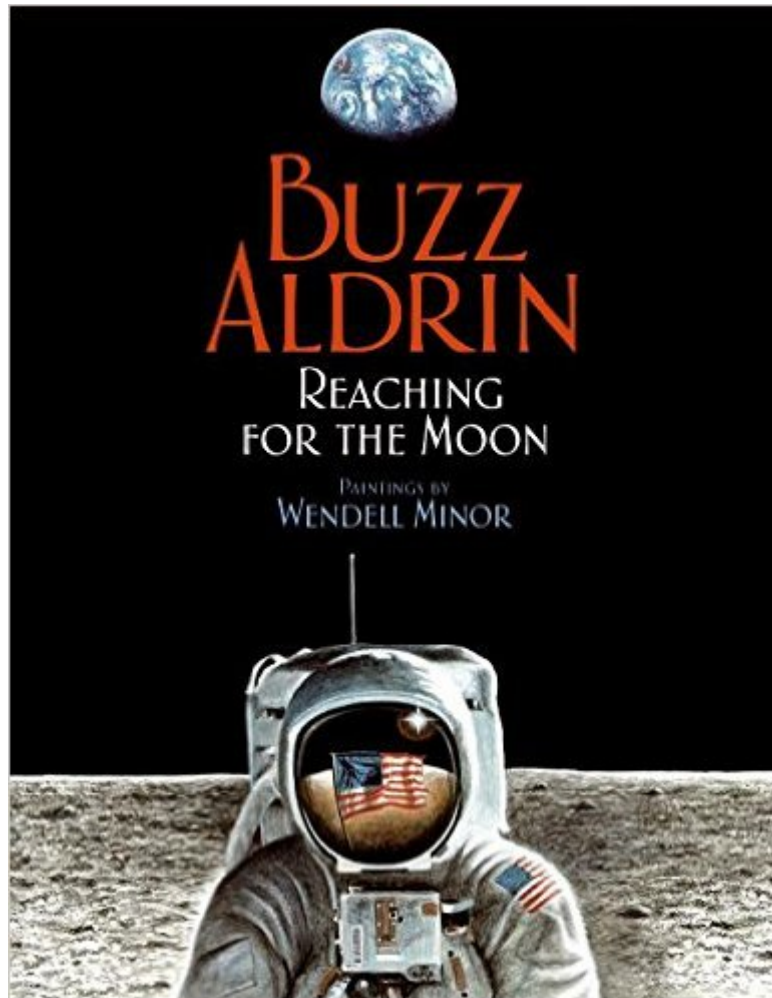


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# Reaching For The Moon



## Synopsis

I walked on the moon. This is my journey. But it didn't begin when I stepped on board Apollo 11 on July 1, 1969. It began the day I was born. Becoming an astronaut took more than education, discipline, and physical strength. It took years of determination and believing that any goal is possibleâfrom riding a bike alone across the George Washington Bridge at age ten to making a footprint on the Moon. I always knew the Moon was within my reachâand that I was ready to be on the team that would achieve the first landing. But it was still hard to believe when I took my first step onto the Moon's surface. We all have our own dreams. This is the story of how mine came true.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 860 (What's this?)

Paperback: 40 pages

Publisher: HarperCollins; Reprint edition (May 20, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0060554479

ISBN-13: 978-0060554477

Product Dimensions: 8.5 x 11 inches

Shipping Weight: 6.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ See all reviewsÂ (21 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #94,012 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Exploration & Discovery #45 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Aeronautics & Space #89 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Science & Technology

Age Range: 4 - 8 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Edwin Eugene "Buzz" Aldrin, Jr. was the second man to walk on the moon when he followed Neil Armstrong on July 16, 1969, while Michael Collins circled the moon in the Apollo 11 spacecraft. In "Reaching for the Moon," Aldrin tells the story of his life that led up to walking on the moon, taking key episodes from his life and presenting them as life lessons to his young readers, such as sinking in a lake because he would not let go of a bucket of rocks he had collected ("I knew that if something was important to you, you had to hold on"). Aldrin also shows how various things in his life foreshadowed what he would do on the moon (e.g., his mother's maiden name was Moon and

his first airplane flight was in a small plane painted to look like an eagle). The book follows Aldrin from his childhood and playing sports in school to graduating from West Point and joining the Air Force. After flying combat missions in the Korean War, Aldrin applied to the astronaut program and was not accepted until the second time he tried. The number two also comes up when Aldrin's first space flight was a Gemini mission. The description of the Apollo 11 mission is quite straightforward and Aldrin emphasizes the importance of what they were doing without every talking about how it came to be that he was the second man on the moon instead of the first (the reasoning was actually quite simple: Armstrong was a civilian, Aldrin was still in the military, and the U.S. government did not want a soldier to be the first person on the moon). Everybody remembers Armstrong's first words on the moon, but Aldrin recalls his own apt description of the moon as "Magnificent desolation."

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