



If You Decide To Go To The Moon

By Faith McNulty

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A young boy narrates an imaginary journey to the moon and back to Earth again.

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If You Decide To Go To The Moon By Faith McNulty Bibliography

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Starred Review. Kindergarten-Grade 3—In this lavish picture book, readers accompany a boy on a fascinating excursion to the moon. The lyrical text provides tips on what to pack and describes the distance to be covered. After blastoff, facts about space travel are mingled with descriptions of what the journey might be like: the loneliness, the lack of gravity, and how you might pass the time. After landing, the text warns: Your first step will be difficult. You will rise in the air and leap forward like a kangaroo, but once you learn how, walking will be fun. It also suggests that the moon's lack of sound and color may make it seem like a dream. After viewing the flag left behind by astronauts, it's time to depart. As Earth looms closer, a four-page foldout in a glorious burst of color marks our planet's contrast to the moon's black-and-white shades. These pages depict a variety of wonders: all sorts of animals and landscapes as well as people from different historical periods and locales. The narrative notes, Air and water are Earth's special blessings. We must guard them well. The final pages show the boy returning home. Rich artwork complements the strong text. Kellogg's generous splashes of bright hues in the Earth and shipboard scenes juxtaposed with the somber moonscapes set the appropriate moods. Houston, we have a winner!—*DeAnn Tabuchi, San Anselmo Public Library, CA*

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From [Booklist](#)

Starred Review K-Gr. 3. As in her earlier *How to Dig a Hole to the Other Side of the World* (1979), illustrated by Marc Simont, McNulty offers another mock travel manual for children undertaking a spectacularly improbable journey. In a matter-of-fact, second-person voice, she describes trip preparations, what to expect en route and after disembarking (the tour includes a visit to Apollo 11's landing site), and the thrill of homecoming. The tousle-headed boy cast as readers' surrogate is a vintage Kellogg character, but the artist shows his more experimental side elsewhere with tie-dye-vibrant backdrops, boldly graphic compositional choices, and areas of thickly applied paint to re-create a craggy lunar surface. Whimsical details throughout, whether visual (a cameo by Kellogg and his dog Pinkerton) or textual (beverages in space must be in squeeze bags, lest one produce an "orange juice fog"), will sustain children's interest through meditative reflections on the moonscape's eerie poetry of "silence and stillness." A dramatic four-page foldout celebrating "Earth's special blessings," air and water, marks a safe landing as well as a return to Kellogg's bread-and-butter style—a riotous watercolor panorama teeming with people, animals, and green, growing things. The concluding environmental message should have been left implicit, but the single preachy note won't dampen readers' enthusiasm for the preceding journey. *Jennifer Mattson*
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Review

Hornbook 9/05

Faith McNulty *If You Decide to Go to the Moon*; illus. by Steven Kellogg

48 pp. Scholastic 10/05 ISBN 0-590-48359-5 \$16.99 g

(Primary)

"If you decide to go to the moon..." instructs the opening lines, "read this book before you start." While this may not yet be part of official NASA training, the second-person address takes readers from blastoff to touchdown and back again. McNulty's text is a lovely union of science and lyricism, evoking both the emotions and experiences of the solitary reader-astronaut and the hard facts of space: "When you are thirsty, don't try to pour orange juice into a glass. With no gravity, it would fly into a million drops and become orange juice fog." Kellogg's illustrations feature a cheery blond boy whose sturdy frame bobs optimistically

through the journey. Where they shine brightest, however, is with the space- and moonscapes, the watercolors making the most of the stark grays and whites of space, a tiny rocket or the grand curve of the moon emphasizing the vastness and lifelessness of the universe beyond our atmosphere. Despite a sudden left-turn from science to a finger-wagging lesson at the end, as the text exhorts the returning reader-astronaut always to protect life on earth (this accompanied by a two-page gatefold celebrating the variety and richness of that life), this stands as an appropriately thrilling introduction to space travel for young readers. V.

Kirkus 9/1/05 *STARRED*

Many dream of exploring outer space, but this wonderfully engaging guide to space travel walks young readers through the adventure, starting with what to pack on the rocket ship: "Peanut butter, apples, and cake will taste good in space." Gentle warnings issued about meteors ("a collision is unlikely"); the loneliness of space ("Don't look back at the earth"); not pouring juice ("it would fly into a million drops"); and the difficulty of the first step on the Moon ("You will rise in the air and leap forward like a kangaroo") will only encourage and inspire budding astronauts. Indeed, McNulty, elegantly fusing the scientific realities and the dreamy wonders of space travel, finds the perfect partner in Kellogg who accomplishes the same thing visually. Eerily beautiful, cleverly textured moonscapes of ghostly grays and inky blacks contrast dramatically with cheerful full-color spreads (including a spectacular double gatefold) that reflect the beauty and abundance of life on Earth with sunny yellows, grassy greens and sky blues. A powerful, playful tribute to the minutiae and magnificence of space exploration. (Picture book. 7-10)

SLJ 10/1/05 STARRED

*MCNULTY, Faith. *If You Decide to Go to the Moon*. illus. by Steven Kellogg. unpagged. CIP. Scholastic. Oct. 2005. RTE \$16.99. ISBN 0-590-48359-5. LC 2004027755.

K-Gr 3—In this lavish picture book, readers accompany a boy on a fascinating excursion to the moon. The lyrical text provides tips on what to pack and describes the distance to be covered. After blastoff, facts about space travel are mingled with descriptions of what the journey might be like: the loneliness, the lack of gravity, and how you might pass the time. After landing, the text warns: "Your first step will be difficult. You will rise in the air and leap forward like a kangaroo, but once you learn how, walking will be fun." It also suggests that the moon's lack of sound and color may make it seem like a dream. After viewing the flag left behind by astronauts, it's time to depart. As Earth looms closer, a four-page foldout in a glorious burst of color marks our planet's contrast to the moon's black-and-white shades. These pages depict a variety of wonders: all sorts of animals and landscapes as well as people from different historical periods and locales. The narrative notes, "Air and water are Earth's special blessings. We must guard them well." The final pages show the boy returning h

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Lindsey Gant:

In this period of time globalization it is important to someone to acquire information. The information will make a professional understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information quicker to share. You can find a lot of referrals to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended for you is *If You Decide To Go To The Moon* this reserve consist a lot of the information from the condition of this world now. This book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The terminology styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some research when he makes this book. Here is why this book suitable all of you.

Elisabeth Martinez:

Beside this kind of If You Decide To Go To The Moon in your phone, it may give you a way to get closer to the new knowledge or info. The information and the knowledge you are going to get here is fresh from your oven so don't possibly be worry if you feel like an outdated people live in narrow commune. It is good thing to have If You Decide To Go To The Moon because this book offers for you readable information. Do you occasionally have book but you rarely get what it's interesting features of. Oh come on, that will not happen if you have this with your hand. The Enjoyable blend here cannot be questionable, similar to treasuring beautiful island. So do you still want to miss the item? Find this book and read it from currently!

Edward Carter:

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