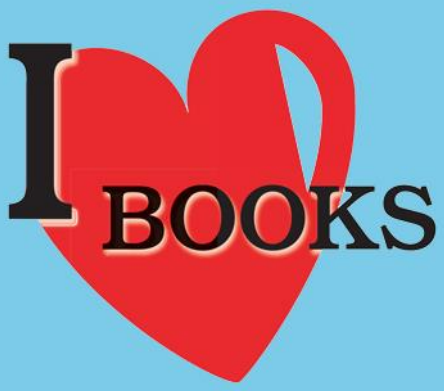


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Opening extract from

Grandpa was an Astronaut

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This book is super readable for young readers beginning their independent reading journey.





Chapter 1

Moon Thing

It was time to get up. So Sherman got up. Then he did some stuff. Here's a list of all the stuff that Sherman did –

1. Went to the toilet.

2. Washed his hands.

3. Splashed some water on his face to wake himself up.

4. Cleaned his teeth.

5. Took off his pyjamas and put some clothes on instead.

6. Went downstairs.

7. Said good morning to his mum.

8. Ate a bowl of cornflakes, with sliced banana but no sugar.

9. Told his mum that he wouldn't be long.

10. Went outside.

Sherman liked to be outside. He liked to be inside, too. But outside was best. Why? Because Sherman lived next to the sea in a small white house, with his mum and a dog called Luna. He didn't care about the weather. Hot, cold, windy, rainy or snowy. It made no difference at all to Sherman. He liked all kinds of weather. Well, most kinds of weather anyway.



But Sherman didn't like fog. Fog was rubbish, because when it was foggy, Sherman couldn't see things. And Sherman liked to see things as he stood on the shingly beach and listened to the waves slurp and suck at the shore. Things like distant ships, the water spouts of passing whales and clouds that looked like sharks.

But the thing that Sherman most liked to see was the moon. Whether it was hanging in the sky like a sideways silver smile, or whether it was full and round and peering above the horizon like a fat creamy cheese, Sherman liked to see it. And, if it was foggy, Sherman couldn't see it. That's why he didn't like fog.

Plus, when it was foggy, the foghorn in the lighthouse kept Sherman awake all night and made him grumpy the next day and his mum even grumpier.

But mainly it was the moon thing.



It wasn't foggy today. Today was sunny and fine and clear. Sherman could see for miles and miles, and so he was happy. But still not as happy as he would have been if he could see the moon.



Sherman had liked the moon for as long as he could remember. Which wasn't all that long because he was only seven. But that was still quite a long time to remember.

Grandpa said that the moon had been full and round over a hundred

times since Sherman was born. And Grandpa should know. Grandpa knew loads of stuff about the moon. But then, Grandpa was an astronaut.

"Sherman?" Sherman's mum called from the back door of the small white house.

"Yeah?" Sherman called back from the beach.

"I need to see you!"

"But I've only just got here!" Sherman groaned.

"WOOF!" said Luna. "WOOF! WOOF!"

"Coming!" said Sherman.