

## **The Astronaut's Cat**

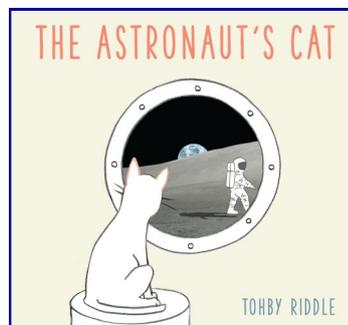
By Tohby Riddle

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The astronaut's cat is an inside cat. And she likes it like that. The astronaut's cat is an inside cat - on the Moon! But she dreams about the strange outside world - and the mysterious blue ball that rises into the ink-black sky . . . A wonderfully whimsical, funny and surprising story of a very unusual 'inside cat' - by one of Australia's finest picture-book creators. Perfect for readers who are intrigued or inspired by the landscapes of the Moon and the Earth - or fascinated by the inner life of cats.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

### **Themes:**

- Wonders of the Moon
- The curiosity of cats
- The precious beauty of Earth

### **Discussion Questions:**

- *Read the story through once and then close the book and ask the following questions:*
  - ◇ Why does Cat like living in a spaceship at the beginning of the story?
  - ◇ Can you remember what she dreams she might do if she could play on the Moon?
  - ◇ By the end of the story do you think she is really happy on the Moon?
  - ◇ Where do you think she would prefer to live?
  - ◇ What is it about the Earth that she prefers?
  - ◇ Which would you prefer to live on and why?
  - ◇ Did you like the story and why?
- The Moon is barren, meaning that it doesn't have any living things on it, and the spaceship is almost the same but the Earth is full of living things. There are lots of different creatures in the air and on the land, colourful plants and beautiful landscapes. How did this make you feel about the idea of living in each place?
- The Moon is always shown in black and white and the spaceship is shown in muted yellow and cream colours. It is only the Earth where colours are vibrant and varied. Did this make you feel one place might be much nicer and more fun to live in?
- Did you notice that the story begins with very short and basic sentences that grow in complexity as Cat begins to dream? And that it returns to the short and basic again when she wakes from her dream. Did that change how you read the story as it progressed?
- Sometimes words can be shown in different ways for emphasis. Turn to the page where Cat is thinking about micrometeoroids flying around. How have the words in the top half of the page been placed to show us how fast these tiny rocks can whizz around the Moon? Now look at the page opposite and the word Dinnertime. What is the symbol here for speech that shows us Astronaut is doing the talking? How are the colour and letters different to most others and what does that say about how important Dinnertime might be to Cat?
- Do you think animals dream like Cat in the story? What sort of things do you think a cat on Earth might dream about?