

PLAY DAY BOOKS: FALL 2009



This world, decides Nicholas, is too noisy for him. Time to take a trip. He packs a snack, puts on his suit, and takes off . . . to the utterly quiet craters and vast deserts of the distant moon. In this utterly charming picture book, the allure of space travel and the longing for peace and quiet entice a young boy to take his space rocket to the moon for a picnic.

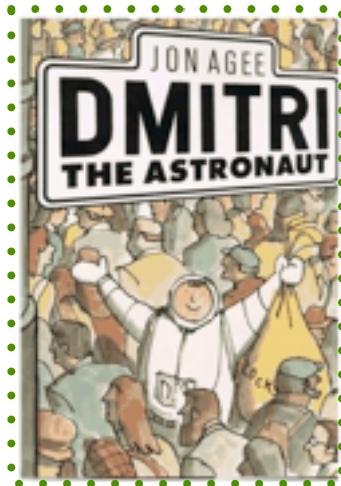
Monica wants to play with the moon, but can't reach it, so she asks her father to get it for her. Ingeniously designed with several fold-out pages, the book opens out horizontally to show a very long ladder Papa fetches, opens vertically to show him climbing the ladder above a very high mountain, and unfolds into a huge spread of the full moon, where the ladder has led Papa. But the moon is too big for him to carry, so he waits while it grows smaller, until finally it is the right size to bring home to Monica. She jumps and dances and frolics with it, but it keeps shrinking, until one day it's gone. But not for long: a thin sliver soon appears in the sky, growing larger and becoming full once again.



Jet flies off into the far reaches of outer space to chase a bone, and Joey can't find him. He asks space ships, moons, satellites, and planets if they have seen Jet. On one especially wonderful spread, Joey asks four robots if they have seen the dog and the text is playfully positioned to reflect robot-speak. Then he hears Earth to Joey! Earth to Jet! It's Mom calling them to lunch, and readers see them in their yard playing with robots and space ships.

Get ready to blast off with Captain Bug Rogers on an intergalactic pop-up adventure. Join Captain Bug Rogers and Robobug on their three-dimensional close encounters with Great Red Bug of Jupiter, bewildering UFBs (unidentified flying bugs), and awesome Alien Bugs add to the far-out fun!





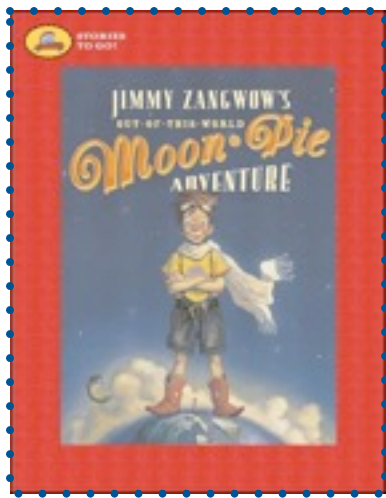
Dmitri has just returned from the moon, where he has spent two and a half years collecting rocks. Alas, no one remembers the poor fellow. Worse yet, his mission seems to be old news? He spies a neglected exhibit at the Museum of Intergalactic Exploration displaying a space suit, rock-collecting sack and moon specimens identical to his. Observant youngsters will gasp when the dejected astronaut throws his sack of rocks into a trash can, for they know something he doesn't, they've seen Lulu, Dmitri's pink, polka-dotted lunar pal, scurrying into the bag before his liftoff from the moon.

A boy astronaut climbs into a bulging, oversized orange spacesuit and seats himself in front of a wide control console. Turning the book sideways shows the platform as last-minute procedures commence: "Countdown counting.../ Excitement mounting.../ ...Lift off!/ Boosters blast!/ Moving fast./ Engines roaring./ Rocket soaring." On the way to the moon, he takes care to "just avoid the asteroids" and, once there, collects "moon rocks in a box" and witnesses a dramatic "Earth rise" before heading back home.



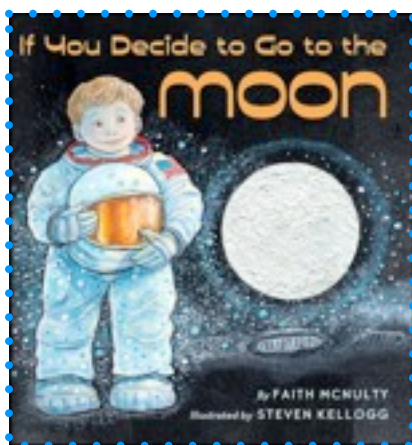
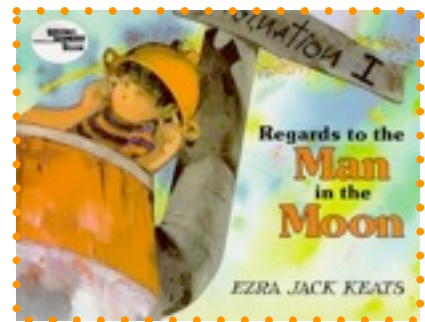
Stella loves everything about space, and her imagination takes her out into the solar system at bedtime. She lands on a planet and meets tingly blue space bugs, but she stays safely grounded to Earth through on-and-off conversations with Dad.

EARTH TO STELLA: DONT FORGET TO SCRUB BEHIND THOSE EARS! 'CHECK, said Stella, just before she dons her helmet, boards her chicken-shaped rocket ship, and starts the countdown to blastoff. EARTH TO STELLA: COULD YOU KEEP THE NOISE DOWN, PLEASE? What makes this story extra special is the bedtime routine between father and daughter.



