

Children's Literature with the Moon as a Theme (fiction)

Aiken, J. (1998). Moon cake and other stories. Great Britain: Hodder Children's Books. The story, "Moon Cake," tells the legend of a small town whose residents have all chosen to live there because they are trying to get away from something in their lives. A young boy has just moved in with his grandfather and meets an old woman who needs his help to make moon cake. This moon cake is very special and she tells him it will help to "put things right." This story could be used in an upper primary classroom to explore the phases of the moon. In the story the woman must make the cake, mix it, eat it etc. at very specific times in the moon cycle.

Anderson, J. (1993). Richie's rocket. New York, Morrow. This is a story about a boy, Richie, who goes to his apartment building's rooftop to play in his cardboard rocket. Richie enjoys pretending to "blast off" only to find out he really has. As he makes his way through space, he has to deal with the challenges of weightlessness and loneliness. He encounters a friendly astronaut who arranges for him to land on the Moon and eventually gives his rocket a final push home. He admires the Earth through his rocket's cut-out window and even gets an opportunity to write his name in the dust on the Moon's surface. Richie's adventure (dream) takes him to the Moon and back in time for breakfast. The illustrator, George Ancona, combines NASA photographs with hand coloured space scenes creating a magical realism.

Armitage, R. and D. Armitage (1999). Queen of the night. Australia: Lothian Books. Tatty Brown is a young girl who is afraid of the dark, and begins to listen to the moon each night as she believes that the moon is the "Queen of the night." The moon helps Tatty Brown to eliminate her fears, through 'shedding light' on what the noises are in the dark that Tatty can hear, and make her afraid. Eventually it is sunrise, and the moon tells Tatty Brown that she must leave and make way for the sun. This picture book would be a good way to introduce children to the day and night, and time with regard to the sun and the moon.

Asch, F. (1984). Happy Birthday Moon. Kent: Hodder and Stoughton. This book tells the story of a bear who wants to buy the Moon a birthday present. He buys the Moon a hat for its birthday and places it at the top of a tree where the Moon can see it. As the Moon climbs up in the sky, the hat appears to eventually sit on top of the Moon's head. Bear is so happy! In the morning the hat is at the bottom of the tree and bear thinks the Moon has bought a hat for him to wear as well.

Balillie, A. and W. Harris (2001). Star navigator. Singapore, Tien Wah Press. This picture book looks at a young boy's journey through space. It could be used as a stimulus to create interest in the topic of the Moon and space exploration.

- Bennett, J. (2003). Max goes to the Moon. Boulder, Colorado, Big Kids Science.
This story is about a dog named Max and a young girl named Tori whose quest is to take the first trip to the Moon since the Apollo mission. Their trip inspires people back on Earth to get together and build a Moon colony. The colony comes complete with a university, observatory and magnificent views of Earth. The story contains an underlying message of the importance of respecting and caring for our home planet - Earth. The book also contains "Big Kid Boxes" which are written for older children and parents and explain the science and its ties to the story.
- Bertram, S. (2002). Man on the Moon - A day in the life of Bob. Hong Kong: Templar.
Presents a typical day in the life of Bob, the man on the Moon, who rockets to work each morning, cleans up after the astronauts, and performs other duties before returning home for a bath and bed. Excellent illustrations.
- Carle, E. (1999). Papa, please get the Moon for me. Pymble, N.S.W.: Little Simon.
Papa please get the Moon for me is a simple story revolving around the waxing and waning of the Moon. Monica asks her Papa to bring her the Moon, so that she can play with it. By way of "a very long ladder" and a mountain, Papa reaches the Moon, waits until it becomes smaller, and obligingly retrieves it. Of course the Moon continues to shrink and soon disappears, but a few nights later Monica sees it once again in the sky, where it begins to grow anew. Suitable for students in the early primary years.
- Crew, G. (1996). Bright star. Victoria: Australia, Thomas C. Lothian Pty Ltd.
In this children's book a young girl furthers her interest in maths, geometry and the night sky when she visits the famous astronomer John Tebbutt. During her visit to Mr Tebbutt's observatory Alicia sees many wonderful things through his telescope including the craters of the moon, the bright stars and a shining comet.
- Curtis, C., & Jay, A. (2004). I took the Moon for a walk. USA: Barefoot Books.
A small boy embarks on a lyrical, night-time journey as he and his friend, the Moon, discover the mysterious beauty of the world after dark. This book would really benefit young children when talking about what the Moon looks like, night time, and how the children see the Moon from their perspective.
- Gaffney, T. R. (1996). Grandpa takes me to the Moon. London Harper Collins Publishers.
"Grandpa takes me to the Moon" introduces children to the concept of space travel and walking on the Moon. The story begins with a young boy who loves to hear stories from his grandfather, a former astronaut, about this expedition to the Moon. When his grandfather begins to tell the story, the boy imagines that he too is travelling through space with his grandfather. After the initial lift off, the pair drives around the Moon in a buggy and investigate the surface of the Moon by collecting dust and rock samples.
- Elschner, G. (2002). Moonchild, star of the sea. New York: North-South Books.
This book tells the story of a little star who wants to visit Earth and explore the beautiful oceans he sees from high in the sky. The Moon allows him to visit the Earth and turns him into a sea star.

