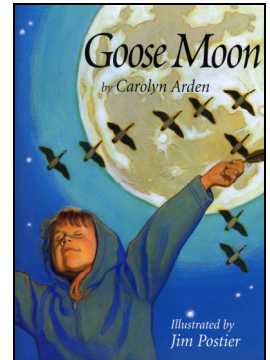


**Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide**

Title: *Goose Moon*
Author: Carolyn Arden
Illustrator: Jim Postier
Publisher and Copyright Date: Boyds Mills Press, 2004
Connection to Minnesota: Minnesota illustrator



Summary: This is the story of a young girl anxiously waiting for winter to end and warmer weather to arrive. Her grandfather tells her the Native American story of the goose moon, a sure sign that spring is on its way.

Suggested ages: 4-6, 7-10

Tips for Reading:

- As the story is written in the first person, read the book with the voice and expression of the little girl as she waits for spring.
- Ask children to imagine being the child in the story and to think about how they would feel as the story progresses.
- After reading each page, give the children a little extra time to absorb the art work before turning the page.

Questions before reading:

- What is your favorite season (winter, spring, summer or fall)? Why?
- How can you tell when winter is changing into spring?
- Where do geese go for the winter?

To Introduce this story say: This is a story about a little girl who enjoys living in the country and spending time with her grandfather. She likes winter for a while, but then can't wait for spring and summer to arrive. Let's find out what happens in the story.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Do you think this story took place in Minnesota? (Hint: Look at the page where the girl and her grandfather are working on the jigsaw puzzle, and look at the puzzle box on the sofa.)
- What are some signs that winter is ending and spring is on the way?
- How do you feel when you're waiting for spring, or your birthday, or a special holiday?
- Do you have any favorite memories that involve nature and a family member or friend?
- Do you have a special relationship with a grandparent, or another older relative or family friend?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

Art:

- Draw a picture of a flock of geese flying by the light of the moon – a goose moon.

Culture:

- Read and discuss the “Author’s Note” at the end of the book about Native American folklore and assigning names to each full moon of the year.

Language:

- Say all the words that make you think of winter (like cold, snow, Christmas) and do the same with the seasons of spring, summer and fall.

Music:

- Sing “Frosty the Snowman” – the song that Grandpa plays on the guitar and the whole family sings in the story.

Science:

- Visit the library or search on the Internet to learn more about the moon and its phases.

Writing:

- Write a short story (real or make believe) about something that you're waiting for, and include a family member or special friend in your story.

Other:

- Visit Silver Lake in Rochester, as this is close to the home of illustrator Jim Postier, and where thousands of Canadian Geese provided him with a large supply of sketching models for this book.

**Suggestions for
English Language
Learners:**

- Describe the change from winter to spring in your native country.
- Does the moon have any special meaning in your native country?
- Do your grandparents, or other relatives, tell you stories about animals or about the moon?
- Say the names for winter, spring, summer and fall in your native language.

Related Books:

- ***Mud*** by Mary Lyn Ray, illustrated by Lauren Stringer (Harcourt, 1996)
- ***When Will It Be Spring?*** by Catherine Walters (Dutton, 1998)
- ***It's Spring!*** by Linda Glaser, illustrated by Susan Swan (Millbrook, 2002)
- ***Owl Moon*** by Jane Yolen, illustrated by John Schoenherr (Philomel, 1987)