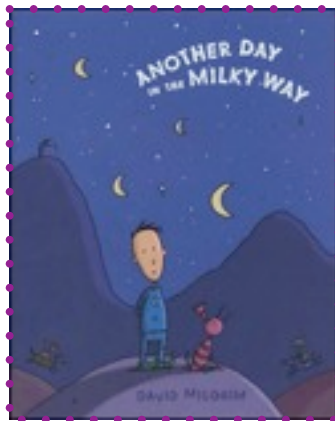
Jimmy Zangwow is bound and determined to get his hands on his favorite snack: Moon Pies and milk. After his mother refuses his pre-dinner request, Jimmy stomps off to sulk aboard his secret project, a flying junk jumbilee jalopy. "Holy macaroni!" The next thing he knows he's hurtling off to space, toward the moon... and "Mmm! Moon Pies." A hilariously digressive dialogue with sleepy, hard-of-hearing Mr. Moon results in Jimmy scoring a thousand Moon Pies. But our hungry hero's troubles are not over yet. Run-ins with Mars Men and the dreaded Grimble Grinder are yet in store. And then there's the issue of how to get back to Earth and his brussels-sprout-noodle-bean casserole dinner.

Louie's unhappy because the other kids call his father "the junkman." But his father knows that it's not just junk: "All a person needs is some imagination! And a little of that stuff can take you right out of this world!" So Louie builds the Imagination I, a spaceship fueled entirely by imagination -- and blasts off into an adventure.



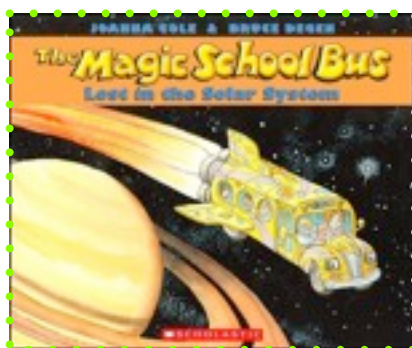
In this lavish picture book, readers accompany a boy on a fascinating excursion to the moon. After blastoff, facts about space travel are mingled with descriptions of what the journey might be like: the loneliness, the lack of gravity, and how you might pass the time. After landing, the text warns: Your 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.

Dogs wear Flash Gordon space helmets and rocket belts as they fly to each planet--sneezing in the red dust on Mars, dodging asteroids en route to Jupiter. "Even though there are no other dogs in space, or people, either, dogs in space like space. There are no cats in space. There are no fleas in space." On the other hand, there are no "soft laps" or "crunchy dog bones" either, so "dogs in space go home, for now."



One morning, Monty wakes up on the wrong planet. A three-headed mother and liver flakes for breakfast are sure tip-offs. Unfortunately, the youngster cannot remember how to get back to Earth (this has happened before). Pretending to go to school, he instead searches for help. Buck, a horse, promises to take him home, but Monty soon discovers that Buck is really a donkey named Tulip in disguise, and that he's never heard of Earth. Tulip whips out his cell phone and calls his friends--an assortment of animals, also costumed as horses--who offer a flurry of conflicting advice, before agreeing that Monty should consult "the Starman on the Hill." Gazing at the stars makes the boy tired, and he remembers that he can leave the same way he arrived: by falling asleep.

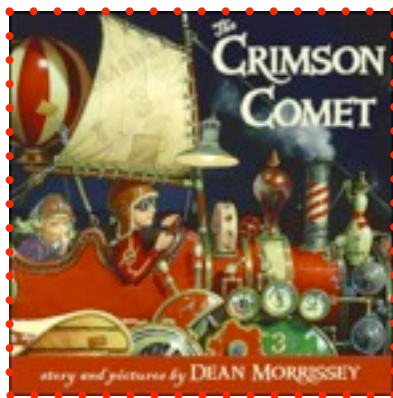
The charming illustrations go beautifully with the story of how a confused bear travels to the "moon" and back again. Bear wonders what the moon tastes like and builds a rocket ship. However the construction goes late into the fall, and you can guess what happens when Bear climbs into the rocket ship and begins his countdown. Bear wakes up because the wind starts to blow, and never having been outside in winter, he believes his dream has come true and he's on the moon.



The planetarium is closed for repairs, so the Magic School Bus blasts off on a real tour of the solar system. After their previous field trips, the children in Ms. Frizzle's class are all blasé about such things; as they land on the Moon, Venus, and Mars, and fly by the other planets and the Sun, they comment on what they see, generate a blizzard of one- or two-sentence reports on special topics and--even while Ms. Frizzle is temporarily left behind in the asteroid belt--crack terrible jokes.

Priscilla lives on a planet where everything is some shade of pink. After eating one too many bowls of pink porridge, she decides to search the world for at least one other color.

Discouraged, she asks aloud for a sign, and what should appear but a beautiful multicolored butterfly. She chases it, only to see it captured by the Great Queen of Pink. The queen, of course, likes only pink, and all other colors must be kept underground. Priscilla comes up with a plan to change the monarch's mind and break her spell.



After Nora looks out her bedroom window and sees the moon blink out, she and her brother, Jack, decide to go to its rescue. They climb aboard a makeshift rocket and fearlessly blast off into the night sky. When they literally bump into the moon, a metal-and-glass orb that looks a bit like an antique pocket watch, they come face-to-face with a Santa look-alike Man-in-the-Moon. He explains to them that his engine has failed and the moon needs a jump-start. The children utilize the Crimson Comet to do just that, thus saving the day. The siblings then crash-land back at home, tumbling into their cozy bedroom and smiling up at the celestial orb. And just for a moment, they thought the moon smiled back.

If you take your rocket to the outer edge of space, you'll come across a funny little alien place. The alien people call it Planet Zum-Zee, and they're meeting here today for a special picnic tea.

Join the space party on Planet Zum-Zee! Meet the crazy creatures and share their deliciously funny food.

