

Eight Days Gone

A RIF GUIDE FOR EDUCATORS

Themes: Astronauts, Space, Exploration

Grade Level: K to 2nd grade

Book Brief: The author uses descriptive words and rhyme to recount the first trip to the moon by three brave astronauts.

Author:

Linda McReynolds

Illustrator:

Ryan O'Rourke

Content Connections:

Science, Social Studies, Math



TIME TO READ!

BEFORE WE READ, LET'S LOOK AT...

The Cover: Have students make predictions about the book's content and genre

based on the title and cover illustration. Where is the book set? Is it fiction or nonfiction?

The Pictures: Take a brief picture walk before reading. Have students' predictions changed at all after seeing the pictures? Why or why not?

Prior Knowledge: Explain that this is a rhyming story about the first time people landed on the moon.

You may want to show footage from the actual landing to build background; this can be found at readinginaction.org/bookcasts/eight-days-gone. Explain that the moon is almost 240,000 miles away. Have students make predictions about how long the trip took and what kind of vehicle the astronauts used.

Vocabulary: orbits, lunar, ashen, quarantine (*The descriptive vocabulary in this text may need to be explored during a second read.*)

Purpose for Reading: "As we read this story, focus on the order, or sequence, of events."

WHILE WE READ

MONITORING COMPREHENSION

Read this text through once without stopping for students; reread for comprehension and to revisit difficult vocabulary.

- ◆ Why are the people watching the spaceship from far away?

- ◆ How would it feel to be an astronaut?
- ◆ Why would an astronaut need a special suit?
- ◆ Why would it be important to gather soil and rocks from the moon?



LET'S THINK ABOUT

Our Purpose: "Let's think about the sequence of events for this story. What happened first? Next?"

Extending Our Thinking: Use Google Earth to see pictures or take virtual tours of all the Apollo landing sites (www.google.com/earth/explore/showcase/moon.html). Astronauts don't go to the moon anymore because it's already been explored so thoroughly. Where do you think they should go instead? What planet in the solar system should we visit next? Why? What do you think we'll find there? Why is it important to visit other planets and explore outer space?

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

- ◆ Extension Activities for Educators also available.
- ◆ Vocabulary Scaffolding Sheet also available.



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