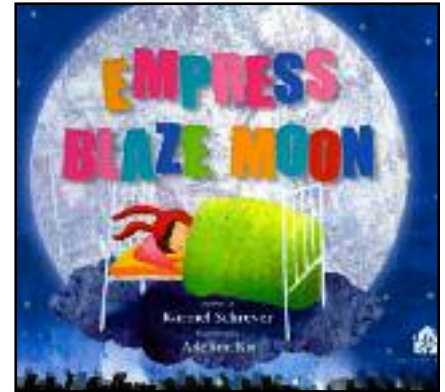


Elements Hot Resource Review:

Empress Blaze Moon

««« By Kristian Levey

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This information is recommended for use with the Ontario Curriculum, Kindergarten: Science and Technology

Empress Blaze Moon by Karmel Schreyer. Illustrated by Adeline Ko. Hong Kong: Haven Books, 2010. ISBN: 978-988-180948-3. 56 pages. \$10.99.

Empress Blaze Moon is a wonderful story that blends the science of the Moon's phases with imagination and emotion. Investigating how the Moon changes each night, students can develop an awareness of the natural environment. In *Empress Blaze Moon*, the little girl in the story imagines the different phases of the Moon, while making personal connections to her world. She takes great joy from seeing the Moon each night, and when the Moon suddenly leaves, she is determined to find the Moon again.

The Moon can 'suddenly leave' behind clouds or when it is at the new Moon phase. Having students observe and colour the shape of the Moon at home each night with their parents is an excellent way to extend student learning and parent engagement. Using *Empress Blaze Moon* to draw a child's attention to the Moon is an excellent way to explore patterns in the natural environment.

Having students describe in their own words what the Moon looks like – as the girl does in the story: "Sometimes it looked like Grandpa's big rice bowl" – helps them make their own connections to the world around them and engage students in developing personal connections to the story.

The story also provides an opportunity to teach students about patience and to never give up, just like the girl as she searches for the Moon.

Karmel Schreyer is the author of many children's books and educational materials. She was born and raised in Manitoba, Canada, but currently resides in Hong Kong.

Adeline Ko is an accomplished children's story illustrator and holds a Master's degree in Chinese children's literature.

Empress Blaze Moon is fantastic story that inspires children to look up to the sky and find meaning through their own observations of our Moon.

