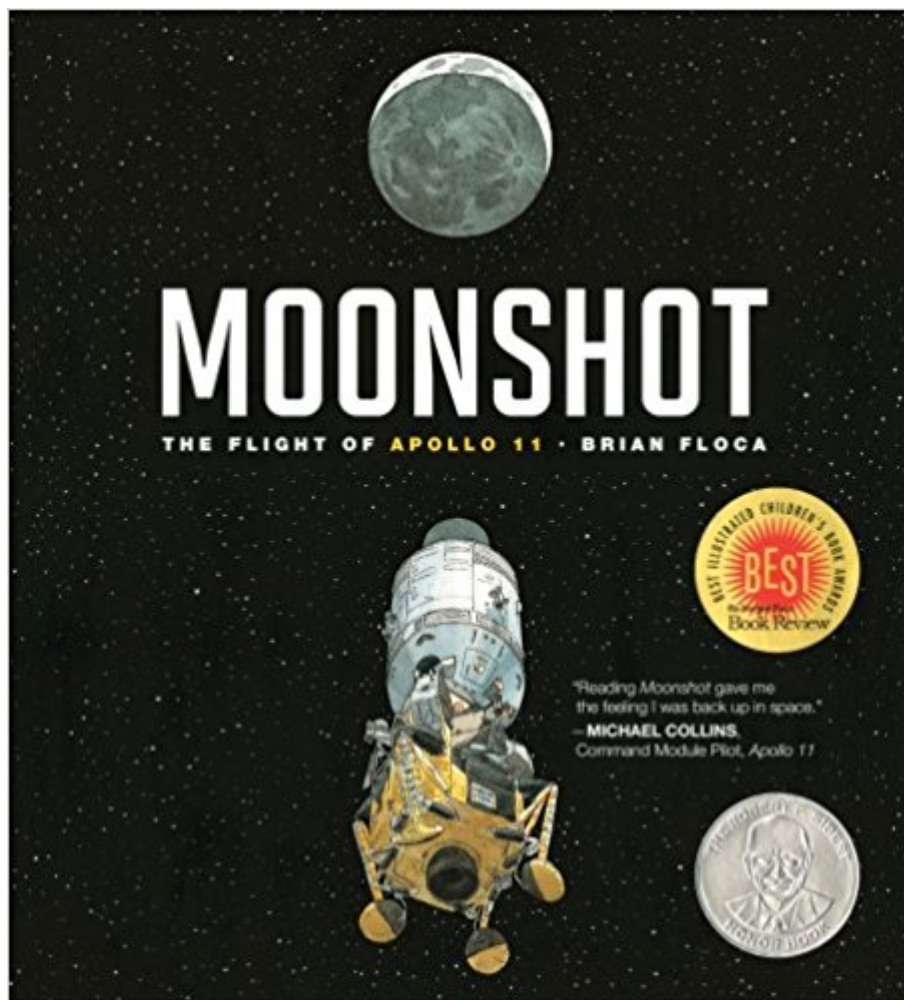




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Moonshot: The Flight Of Apollo 11 (Richard Jackson Books (Atheneum Hardcover))



Synopsis

Simply told, grandly shown, here is the flight of Apollo 11. Here for a new generation of readers and explorers are the steady astronauts, clicking themselves into gloves and helmets, strapping themselves into sideways seats. Here are their great machines in all their detail and monumentality, the ROAR of rockets, and the silence of the Moon. Here is a story of adventure and discovery -- a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969, and a story of home, seen whole, from far away.

Book Information

Lexile Measure: AD990L (What's this?)

Series: Richard Jackson Books (Atheneum Hardcover)

Hardcover: 48 pages

Publisher: Atheneum/Richard Jackson Books; 1 edition (April 7, 2009)

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Product Dimensions: 10.5 x 0.4 x 11.8 inches

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 112 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #25,980 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #15 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery](#) #19 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Aeronautics & Space](#) #24 in [Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > United States > 1900s](#)

Age Range: 4 - 10 years

Grade Level: Preschool - 5

Customer Reviews

Starred Review. Grade 2-5 • Large in trim size as well as topic, this stirring account retraces Apollo 11's historic mission in brief but precise detail, and also brilliantly captures the mighty scope and drama of the achievement. Rendered in delicate lines and subtly modulated watercolors, the eye-filling illustrations allow viewers to follow the three astronauts as they lumber aboard their spacecraft for the blastoff and ensuing weeklong journey ("there's no fresh air outside the window; after a week this small home will not smell so good./This is not why anyone/wants to be an astronaut"). They split up so that two can make their famous sortie, and then

