

## **A Moon in My Teacup**

Written and illustrated by Anita Riggio

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*The simplicity of a child's faith is the centerpiece of this Christmas story, set in a Sunday visit to her aunts and grandparents.*

### **Classroom Activities Grades 2-6**

The moon is a metaphor for the star which shepherds and kings followed to Bethlehem. If you know the Christmas story, **analyze** the use of this metaphor in *A Moon In My Teacup*.

**Study** the illustrations. Moon images are sprinkled throughout the pages. **Find** each one and **discuss** its significance.

**Make a list** of all you know about the narrator. The narrator wanted to show her sisters what she had found in the parlor. If she had been able to show them, do you think the other girls would have seen what the narrator saw? Why or why not? Do you think the narrator would tell her sisters about her experience in the parlor after all, or keep it to herself? Why or why not?

**Discuss** why the setting of this story is important to the plot.

**List** your five senses. **Read** *A Moon in My Teacup* and **select** descriptive phrases that relate to each one.

**Draft a story.** Using your five senses, describe a place that is special to you at a particular time of day. Your own room late at night? The attic on Saturday morning? The art room during class? A friend's kitchen after school? Your grandparents' porch on a summer evening? Now put two or more characters in that setting. Let them talk. Write their dialogue. Let a conflict unfold. Allow your characters to resolve the conflict.

**Compare and contrast** *A Moon in My Teacup* and *The Polar Express* by Chris Van Allsburg. How are they alike? How are they different?