- Farrell-Odgers, S. (1987). Blue Moon animal day. Sydney: Rigby Education.
This book discusses how animals on a farm and the bush behind reacted to a blue Moon. It is a rhyming story, set in Australia.
- Faulkner, K. (2001). Lui and the sea Moon. N.S.W.: Koala Books.
This young children's storybook looks at the cold land of ice and snow. It follows the life of Lui the polar bear, Wenddell the seal and Gentoo the penguin. They are on a journey of discovery to find out why there appears to be two Moons, one in the sky and one in the water. Eventually they realise that the Moon in the water is the reflection of the Moon in the sky.
- Getz, S. (1997). Floating home. New York, Henry Holt & Company Inc.
A good beginner's book on space travel. The text has accurate and detailed information about travelling on a space shuttle. Eight-year-old Maxine wanted to look at her home in a new way for an art project and managed to do so by riding on a space shuttle. Maxine's ride on the space shuttle gave her the chance to not only look at her home in a new way, but the thrill of takeoff and a view of Earth. Children aged around 6-9 years old would enjoy this book
- Hathorn, L. and C. Magerl (2002). Over the Moon. South Melbourne, Thomas C. Lothian Pty Ltd.
Over the Moon is a book inspired by the riddle 'Hey Diddle Diddle, the Cat and the Fiddle'. Hathorn and Magerl adapt the rhyme to create an adventurous children's picture book. The illustrations portray the Moon, the night sky and the sky during the day in a number of different ways. It allows the reader to see how different each stage of the day can be. As the story progresses, the authors have included a full 24-hour cycle of day and night.
- Henkes, K. (2004). Kitten's first full moon. USA, Harper Collins.
This beautiful black and white picture book captures the struggle of a Kitten, who sees her first full moon and thinks it's a bowl of milk in the sky. Perhaps the most defining feature of this book is its humorous and artistic use of language to create a sense of connection between the text and its audience. This book uses a repetitive structure to introduce each sequence of desire, action, and consequence, until the kitten's instincts lead her home, ending the book with a satisfying conclusion.
- Hirst, R. and S. Hirst (1988). My place in space. Port Melbourne, Roland.
Though humour, the authors take the reader on a journey through space, from our country on Earth and on the rest of the Solar System and the Universe.
- Hughes, S. (1999). Abel's Moon. London: Random House.
Abel's Moon is a children's fiction picture book. Abel Grable's work takes him to remote places where the Moon can guide his way. His children love hearing stories telling of their father's adventures, and so decide to make a Moon machine to have some adventures of their own.

