

A Very Special Moon Mission

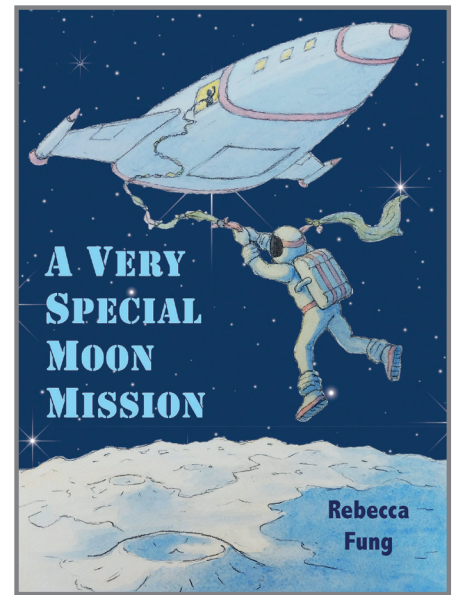
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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

Phoebe and Elliott are space-mad best friends, but Julia, the unpopular new girl at school, has tagged along with them on a visit to the local Space Station. There, they meet the three astronauts competing to be the first woman on the moon, and they're also introduced to the magnificent rocket known as The Obsession, and its know-all super computer IMP. But when they start the rocket without meaning to, and IMP malfunctions, the adventure takes a real turn for the unexpected! Sure, a moon mission is great: but how do you get back to Earth?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Rebecca Fung works and lives in Sydney. She loves to write children's fiction and several of those stories have been published in Christmas Press anthologies. Her first book, *Princess Hayley's Comet* was first published in print by Christmas Press in 2018.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

David Allan's first illustrated book, *Two Trickster Tales from Russia* was published by Christmas Press in 2013. His second, *Two Tales of Twins from Ancient Greece and Rome* was listed in Good Reading Magazine's Best Books of 2014. He has also illustrated *Two Tengu Tales from Japan* and *Two Enchanted Tales from Old China*, and the chapter book *Petal and the Really Hard Riddle*, written by Kathryn England (2018), all published by Christmas Press. He has also illustrated for storybooks and anthologies, including *The Stuff of Tales*, published by Arts North West. David's work is in private and public collections and he has exhibited artworks in both solo and group shows. He lives in the New England region of NSW. Find out more about David at www.davidallanart.com.

STUDY NOTES

- If you went into space, would you like to visit the moon, a star or another planet? Why? What do you think it would be like?
- Phoebe dreams of being an astronaut, and also of being chief of a space station. She is impressed by Rhonda Starr. What would you like to be when you grow up and why?
- Have you met or do you know anyone who has inspired you, like Rhonda inspired Phoebe?
- Julia conquered some of her fears in this story. What are you afraid of? How do you handle your fears? Have you ever conquered a fear? How?
- At the beginning of the book, Phoebe and Elliott don't think they could be friends with Julia but they change their

minds. Have you ever changed your mind about someone and what made you change your mind? Have you ever made friends with someone that you didn't expect to—how did that happen?

- What do you think it would be like if there wasn't any gravity? Imagine the good things and the problems you'd have.
- IMP is a machine that is smart and can learn by itself. Think about other machines in your life—cars, computers, phones, microwaves, lawnmowers, clocks, fridges etc—would you like them to be smarter? What sort of things would you like them to be able to do better or be able to learn? Do you think there could be problems with a machine being too smart, or learning too much?
- A mnemonic is a special way to remember something, often using a fun sentence to remember something hard in order. For instance 'Never Eat Slimy Worms' reminds us of N E S W which is the order of the compass directions, North East South and West. See if you can make up a mnemonic for the order of the planets! (Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune).
- IMP told jokes about space—can you make up your own joke about space?
- Make a model or draw a poster of the best rocket ship you can imagine. What features would it have?
- Imagine you are in outer space. Write a letter to your friends back home telling them what you are doing and what it feels like. Do you miss Earth? What would you miss most of all?
- In this story, Phoebe was the first girl on the moon. There have been many 'firsts' in space—first dog in space, first man on the moon, first teacher in space. Research one of these and act out a short play of one of them or think about what new 'first' you would like to see and write a story about that.