



# KITTEN'S FIRST FULL MOON

AUTHOR: KEVIN HENKES

ILLUSTRATOR: KEVIN HENKES

See a video of the book read aloud here: [Kitten's First Full Moon](#)

**\*\* REMEMBER: HAVE FUN AND THE KIDS WILL TOO! \*\***

## OVERVIEW

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Kevin Henkes's acclaimed national bestseller about a kitten, the moon, and a bowl of milk was awarded the Caldecott Medal and was a New York Times Best Illustrated Book. A brave young kitten sets out into the world on a quest that leaves her bruised, bewildered, and hungry, but that ultimately leads her back home, where something special is waiting just for her. (amazon.com)

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

"I've been writing and illustrating children's books for thirty years. It's the only real job I've ever had. When my work is going well, it's transformative. I feel as if I've been removed from ordinary time and am living in some parallel universe, a world of grace and wonder. Books are often the first exposure to art that children have. Keeping that in mind urges me to make the very best books possible. I know how important the books from my childhood were (and are) to me. Without them, I might not be a writer and artist today. Sometimes I'll hear from a parent about how a book of mine has insinuated itself into the heart of his or her child, or how a phrase from one of my books has become part of the family's daily jargon. I love that. But most of all, I love sitting alone in a quiet room drawing and painting and writing. I love my job." (kevinhenkes.com)

## THE READ ALOUD

### BEFORE READING

Use these prompts before reading the story to help students activate background knowledge and make predictions:

- What is this on the cover of the book?
- When we open the cover so that we can see the front and back at the same time, what else do we see besides the kitten?
- I wonder what all these circles have to do with the story. Let's start reading and see if we can figure it out.

### DURING THE STORY

Use these prompts while reading the story to help students interpret the action and content:

- (title page) Oh...the circles are just like the moon!
- (p. 1) Why would kitten think that the moon was a bowl of milk?
- (p. 2) I notice some things other than the moon in this illustration.

## KITTEN'S FIRST FULL MOON

### TOPICS & THEMES:

- Reflection
- Perseverance
- Curiosity

### *Tips for every book!*

### POWER PHRASES:

*I WONDER...*

*I NOTICE...*

*TELL ME MORE...*

### DIGGING DEEPER:

*"Tell me more, why do you think that?"*

*"How do you know that?"*

*"Why do you think they feel like that?"*

*"Interesting, did you notice anything else?"*

- (p. 2) Why do you think she wants the bowl of milk?
- (p. 8) If kittens could talk, what do you think this kitten would say? (ouch!)
- (p. 9) What is kitten doing in this illustration? Why do you think she's doing that? (hunting)
- (p. 12) How do you think kitten feels at the bottom of this page?
- (p. 15) What do kittens use to climb trees? (claws)
- (p. 17) Hmm. I wonder what the kitten is planning.
- (p. 21) Wet, sad, tired, and hungry – so many words to tell us how kitten is feeling! Plus, just look at her face! How does she feel?
- (p. 29) What is kitten doing on the last page of the story?

## AFTER READING

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*Use these prompts after reading the story to help students understand what they just read:*

- Do you think there was really a bowl of milk in the sky?
- Let's talk about reflection and what it means. (*Reader: clap syllables for "reflection"*) Different surfaces reflect differently. (*Reader: show examples: fabric, paper, tin foil, mirror, spoon, something shiny, etc.; using a foam ball as light, show how it reflects off different surfaces – bounces off smooth surfaces, absorbed by fabric, etc.*)

## BRINGING THE BOOK TO LIFE!

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- (p. 3) How many bugs are on p. 3? How about on p. 4? Let's count them together. I wonder why there are a different number of bugs on p. 3 than there are on p. 4. Do you have any ideas?
- (p. 4) Repeat after me: Poor kitten! Every time these words come in the story, I want you to say them with me. Once again, repeat after me: Poor kitten!
- (p. 7) Get on all fours and wiggle your bottom like a kitten getting ready to spring.
- (p. 8) Poor kitten!
- (p. 16) Show me with your body (which includes your face) how you would feel if you were high in the tree and couldn't get down.

## COOPERATIVE LEARNING

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- Turn to your neighbor and tell each other your favorite pet animal and what it eats. When you're ready, we'll share with the whole class.

## EXTENSION ACTIVITY

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- Teach the class "Moon<sub>2</sub> Moon<sub>2</sub> Moon" by Laurie Berkner.
- Create circles from sponges and create a circle print on whatever paper you have available, using different colors of paint.

The moon is full. Kitten is hungry and inquisitive and brave and fast and persistent and unlucky . . . then lucky! What a night! He received the Caldecott Medal for Kitten's First Full Moon; Caldecott Honors for Waiting and Owen; two Newbery Honors—one for Olive's Ocean and one for The Year of Billy Miller—and Geisel Honors for Waiting and Penny and Her Marble. His other books include Sun Flower Lion, A Parade of Elephants, Chrysanthemum, and the beloved Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse. Kitten's First Full Moon. HOMER is an early learning program for kids ages 2-8. It includes access to hundreds of interactive stories and a personalized learn-to-read plan. Try it free for 30 days! When Kitten wakes up to her first full moon, she thinks it's a bowl of milk in the sky. She dreams of having it! Closing her eyes, she stretches her neck and opens her mouth to lap it up but only catches a bug. She runs down the sidewalk and over the fields to a pond, but the bowl of milk is still so far away. She climbs a tree to see if she can reach it. Poor Kitten—that doesn't work. But in the pond is a larger bowl of milk! She races down the tree, through the grass, and SPLASH into the pond, only to get wet. Defeated, she makes her way back home. What do you think is waiting for her there? Kittens First Full Moon is the perfect book for a night time read when we don't have time to read a book to each child. It has the adventure elements that my son enjoys and it has an adorable kitten for Harriet. This book is one that both kids picked out together and it continues to delight them. . . .more. My daughter loves "Kitten's First Full Moon", and what's not to love? Kevin Henkes's adorable picture book is about a kitten who sees a bowl of milk in the sky and tries to drink from it. In actuality, it's a full moon, and the kitten's attempts to capture it result in ever-increasing troubles and misadventures. Thankfully, it ends on a high note. Henkes, who also writes young adult fiction, is apparently an award-winning writer and illustrator of children's picture books as well. It is Kitten's first full moon, and when she sees it, she thinks it is a bowl of milk in the sky. And she wants it. Does she get it? Well, no . . . and yes. What a night! In the Caldecott Medal-winning Kitten's First Full Moon, Kevin Henkes introduces a wonderful new character, and an adventure just right for the very youngest. Also available in Spanish! [Click here for more information.](#) Kitten's First Full Moon is a children's picture book written and illustrated by Kevin Henkes. Published in 2004, the book tells the story of a kitten who thinks the moon is a bowl of milk. Henkes won the 2005 Caldecott Medal for his illustrations. The book is in black and white and typeset in sans-serif. The idea came from a line in another book by Henkes, "The cat thought the moon was a bowl of milk." Henkes gradually expanded on that for Kitten's First Full Moon.