

# Moonshot

## The Flight of Apollo 11

Author: Brian Floca

Publisher: Atheneum Books for Young Readers

Year: 2009

ISBN: 978-1-5344-403

Children love tales of space and this book has the advantage of both telling a good story and exposing the child to the myriad types of engineering and how engineers must work together with other disciplines – especially on a world headline grabbing project such as Apollo 11.

Engineers need:

*'Nuts and bolts, needles and thread*

*And numbers, numbers, numbers.'*

At the beginning of the book we join the three astronauts make final preparations for the journey to the moon – a cold, quiet glowing globe in the night sky where no man had been before.

They don their suits, squeeze into the rocket and wait. It's T minus 2 hours. Engineers have to be patient it seems.

In Houston the engineers are glued to their screens, levers and buttons. For the moment they are in control.

The world holds its breath – and then there is LIFT OFF!

The book follows the journey of the three men, Armstrong, Collins and Aldrin, through space, as rockets decouple, the earth rolls beneath them and the moon looms larger before them while the men settle into life onboard.

The moon landing is described in detail, the illustrations adding to the excitement.

This is quite a literary book engaging the child in lots of sensory ways. What did they hear? What did they see? It's full of clicking and buzzing, whistling and crackling, roaring and quiet. It's also full of movement – rolling and floating, soaring and flying and most importantly, landing.

In this book engineers are machine makers, computer experts, spacesuit designers and quite philosophical too.

A lovely book for parents to share with a curious child.

