



W H A L E C L A S S

Circle Time Guide

BANG! From Dark to Stars

Big Bang and the Universe · Week of May 6–7

Everything you need, one page per day

Week Overview

 Print · laminate · ring-bind · hold this all week.

 **2-day week (Labour Day):** this week runs **Thursday 6 and Friday 7 May** only. Teach **Day 1** on Thursday and **Day 5** on Friday; Days 2–4 are optional — fold in whatever you have time for, or skip them.

Five words they'll own by Friday

dark

light

star

big

bang

Littles (2.5–3)

One word + a gesture is a win: **“Dark!”** (hands over eyes), **“BANG!”** (clap + jump), **“Star!”** (twinkle fingers).

Bigs (4–6)

Sentence frames: **“It is dark.”** · **“I see a star.”** · **“The universe is very big.”** · **“I can ___!”**

The 13 minutes, same every day

2 min Magic Box hook · **4 min** Teach · **3 min** Song · **3 min** Game · **1 min** Close

What's in the box

Mon Nothing. An empty box under a black cloth — and the lights go off.

Tue A torch — the first light.

Wed A balloon — small, big, bigger... BANG!

Thu Glow-in-the-dark stars (lights off again).

Fri All the week's props + black paper and white chalk.

Every day, without fail

“One, two, three — eyes on me!” · the Magic Box chant · Littles get one word + gesture, Bigs get the sentence frame · get something wrong on purpose once so they can correct you · close whisper → normal → shout.

Dark Phonics this week: short **i** — big, pig, dig, did, sit, it. **“big pig did a jig!”**

MONDAY

Dark! Nothing At All

Today's words: **dark**

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Grab: the Magic Box with **nothing** in it and a black cloth draped over it; a second black cloth big enough to go over your own head; the light switch (know where it is) or the curtains.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

The box today wears a black cloth. Shake it — silence. Hold it to your ear. Whole class chants:

EVERYONE “What’s in the box? What’s in the box?”

Peek in. Gasp. Peek again. Turn it upside down and shake. Nothing falls out.

TEACHER “Nothing! Nothing at all!” (*tip it towards them so they can all see the empty inside*) “Look inside — it is DARK.”

Everyone puts their hands over their eyes. **“Dark!”**

4 MIN TEACH · DARK

Lights OFF, curtains closed, everyone very still. Whisper the whole first part.

It is **dark**. (*hands over eyes*)
No sun. (*shake head*)
No moon. (*shake head*)
No stars. (*shake head*)
Nothing at all... (*open hands, empty*)

Say it three times, quieter each time. Then the black cloth goes over **your** head: “Where’s teacher? It’s DARK!” — off it comes, they shriek. Do it twice more, then let two children have a turn under the cloth.

Littles say the one word **“Dark!”** with hands over eyes — that is a full win at 2 and 3. Bigs say the frame: **“It is dark.”**

Teacher fails: put the black cloth over your **foot** and announce “Now I am hiding!” while your whole face is showing. Wait. Let them fix you twice — the correction shout is the loudest English of the day.

3 MIN SONG · THE BIG BANG BOOM — CHORUS + MONDAYVERSE

Dark! Dark! Everywhere dark! (*hands over eyes*)
Then — a big, big, BIG BANG! (*clap and JUMP on BANG*)
Stars! Stars! Look at the stars! (*twinkle fingers up high*)
The universe goes BANG! (*one huge clap*)
Monday’s verse: It was dark, dark, dark — no light at all, (*hands over eyes, sway*)
No sun, no moon, no bouncy ball! (*shake head three times, then bounce an imaginary ball*)

The one song of the week — same chorus at every circle, one new verse each morning. Chords and the full sheet are on the Song tab. Sing it twice; the second time they will already jump on BANG.

3 MIN GAME · LIGHTS OFF, LIGHTS ON

“One, two, three — eyes on me!” You stand at the switch.

TEACHER “Lights... OFF!” (*flick, room goes dim*)

Everyone claps hands over their eyes and whispers **“Dark!”** — Bigs whisper **“It is dark.”**

TEACHER “Lights... ON!” (*flick*)

Everyone throws their hands wide and shouts **“LIGHT!”**

Six rounds, faster and faster, then one very long dark one where you all sit in the dark and count to five together. Last round: a Big gets to be the switch-caller.

No dimmable room? A cardboard box over a torch does the same job on the carpet, or just everyone’s hands over their own eyes on your call.

1 MIN CLOSE

Sitting, hands over eyes, whisper → normal → shout:

EVERYONE “Dark... dark... DARK!” (*hands fly off the eyes on the shout*)

Got 3 spare minutes? *The Dark* (Lemony Snicket & Jon Klassen) — don’t read every word, just turn the pages and whisper “dark... dark... dark” with them.