Inkpen, M. (2003). Blue Nose Island - Ploo and the Terrible Gnobbler. London: Hodder Children's Books.

This beautifully written and illustrated children's picture book follows the story of Ploo and his friends on one day on Blue Nose Island where the moon becomes stuck in a bokonut tree at the hands of the Terrible Gnobbler. Someone needs to save the poor moon and set it free to go about its business. After a long trying adventure Ploo frees the moon and Blue Nose Island continues into day.

Jeffers, O. (2005). How to catch a star. Great Britain, Harper Collins Children's Books.

This is a children's picture book about a boy who wants to catch a star. He tries everything, jumping, climbing a tree and even lassoing it. Eventually he finds a star on the beach. This story provides a great platform for discussion about what we believe about space and how we get there. It is particularly suitable for the lower primary grades.

Johnston, M. (2001). Dark side of the Moon. London, Franklin Watts.

This story is set in the future (2099 to be exact) and the main character, David Tang, is travelling to the Moon to spend the holidays with his mother. His mother is a top executive in a multinational mining operation. David's dream holiday turns into a nightmare when politics and terrorism on Earth destroy the international co-operation.

Juann, A. (2004). Caruso's song to the Moon. South Melbourne: Thomas C. Lothian Pty Ltd. This story book is a light-hearted tale suitable for lower primary students. It could be read by the teacher and then used for class discussion about what the Moon looks like, the surface of the Moon and where it may be positioned in the sky.

Kline, S. (2002). Horrible Harry goes to the Moon. New York, USA, Penguin Group.

Harry, the main character, is in the 3rd grade. His class is studying about the Moon. Harry finds a second-hand telescope that is for sale and his class decides to raise the money to buy it. Harry has a surprise for everyone. Harry helps his classmates feel like they have really been to the Moon by using his imagination. The story is wonderful and written in the language and voice of a child. The author goes beyond telling a story and teaches social skills to the reader such as suggesting ways of getting along and working out problems that may happen to a child in school, e.g., taking turns.

Moses, B. (Ed.). (1999). Poems about space. East Sussex: Wayland Publishers Ltd.

This book contains a collection of poems for children with the theme of space. In the book, there are poems about rockets, spaceships, the Moon, stars, aliens and the planets.

Norman, L. (2004). The king who wanted to reach the Moon. In R. Moorrow (Ed.), *And the 'roo jumped over the Moon: Australian stories and poems for children* (pp. 19-21). NSW: Scholastic Press.

The compiler of this book has selected a variety of stories and poems from Australian authors. Lilit Norman, an award-winning Australian author, wrote "The king who wanted to reach the Moon". This short story is about a King who wanted to prove that he was more important than all the other kings in the world by climbing up and touching the Moon. "The king who wanted to reach the Moon" would supplement classroom studies of the Moon; it not only incorporates the Moon, but also themes such as fantasy, journeys and materialism.

O'Meara, C. (2004). Touch the Moon. Australia: Shortland Mimosa.

This story has the reader following Mouse, who wants to touch the Moon. Mouse asks all his jungle friends to help him. Monkey carried him up to the top of a tree and, Tiger allowed mouse to sit on his shoulder, but it was Elephant that showed Mouse how to touch the Moon. Elephant sat Mouse on his trunk and placed Mouse near the water where Mouse then touched the reflection of the Moon and was happy.

Ormerod, J. (2004). Moonlight. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books.

This picture book shows a small child's struggle to get to sleep due to the bright moonlight shining into her bedroom. After getting up twice she eventually falls to sleep on her mother's lap and the parents carry her to bed in her still moonlit bedroom. Although this book has no words at all the story is easily followed and could be used to start an investigation or discussion about the moon and moonlight for early childhood aged children.

Osborne, M. P. (1996). Midnight on the Moon. New York: Random House Inc.

