

Mr. Harrison's Science Allegory

What topic(s) from science does my story remind you of?

At Galileo High School, there was one boy who thought he was the absolute center of the universe. His name was Tony Burns, Jr., but everyone called him Sonny, the nickname given to him by his father, Tony Burns, Sr. This boy certainly had a lot going for him; not only was he football captain and student body president, but he was also the lead guitarist for the rock band—Phoenix Fire—that he and his friends had started in his basement during their Freshman year. No one—including Sonny himself—knew if, after college, he would become a massive professional sports star, if he would devote his life to heated debates as a professional politician, or if he would explode onto the Billboard charts as a genuine rock star. With all these possibilities available to him, it's no wonder his personal motto had become, "The sky's the limit."

At any given time, it was not unusual for many girls to think they were in love with the high school "super star" known as Sonny Burns. Almost a dozen teen-age girls surrounded him in the hallways as he walked from class to class, circling about him, giggling and hoping he might send them warmth in the form of a personal smile aimed directly at them. Most high school boys can only dream of such popularity and would have given anything to have so much attention paid to them. One such boy at Galileo High was Arty Mesick. Arty had been secretly in love with Tara, a very down-to-earth girl whom he'd secretly loved since first seeing her in fourth grade. Eight years later, it pained Arty to suddenly realize that Tara was now one of the girls who circled Sonny in between classes; after all, Arty had been drawn—as though with gravity—to her for so many years now. Arty knew he needed to make a major move so that Tara noticed him instead of popular Sonny.

Tara's last name was Lively, which kind of fit her perfectly; most days, she bubbled with so much more life than any of the other girls who were currently caught in Sonny's gravitational pull. In contrast to Tara, Arty could very easily become sad, and a grayness took over. Since fourth grade, he'd successfully shown Tara his best side whenever she happened to notice him there nearby, but there was a darker side to him that—thank goodness!—Tara had not even seen. I mean, let's face it; we all have different moods we have to deal with, even the lively Tara. She could be so very warm to all, which people loved about her, but she also had these periods of time when her love of life seemed to go into "hibernation," for lack of a better word. No matter what mood Tara was in, Arty pledged himself to always be there, showing her his very best side. This Sonny infatuation of Tara's, however, was casting a huge shadow on Arty's plan to ask her to the senior prom in May.

As February ended and spring began approaching, Arty noticed one day that Tara's mood (she had admittedly been a bit cold recently) was warming. He hatched a plan. In between French and Trigonometry classes—the time he usually saw Tara circling Sonny in the hallway with seven or eight other girls-- if he could time it perfectly, he knew he could block every bit of charm and light that popular boy gave off. Perhaps in that moment, Tara could be asked to the prom, and Arty could have an evening with the girl of his dreams.