



MOONSHOT: THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 11

AUTHOR: BRIAN FLOCA

ILLUSTRATOR: BRIAN FLOCA

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11](#)

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

OVERVIEW

ABOUT THE BOOK

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 is a story of adventure and discovery—a story of leaving and returning during the summer of 1969. ([brianfloca.com](#))

ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Brian Floca is the illustrator of numerous award-winning books for children. Brian was born and raised in Temple, Texas, graduated from Brown University, received his MFA from the School of Visual Arts, and currently lives in Brooklyn, New York. ([brianfloca.com](#))

THE READ ALOUD

BEFORE READING

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

- Using clues on the cover, infer what the book will be about.
- (Reader: read the quote from Michael Collins)
- This book has received two awards. (point them out; say what they're for)
- Introduce Brian Floca.

DURING THE STORY

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

- (p. 3) I wonder why the author used the word “click” two times. How did it affect you?
- (p. 5) I noticed that the illustration is drawn at an angle. Do you think Brian Floca had a reason for this?
- (p. 6) What words in the first paragraph help you understand the meaning of “massive”?
- (p. 9-10) What did Brian Floca do to get you excited on these two pages? How would you feel?
- (p. 13) How did Brian Floca make the reader understand the loud noise?

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TOPICS & THEMES:

- Space
- Astronauts
- Science

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. 15) Were the astronauts' bodies really as heavy as clay? When a writer makes this kind of comparison, it is called a simile.
- (p. 16-17) How did Brian Floca show that the astronauts are in space?
- (p. 29) Can you imagine what would happen without the use of Velcro? Why?
- (p. 31) The beginning of the book said there was no life on earth, but now the author says there is. What has changed?

AFTER READING

Use these after reading the story to help students understand what they just read.

- Tell about the main idea of this book in three sentences.

BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

- Have you ever used Velcro?
- Has anyone you know ever gone on an important mission?
- If you were the child of an astronaut, what concerns would you have?

COOPERATIVE LEARNING

- I think that if I were in space there might be some things I would miss that are home on earth. Turn to a neighbor and tell them three things you would miss. Then, I am going to ask you to each tell which of those things you would miss the most.

SMALL-GROUP IDEAS

1. DISCUSSION ACTIVITY

- Who went to the moon?
- What did the astronauts do to prepare for the flight?
- Why did it take skill to eat a meal during the flight?
- How might a visit to the moon change the way you see Earth?
- Why do you think this book has received awards?
- Did you learn anything about space travel?
- Would you like to be an astronaut? What qualities should you have to be an astronaut?
- If you were an author, what informative book would you write?
- On the back cover, Astronaut Edgar Mitchell talks about the dream. What does he mean?
- Let's look at the endpapers to see what else we can learn about this book or its contents.

Suggested Optional Activity:

- Draw a picture of your ideal space suit or rocket ship. Label each piece and be prepared to tell how and why you used it. You can decorate it as you wish.

2. WRITING ACTIVITY

- Write what you think family members at home watching TV would say as they listen to Mission Control talking with astronauts landing on the moon. This can be a dialogue (different characters speaking) if you like.

3. EXTENSION ACTIVITY

- The book received two awards. Design a third award and write a short speech (what you would say) awarding it to Brian Floca.

COMMON CORE LINKS

CCSS.ELA-Literacy.RL3.1,3.2,3.4,3.7