In this story, Jack and Annie are whisked forty years forward in time and land at an international space station on the Moon. There they go exploring the lunar surface in search of the fourth object needed to free the enchantress Morgan le Fay from a powerful spell.

Pfister, M. (1990). Sun and moon. Switzerland: Nord-Sud Verlag.

Sun and Moon by Marcus Pfister is a great picture book for primary students of all ages. This book would work well as an introduction to the concept of eclipses as the two main characters in the book are the sun and the moon. The sun and moon are very lonely as they never have the chance to make real friends, comets and rainbows are only short-term friends and thunder, lightning and wind do not impress them at all. The moon and sun can see each other briefly in the mornings from afar, but wish that they could meet. One day the moon comes closer to the sun and moves in front of it, allowing only a golden ring to be visible. The people from below shout, "hooray, it's an eclipse" and from then on the sun and moon become friends who look forward to meeting every now and then.

Pitts, K. and L. Pitts (2000). Facing the tiger. Australia: Random House.

This story is a picture book. It is about Rani and her village focusing on the celebration of a Moon festival. This book looks at the ways that the people of this village celebrate their festival, what they wear and do. These practices save Rani from a terrible death at the hands of a Tiger.

Robertson, M. P. (2004). The Moon in swampland. Great Britain: Francis Lincoln Children's Books.

Mark Robertson, a popular children's author, has written about how the Moon took human form to go and explore the swampland. The Moon is captured, so darkness lasts for weeks before the nearby town rescues the Moon.

Spurling, M. (2000). Bilby Moon. South Australia: Working Title Press.

Bilby Moon tells of the adventures of a little bilby as she tries to work out why a piece of the Moon goes missing every night. The picture book would serve as an excellent introduction to discussions and activities with children about the different phases of the Moon. The illustrations very clearly present the different Moon phases. However, the picture book does not detail why Moon phases occur, so this would need to be further explored with the students.

Takac, E., & Pignataro, A. (2003). Loni and the Moon. South Melbourne: Lothian.

A beautiful story with stunning illustrations, this children's narrative is about a young boy names Loni who is awoken by the biggest, roundest, yellowest Moon he has ever seen. The Moon has something very special to tell Loni, so he climbs right up the Moonbeam in the middle of the night. The Moon tells the boy a story about the night he was born. This story carries a special message about seeing with Moonlight eyes through to the inside of things, to why they are and how they feel. A beautiful story most suitable for all primary aged students.

Temperley, A. (1999). The brave whale. London: Scholastic.

Waldo Leander Fluke is a young whale whose best friend is the Moon. When Moon goes missing, Waldo goes on an adventure to find his good friend. This book would be useful for addressing children's questions such as; "where does the Moon go when we can't see it"? Most suited to children in the lower-middle primary years.

Winkler, P. (1995). The kookaburra who stole the Moon. Australia: The Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

The Kookaburra who Stole the Moon is a sound recording of an Australian bush story with an orchestra backing. The story tells of a kookaburra who likes the Moon so much that she decides to steal it from the night sky. All the other bush animals try to make her laugh so that she opens her beak and sets the Moon free. Each animal is represented by instruments of the orchestra.

Young, S. (1996). Big Dog and Little Dog visit the moon. Great Britain, Heinemann and Mammoth.

A junior fiction book which could be used in the lower primary school. "Big Dog and Little Dog visit the Moon" tells the story of Big Dog and Little Dog building a rocket to go to the moon because he looks sad. This could be used in the classroom to explore different stories of the moon, what the moon looks like and how a rocket is made to go into space.

Zolotow, C. (1995). When the wind stops. USA, Harper Collins Publishers.

This lovely children's book very simply explains where the sun goes when the day ends, where the wind goes when it stops and where the moon goes when night time ends. The author answer these questions and more as the small boy in the book asks his mum many questions about the world, sun, moon, storms and the seasons. This book would be a great way to introduce children to the concept that when the moon rises, the sun is shinning on another part of the world.