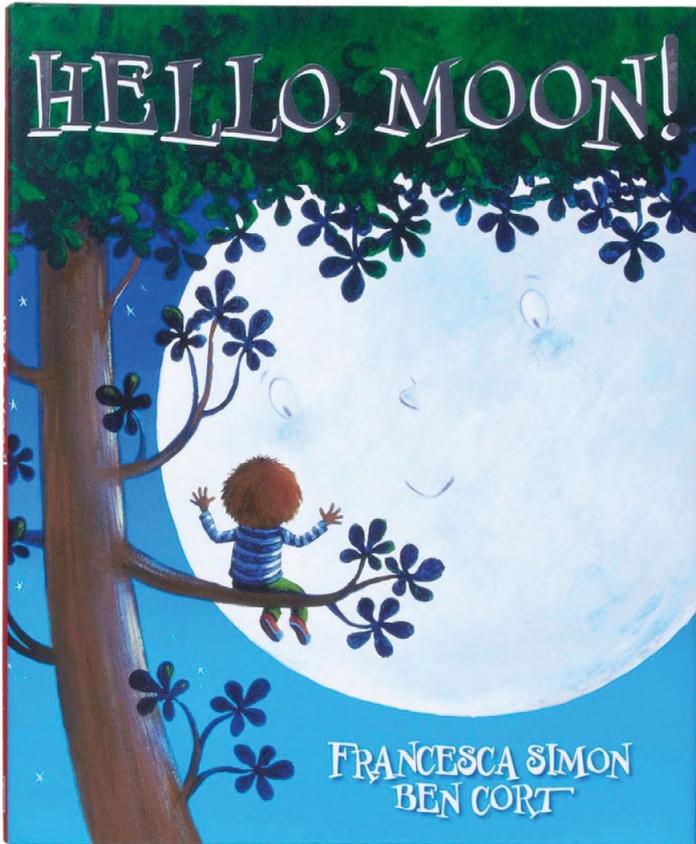


A Page in a Book[©]

RECOMMENDING THE BEST BOOKS FOR CHILDREN & TEENS

By Gerry P. Smith



HELLO, MOON! CAN WE TALK? I GET LONELY DOWN
HERE SOMETIMES. WHAT I WANT TO KNOW IS...

Hello, Moon!

By Francesca Simon and Ben Cort (Scholastic)

While the moon in the sky is a common sight that is shared by everyone in the world, it's not uncommon to sky watchers to feel a singular connection with it – as one person looking up at one moon. For one lonely little boy, seeing the moon through his bedroom window ignites a host of questions about what the moon sees and does. He wonders if the moon likes animals (the boy does). He asks if the moon can see the sea – and under it. The boys want to know if the moon has friends among the constellations. While the moon smiles gently down, no answers are forthcoming. And that's okay. Simply being a constant and familiar presence in the boy's life, the moon provides the quiet comfort for the boy to ask the questions that spark his own imagination as he drifts off to sleep. *Hello, Moon!* is an ideal bedtime read for a full moon night!

The Night Sky Unfolds in Books

While evening cloaks the details of the world from sight, the glowing objects in the night sky offer perpetual wonders for human eyes – young and old. It's a moving moment when our children spy the moon for the first time, small hands pointing toward something constant yet so very distant. As their awareness of the night sky grows, they begin to discern stars and the patterns they form as our small blue dot tumbles through the cosmos. Following in the footsteps of astronomers from ancient times to the present, a child's fascination with celestial bodies can introduce them to universal knowledge and undiscovered marvels. The following titles celebrate the night sky and will have young readers looking up from the pages to find their own stories written in the stars.

Moonday

By Adam Rex (Hyperion / Disney)

Gazing out of the car's back windows on a night ride home is familiar territory for young passengers. But when one young girl spies the moon keeping pace during the drive home, her sleepy musings of a bright orb that follows her home becomes all too real. She awakes to find the moon looming large in her backyard, and her town is caught in a day without morning. No one in her community is fully awake, tides laps into the neighborhood, and only another night journey with her family can put the moon back where it belongs. Rex's artistic gifts with illumination come to the fore against the dark of this extended night. Combined with his eclectic style of storytelling, *Moonday* is a sumptuous feast for both the eye and the mind. A brilliant inspiration for young stargazers, this title is likely to launch endless lunar journeys in the imagination of every young night rider.



Henry's Stars

By David Elliot (Philomel / Penguin)

Ancient astronomers looked toward the night skies discerning patterns among the stars, and they named these constellations after animals and heroes familiar to them (which, of course, varied from culture to culture). With a nod to the history of heavenly perceptions, this title opens with a stargazing pig named Henry who begins to connect the evening stars and discovers "The Great Pig in the Sky." With enthusiasm, he runs to his neighbors on the farm to share his revelation. But as he encourages them to look skyward, each animal sees something different. From "The Great Sheep" to the "The Starry Cow" each barnyard friend sees the constellation through his own frame of reference and names it thus. As Henry leaves the animals arguing about the stars they see, his joy over his discovery is dimmed. But when he's alone again and looks up, his own eyes confirm what he knew all along. Ideal for kids who want to make their own connections with the night sky, *Henry's Stars* will encourage them to make their own celestial discoveries!

