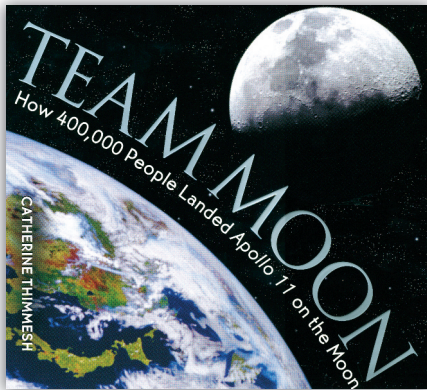


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Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon **Catherine Thimmesh (Houghton Mifflin, 2006)**

What's it about?

Team Moon tells the tales of a select few unsung heroes, without whom the lunar landing of July 20, 1969 would never have been possible. We might still be familiar with the faces of the astronauts

who first set foot on the moon on that day, but few if any of us have looked deep enough into the event to appreciate all of its moving parts. From designing, assembling, and testing the space suit to inventing an effective system for deploying the lunar module's parachutes during re-entry, we are given in-depth accounts of many of the effort's more intricate operations, providing valuable insight into just how much work it took to pull it off.

Who is this book for?

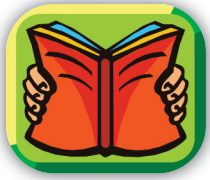
This is an excellent book for younger readers, and would be helpful for middle schoolers in their transition to a higher reading level. The author pulls few punches in terms of vocabulary, but provides clarification of terms when necessary.

Who wrote it?

Catherine Thimmesh is an author from Plymouth, Minnesota who undertook the ambitious task of compiling nearly all of the data used in *Team Moon*. By devoting countless hours of researching archived tapes, mission logs, and conducting interviews, she saw to it that *Team Moon* would be a thorough and accurate account of those who played their part in the historic moon landing. She is the author of several other children's books, and won the AAAS/Subaru's *SB&F* Prize for Excellence in Science Books as a result of her excellent work on *Team Moon*.

Why should we read it?

This book offers a perspective rarely (if ever) glimpsed of one of America's most significant historical achievements. Rather than hearing the story from the point of view of the astronauts who worked towards the tremendous accomplishment or the average American who watched the broadcast in their home, Thimmesh opts to focus on those hundreds of thousands of workers whose role has been downplayed in the face of NASA's now-iconic heroes. It emphasizes that the operation was not nearly as simple as just shooting a lunar module into space and hoping for the best, but rather that it took the skills of untold legions of Americans as they put in millions of work hours towards accomplishing their ultimate goal.



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What can we talk about?

Which role in the overall process were you most surprised to see? (e.g. seamstresses, photographers, etc.)

Was there a specific part in the process that you thought was particularly vital, perhaps more so than others? Less?

What did reading this book do for your perspective on what you understood about the mood landing?

Did this book change how you viewed the role the astronauts played in their mission to the moon?

What are some other books like this I might like?

On the Moon by Patrick Moore. Cassell, 2001.

Space Travel by Mike Goldsmith. Steck-Vaughn Company, 2001.

Apollo Moon Missions: The Unsung Heroes by Billy Watkins. Apogee Books, 2008.

History of NASA by Ray Spangenburg. Franklin Watts, 2000.

Where can I find out more?

Images chronicling the landmarks of the mission:

<http://history.nasa.gov/ap11ann/kippsphotos/apollo.html>

Account of the Apollo 11 mission from the standpoint of the astronauts:

<http://history.nasa.gov/ap11ann/FirstLunarLanding/cover.html>

Details of the many projects that lead up to the first manned expedition to the moon:

<http://science.nationalgeographic.com/science/space/space-exploration/moon-exploration-article.html>