

## **Moon**

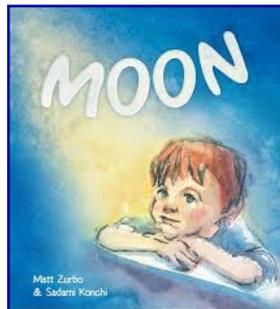
By Matt Zurbo & Illustrated by Sadami Konchi

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Max's dad is far away on his fishing trawler and Max is missing him badly, until his dad tells him to look at the moon. Dad is looking at the moon too, the same one that is watching over Max.



Teacher notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher, Windy Hollow Books.

### **Themes:**

- The moon
- Not feeling alone
- Connecting to home
- The natural world

### **Discussion Points & Activities:**

Before reading:

- What does the cover tell you about what the story might be about?
- What age do you think the boy on the cover is?
- What do you think he may be thinking about?

After reading:

- How do you think Max felt when his father had to go away?
- Where do you think his father was going and why did he have to leave?
- What sorts of messages do you think Max wanted to send his father via the moon?
- What are some of the other ways Max and his father may have communicated?
- Why do you think the moon was so special to them?
- Imagine you are Max. Write a diary of things that happen whilst your father is away, things you do, things you see and things you want to tell him when he comes home.
- If the Moon could retell stories what are some stories it may tell. Imagine you are the moon and write a story about all the things you see in the night.
- What are some of the ways you communicate with your family or friends when they are away? Write a letter or email or postcard to someone who is far away from you.
- Look at the different moon phases. Find out when the next full moon is and then go out and look at it. Look at the different shadows on the moon and imagine what they might be.
- What are the different animals that appear throughout the book?
- What can you find out about the habitat of these animals?
- Sadami used watercolour to paint the illustrations. Experiment with watercolour to get varying shades of darkness.
- How else might Sadami have achieved the different shades of blue? Pick your favourite page and try illustrating it using a different technique.