TUESDAY

Then... Light!

Today's words: **light** (*dark comes back every day*)

Grab: a torch with fresh batteries in the Magic Box; the black cloth from yesterday; a darkened corner or a big cardboard box on its side.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

Box chant. Shake — *something rolls*. Their eyes go wide.

EVERYONE "What's in the box? What's in the box?"

Peek in. Turn the torch on **inside** the box so the lid glows. Gasp at your own box.

TEACHER "Yesterday — nothing. Dark! But today..." (*lift out the glowing torch, shine it on the ceiling*) "LIGHT!"

"Light!" Everyone opens their hands like a flash.

4 MIN TEACH · DARK → LIGHT

Lights off. Torch off. Whisper:

Dark... dark... dark... (*hands over eyes, everyone whispers with you*)

Then — **LIGHT!** (*torch ON, straight up at the ceiling*)

I can see! (*hands off eyes, look all around*)

Now shine the torch on things and name them: **"I see a chair!"** Bigs use the full frame **"I see a ___."**; Littles just shout the thing: **"Chair!"** Shine on a child — the whole class shouts that child's name. Do every child if you can; it takes ten seconds each.

Teacher fails: *shine the torch on the door and say "I see a... banana!" Look pleased with yourself. Wait for the roar.*

3 MIN SONG · THE BIG BANG BOOM — CHORUS + TUESDAY VERSE

Chorus twice with the actions — then yesterday's verse if they shout for it — then today's new one:

Tuesday's verse: Then came the light — bright, bright, bright! (*torch on, sweep it over their heads*)

I can see! I can see! What a lovely light! (*point at your eyes, then hands wide*)

Sing the verse once with the torch off and once with it on. Same words, completely different feeling — that contrast is the lesson.

3 MIN GAME · TORCH HUNT

"One, two, three — eyes on me!" Room dim. You hold the torch and swing the beam around the circle.

TEACHER "The light is looking... for... a SHOE!" (*land the beam on someone's shoe*)

"Shoe!" Bigs: **"I see a shoe."**

Eight rounds: shoe, window, door, whale poster, teacher's nose, a red thing, a small thing, something we love. Then hand the torch to one child at a time — they choose, the class names it. Two turns each, ten seconds a turn.

Littles who won't speak will still point at the beam. Point counts. Say the word for them and move on quickly.

1 MIN CLOSE

Hands over eyes, then fling them open on the shout. Whisper → normal → shout:

EVERYONE "Dark... dark... then LIGHT!" (*torch snaps on straight up on the last word*)

Got 3 spare minutes? *The Very Lonely Firefly* (Eric Carle) — every page is a light. Point and say "Light!" together on each one.

WEDNESDAY

Big, Bigger, BANG!

Today's words: **big** • **bang**

Grab: a balloon (plus three spares) in the Magic Box; a pin hidden in your pocket; a tiny bead or dried pea in a matchbox for the “small” contrast.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

Box chant. Shake — a papery flutter. Peek and pull out... one flat, sad, uninflated balloon.

TEACHER “Oh. It's so little. So **SMALL**” (*hold it on one fingertip, look disappointed*) “Everything was small like this. Tiny. Smaller than a bean.”

Show the bead in the matchbox. Everyone squints at it. **“Small!”**

TEACHER “But watch what happened...” (*one big breath into the balloon*)

4 MIN TEACH · BIG → BIGGER → BANG!

Blow the balloon in stages. The class calls each stage with their arms:

Small! (*hands together in front of the chest*)

Big! (*arms make a beach-ball circle*)

Bigger! (*arms wide as they go*)

BIGGER! (*stand up, arms up, on tiptoes*)

BANG! (*pop it — everyone claps and JUMPS*)

Now they are the balloon: crouch tiny in a ball, grow with your breath, and on your countdown **“three... two... one...”** they explode upwards with a giant **“BANG!”** Three times. Littles just clap and jump on **BANG**; Bigs say **“The universe is very big!”** as they stretch.

Teacher fails: blow the balloon up and then say “Look — it's **SMALL!**” with your arms stretched as wide as they'll go. Hold the pose. Wait.

Pop-shy child? Let it go squealing across the room instead of popping — same laugh, no fright — and keep the word **BANG** on the release.

3 MIN SONG · THE BIG BANG BOOM — CHORUS + WEDNESDAY VERSE

Chorus twice — today make the BANG the loudest thing in the building — then:

Wednesday's verse: Big! Big! Bigger! Then... BANG! (*grow from a crouch, explode up*)

Everything went bang-bang-BANG! (*three claps, jump on the last*)

Today's is the verse they will still be singing in the corridor at home time. Let them shout it.

