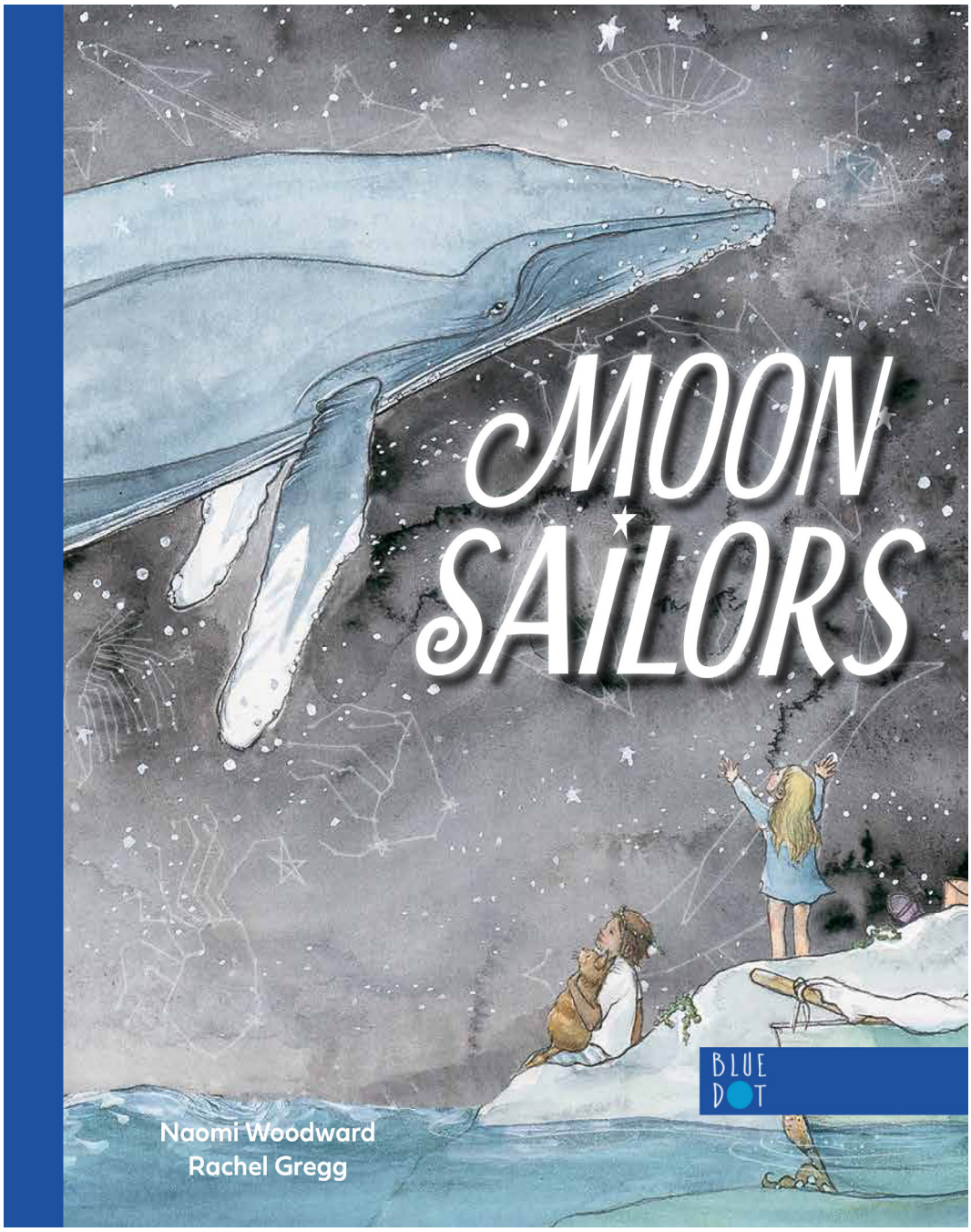
Grades pre-K-2

Your Teacher's Guide

from Blue Dot Kids Press



Moon Sailors, written by Naomi Woodward, illustrated by Rachel Gregg
Pub Date February 10, 2026 | ISBN 9798989858859 **| Ages** 3–7

We intentionally leave this page blank so our guides can be printed like a book.

Contents

Before Reading

Establish background knowledge.

- What do the title and cover illustrations tell you about the book? Where do you think the story takes place? Who will be in the story? What might happen in the story?
- What does the bio on the inside flap of the back cover tell you about the author, Naomi Woodward, and the illustrator, Rachel Gregg? Where in the world is Australia? Is Australia near an ocean that sailors might travel across? Which one—or which ones?
- Look through the illustrations in the book. Have you ever seen any of the creatures that are in the book?

During Reading

As you read, pause with each new word and discuss. Here are some of those terms:

- Earthlight
- Spheres
- Celestial
- Constellation
- Earthrise

Discuss concepts beyond vocabulary:

- How do the illustrations create mood, clarify the topic, and show the setting?

After Reading

Check for understanding.

