

**THE MAN WHO WENT TO THE FAR SIDE OF THE MOON:  
THE STORY OF APOLLO 11 ASTRONAUT MICHAEL COLLINS  
BY BEA UUSMA SCHYFFERT**

**Louisiana Young Readers' Choice Award Nominee 2006  
Grades 3-5**

Submitted by Pabby Arnold, Children's Coordinator  
East Baton Rouge Parish Library, Baton Rouge

**Title: The Man Who Went to the Far Side of the Moon: The Story of  
Apollo 11 Astronaut Michael Collins**  
**Author/Illustrator: Bea Uusma Schyffert; Translated by Emi Guner**  
**Publisher: Chronicle Books LLC, 2003**  
**Pages: 80**

**Summary**

This is an incredibly interesting, uniquely designed book. Though nominally about Michael Collins, the astronaut who orbited the moon while Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin walked on it, it is also a story about the Apollo 11. It is a fascinating book for both children and adults full of curiosities, such as the fact that astronauts snore louder in space and that they took 20 pounds of checklists into space. We discover personal things about the men of the crew: Neil Armstrong liked to cook; Buzz Aldrin's mother's maiden name was Moon; Michael Collins never wanted to go back to the moon. The book was originally published in Swedish in 1999 as "Astronauten som inte fick landa."

**Awards**

School Library Journal Best Books of the Year Award 2003  
ALA Notable Children's Books 2004  
Boston Globe-Horn Book Honors 2004  
Swedish Book Art Award  
Award at the 2002 International Book Art Competition

**Author/Illustrator's Biography**

Bea Uusma Schyffert dreamed of becoming an astronaut, but she is 1 inch shy of the requirement. Instead, Bea decided to pursue a career in art. She has illustrated more than 10 books. This book, which she calls a mix between picture book and scrapbook, is Bea Uusma Schyffert's first children's book that she has both written and illustrated. It was originally written in Swedish in 1999.

## Related Titles

*Astronauts: Life Exploring Outer Space* by Chris Hayhurst  
*Flying to the Moon* by Michael Collins  
*Home on the Moon: Living On a Space Frontier* by Marianne J. Dyson  
*In Space* by Michael Johnstone  
*The Moon* by Carmen Bredeson  
*The Moon* (revised edition, 2003) by Seymour Simon  
*Moon Landing: The Race for the Moon* by Carole Stott  
*NASA* by Salvatore Tocci  
*Sputnik: The First Satellite* by Heather Feldman  
*The Story of Apollo 11* by R. Conrad Stein

## Classroom Connections

- Make a **chart** to compare the people who walked on the moon. Write their names across the top. Along the left side of the page, write Apollo #, space assignment, background, age at time of liftoff, birth date, height, weight, astronaut since \_\_\_\_, previous space travel miscellaneous. Find everything you can to fill in the blanks. How were these astronauts alike? How were they different?
- **Bud Collins** stayed in the space craft while the other two astronauts walked on the moon. Ask the students how they would have felt in Bud's position. Talk about feeling left out and about being a team player.
- Have students do research on the **moon** and moon exploration.
- Have students do research on the different **Apollo missions**.
- Have students write **biographies** of the astronauts. See the Zoom Astronomy web site below for a list of astronauts.
- Have students write reports about "**space firsts**," such as the first animal in space, first woman in space, etc. See Zoom Astronomy site for lots of good ideas.
- The Apollo 11 moon landing happened in **1969**. Have the students study what else was happening in the world that year.

## Web Sites

Astronomy For Kids  
<http://www.frontiernet.net/~kidpower/astronomy.html>

This site for younger kids includes basic facts about a variety of subjects related to space, such as the moon, the solar system, stars, meteorites and space exploration. It has links to many other sites.

Apollo 11 – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

[http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/apollo\\_11\\_30th.html](http://nssdc.gsfc.nasa.gov/planetary/lunar/apollo_11_30th.html)

Site displays images and descriptions about the events that took place at the landing on the moon to celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the voyage – also includes links to other sites concerned with Apollo 11.

The Apollo Program

<http://www.nasm.si.edu/collections/imagery/apollo/AS11/a11.htm>

Information about the Apollo missions – facts, crewmembers, mission summary, images, and videos of the mission.

Kosmoi: Astronauts

<http://kosmoi.com/Space/Astronaut/more.shtml>

Contains information about astronauts from different voyage eras.

NASA

[www.nasa.gov](http://www.nasa.gov)

Discover what NASA is planning for the future. Includes videos about past and future programs.

NASA - Kids

<http://www.nasa.gov/audience/forkids/home/index.html>

NASA's internet site for kids. Includes activities, games, stories, and art. It's educational and fun, too!

The Nine Planets: A Multimedia Tour of the Universe

<http://seds.lpl.arizona.edu/nineplanets/nineplanets/nineplanets.html>

This very informative site contains information about the planets, their moon, and other information on a variety of space subjects. It also includes detailed pictures of space.

Zoom Astronomy

[www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/subjects/astronomy)

Includes basic facts about astronomy, the moon, etc. including an excellent list of astronauts and astronaut records: space firsts.

Check out Kids Stuff/Homework Help/Science at [www.ebr.lib.la.us](http://www.ebr.lib.la.us) for great space Internet sites!