

ONE MOON — OR MANY?

Illustrator Note: Art notes are in square brackets, but these are just suggestions, as are the number of panels; feel free to ignore them if you have a better idea!

Page 1, 1 Panel

[The moon, the story's main character, is full and lit against a backdrop of hills, and is beaming at the reader.]

CAPTION: On a clear, cloudless night,
look up.

You may spot a silver sliver
or a gleaming, golden circle.
That's our big, beaming Moon.

MOON: Me!

Pages 2–3: 4 Panels

Panel 1:

CAPTION: Moon is old. Very, very old.
She was born with a bang
when an enormous rock smashed into Earth.
That happened when our planet was just a baby.

[Flashback of big rock hitting the Earth]

EARTH: Ouch!

Panel 2:

CAPTION: From this fiery start, Moon is cool now.

MOON: In many ways! I groove round Earth and I'm smart — just look at my library!

[Moon, wearing shades, points to a set of books peeking from the “dark” side, with stars in the background]

BACKGROUND STAR: So that's what's on your dark side!

Panel 3:

CAPTION: As you see, Moon loves talking about herself.

[Moon peers at caption]

MOON: What's that you're saying?

CAPTION: Anyway, that isn't important. What *is* important is that she helps us — a lot.

Pages 4–5: 5 Panels

Panel 1:

[Earth's oceans being pulled by Moon]

CAPTION: She swishes and swashes ocean tides.

MOON: All with my powerfully potent pull. You know, gravity.

OCEAN: Whee!

Panel 2:

CAPTION: She lights up our nights.

MOON: And I stop your Earth from behaving like a tipping top and keep it from toppling over.

Panel 3

CAPTION: And she races. She twirls around Earth, round and round, day in and day out — alone.

Panel 4:

[Moon is facing reader and looks simultaneously smug, full of self-pity, and self-satisfied]

MOON: Oh, I'm very important. Yeah, there's nobody else, but hey, so what? Anybody hanging around would be so distracting.

Panel 5:

CAPTION: But actually, she isn't alone. There are more "moons".

[Moon peers at caption, frowning]

MOON: Whaddya mean?

[Set of eight rocks peek in from the corner of the panel]

QUASI-MOONS: We're here!

Pages 6–7: 4 Panels

Panel 1:

MOON: Aaa! Who are you?

KAMO'OALEWA: We're quasi-moons.

Panel 2:

MOON: Kaa what?

2022 YG: You say it as kwa-ZEE.

2023 FW13: Kwa-ZYE.

KAMO'OALEWA: That's 2022 YG and 2023 FW13—

2025 PN7: I'm 2025 PN7! Yeah, our names are sort of weird.

KAMO'OALEWA: And I'm Kamo'oalewa, but you can call me Kams if that's too complicated.

Panel 3:

MOON: I don't want to call anyone anything! There's got to be some mistake. / am special. / am Earth's only moon.

(2022 YG and 2023 FW13 continue the argument)

2022 YG: Kwa-ZEE.

2023 FW13: Kwa-ZYE.

2025 PN7: But for folks on Earth, we look like moons. That is, when they can see us. We're so tiny they need telescopes.

Panel 4:

MOON: No, no, no, you're lying. I haven't ever even seen you!

KAMO'OLEWA: We've passed you when you were busy reading. But more importantly, our paths haven't often crossed. We're asteroids, you see.

2025 PN7: Oh, don't get luna-tic! We're moonlighting as moons!

Pages 8–9:

Panel 1:

2022 YG: Kwa-ZEE

2023 FW13: Kwa-ZYE

MOON: Asteroids? You mean those chonky hunks?

KAMO'OALEWA: Aw, that's a nice compliment!

Panel 2:

MOON: No, I didn't mean it that way. I meant — you're just icy dirt-balls. You aren't moons. No way!

KAMO'OALEWA: Actually, Earth's in charge. She thinks we are "moons".

2025 PN7: To her, we look like we are looping around her. Just like how you orbit her.

Panel 3:

MOON: You mean Earth knows about you?