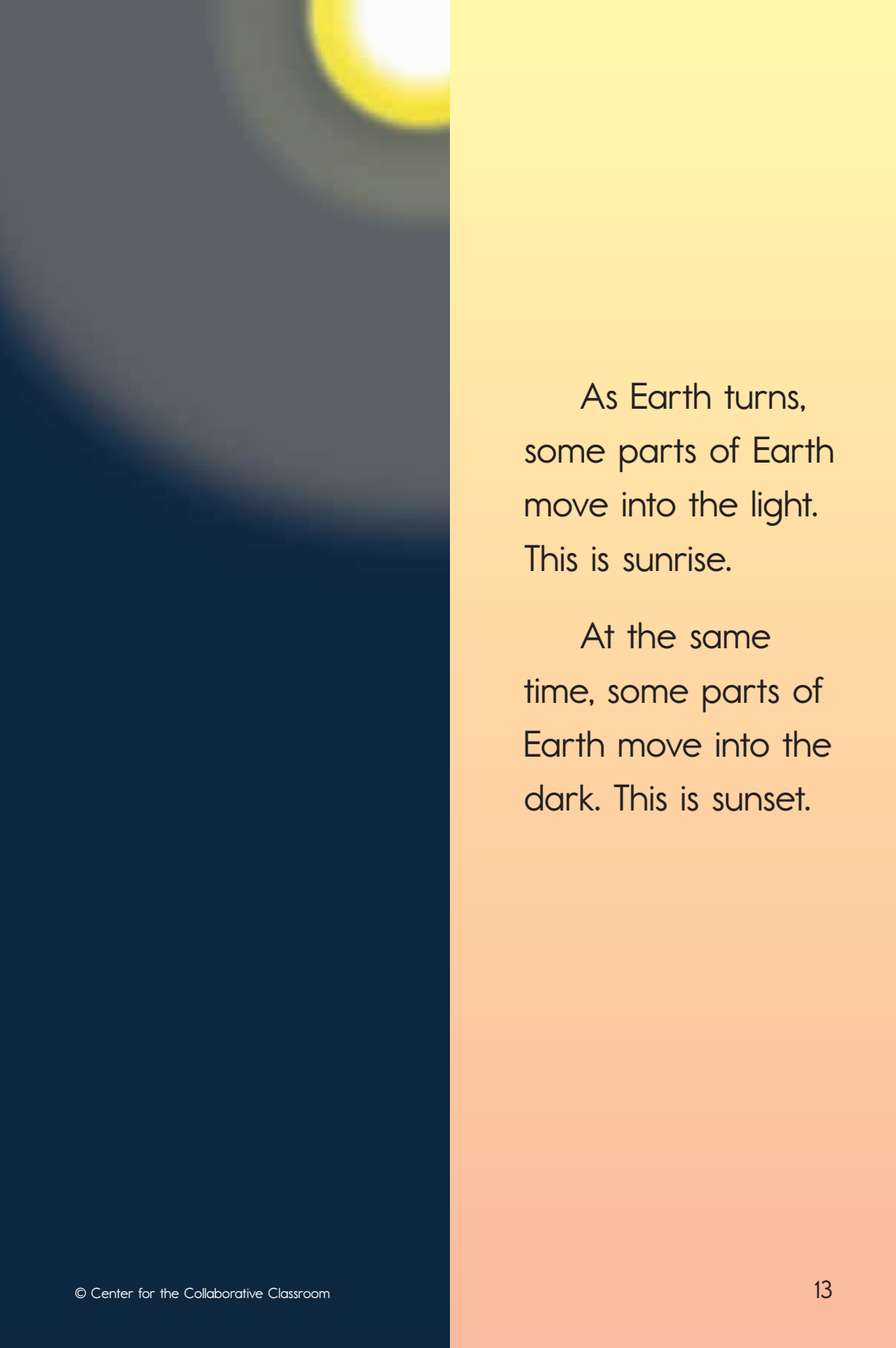


How does day turn into night, and
night into day?



Try turning the globe once, slowly.
Keep the flashlight still.





As Earth turns,
some parts of Earth
move into the light.
This is sunrise.

At the same
time, some parts of
Earth move into the
dark. This is sunset.



Earth turns once each day. The sun, like the flashlight, stays in one place. Because Earth turns we can have bright, sunny days and dark, starry nights.

