



Moonpowder

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Young Eli Trebuckle is the "fixer of all things fixable." He fixes the vacuum cleaner, the fan, and even the radio, hoping to catch some news of his father who is away at war. But there's one thing that Eli simply can't fix-his bad dreams. It's the same one over and over again: a mountain of junk, a prize just beyond his reach, and a fall.

One night as Eli stays up late to work on his most recent invention and escape another nightmare, a mysterious, luminous, and somewhat bumbling man by the name of Mr. Moon appears at his window. He knows just what the matter with Eli is and promises to help him, if he can fix one more thing.

And so Eli Trebuckle makes the journey to the broken Moonpowder factory. If he can get it up and running, he can ensure that the whole world will have sweet dreams! But can Eli face his greatest fears and meet the biggest challenge of his lifetime? With inspiring courage, determination, and a little faith, Eli proves that, happily, the answer is yes.

Moonpowder Details

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Author : John Rocco

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From Reader Review Moonpowder for online ebook

Cara says

Moonpowder is a wonderful book about the man in the moon seeking a little fixer for help. He needs more Moonpowder and only the little boy can make that happen.

Diana Thomsen says

I picked this one up on a whim. It's like Steampunk for kids! Love! The illustrations are gorgeous, detailed but not overly so, and the story is a clever one. I very much appreciated the message at the end, for even someone who can fix all things fixable can't fix some things. Yes, sometimes we have to just let things fix themselves. Overall, I very much enjoyed it and would happily read more by the same author.

Leslie says

"The illustrations are full of wonder. They create the right balance of detail to enrich the story without overwhelming the viewer to distraction. Another lovely aspect is how the illustrations carry the greater weight of an important facet of the story."

[...]

"I really appreciate the graphic novel style aspect to the book. I am sure young children will be charmed by the illustrations, as well as the story, but Rocco's choice puts Moonpowder on the shelves of the upper ages. His decision also reminds the reader to begin with the title page. The story begins there in a quiet collection of three slender panels."

[...]

"I could also appreciate, after reading the author's comments, that John Rocco takes his craft seriously and is seeking every nuance to better his work, looking at the layers."

[...]

"The heart Rocco mentions is driven home in that last pages. I adore the movement of the boy as he runs for the door, setting the lamp rocking on the table; the movement of the mother, throwing aside her apron, eyes on the window, running forward. There is similar movement throughout. The quietly composed home is alive with the kind of disturbances and absences of "decorum" that captures the eye and brings mind to consider."

"The story is sweet. Its so relatively small in composition, but massive in all it would encompass. As long as there is war (or the memory of), Moonpowder will have a place on the shelves as children seek equilibrium, a peaceful nights sleep, and a sense that they are not completely helpless. And even though they can't fix everything, it might just work out anyway. In a word Moonpowder is about Hope. Sweet dreams are about possibility, and Eli's nightmares breathe helplessness, loss, and failure—helplessness. Moonpowder is all about firing the imagination and creating a hopeful future, whether in the dreaming or the waking."

L @ Omphaloskepsis

<http://contemplatrix.wordpress.com/20...>

Crystal Lockhart says

I reviewed Moonpowder by John Rocco as one of my Book Soak choices. As one of my book soak books I would put it was the one I really liked. What caught my eye was the beautiful artwork on the front of the book however, what kept my attention was the wonderful story. This book is about Eli Treebuckle who is the fixer of all things. He has been having problems sleeping and then Mr. Moon comes and visits him and asks for his help. They take a journey and on their adventure Eli has to face his fears and conquer them. The story ends with him saving the day and finally being able to get a good night sleep.

I thought the artwork throughout this story was great. The illustrations really brought the story to life and added to the enjoyment of the story. The colors of this book were different than the many other children's books I have encountered recently. The hues on the colors were more on the vibrant side and gave a great richness to the pages.

I thought the story was cute. It was relatable because who wouldn't think it is great to see your inventions come to life. The story was one that would engulf a person and bring them into its world. I was completely blown away by the artwork and color scenes of the book. I thought the characters were designed well and the story was great for any reader.

