

The Girl Who Drank the Moon

By Kelly Barnhill

Annotation

In the land of the Protectorate it is an annual tradition to hold the Day of Sacrifice, leaving a baby as an offering for the witch who lives in the forest. When the witch of the forest, Xan, accidentally feeds a baby moonlight instead of starlight, filling her with strong magic, she decides to raise the baby as her own.

Book Talk

If you enjoy fantastical fairy tales rich with strong characters, worlds, and plots this is the book for you! An epic about a young girl raised by a kind witch, dragon, and swamp monster, this story brings the reader on an adventure where characters show courage and bravery in the face of the unknown evil that surrounds them.

Book Trailers

- **Note:** While there are trailers on YouTube for this book, none do a great job promoting the title (as of March 2017).
- Interview with the author: <http://www.pbs.org/video/2365894734/>

Author on the Internet

- Website: <https://kellybarnhill.wordpress.com/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/kellybarnhill?lang=en>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1132900463398011/>
- Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/insufferable_blabbermouth/?hl=en

Items to use in a library display

- Moon / Stars
- Origami birds
- Small dragon
- Boots
- Model volcano

Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics

- This novel highlights many themes to include: good vs. evil, love, friendship, and rebellion against tradition. In what ways do the characters and plot express these themes?
- The author tells this story from the perspectives of all the characters. What effect does this have on the plot and the audience? How would the story be different if it were only told from Luna's point of view?
- Which scene in the story is your favorite? Which scene in the story is a turning point in the plot?

- How does the way in which the characters see themselves differ from how others see them?
- Xan chooses to forget her memories and feel they are dangerous. Why do you think she does this?
- Would you change the ending to the story? Why or why not? How?

First Line of the Book:

- “Yes, There is a witch in the woods. There has always been a witch.”

Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)

- *World Treasury of Fairy Tales & Folklore: A Family Heirloom of Stories to Inspire and Entertain* Illustrated by Fausto Bianchi
- Books about origami creations

What to Read Next

- *The Witch’s Boy* by Kelly Barnhill
- *The Door by the Staircase* by Katherine Marsh

Other Books by this Author:

- *The Witch’s Boy*
- *Iron Hearted Violet*
- *The Mostly True Story of Jack*

Additional Resources

- Music: Lullabies
- Poetry: *Moon Shadow* by Taai Tekai
- Art/craft activity: Create Origami birds
- Interview with the author:
<http://www.hbook.com/2016/08/talks-with-roger/kelly-barnhill-talks-with-roger/>
- Interview with the author: <http://www.pbs.org/video/2365894734/>
- Lesson ideas:
 - Fairy tale study
 - Good vs. Evil
 - Create a map and label the various settings in the novel to include: The Protectorate, the Free Cities, the Swamp, the Forest
 - Write your own fairy tale