

Name: _____

Super Perigee Moon

By Kelly Hashway

Seth dropped his backpack on the kitchen table and headed straight for the refrigerator. He needed a good snack if he was going to stay up late to watch the super perigee moon. Not that he really cared about the moon, but Mr. Andrews had assigned



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Fun? Was she crazy? "I don't think staying up late to stare at a moon and write down my observations sounds like fun at all."

Mom laughed. "You just wait. I bet you'll enjoy it more than you think you will."

Seth doubted it. Mr. Andrews told the class that the super perigee moon occurs when the full or new moon is closest to the Earth on its elliptical orbit. They'd spent the entire class talking about orbits and how big the moon usually looks. Seth didn't see why this was such a big deal. So the moon looked a little bigger and brighter than usual?

When the sun set, Seth walked out on the deck. "That's weird," he said to his dad, who'd decided to watch the moon with him. "It's so bright out here."

"The super perigee moon is about thirty percent brighter than the regular moon," Dad said. When I was younger, Grandpa used to study astronomy. He

taught me all about space. The super perigee moon was always one of my favorite things to look at. You don't even need a telescope."

Seth gawked at the moon. Not only was it bright, it was huge. Bigger than any full moon he'd ever seen. "It's gigantic!"

"About fourteen percent larger than usual," Dad said.

Seth opened the notebook he'd brought outside and started jotting down the information his dad told him. "Think I should take pictures for the assignment?"

"Why not? I bet it would get you some extra credit."

"And I'd kind of like to have pictures to



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1. When does a super perigee moon occur?
 - a. when the moon is full and appears very low on the horizon
 - b. when the moon crosses over the sun
 - c. when the moon is full and closest to Earth
 - d. when the moon hides behind the clouds



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4. During a super perigee moon...
 - a. the moon looks larger and brighter than normal
 - b. the moon comes out during the daylight hours
 - c. the moon spins more quickly than normal
 - d. people on Earth should stay indoors
 5. What did Seth write in his notebook?
 - a. information he read about the super perigee moon
 - b. facts from the Internet about the super perigee moon
 - c. illustrations of the super perigee moon
 - d. information he learned from his father about the super perigee moon

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Match each vocabulary word from the story with the correct definition.



1. _____ refrigerator a. writing quickly



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5. _____ extra credit e. large object that orbits around a planet
6. _____ jotting f. machine for keeping food cold
7. _____ due g. the study of outer space, stars and planets
8. _____ doubted h. egg-shaped; oval-shaped; not perfectly round

Now try this: Write three sentences on your own. In each sentence, use one of the vocabulary words above.

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In the story, "Super Perigee Moon," Seth has a homework assignment in which he has to observe a super perigee moon and write down his observations. At the end of the story, he says it's the best homework assignment of the year.

Describe one school assignment that you really enjoyed. Tell what the assignment was



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5. What did Sam write in his notebook?

- a. information he read about the super perigee moon
- b. facts from the Internet about the super perigee moon
- c. illustrations of the super perigee moon

d. information he learned from his father about the super perigee moon

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8. c. doubted

h. egg-shaped; oval-shaped; not perfectly round

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