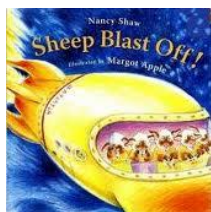


## Rocket Read-Aloud

Rockets capture the imagination. With rockets you get explosions, speed, and exploration. Read about real and imaginary rockets and then build some with the kids.



***Sheep Blast Off*** by Nancy Shaw, illustrated by Margot Apple

Ages 4 to 8

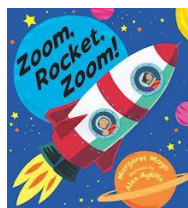
A bunch of sheep accidentally launch a rocket into space with hilarious results. Encourage the kids to observe the illustrations carefully for evidence of aliens. Point out important space and rocket vocabulary like engines, stratosphere, autopilot and orbit.



***This Rocket*** by Paul Collicutt

Ages 4 to 10

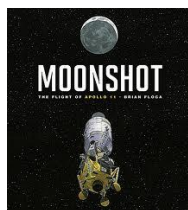
Simple text and bold illustrations will appeal to younger kids, but older ones will like discussing the different uses and aspects of the rockets shown. The end papers show important rockets in history and depict the different stages of the Apollo 11 mission.



***Zoom, Rocket, Zoom!*** By Margaret Mayo, illustrated by Alex Ayliffe

Ages 4 to 6

Action-packed, repetitive text and bold illustrations will make this an appealing Read-Aloud book for young kids.



***Moonshot: The Flight of Apollo 11*** by Brian Floca

Ages 8 to 12

Floca describes the first mission to land on the moon in detail. The large format and detailed pictures make this book ideal for reading aloud to a group. The endpapers show the different rocket components and how the rocket broke apart in flight, to get the astronauts to the moon and back.

## Additional books

***Dogs in Space*** by Nancy Coffelt (Ages 4 to 9)

Dogs explore the planets in our solar system using personal jetpack rockets. It's a silly introduction to the planets in our solar system, but could also serve as a spring board for discussion about the possible use of jetpacks. TRC has a copy for your use.

***To Space and Back*** by Sally Ride with Susan Okie (Ages 6 to 12)

Most of this book deals with what it is like to be in space on the space shuttle, but the photos

and diagram are amazing, including shots of the shuttle launch and of astronauts using jetpacks.

***Let's Go to the Moon*** by Janis Knudsen Wheat, drawings by Bill Burrows (Ages 6 to 12)  
This National Geographic book has photos from several Apollo missions to the moon. Simple drawings explain rocket ignition sequences, the process of landing on the moon, exploring and then returning to Earth. TRC has a copy for your use.

### **Activities**

1. Build rockets with the kids using straws, tape and balloons.

[http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/418003main\\_OTM\\_Launch\\_It.pdf](http://www.nasa.gov/pdf/418003main_OTM_Launch_It.pdf)

2. The NASA website has lots of videos, activities and games for kids. There's also a lot of background information to use and share with the kids about rockets, space, the space shuttle and much more. <http://www.nasa.gov/centers/marshall/about/launchpad/rocket.html>

3. Make personal jetpacks using soda bottles, tissue, tape and markers

<http://www.oneperfectdayblog.net/2012/09/25/how-to-make-a-jet-pack-easy-diy-dress-up-for-kids/>

### **Conversations**

How do rockets work? What makes them take off?

How do rockets land?

What are the purposes for rockets? What can rockets do?

If you had a rocket, what would you use it for?