



Music for Mister Moon

by Philip C. Stead
illustrated by Erin E. Stead

NEAL PORTER BOOKS HC: 978-0-8234-4160-0 • Ages 4–8

- ★ “A gift for the eyes and a delight for the imagination.”—*Booklist*, Starred Review
- ★ “Soft and dreamlike.”—*School Library Journal*, Starred Review
- ★ “A-glimmer with verbal and visual grace notes.”—*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review
- ★ “Subtle and whimsical.”—*Shelf Awareness*, Starred Review

About the Book

A whimsical bedtime story about a shy young cello player who learns to share her music with the moon.

A girl named Harriet longs to play her cello alone in her room. But when a noisy owl disrupts her solitude, Harriet throws her teacup out the window in frustration and accidentally knocks the moon out of the sky. Over the course of an evening, Harriet and the moon become fast friends. But can she work up the courage to play her music for the moon?

Pre-Reading Activities

- Take a close look at the cover art. At what time of day is the book set? The moon appears to be looking at something. What do you think it sees? What do the owl and the moon have in common?
- How does the title page reveal the main character? Why is she taking a bow? Who is her audience? How does the title suggest that the moon has a major role in the book?



Classroom Discussion Questions

Conflict—The *conflict* in a story is the problem and is usually revealed on the first page. What is Harriet Henry’s problem? Harriet brings her cello and her stuffed animals to the dinner table. What do these items reveal about Harriet? What do you think Harriet’s parents are thinking when she tells them that she likes to play her cello alone? Why does she change them into penguins?

Illustration—Explain why Harriet changes her room into a little house. Study the third double-page spread. How does the open door invite the reader into Harriet’s little house? Discuss how the pictures hanging on either side of the door reveal Harriet’s true friends.

Feelings—Debate whether Harriet is rude when she throws her teacup at the owl. How does this incident bring the moon into the story? What is the meaning of *regret*? How does Harriet regret throwing the teacup? Explain how this regret changes into joy by the end of the book.

Conflict Resolution—What is Mister Moon’s role in resolving the conflict? How does he give Harriet courage to play the cello for someone other than her stuffed animals? Discuss the hat maker and the fisherman’s feelings toward Mister Moon. What does Mr. Mister Moon teach Harriet about friendship?

Sight vs. Sound—Think about the pastel colors that Erin Stead uses. Then think about Harriet’s music. How do the colors suggest the type of music that Harriet plays? Is she playing quiet and slow music or loud and fast? On the last page, Harriet plays the cello for Mister Moon. What do Mister Moon’s eyes reveal about Harriet’s music?

Shape Identification—There are usually many shapes depicted in illustrations. The moon is round. Identify other round objects in the pictures. How many other shapes do you see?

Figurative Language—*Personification* is when a nonhuman takes on human characteristics. For example, animals that talk are personified. Point out examples of personification in the story.

About the Creators



Erin E. Stead and **Philip C. Stead** are an award-winning, husband and wife picture book team. Their book *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* won the Caldecott Medal and was named a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book and a *Publishers Weekly* Best Children’s Book. Their Holiday House book, *Music for Mister Moon*, received four starred reviews. Other popular books include *Bear Has a Story to Tell*, an E. B. White Award Honor Book, and their collaboration with Mark Twain on *The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine*, a *New York Times* Bestseller. The Steads live in Michigan.

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