3 MIN GAME · BALLOON COUNTDOWN

“One, two, three — eyes on me!” Everyone is a tiny ball on the floor.

TEACHER “Small... small... growing... big... BIGGER...” (*rise with them, arms opening*)

EVERYONE “Three! Two! One! BAAANG!” (*everyone bursts up and out, then flops down giggling*)

Four rounds. Round two you grow very slowly. Round three you fake the bang — stop at “one...” and wait — the class will bang without you. Round four a Big does the counting.

Land every round with everyone flat on the floor. Big → BANG → flop is the whole shape of a Wednesday.

1 MIN CLOSE

Crouched small, growing on each line, whisper → normal → shout:

EVERYONE “Big... bigger... BANG!” (*one enormous clap and jump*)

Got 3 spare minutes? Baby Loves Quarks! (Ruth Spiro) — don't read the science, just point at each picture: “Small? Or BIG?”

THURSDAY

Look at the Stars

Today's words: **star** (*dark · light · big · bang all come back*)

Grab: a handful of glow-in-the-dark stars in the Magic Box (charge them under a lamp first!); the torch; blu-tack; the darkest corner of the room.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

Box chant, whispered. Lights off **before** you open it.

EVERYONE "What's in the box? What's in the box?"

Lift the lid slowly. The stars glow up out of the box onto your face.

TEACHER "Ohhhh... after the BANG... came the STARS." (*hold one up high and turn slowly so everyone sees it*)

Twinkle fingers all round the circle. **"Star!"**

4 MIN TEACH · STARS, AND HOW MANY

Lights stay off. Give every child one glowing star to hold in two hands.

One **star**... (*hold it up*)

Two stars... (*a friend lifts theirs too*)

Three, four, five... (*round the circle, one at a time*)

Too many to count! (*everybody's stars up at once — twinkle them*)

Littles hold up their star and say **"Star!"**; Bigs say **"I see a star."** and then the big one — **"The universe is very big."**

Now everyone blu-tacks their star onto the wall or ceiling in the dark corner. That patch is the class's **universe** and it stays up all week.

Teacher fails: *hold up a star and say, delighted, "Look — a SHOE!" Nod. Insist. Let them shout you down twice before you agree.*

3 MIN SONG · THE BIG BANG BOOM — CHORUS + THURSDAYVERSE

Chorus twice, sung in the dark under the new star wall — then:

Thursday's verse: Little stars, little stars, twinkling up high, (*twinkle fingers above the head*)

Millions of stars in the great big sky! (*arms sweep a huge circle overhead*)

Sing this one slowly. Four fast days need one soft song — they will hush completely and it is the best minute of the week.

3 MIN GAME · STAR FREEZE

"One, two, three — eyes on me!" Music or you strumming: everyone dances/floats around the carpet.

TEACHER "FREEZE — be a star!" (*stop playing*)

Everyone freezes in a five-point star shape — legs apart, arms out, fingers spread — and twinkles their fingers without moving anything else. **"Star!"**

Five rounds. Vary the freeze: a **big** star (as wide as you can), a **little** star (curled up small), a **bright** star (torch on them), a **dark** star (hands over eyes). Last round, you freeze wrong on purpose — in a ball — and let them correct your shape.

Shine the torch on one frozen child at a time and the class shouts "I see a star!" Every child gets one turn to be the star.

1 MIN CLOSE

Under the star wall, hands over eyes, then clap, then twinkle high. Whisper → normal → shout:

EVERYONE "Dark... BANG... STARS!" (*hands over eyes · one huge clap · twinkle fingers up high*)

Got 3 spare minutes? *How to Catch a Star* (Oliver Jeffers) — stop on every page and ask "Where is the star?" Let a Little come and point.

FRIDAY

My Universe Book + Big Review

Today's words: **dark** · **light** · **star** · **big** · **bang** — the whole week

Grab: every prop back in the box (black cloth, torch, a fresh balloon, glow stars); black paper and white chalk or a white crayon, one sheet per child; the “My Universe” sheets (print pack page 16) and the awards (page 17); a stapler.

2 MIN MAGIC BOX HOOK

The box comes out fat and rattling and glowing at the seams.

TEACHER “Today the box is FULL! What is our story?”

Pull the props out one at a time and hold each up in silence — they will supply the word before you can.

Black cloth → **“Dark!”** Torch → **“Light!”** Balloon → **“BANG!”** Glow star → **“Star!”**

4 MIN TEACH · THE WHOLE STORY, IN FOUR MOVES

Everyone stands. Tell the First Great Lesson with your bodies, twice — slow, then fast:

It was **dark...** (*curl up small, hands over eyes*)
Everything was **small...** (*smaller, tighter*)
Bigger... bigger... **BANG!** (*grow, then burst up with a clap*)
Light! And **stars!** (*hands wide, then twinkle fingers up high*)
And the universe is **BIG.** (*turn all the way round with arms out*)

Littles do the four moves and shout the four words. Bigs tell it back to you in sentences: **“It is dark. Then BANG. I see a star. The universe is very big.”**

Teacher fails: start the story with “First there were lots and lots of stars, and then it went dark...” — backwards. They will rebuild the whole week's sequence just to correct you. Let them.

