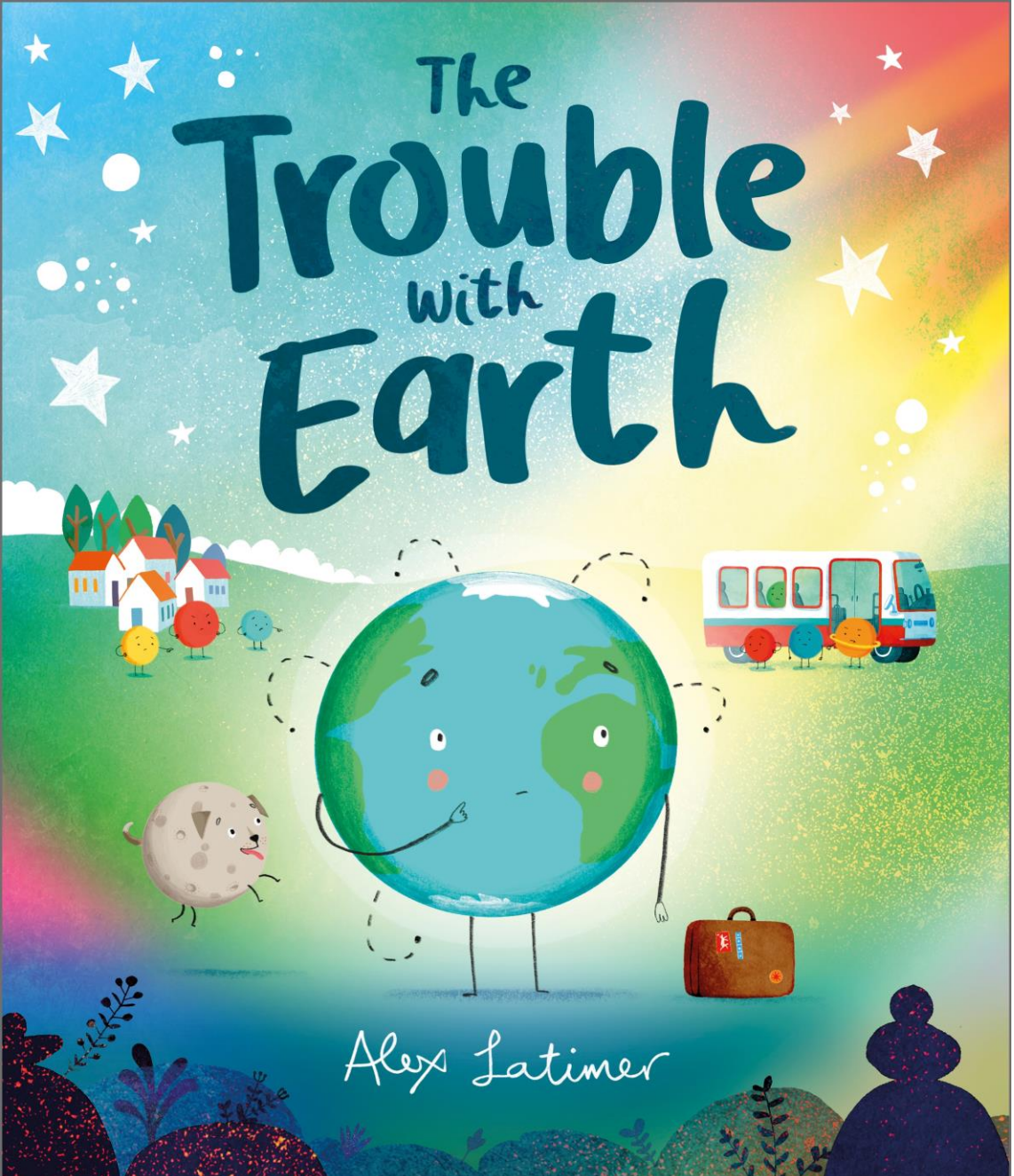
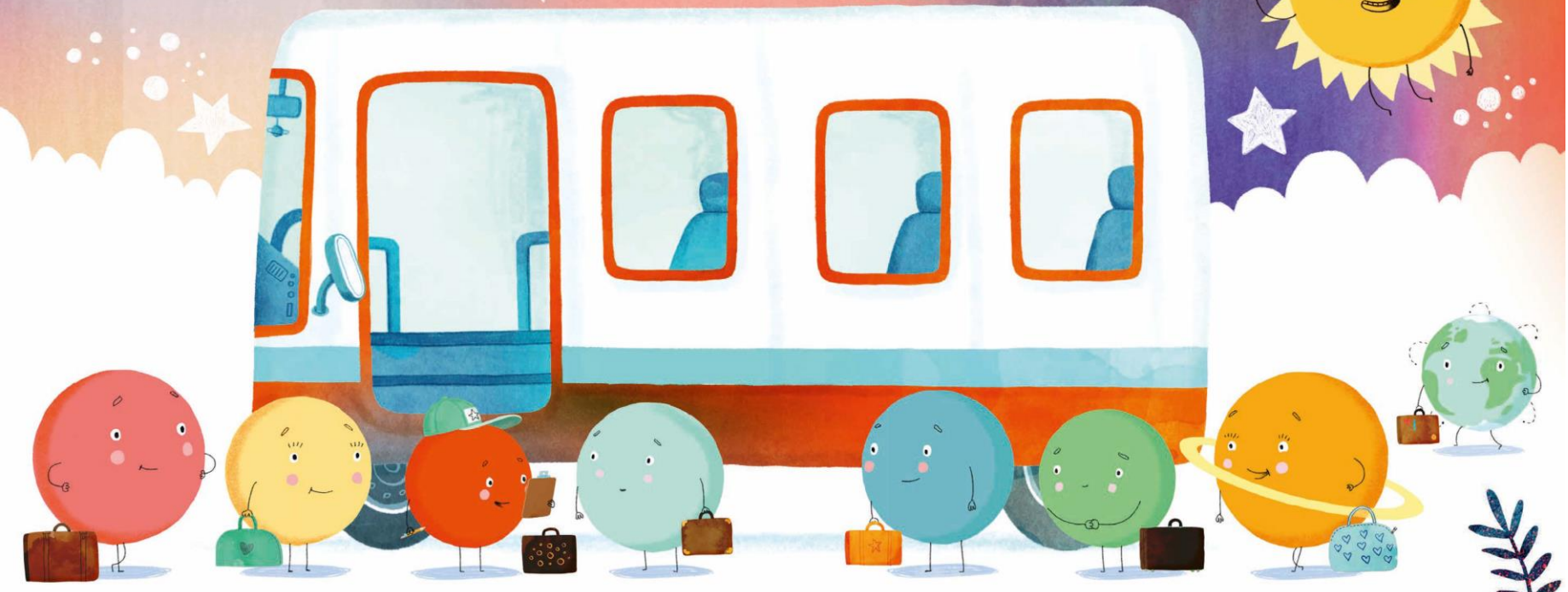
The Trouble with Earth



Alex Latimer

They met on time at eight o'clock
On the corner of their block,
Then stood and waited in a line.
(The bus arrived at eight-oh-nine.)



"Jupiter, Venus, Mars – that's me –
Uranus? Check! And Mercury.

Neptune's here, and Saturn too.
Step right up and go on through.



She found eight planets in the tub!
(Pluto had since joined the club.)

She heard them laugh,
she heard them whoop
She saw Saturn with
her hula hoop.



Earth's eyes were wet, her heart was sore,
"Why don't you like me any more?"



"It's true," said Earth. "I am infested
Just as Mars here has suggested.
And it's not just fleas, there's so much more!
From mountain top to ocean floor!
I LOVE each creature, plant and bug
Each human, tree and tiny slug.



But don't be worried – don't be stressed –
Let me put your minds at rest: