

October Sky

Sometimes one dream is enough to light up the whole sky.

The true story of Homer Hickam, a coal miner's son who was inspired by the first Sputnik launch to take up rocketry against his father's wishes.

Cast	Character	Cast	Character
Jake Gyllenhaal	Homer Hickam	Randy Stripling	Leon Bolden
Chris Cooper	John Hickam	Chris Ellis	Principal Turner
Laura Dern	Miss Riley	Elya Baskin	Ike Bykovsky
Chris Owen	Quentin	Courtney Fendley	Dorothy Platt
William Lee Scott	Roy Lee	David Dwyer	Jake Mosby
Scott Miles	Jim Hickam	Terry Loughlin	Mr. Dantzler
Chad Lindberg	O'Dell	Kailie Hollister	Valentina Carmina
Natalie Canerday	Elsie Hickam		

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What does Homer Hickam have in his future if he stays in Coalwood? Why is that not good enough for him?
2. What does Homer see in the October sky that changes his career path? Why isn't anyone else affected?
3. Who does Homer need on his side to make his dream come true?
4. Why does Homer come in conflict with his father over the dream? Give two specific examples where his father finds the dream to be a problem.
5. What role does Miss Riley play in helping the "rocket boys" achieve their dream?
6. Why doesn't Homer's dad show up at the rocket test launchings?
7. What role does Wernher von Braun have in Homer's success?
8. Explain why Ike Bykovsky is willing to help Homer despite a very strict company policy against this type of work.
9. What causes Homer to start figuring out the path of the rocket that has supposedly started the fire?
10. Why doesn't Quentin want the others to know where he lives?
11. What final career does Homer Hickam actually achieve?
12. Who benefitted from Homer's rocket dreaming? Explain how for each character that you name (name and explain for three characters).