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Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11

Kate Reynolds

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Thimmesh, Catherine. *Team Moon: How 400,000 People Landed Apollo 11 on the Moon*. Houghton Mifflin, 2006. ISBN 0618507574. \$19.95. 80 p.

Reviewer: Kate Reynolds

Reading Level: Intermediate, Young adult

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Informational Books;

Subject: Apollo 11 (Spacecraft)--Juvenile literature; Space flight to the moon--Juvenile literature; Project Apollo (U.S.)--Juvenile literature; Books--Reviews;

Thimmesh has put together an unusual, but enjoyable, historical look at the Apollo 11 mission. She focuses, not on the astronauts, but on the engineers and technicians who worked for years behind the scenes to bring about the first moon landing on July 20, 1969. From the three hundred people at Westinghouse Electric who designed the video camera taken on the craft, to the more than five hundred working for ILC Dover who created the space suits, she explains the dedication and hard work it took to overcome challenges that could have made the Apollo 11 a very different mission than the one we remember.

Thimmesh's chatty narrative is engrossing and will quickly absorb the reader, invoking laughter, surprise, pride, and awe at the grand accomplishment that the moon landing really was. Apt quotes from the people involved as well as period photographs enhance the informal prose. However, the text is printed white on black, which can be difficult to read after a time. An excellent and unique perspective on a momentous occasion, *Team Moon* is a testament to the ingenuity and determination of thousands of people who made the seemingly impossible happen.