

The Day the Moon Came to Stay

AUTHOR

GARY ECK

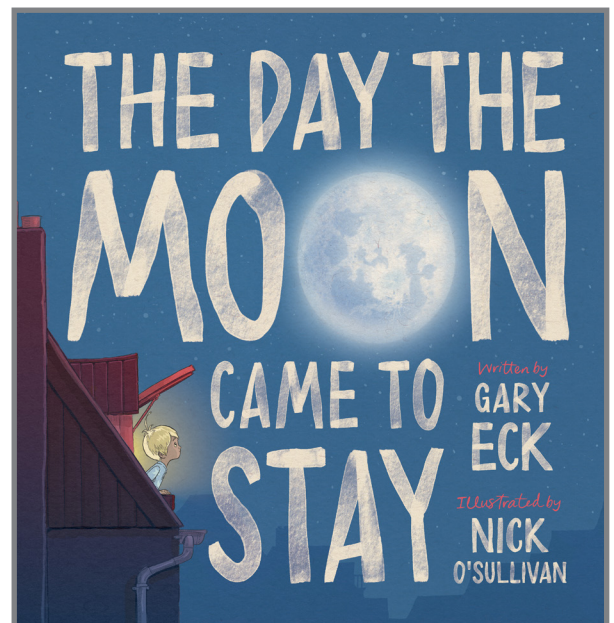
ILLUSTRATOR

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RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



SYNOPSIS

When a friend is sad, you do everything you can to cheer them up, but what if that friend is the moon?

When Billy looks out his window one night, he decides to invite the moon to stay. But the moon doesn't realise the effect it has on Earth and coming to stay might turn things topsy-turvy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Gary Eck has performed all around the world in Comedy Festivals. He co-wrote and co-directed *Happy Feet Two* with Academy Award winner George Miller, and also voiced several characters for the film. He currently has two feature films in development.

ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

Nick began his illustration career drawing caricatures, before hitting his stride as Lead Character Artist on the Oscar winning animated feature *Happy Feet*. He has since storyboarded on several film and animation projects, including *Maya the Bee* and *Happy Feet Two*, where he served as Story Lead. Nick continues to visualise and develop stories, including film, animation, gaming, picture books and apps.

STUDY NOTES

- Before reading the story, as a class, discuss the book cover and title. Some things to include in your discussion could be:
 - What do you think the title might mean?
 - What can you see happening in the cover artwork?
 - Who do you think that this book might be about?
 - What do you think might happen in this story? Why do you think this?
 - After reading the back cover of this book, have you changed your ideas about what might happen? Why/why not, and if so in what way?
- What does the moon look like when it is full? Billy thought at the start of the book that it looked sad. Do you think that he was right? Why/why not?
- Look at a large photograph of the full moon. What shapes, images, and patterns can you see? On an A4 piece of paper, draw a picture of the moon, and using charcoal or a 4B pencil, shade in some interesting patterns or shapes

based on the ones you can see in the photograph. You might also like to trace over the different shadows on the photograph, or use a black marker to draw around the outside of some of the shadows you can see, highlighting the different expressions and images you can see in the photograph of the moon.

- Billy created the Zoomer Boomer 3000 paper aeroplane. What paper aeroplanes do you know how to make?
 - In small groups, share all the different types of paper aeroplane you know how to make with each other, and choose the one that travels the furthest to show to the class.
 - Hold a paper aeroplane competition, with every child in your class making a paper aeroplane, and competing to see which plane travels the furthest. Hold your competition in the school hall so that there is plenty of room for the planes to fly, and no wind to interrupt the competition.
 - Have a go at making the Zoomer Boomer 3000 using the attached instructions.
- When Moon goes to the beach with Billy, all the water comes rushing to meet him. How does the moon actually affect the tides in real life? In small groups, or as a class, research how tides work. Share your findings with each other. As part of your investigation into tides watch a video of a tidal bore, discuss the impact tides have on coastal creatures such as shellfish and molluscs, birds, fish, anemones, and seaweeds and grasses. Share your own experiences with high and low tide, and discuss all the things you have noticed about the changes. If you live in a coastal area, visit a beach or coastal rock pools, and look for evidence as to whether it is high tide or low tide. What can you see, hear, and smell that will let you know?
- Would you like to have the moon come and stay with you? Why/why not? What would you take the moon to do if it was visiting you? Draw a picture of the moon visiting you one day, and caption it with a description of what you are doing together.
- Paint a picture of a moonlit landscape. Before you start, research what the world looks like under moonlight by looking online or in the library to find artworks and photographs featuring moonlit nights. Choose your colour palette carefully—blues, greys, and black and white are an excellent starting point, but you might also like to include other colours as highlights. Caption your completed artwork with a description of what you have painted. Hang all your artworks on a wall of your classroom or in the hallway to create a moonlit night art gallery.
- What does the moon look like when it is not a full moon? As a class, research and track the different phases of the moon, drawing pictures on a calendar to track what it looks like each day.
- Does the moon only shine at night? Why/why not? Check on a calendar, in an almanac or online, and find out when you can see a daylight moon. As a class, go outside to look at a daylight moon and draw a picture of what you can see.
- Write your own letter to the moon, asking it to visit, and telling it how you feel about seeing it in the sky.
- What songs, poems or nursery rhymes do you know that feature the moon? In small groups look in your school library or online to find some new songs or rhymes to share with the class, and share all the ones you already know. As a class, learn and practise at least one song or rhyme about the moon and perform it at a school assembly or for another class.
- What is your favourite part of this story? Why do you like it so much? In small groups, or as a class, discuss what you thought was the best part of the story. Be sure to listen to others' responses as well as sharing your own!
- Make a moon-themed mobile, so that you can have the moon visit you at your house every night!
 - Make your mobile's frame from two wire coathangers.
 - Gently bend one coat hanger so that it fits inside the other at ninety degrees to form a cross-shape, then bend the hook parts of the two coat hangers together to hold them in place.
 - Cut a large circle out of card, and glue silver foil to it to make a big silvery moon.
 - Hang your moon from the centre of the coat hangers, right where they cross over.
 - Cut out and colour small stars to hang from the arms of the coat hangers.
 - Add long thin strips of blue paper, yarn or crepe paper to make the night sky that they are appearing in. Alternatively, you can stick silver star stickers directly onto your strips of paper.
 - Hang your finished mobiles around the classroom so that everyone can enjoy them, and at the end of term take yours home to decorate your bedroom.

AUTHOR OF NOTES
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