reunite for the return to "the good and lonely Earth,/glowing in the sky." Floca enhances his brief, poetic main text with an opening spread that illustrates each component of Apollo 11, and a lucid closing summary of the entire Apollo program that, among other enlightening facts, includes a comment from Neil Armstrong about what he said versus what he meant to say when he stepped onto the lunar surface. Consider this commemoration of the first Moon landing's 40th anniversary as a spectacular alternative for younger readers to Catherine Thimmesh's *Team Moon* (Houghton, 2006).
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Starred Review Forty years after NASA's Apollo 11 mission first landed astronauts on the moon, this striking nonfiction picture book takes young readers along for the ride. The moon shines down on Earth, where three men don spacesuits, climb into Columbia, and wait for liftoff. On a nearby beach, people gather to watch the rocket blast the astronauts into space. The astronauts fly to the moon, circle it, land on it, walk on its surface, and see "the good and lonely Earth, glowing in the sky." After flying back to the orbiter, they return to Earth and splash down, "home at last." An appended note discusses the mission in greater detail. Written with quiet dignity and a minimum of fuss, the main text is beautifully illustrated with line-and-wash artwork that provides human interest, technological details, and some visually stunning scenes. The book's large format offers plenty of scope for double-page illustrations, and Floca makes the most of it, using the sequential nature of picture books to set up the more dramatic scenes and give them human context. The moving image of Earth seen from the moon, for instance, is preceded by a picture of a lone astronaut looking up. A handsome, intelligent book with a jacket that's well-nigh irresistible. Grades K-3. --Carolyn Phelan

A very fine picture book for children of all ages of probably the most historic event ever in the history of the world. Published as a fitting tribute on the 40th anniversary of the event. Sadly, Neil Armstrong is no longer with us, but as time goes on, books like this help to keep his memory alive. Neil, Buzz and Michael, are three of the most courageous astronauts of the 20th century, and three of America's national treasures, if not bonafide heroes. Children the world over should read this book for inspiration of what can be done by exceptionally trained and goal oriented people in the name of all mankind. Highly recommended!! also highly recommend two very educational DVDs covering the Apollo moon missions from the early 60s thru 1973. First, is Ron Howard's theatrical production of "Apollo 13", and second, Tom Hank's HBO mini series (12 episodes), "From the Earth

to the Moon". Both are truly outstanding docudramas faithfully based on the events of those particular NASA years leading up landing six different two man crews on the Moon, Apollo 11 being the first. These are all of the Apollo astronauts own true stories, some quite tragic but most very successful, with very realistic reenactments of all the missions.

This book is a joy for both adults and children. My 5 year old son has been fascinated with space and space travel (I also highly recommend national geographic's big book for little kids on space). But before even reading it too him I found myself poring over the Apollo rocket diagrams, absolutely fascinated. I love that it's very accurate in the details. It allows for wonderful questions and discussions in our house.

Absolutely loved it and immediately bought two more copies for my friends as gifts. I love reading this book to my 3-year-old daughter and she loves it as well. The other day I saw her playing with her Disney princesses saying "This one is Eagle, and this is Columbia..." She remembers which seat Buzz Aldrin sat in and basically has the book memorized (as little children are known to do). The book is exceptionally well written. Accessible and easy to understand for children but at the same time surprisingly detailed. The drawings are simply beautiful. I must admit I often get moved to tears just reading it, it really puts you there. My only wish is that the end of the story would be a little more detailed as well, after the landing it seems to be over in a hurry and not much is said about the way back and landing. But this is a 5-star book without hesitation, one that children and parents alike will love and enjoy.

This is the favorite book of my 3-yr son (almost 4-yr). I've NEVER seen him so excited about any book. It's now one we read every day, or at least look through the pictures. He now adds Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and Neil Armstrong to his astronaut play. It's a great great to accompany the documentary film "For all mankind".

I bought this for our 4½ year old after being blown away by Locomotive, also written by Mr. Floca. Like Locomotive, this book takes the reader on a journey, and explains a lot along the way. Unlike Locomotive, it feels a bit more solitary and uncertain (nail biting, even -- and why shouldn't it be?). With so much build up, there's quite an emotional touchdown on the lunar surface, but unlike Locomotive, that's not the end of the story. Brush up on your space history, and cue up the Apollo videos -- this book is sure to elicit a ton of curious questions from the intended audience.

My daughter and I found this book at a library book fair. She's "almost three" -- so we only read parts of it -- but we talk about the breathtaking illustrations. She requests it again and again. Then she wants to dress up as an astronaut in her Tinkerbelle pajamas because they "have feet" -- like the astronaut suit does. She insists on wearing her mittens and a clear plastic salad bowl that I found a way to tie on her head like a bonnet. She packs Elmo (also wearing a bowl on his head) onto the back of her rocking snail. I then countdown ("No mommy LOUD counting") for her and she scoots herself to the moon -- her bed. She bounces around and pretends to collect rocks. It's so priceless. I think the attraction for her -- and anyone really -- is that the author/illustrator captures a powerful sense of wonder and awe - which is impressive considering how detailed and accurate the illustrations are. It's written like poetry and that adds to the magic. Every time we get to the part where the astronauts look down at the "good and lonely earth", I get chills. This must have been a very special moment in history and I feel like I was there. I'm on now to order it as a birthday gift after sending it as a Christmas present to my nieces and nephews.

I'd heard good things about this book but it's even better than I expected. The inner leaf of the dust jacket starts with a quote from President Kennedy's "we choose to go to the moon" speech, and sets the tone quite well. It's too bad that that isn't in the book proper; it's a great lead-in and I'll be sad when the jacket is lost. As if inspired by JFK, the text has a great cadence. The words beg to be read aloud and roll off the tongue when you do. The artwork is very well executed. It's perhaps the weakest point of the book...it's merely very, very good. The graphic design is spectacular. The book starts with an expanse of white, with a small paragraph on one page and a 1/3 page drawing on the facing page. It's really striking. As it goes along, similar stark whites and dark blacks appear from page to page. The plot, well, no surprises. But it's quite a story, isn't it?

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