

Happy Lunaversary!:

A Moon Landing Dozen

It's June, and since there's no significant spoon occasion, we're turning our attention to the moon. This year we celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, and here are a dozen titles that tell the story, explain the destination, or offer amusing or informative additions to the topic. Blast off!

*Deborah Stevenson, Editor
June 2009*

THE BULLETIN

OF THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN'S BOOKS

The *Bulletin* Dozen is a monthly theme-based booklist available from the Bulletin's website. Since we're awfully fond of bakers here at the Bulletin, we thought we'd adopt their philosophy of generosity and throw in an extra one or two when we have them to offer — so don't expect an even dozen.

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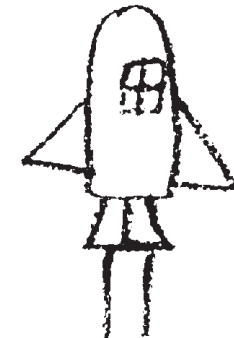


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*A Bulletin Dozen
Booklist*

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Aldrin, Buzz. *Reaching for the Moon*; illus. by Wendell Minor. HarperCollins, 2005. 5-9 yrs

It's hard to beat hearing about the experience from one who has been there and done that, and Aldrin's up-close and personal account of his training and space journeys is dramatic and graceful. (BCCB 6/05)

Bartram, Simon. *Man on the Moon: A Day in the Life of Bob*; written and illus. by Simon Bartram. Candlewick Press, 2002. 4-8 yrs
Enough with cold, hard facts! Here's an amusingly deadpan tale of Bob, the moon's devoted caretaker. (BCCB 12/02)

Brown, Don. *One Giant Leap: The Story of Neil Armstrong*; written and illus. by Don Brown. Houghton, 1998. Gr. 1-3
Noted biographer Brown offers a spirited and accessible chronicle of Armstrong's growth from airplane-loving boy to space-capsule-flying astronaut. (BCCB 12/98)

Burleigh, Robert. *One Giant Leap*; illus. by Mike Wimmer. Philomel, 2009. Gr. 3-5
Intense and immediate text conveys the stresses, strains, and thrills of the astronaut experience, reflected in dramatic oil paintings. (review forthcoming)



Floca, Brian. *Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*; written and illus. by Brian Floca. Jackson/Atheneum, 2009. Gr. 2-5
Floca's spare, poetic text focuses on the Earth-bound viewers of the space mission's flight, deftly closing the gap between 1969 and 2009 by allowing young readers to feel like witnesses themselves. (review forthcoming)

Gibbons, Gail. *The Moon Book*; written and illus. by Gail Gibbons. Holiday House, 1997. 5-7 yrs
In her inimitable and accessible style, Gibbons introduces youngsters to the basics of lunar information. (BCCB 7/97)

Hegner, Barbara. *First on the Moon: What It Was Like When Man Landed on the Moon*; illustrations by Greg Ruhl and with photographs. Hyperion/Madison, 1999. Gr. 3-6
This overview of the Apollo 11 mission balances factual information with a fictionalized account that garners additional drama by following the experience of young Jan Aldrin, daughter of astronaut Buzz, as her father went into space. (BCCB 7/99)

Hilliard, Richard. *Neil, Buzz, and Mike Go to the Moon*; written and illustrated by Richard Hilliard. Boyds Mills, 2005. 5-9 yrs
Informational sidebars add depth to this lively, classroom-suitable picture-book account of the famous Apollo 11 trio's preparation and journey. (BCCB 6/05)

McNulty, Faith. *If You Decide to Go to the Moon*; illus. by Steven Kellogg. Scholastic, 2005. 4-8 yrs
Direct address to the young viewer brings kids right into this you-are-the-astronaut approach to a fictional yet information-packed tale of a trip to the moon. (BCCB 11/05)

Schyffert, Bea Uusma. *The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins*; tr. by Emi Guner; illus. by Bea Uusma Schyffert and with photographs. Chronicle, 2003. Gr. 3-6.

This Batchelder Award-winning import follows, in inviting scrapbook style, the lesser-sung exploits of astronaut Michael Collins, who kept Apollo orbiting the moon single-handedly while his missionmates descended to the lunar surface. (not reviewed)

Simon, Seymour. *The Moon. Four Winds Press, 1984. Gr. 2-4*
The twenty-five years since this classic's publication are nothing in the life of the moon, and this lucid and elegant photoessay remains a vivid look at our most notable satellite. (BCCB 9/84)

Suen, Anastasia. *Man on the Moon*; illus. by Benrei Huang. Viking, 1997. 4-6 yrs
Simple, streamlined text and soft, accessible art bring the story of the first moon landing within reach of the youngest listeners. (BCCB 3/98)

Thimmes, Catherine. *Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon*. Houghton, 2006. Gr. 4-8.
This breathless behind-the-scenes account of the project gains additional tension from candid acknowledgment of what did—and what could—go wrong. (BCCB 9/06)