- Who are the main characters?
- What do they do and why?
- Do you relate to the narrator? Why or why not?
- Thinking more about storytelling, particularly how the author and illustrator play with reality:
  - Are these sailors traveling the sea, the sky, or both? How can you tell? Here are a couple of interesting lines or pictures to consider:
    - "Our boat is brightly lit by the sea stars' fleeting trail. 'Quick make a wish.'"
    - What shapes do the constellations make in the whale spread?
  - The children in the book are at bedtime; are some of the sea creatures? How can you tell? Here are a couple of interesting lines to consider:
    - " . . . near periwinkles dreaming . . . "
    - " . . . nodding jelly moons . . . "
- Thinking more about conservation: Are the animals and humans living harmoniously, or are they mean to each other? How can you tell? Have you ever befriended an animal? How did you show it that you cared?
- What is your favorite word, phrase, or sentence in the book? What do you like about it?
- What surprised you in this book?
- What is the author's purpose for writing this book?
- What new information did you learn as you read?

Learn More

Explore the animals and plants that are throughout the book:

- Snails
- Oysters
- Cockles
- Moon crabs
- Clams
- Rainbow wrack
- Spiny urchins
- Periwinkles
- Abalone
- Neptune's necklace
- Glowworms
- Algae
- Venus's flower baskets
- Jelly moons (or moon jellies)
- Whales
- Flying fish
- Sea stars
- Chitons
- Anemones

As a class or in small groups, research one or two.

- What do they look like?
- Where in the world do they live?
- What do they eat?
- What is something unique or interesting about them?

Share the information with the rest of the class.

Citizen Science

Citizen science, also called community science, happens when people study the world around them and send the data they collect to scientists. A citizen scientist is anyone—young or old, who has attended a lot of school or who hasn't, from a city or a small town—who helps to answer real scientific questions. Citizen scientists offer an invaluable service because, together, they can collect data over greater distances and longer periods of time than scientists and researchers alone.

These characters clearly care about the world around them—everything from the water below their boat to the sky stretching above them.

Water Activity

Plastic pollution of the world's oceans is one of the biggest environmental issues of our time. It impacts nearly seven hundred marine species, including the ones in *Moon Sailors*.

Not everyone lives near an ocean, but most of us live near some form of moving water: a river, stream, or creek. Those waterways play a central role in the disbursement of plastic pollution—most of the plastic found in the ocean traveled there from a smaller body of water. So, all of us can observe, record, and report on plastic pollution in whatever water is near us. And then all of us will be doing something to help solve this problem.

The Ocean Cleanup Research Team is asking citizen scientists to help them map floating plastic. This helps them better understand the problem and know where to focus cleanup efforts. There is more information, and links to The Ocean Cleanup Survey App to use for recording your observations, here: https://theoceancleanup.com/research/citizen-science/.

The Marine Debris Monitoring and Assessment Project (MDMAP) has sites in much of the US along the coasts and the Great Lakes. They want people to help them measure the amount and types of marine debris along shorelines. Steps to get started are here: https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/monitoring/marine-debris-monitoring-and-assessment-project.

Sky Activity

Cities and towns are full of people, buildings, and…lights! Lots and lots of electric lights that drown out the natural starlight. Electric light can cause light pollution. Just like other kinds of pollution, light pollution can negatively affect wildlife and visibility.

Help the organization Globe at Night (https://globeatnight.org) measure the brightness of the night sky. This information helps scientists to educate the public about light pollution. All you need is a smartphone, an internet connection, and a place to be outside and see the night sky.

Here are the basic steps. More detailed information can be found at the Globe at Night website.

1. Look up the Globe at Night campaigns—these tell you which constellations the organization wants citizen scientists to focus on, and on which dates.

2. Download a night sky app.

3. Before the campaign dates, practice finding the campaign constellations that exist in the night sky where you are.

4. During the campaign, go outside more than hour after sunset but before the moon is bright in the sky.

5. Let your eyes become used to the dark.

6. Use your night sky app to find the constellation.

7. Fill in the information on the Globe at Night Report page (https://app.globeatnight.org); your night sky app will give you some of the answers.

8. Hit submit!

Read More

The characters in *Sunday,* written and illustrated by Marcelo Tolentino (ISBN: 9798989858811; https://www.bluedotkidspress.com/sunday), also go on an imaginative journey without leaving home. By looking closely and then imagining different possibilities, they become familiar with their home environment, everything that lives there, and what they're all doing.

My Dear Sea, written and illustrated by André Carrilho (ISBN: 9798989858835; https://www.bluedotkidspress.com/my-dear-sea), finds joy in the real world—and offers readers guidance in beach safety and conservation.

Blue Dot Kids Press inspires curiosity with beautifully crafted stories that connect us to each other and the planet we share. Written and illustrated by impassioned **storytellers and artists from around the world**, our books engage young readers' innate sense of **wonder and empathy**, connecting them to our global community and **the pale blue dot we call home**.

As an **independent, mission-driven**, children's publisher based in San Francisco, California, and Wellington, New Zealand, our **passion for nature and its stewardship** are evident in every book we
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