I think this book would be good for the classroom as a good book to look at the different parts of a story. It would be a good for working together as a class to point out the different parts of the story. Another good lesson that could be used with this book would be a prediction unit. This would be a fun book to get the students making predictions about what will happen and identifying the context clues that lead them to their predictions.

Roger says

Engrossing, imaginative artwork and a wonderful science fiction/fantasy story for young inventors/explorers/adventurers (ie, anyone young or young at heart). I loved it.

Amie says

Eli Treebuckle likes to fix things, and he's good at it, too. The one thing he isn't so good at is having sweet dreams. He has been having the same nightmare for months- climbing a huge pile of junk and then falling. Since he can't go to sleep, he decides to fix things, and that is when Mr. Moon comes and asks Eli for his help. The Moonpowder Factory has broken down and nobody's getting enough Moonpowder, which helps everyone have sweet dreams. Mr. Moon takes Eli to the Moonpowder Factory in an invention that Eli designed. Inside the factory, Giz, the gizbot, and many other robots are cranking valves, but none of them can figure out what's wrong. Eli takes a look at the Moonpowder manual, checks everything and realizes that the Dream Tank is empty. Since it is absolutely necessary to have dreams in the Dream Tank, they have no other choice but to have Eli go into Mother Nature's closet to get the Emergency Dream kit. (Mr. Moon and Giz aren't allowed in after a snowstorm catastrophe.) Once in the closet, Eli realizes that this is just like his nightmare and doesn't want to climb the pile to search for the kit, but since no one else can, he has to. Just as he is about to reach the kit, he falls. He is alright, though, and he has the kit. Mr. Moon wants Eli to have a sweet dream, but when they open the kit, it is empty. Eli is too tired to care and falls asleep. And he has the sweetest dream ever! He wakes up in his own room and knows that his dream has fixed the Moonpowder Factory.

John Rocco's low fantasy picture book is beautifully illustrated with deep, rich colors. The reader learns much about the setting from the illustrations and little from the text. From the old baseball glove and radio to the type of vacuum and pictures on the wall, you can tell the story takes place in the early to mid 1900s. There is also a side story of Eli's father shown mostly through pictures (which I didn't include in my review above). On the title page, one illustration shows an Air Force pilot up in a B-29 looking at a picture of his wife and son. On the dedication page, Eli's tool box is opened to reveal a picture of his dad in uniform, a war article and an advertisement for aviator goggles- the ones Eli wears throughout the story. After that you only see his father in a picture of the three of them on the mantle until the end of the story when he finally comes home from the war. This side story is very moving, and you realize there is a reason he's been having bad dreams about falling from way up high. The book's theme is about facing your fears. Once Eli faces his fears about his nightmare, it no longer has control over him. Instead of falling, he dreams about flying. This book allows for many discussion points, including fears, facing your fears and loved ones at war. Younger students will enjoy listening to this and looking at the pictures while older students will want to read and reread it to catch things they missed the first time, like I did. Grades K-3

Anthony says

Eli Treebuckle, the fixer of all things fixable, is summoned by Mr. Moon to fix the sweet dreams machine that produces moon powder to prevent nightmares. Will Eli fix the machine? Will the nightmares cease to include the ones that he has been having, and keeping him awake at night? Only time will tell, if Eli can fix the machine successfully.

Heather says

As I picked this book up at my local library and flipped through the pages, I knew immediately it was going home with me.

Moonpowder is a science fiction/fantasy text full of incredible and vivid imagery not only in the illustrations but in the text as well. Moonpowder takes us on an adventure with Mr. Moon and Eli Treebuckle, who hasn't slept a wink due to bad dreams, a kid every one can relate too. Readers are whisked away on an helio-rocket-copter to the Moonpowder factory where gizbots are frantically trying to produce enough sweet dreams for everyone in the world. Eli, known "fixer of all things fixable," is their only hope of fixing the Moonpowder factory machines.

