



# KITTEN'S FIRST FULL MOON

AUTHOR: KEVIN HENKES

ILLUSTRATOR: KEVIN HENKES

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Kitten's First Full Moon](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Kevin Henkes's acclaimed national bestseller about a kitten, the moon, and a bowl of milk was awarded the Caldecott Medal and was a New York Times Best Illustrated Book. A brave young kitten sets out into the world on a quest that leaves her bruised, bewildered, and hungry, but that ultimately leads her back home, where something special is waiting just for her. (amazon.com)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

"I've been writing and illustrating children's books for thirty years. It's the only real job I've ever had. When my work is going well, it's transformative. I feel as if I've been removed from ordinary time and am living in some parallel universe, a world of grace and wonder. Books are often the first exposure to art that children have. Keeping that in mind urges me to make the very best books possible. I know how important the books from my childhood were (and are) to me. Without them, I might not be a writer and artist today. Sometimes I'll hear from a parent about how a book of mine has insinuated itself into the heart of his or her child, or how a phrase from one of my books has become part of the family's daily jargon. I love that. But most of all, I love sitting alone in a quiet room drawing and painting and writing. I love my job." (kevinhenkes.com)

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these prompts before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What is this on the cover of the book?
- When we open the cover so that we can see the front and back at the same time, what else do we see besides the kitten?
- I wonder what all these circles have to do with the story. Let's start reading and see if we can figure it out.

### DURING THE STORY

Use these prompts while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (title page) Oh...the circles are just like the moon!
- (p. 1) Why would kitten think that the moon was a bowl of milk?
- (p. 2) I notice some things other than the moon in this illustration.

## KITTEN'S FIRST FULL MOON

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Reflection
- Perseverance
- Curiosity

### *Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

- (p. 2) Why do you think she wants the bowl of milk?
- (p. 8) If kittens could talk, what do you think this kitten would say? (ouch!)
- (p. 9) What is kitten doing in this illustration? Why do you think she's doing that? (hunting)
- (p. 12) How do you think kitten feels at the bottom of this page?
- (p. 15) What do kittens use to climb trees? (claws)
- (p. 17) Hmm. I wonder what the kitten is planning.
- (p. 21) Wet, sad, tired, and hungry – so many words to tell us how kitten is feeling! Plus, just look at her face! How does she feel?
- (p. 29) What is kitten doing on the last page of the story?

## AFTER READING

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*Use these prompts after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:*

- Do you think there was really a bowl of milk in the sky?
- Let's talk about reflection and what it means. (*Reader: clap syllables for "reflection"*) Different surfaces reflect differently. (*Reader: show examples: fabric, paper, tin foil, mirror, spoon, something shiny, etc.; using a foam ball as light, show how it reflects off different surfaces – bounces off smooth surfaces, absorbed by fabric, etc.*)

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- (p. 3) How many bugs are on p. 3? How about on p. 4? Let's count them together. I wonder why there are a different number of bugs on p. 3 than there are on p. 4. Do you have any ideas?
- (p. 4) Repeat after me: Poor kitten! Every time these words come in the story, I want you to say them with me. Once again, repeat after me: Poor kitten!
- (p. 7) Get on all fours and wiggle your bottom like a kitten getting ready to spring.
- (p. 8) Poor kitten!
- (p. 16) Show me with your body (which includes your face) how you would feel if you were high in the tree and couldn't get down.

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- Turn to your neighbor and tell each other your favorite pet animal and what it eats. When you're ready, we'll share with the whole class.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- Teach the class "Moon<sub>2</sub> Moon<sub>2</sub> Moon" by Laurie Berkner.
- Create circles from sponges and create a circle print on whatever paper you have available, using different colors of paint.