3 MIN SONG · THE BIG BANG BOOM – FRIDAYVERSE, THEN THE WHOLE SONG

Friday's verse: Dark and light and stars and me — (*hands over eyes · hands wide · twinkle · point at self*)
The universe is BIG as big can be! (*arms as wide as they go, turn all the way round*)

The finale: chorus → Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday → chorus, top to bottom. They learned it one verse a morning without noticing, and this run-through **is** the review of the whole week.

3 MIN GAME · PROP QUICK-FIRE

“One, two, three — eyes on me!” Props in a heap in the middle. Hold one up; first hand up names it and does the action for the class to copy.

TEACHER “What is it? ... and what do we DO?”

Black cloth → **“Dark!”** (*hands over eyes*)
Torch → **“Light! I see a star.”** (*hands fly open*)
Balloon → **“Big... BANG!”** (*grow and clap*)
Glow star → **“Star!”** (*twinkle fingers*)

Go round twice, faster the second time, then let a Big be the prop-holder. Bigs owe you a sentence; Littles owe you a word and a gesture.

1 MIN CLOSE + BOOK FINALE

Hand out the black paper and white chalk: every child draws their own stars, you scribe their line, staple it to their “My Universe” sheet — that is their book, and it goes home today with an award.

Everyone holds their book up. Whisper → normal → shout, with the actions:

EVERYONE “Dark... dark... BANG! STARS!” (*hands over eyes · hands over eyes · one huge clap and jump · twinkle fingers up high*)

Got 3 spare minutes? *The Everything Seed* (Carole Martignacco) — the same story you just told, in a book. Read only the pictures if time is short.

★ Theme Song · “The Big Bang Boom”

The one song of the week — sung at every circle. Same chorus daily, one new verse each morning, full song on Friday.

C (0003)

F (2010)

G7 (0212)

Strum: Down · Down · Down-Up (“boom — boom — boom-chick”). Can't manage it yet? Four slow downs per bar works fine — the kids only hear the fun.

Tempo: start the chorus slow and dark, then drive it — this song accelerates towards the BANG. Stop dead for half a second before “BIG BANG”, then hit the F hard. Chant it without the uke first; add chords once they know the words.

CHORUS — SING IT EVERY SINGLE DAY

C Dark! Dark! Everywhere **F** dark! **C** (hands over eyes)
F Then — a big, big, **C** BIG **G7** BANG! **C** (clap and JUMP on BANG)
C Stars! Stars! Look at the **F** stars! **C** (twinkle fingers up high)
F The universe **C** goes **G7** BANG! **C** (one huge clap)

Sing the chorus twice each time. On every **BANG** the whole class claps and jumps — that jump is why they remember the word.

ONE VERSE A DAY — VERSES USE ONLY C AND G7

Monday · Dark! Nothing At All

C It was dark, dark, dark — no light at all, (hands over eyes, sway)
G7 No sun, no moon, **C** no bouncy ball! (shake head three times, bounce a pretend ball)

Tuesday · Then... Light!

C Then came the light — bright, bright, bright! (torch on, sweep it overhead)
G7 I can see! I can see! **C** What a lovely light! (point at your eyes, then hands wide)

Wednesday · Big, Bigger, BANG!

C Big! Big! Bigger! Then... BANG! (grow from a crouch, explode up)
G7 Everything went **C** bang-bang-BANG! (three claps, jump on the last)

Thursday · Look at the Stars

C Little stars, little stars, twinkling up high, (twinkle fingers above the head)
G7 Millions of stars **C** in the great big sky! (arms sweep a huge circle overhead)

Friday · My Universe Book

C Dark and light and stars and me — (hands over eyes · hands wide · twinkle · point at self)
G7 The universe is **C** BIG as big can be! (arms wide, turn all the way round)

The build: each day sing chorus → today's verse → chorus. By Friday they know five verses without ever “learning” the song — Friday's finale is the whole thing top to bottom, and it doubles as your review of the entire week.

IF YOU'RE BRAND NEW TO UKULELE

Practice this loop for five minutes tonight: **C** (4 strums) → **F** (4 strums) → **C** → **G7** → **C**. That's the entire song — the same three shapes as every Whale Class song so far. C is one finger, and the five verses are just C and G7. If your fingers get stuck, put the uke down and clap the chorus instead: the class will not notice, and the BANG lands either way.