This book is filled with many examples of voice, word choice, organization, and sentence fluency. I specifically enjoyed the author's word choice and felt this would make a great mentor text for a mini-lesson. The text is rich, full of synonyms for students to use, such as "tinkering" (instead of the overly used "messaging with"), and vocabulary words such as "moxie." The descriptive words used throughout will encourage students to use the same descriptions in their writing. Children of all ages would enjoy this book. If using the text for mini-lessons, I would recommend 3rd grade or higher.

Vicky says

This was such an adorable little book. It's a story about Eli, a fixer. He lies down to sleep one night and finds he is not able to have sweet dreams. That's when Mr. Moon comes to ask for his help. It seems there is a problem with the Moonpowder factory and Eli's skills at fixing the fixable are needed if he and other children ever want to have sweet dreams again.

My son and I really enjoyed this story. Eli gets a chance to help and conquer a fear of his own. It's really a story of hope and bravery.. and Eli is really the embodiment of all those things. The book is dedicated to children of soldiers but any child can benefit from the message this story delivers. I can't wait to get my hands on Mr. Rocco's other books.

Meg McGregor says

Every child has nightmares, and parents sometimes, need a little help in getting their child to want to go back to sleep.

How I wish this book had been written when my Katherine was little. But now, Olivia and all the other littles I watch, will get to read this book with me.

It is the story of little Eli, who is called the "fixer". He can fix almost anything. But the one thing he can't fix is bedtime. He has been having a terrible nightmare - night after night!

One night, the moon appears and tells Eli that all the moonpowder that causes sweet dreams, is gone from the factory. The Moon takes Eli to the factory; Eli realizes he has to conquer his biggest fear to get the machine back on track.

The illustrations are wry and whimsical and really add to the fun of this book!

Lanyisha says

This book was good book, but it would only appeal to children with a certain interest. The author used the craft of beginnings and endings in this book. The way the book began made me feel like it was a movie. I'm used to the beginning of children's books beginning with the main character already in the meat of the plot. This book had a slow beginning that introduced the characters. It built up to the plot of the story. I don't think there is nothing wrong with that. The author did a good job of it because it offered some background information about the main character. The strategy I would take from this writing is that although there's not a wrong way of opening or closing a story you should be very mindful of how you open the story because it sets the tone for the whole rest of the book.

Lynde says

this is one of my son's favorite books. would have given it 5 stars but it is a wee bit long. love the details and

the story...sooo delicious. we have had it for a few years and now my older son reads it to the younger. :) it is delicious!

Jo Oehrlein says

Steampunk setting for a boy who fixes things. He's afraid to sleep because of recurrent nightmares. After fixing the moonpowder factory, he has a sweet dream that is a lead-in to good things in the daytime -- his dad comes home!

Maybe moonpowder could be used to help kids who are stuck in a cycle of bad dreams?

Dolly says

We recently read *Blackout* by John Rocco and saw this book recommended in a review, so we just had to check it out at our local library.

This story is so fantastic - the artwork is amazing and the story is creative, inspiring, and heartwarming. Eli can fix anything mechanical, but he can't fix his nightmares. This tale shows how he faces his fears.

I love that there's an underlying, unwritten story that shows that his father is in the military (the Army Air Corps), fighting in WWII. The ending is very sweet and this book is perfect for reading at bedtime.

This book reminds me of a cross between Maurice Sendak's *In the Night Kitchen* and Brian Selznick's *The Invention of Hugo Cabret*. We really enjoyed reading this book together.

Ed says

Rocco, John. (2008). *Moonpowder*. New York: Hyperion. Unpaginated. ISBN 978-1-4231-0011-5 (Hardcover); \$15.99

One of my favorite picture books of last year is *Moonpowder*. In this book we have a decidedly different look at the moon. When I look at this book, Mr. Moon brings to mind old W.C. Fields movies! In this book Eli is called upon to bring his technological savvy to fix the moonpowder factory. People are not able to dream because the moon is not able to produce its dream powder. Eli must fix this before people begin having nonstop nightmares. Eli has been having nightmares, so he knows first hand the value of fixing the factory. In a book that throws in glimpses of steampunk (a fantasy/science fiction subgenre that likes to show the guts of how things work), Rocco has created one of my favorite picture book images. I just love the picture in which Mr. Moon hands Eli the book through his window.
