



You Are the First Kid on Mars

By Patrick O'Brien

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You Are the First Kid on Mars By Patrick O'Brien

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 upto- 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.

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You Are the First Kid on Mars By Patrick O'Brien Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #149148 in Books
- Brand: Putnam Juvenile
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- Original language: English
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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

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*

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From [Booklist](#)

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

About the Author

After earning a degree in biology from the University of Virginia in 1982, Patrick O'Brien went to art school at Virginia Commonwealth University. In 1986, he became a freelance illustrator working for clients such as *National Geographic*, *Newsweek* magazine, The Discovery Channel, The Smithsonian, and The American Museum of Natural History. His artwork has appeared in magazines and newspapers, on posters, videotape boxes, and greeting cards, and even on billboards.

In addition to his accomplishments in the marine art field, O'Brien has written and illustrated eleven nonfiction books for children. His previous books have been about historic and prehistoric subjects ranging from giant dinosaurs and ancient sharks to knights in armor and pirates on the high seas. In May 2009, G.P. Putnam's Sons published his most recent picture book which takes a fascinating look into the future. O'Brien modeled *You Are the First Kid on Mars* off his earliest memories of gathering around the television with his family on vacation at the beach to watch the first man land on the moon.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Partain:

Do you one of people who can't read gratifying if the sentence chained in the straightway, hold on guys this aren't like that. This You Are the First Kid on Mars book is readable by simply you who hate those perfect word style. You will find the info here are arrange for enjoyable reading experience without leaving also decrease the knowledge that want to supply to you. The writer associated with You Are the First Kid on Mars content conveys the idea easily to understand by lots of people. The printed and e-book are not different in the content material but it just different by means of it. So , do you continue to thinking You Are the First Kid on Mars is not loveable to be your top checklist reading book?

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