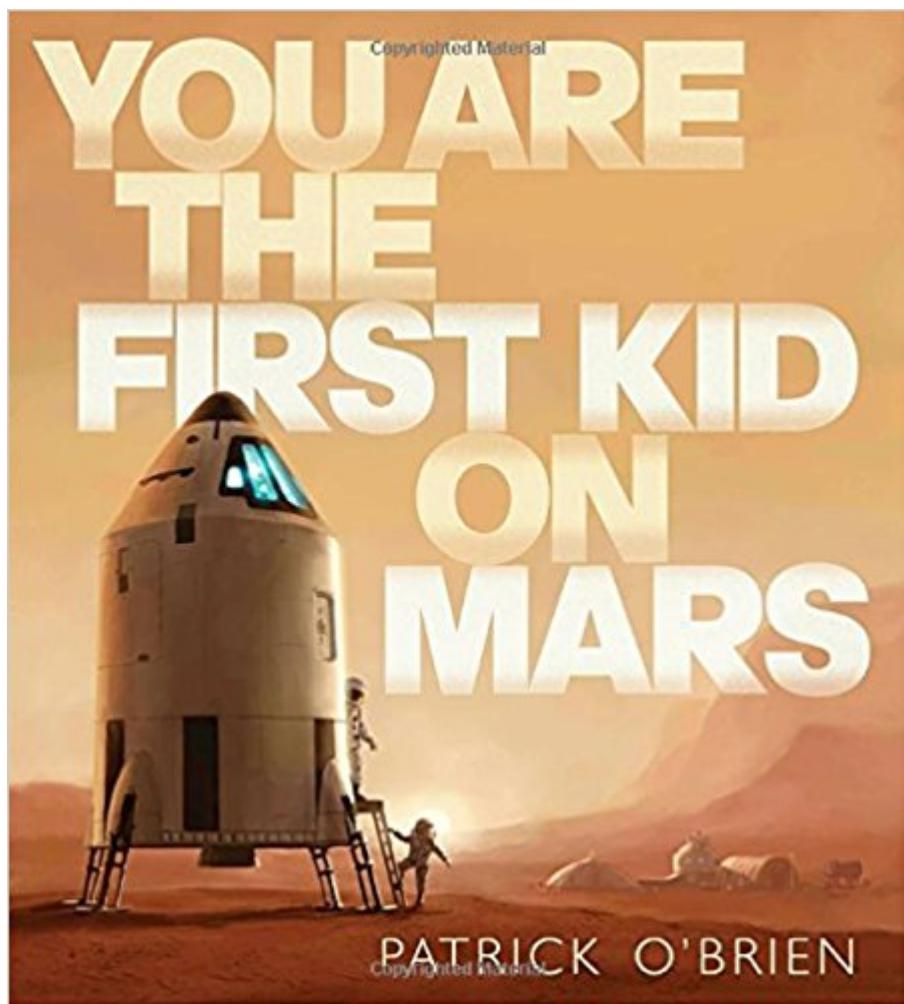


The book was found

# You Are The First Kid On Mars



## **Synopsis**

As we look back to the beginnings of the space race, 2009 is also the year for looking forward to humankind's next step toward the stars. In the spirit of books that once imagined colonies on the moon, Patrick O'Brien has created a unique look at your first trip to Mars. Using the most up-to-date designs and theories of what it will take to establish a base on Mars, you are off on an incredible journey, over 35 million miles to the red planet. Filled with details, and vividly brought to life, this is an adventure that you are never going to forget.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 830 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 32 pages

Publisher: G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers (May 14, 2009)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0399246347

ISBN-13: 978-0399246340

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 10.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 12.8 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 23 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #110,699 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #53 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Aeronautics & Space #64 in Books > Children's Books > Cars, Trains & Things That Go > Planes & Aviation #83 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > Science Studies > Astronomy & Space > Astronomy

