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Cynthia Rylant , Mark Siegel

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Long Night Moon Details

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From Reader Review Long Night Moon for online ebook

Stefani Sloma says

Long Night Moon by Cynthia Rylant was recommended to me by the children's librarian at the library where I work. I was immediately drawn to the cover and as I flipped through it to see if I might like it, I was drawn to the artwork inside as well. So I checked it out, and I'm so glad I did.

I was mesmerized for a straight 10 minutes by this book. Long Night Moon is a magical story, quite similar to the oral storytelling tradition of the past. Its prose was poetic at times, just beautiful.

The synopsis on the book says:

Have you ever stopped to consider what might be revealed in one spot over one year by twelve unique and exquisite full moons?

Each spread of the book discusses the twelve moons of the year, January – December. I wish I could include pictures, because some of my favorites were April, July, and November.

The book seems pretty simple at first, but once you read several moons into the story, you realize that each page is written in adoration of each full moon of the year. It's enchanting. The words flow like moonlight through the trees: gentle, soft, sweet. The words themselves have been carefully chosen, just as their placement on the page has been. If you look at the November page again, you'll see that the last three words ("might just sleep") have been placed so that you emulate a pause, a sleepiness to the words as you read. I thought this was wonderful. I love how lovingly this book was planned.

The illustrations are just beautiful as well. The illustrator explains that he chose to use charcoal because it can capture "that velvety mysterious light that softens everything, bathing nature in a dreamy luminosity."

That is exactly what came across in the illustrations. They are just gorgeous. Absolutely soft and smooth.

Rylant's words are not only beautiful but they are emotive as well. The mixture of her words and the illustrations transport you to the month and you are able to feel as if you are actually there experiencing that moon. This book perfectly shows how words and their spacing on the page can convey emotions. This book comes across not only as a beautiful story, but as poetry, as song.

I would definitely recommend reading this book, not only if you have children, but if you love beautiful stories and books.

K says

Pretty book, but I wish they specified from which American indigenous culture the names of the moon come, rather than acting like all Native Americans had a singular culture.

Awjtf says

beautiful book!

Kristen Herzog says

Long Night Moon Cynthia Ryland and illustrated by Mark Siegel is a picture book story about the different names of the moon. Each month the Native Americans named the full moon and each name was like a story about what that season was going to bring. A beautifully illustrated book that is written in poetry. It needs to be read slowly so that the reader can fully grasp the meaning of each of the 12 moons names. This would be a good book to read to any age level and can be used in many different contexts i.e. Moon Phases, seasons, months, Indians of North America, poetry, illustrations.

Paul Hankins says

A celebration of the moon through the months of the year. Rylant's words and Siegel's images are a wonderful symbiotic relationship that celebrates Native American culture. Would work well in a unit on Oral Tradition.

Sarah says

At first glance, this book seemed like a simple storybook about a moonlit eve with pictures drawn or painted in some sort of black and white media. However, as I paid closer attention, I realized that this seemingly simple text actually consisted of finely chosen words developed into loving poetry as odes to each full moon of the year. The words on the page flow like moonlight through the pages as the month and Native American name for that moon are mentioned. So, too, do the pictures flow, each two-page spread containing not only illuminated text in a gentle cursive-type font, but illustrations of the shadowed evening scenes done in soft charcoal, pencil, and pastels. The illustrator noted on the copyright page toward the back of the book that he chose charcoal for its ability to capture “that velvety mysterious light that softens everything, bathing nature in a dreamy luminosity.” The illustrations and text work together, effortlessly revealing what that place on earth must look like under the glow of that month’s full moon.

This book would be wonderful to use to encourage students to use carefully chosen descriptive words in their writing. For example, instead of the author saying that the weather is stormy in July, she says the following: (Please imagine that the periods are not there. This system will not let me set up the indentations and spaces between the words as I would have liked to.)

.....In July
.....the Thunder Moon trembles,
.....shudders,
.....and disappears
.....in a thick.....black.....sky.

.....It listens to the
.....clouds
.....beat their drums.

Thus not only the idea of a stormy evening is communicated, but the emotions of the author's experience, as well. This would be a way, also, to show how emotion is conveyed through the spacing and physical set-up of words and phrases in poetry. The effect is different than if the author had chosen to write all of this as two sentences in a typical linear fashion:

"In July the Thunder Moon trembles, shudders, and disappears in a thick black sky. It listens to the clouds beat their drums."

Looking at all of these elements together, I now can fully appreciate this story as not just text, but as poetry singing of the glorious wonders beheld in the glow of the moon. I highly recommend reading this book again and again.

Lola Volkova says

A set of poems about and for the moon. Or in the reverse, this is a book about the moon introducing itself from ancient time to the modern readers. This is the first time a mother showing her new-born baby the moon night. It is quiet, but far from silent. For every creature hiding in the bushes listening to the song of the moon.

midnightfaerie says

Beautiful illustrations, just not enough meat and too flowery to keep my kid's attention. I liked it though.

Kris says

First off, this is a gorgeous book. The art is evocative and dark and lovely. The prose is poetic. If this were just a creative book about the moon, my review would be stellar. However, it purports to be about what Native Americans called the full moons. There is no specificity about tribes, as if all indigenous people have the same beliefs. It is also inaccurate. Some native tribes have names for the different moons. They are not these names. They do not coincide with the January-December calendar. I'm not sure why Rylant felt the need to try to relate this, erroneously, to Native Americans.

Heidi Burkhart says

A story about the 12 names that the Native Americans gave to the moon - a different name for each month. This was a lovely book with beautiful illustrations. I wish I had it when I was teaching. It would tie perfectly into Native Studies!

Turrean says

Beautiful illustrations; a gentle, poetic text. More a meditation on the passing seasons than a narrative.

Tracy says

Little narrative. Description and naming of monthly full moons. I don't think blue moons were explained at all.

Peaceful, quiet book with soft illustration. Using cursive matches the style of the book.. but it really doesn't suit reading and teaching literacy to young children.

Linda Blake says

Cynthia Rylant sets a dreamy quiet night scene on each page and the illustrations contribute to the peace found in this picture book. I started to call it a children's book, but really these wonderful works of art are for everyone.

Jessica says

I really liked the cultural part of this book. Great for learning about Native American culture, the moon, and the months of the year. I also enjoyed the illustrations. Great addition to the classroom nonfiction library.

Stacie says

Nice introduction to the moon months of some Native American cultures. Easy words that might be hard for beginning readers due to cursive font. Good moon pictures.
