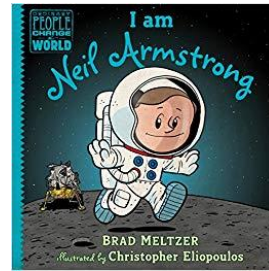




I Am Neil Armstrong by Brad Meltzer

Perseverance, Bravery, Heroes



Neil Armstrong is the first person to ever walk on the moon. Before he took those famous steps, he was a boy who loved airplanes. He learned how to fly, and when the space race began, he became a new kind of pilot: an astronaut. With bravery and patience, Neil and his team worked hard. After many small steps, they took a giant leap together.

Before Reading:

- What do you know about Neil Armstrong? What can we tell about him from the front cover? How do you think he is going to become a famous hero?

After Reading:

- What characteristics did Neil Armstrong show as a child that led him to grow up and become an astronaut? How did he show bravery throughout the book?

Extension Ideas:

- **One Small Step...** Explore National Geographic for Kids Moon Landing page to see real pictures and a video clip of the rocket, space crew, and landing. <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/history/moon-landing/>
- **A Universe of Stories:** This summer libraries across the country will celebrate space exploration in their summer reading programs. Visit the NASA StarNet STEM website for activities and teaching resources: <http://www.starnetlibraries.org/summer-of-space/>
- **Let's Go Fly an Airplane!** Provide children with a variety of paper for them to design and decorate their own paper airplanes. Go outside or into a long hallway to have a paper airplane-flying contest. Whose airplane flew the highest? The longest? With the most turns and loop-de-loops? Explore the design of these airplanes for special characteristics.
- **Connect with the Author:** The author of the book, Brad Meltzer, has written 15 books in the Ordinary People Change the World Series. Explore the book titles online <https://www.ordinarypeoplechangetheworld.com/books.php> and collect additional titles for your classroom library. Watch a video of Brad Meltzer with your students as he explains why he wrote the books and the message that they share.
- **You are a Hero!** Share with children that the heroes featured in the series of books have special interests and characteristics that make them different and achieve great things. Ask children to draw a self-portrait with descriptions of what makes them GREAT.
- **Who Are Your Everyday Heroes?** Have children identify the “Everyday Heroes” in their lives and share with the group. Have them select one person to interview and create a display about their lives.