Age Range: 5 - 8 years

Grade Level: Kindergarten - 3

## **Customer Reviews**

Grade 2-6  
What would it be like to travel to Mars, explore the red planet, and return to Earth? O'Brien has created a realistic account of such a journey with informative text and polished digital art that sparks the imagination. Adults take a backseat in this adventure, as the narrator speaks directly to readers about what they could expect to see and do. Rich illustrations depict a young boy as the traveler, space vehicles, and rusty red landscapes with depth and detail. Following a four-month trip on a Nuclear Thermal Rocket, the boy joins scientists, engineers, and pilots living in a habitat on Mars complete with a greenhouse. As for finding life on Mars, it is

explained that microscopic organisms are more likely than little green men. But who needs aliens when you have robots watering the plants and roving the surface? Additional facts are listed at the end of the book. ©Lisa Glasscock, Columbine Public Library, Littleton, CO Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

\*Starred Review\* Answering the questions on many kids' minds when imagining life in space, this book "will tell you what would happen, and what you would do, if you were the first kid on Mars." Using the second person, O'Brien then takes readers through every step of the four-month trip from Earth to Mars: aboard space elevators, orbital stations, transport rockets, landing modules, and more. These descriptions help give a speculatively scientific feel to the proceedings, full of technology that isn't that far off. Indeed, by involving the reader directly in the story, O'Brien helps ensure that they won't even realize they're learning all sorts of wonderful things about gravity, distance, geology, and life along the way. As strong as the narrative can be, though, it's really the visuals that will drop the most jaws. The nearly photorealistic scenes of space travel and planetary exploration are a rare example of warm and immediate digital rendering, although admittedly the faces can look a little creepy here and there. But it's easy to look past that and get lost imagining oneself exploring the pristinely serene scenery of the Red Planet. Until such a thing is possible, this is as close as a child will get—and even in this guise, it's a pretty neat experience.

Grades K-3. --Ian Chipman

This instantly became a favorite book for my son. I love the writing, and the photos. My son is a very intelligent and gifted three year old who loves masculine things and not too much story, although the writing in this book is presented in a special way that appeals to him, as well as my 11 year-old daughter and I. I am fascinated by the information found on these pages (like the fact that Mars has the largest mountain in our galaxy that is three times taller than Mt. Everest and that if a person were to stand at the top of it, they would practically be in outer space). It's a pretty mesmerizing experience, reading this book and going through the process of how to get to Mars (all of the different rockets and vehicles and machines used). You can't go wrong with this one! A fantasy-educational experience. If your child isn't quite ready for you to read the entire pages, then just read the first couple of lines on each page until they ask for more. This is what I did with my three year old and now he begs me to "read it!"

My nine-year-old girl and eight-year-old boy were highly entertained by this book. The text is long enough so that reading the story aloud lasts about twenty minutes. There is much to discuss and my children had plenty of questions, many that could not wait until the book was finished, so the story forms a great springboard for discussing topics like future space exploration, the possibility of creating space colonies, current timeframe for missions to Mars, and so on. Gorgeous illustrations.

My son is 5 and interested in all things related to Mars and space exploration. He loves this book! This book nicely mixes real science and current technology with the challenges that humans will need to overcome to colonize the Red Planet. If your child is interested in Space, Mars, or just the idea of a grand interplanetary adventure, he/she will love this book. Also, the artwork is great.

First saw this at the MD Science Museum, for a space happy daughter this book was great. I know others had quibbles with some of the finer details but with a 4 year old, the lack of nuance was fine. It would be like me complaining that Mousetronaut isn't realistic either). The art is great and it covers lots of theoretical possibilities for how we might make Mars work. My daughter's one request was that she would like a little girl astronaut to go to Titan next (or Saturn, she also likes Saturn).

What a great book. The pictures are beautiful. It was a great gift to give to my 5 year nephew.

I bought this for Christmas for my space-loving six year old daughter. She is a confident reader but finds some of the text overwhelming, so we read it aloud. The illustrations are positively breathtaking and I can tell that the author put considerable thought and care into imagining and researching what travel to Mars might be like. I do have to remind my daughter that this is just a guess at the way things might be, since no one has actually gone to Mars yet and certainly not kids. That aside, I love this book for both the illustrations and the quality of the writing. It's enough to inspire anyone to look up at the stars and keep dreaming.

Simple, vivid, applies to all age ranges.

The story is amazingly boring to a seven year old who has a passion for Mars. We both loved the premise, but the illustrations are monotonous and presents little new information even to a seven year old kid. Problem solving is overly simplistic. I did hope for something original and informative with this title. This is a great idea but the execution is less than stellar. An improved version in the

future perhaps?

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