

## The Magic of the Moon

by Ruth Gilbert, Youth Services Librarian KTL

When was the last time you stopped to look up at the night sky? I realized it had been ages for me when I took my dog for his (very) early morning walk a few weeks ago and noticed the stars were still twinkling in the sky. Seeing stars at the start of the day instead of the end feels thrilling and special, just like seeing a full moon. Keep an eye out for a special full moon on October 17. This full moon, known as the Hunter Moon, will also be the year's biggest and brightest supermoon because it will orbit closer to Earth than any of the other full moons this year. I hope you're able to find a moment to peer up at it. Here are some favorite picture books about the magic of the moon to help get your families excited.

"Nigel and the Moon" by Antwan Eady and Gracey Zhang. Nigel tells all his secrets to the best listener he knows – the moon. When he doesn't have the confidence to share with his class his dreams of becoming an astronaut, a dancer and a superhero, he whispers them to the moon instead. One day parents visit his classroom to share about their jobs and Nigel's parents share something that makes Nigel feel so proud that he finds the courage to tell his class about his dreams. The moon will still be there to whisper to at night, but sharing his dreams with the world during the day is a little less scary.

"Wild Honey from the Moon" by Kenneth Kraegel will delight preschoolers and older children alike. A short, gorgeously illustrated chapter book, it tells the story of a mother shrew in search of a cure for her son's cold: wild honey from the moon. She faces many obstacles in her dreamlike journey, but nothing can deter her from her mission to help her little shrew.

"Music for Mister Moon" by Philip C. Stead and Erin E. Stead is another dreamy story about a girl who goes on an adventure with the moon. Harriet, called Hank, accidentally knocks Mister Moon from the sky and into her chimney. After she pulls him loose, she puts him in a wagon and helps him get a new hat and takes him for a ride in a rowboat. When Mister Moon is ready to return home, Hank enlists the help of owls to pull the moon in a net up into the sky, and she plays her cello for him.

"A Big Mooncake for Little Star" by Grace Lin sneakily demonstrates the phases of the moon as it tells the story of a big mooncake baked by Little Star and her mama. Little Star isn't supposed to eat the mooncake, but every night she nibbles a little more away and hopes that her mama won't notice. Eventually the mooncake is all gone! But her mama just laughs and together they bake a new one.

"Moonday" by Adam Rex is another fantastical story of the moon falling from its place in the sky. A family finds it hovering in their backyard, and daylight never breaks. The town is full of sleepy people lulled by the moon. After the moon pulls a tide into the backyard and attracts all the neighborhood dogs, the family decides they have to get the moon back in its place. They take a car ride and it follows through the window until they tell it to stay on top of a hill.