

**Where We Are in Place and Time**  
**Space Unit of Inquiry**  
**Lesson #5, "Moon In"**

Below, please find 14 speaking parts for pairs of students to prepare and read to the class. These readings will set the tone for "Moon In," the time travel lesson which wraps up the Unit. All quotes are taken from Catherine Thimmesh's book, Team Moon: How 400,00 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon.

**President John F. Kennedy** to Congress, May 1961

"I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth."

**Astronaut Neil Armstrong**, the day before the Earth landing, in a televised address from space:

"We would like to give a special thanks to all those Americans who built the spacecraft; who did the construction, design, the tests, and put their . . . hearts and all their abilities into those craft. To those people, tonight, we give a special thank you, and to all other people that are listening and watching tonight, God Bless you. Good night from Apollo 11."

**Richard Ellis**, Suit Tester

"I got to see firsthand the many, many, many thousands of people – and get more of a picture of how many people were dedicated – and I can't emphasize too much the word dedicated – to this program, and this job – to get a man on the moon, and get him back safely. That's what it was all about. When they lifted off and came home and they landed and picked them up, I just had such a great sense of accomplishment – not so much for myself, but for the team."

**Cliff Smith**, Parkes Radio Telescope, Australia

"I didn't know what was going to happen that day. It started out like a day's work and blossomed into something better. I was sure proud to be there. Proud to be part of it."

**John Coursen**, Grumman Engineering Manager

"In this expedition, everybody wanted to do the best. You didn't want to be responsible when something didn't work. If everybody took care of his part of the problem, everything would work – because they thought of everything they could."

**Charlie Mars**, chief Lunar Module Project Engineer

“Remembering being a part of the Apollo team and participating in the history-making events of the program will always bring back the pride, disappointments, sorrow, and passion shared between all of us: from the secretaries and technicians to the astronauts and managers. For me, that was the time in history and the event to participate in above all others.”

**Neil “Fox” Mason**, Parkes Radio Telescope, Australia

“It was a very historical moment, you know, the first time man’s walked on the moon. You kept it on the track [the radio telescope]. It would work out. There were twenty-two people around – plenty of people in back; so we were quite confident. We knew we could do our part.”

**Eleanor Foracker**, Seamstress

“Well, President Kennedy wanted to be first on the moon, and all the ladies were very tuned in to that. Everyone was very proud of what they were doing, and everyone pulled their own weight – and if they had to, they would pull a little of someone else’s. We wanted to get it done, and we were happy and proud to be there.”

**Walter Cronkite**, News Reporter

“Isn’t this something . . . two hundred forty thousand miles out there on the moon and we’re seeing this.”

**James McBarron**, NASA

“I approved the design of the lunar boots. I was just hoping that what we planned for . . . well, that there were no surprises; like we’d end up with deep dust that the boot wouldn’t handle, or a surface characteristic that would cut the boots.”

**Charlie Mars**, Chief Lunar Module Project Engineer

“People [were] concerned about the amount of fuel you had left, the master alarms . . . I don’t believe anybody in the room breathed for the last five minutes. We were just hangin’ on every word. And trying to force the vehicle down by sheer willpower. Get down! Get down! Neil, get down. Turn off that engine.”

**Buzz Aldrin**, Astronaut

“The so-called kangaroo hop does work, but it seems as though your forward mobility is not quite as good.”

**Dick Underwood**, Manager of the Photography Department

“On the surface of the moon they had a roll of film and no ability to change it. So, the programming and training were based on “What are you going to get in a couple hundred shots?”

**Kirby Hinson**, Aerospace Engineer

We always deploy three chutes. If all goes well, you come down slowly. If you lose a chute, you hit the water at what’s called design velocity. Only two [chutes] are needed to safely bring [the command module] down. To see all three chutes is just like heaven.”

Source:

Thimmesh, Catherine. *Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon*.  
Houghton Mifflin, 2006.