

## Exemplar Read-Aloud Stories – Kitten’s First Full Moon

**Henkes, Kevin. *Kitten’s First Full Moon*. New York: Greenwillow, 2004. (2004)**

It was Kitten’s first full moon.  
When she saw it, she thought.  
There’s a little bowl of milk in the sky.  
And she wanted it.

So she closed her eyes  
and stretched her neck  
and opened her mouth and licked.

But Kitten only ended up  
with a bug on her tongue.  
Poor Kitten!

Still, there was the little bowl of milk, just waiting.

So she pulled herself together  
and wiggled her bottom  
and sprang from the top step of the porch.

But Kitten only tumbled—  
bumping her nose and banging her ear  
and pinching her tail.  
Poor Kitten!

Still, there was the little bowl of milk, just waiting.  
So she chased it—  
down the sidewalk,  
    through the garden,  
        past the field,  
            and by the pond.

But Kitten never seemed to get closer.  
Poor Kitten!

Still, there was the little bowl of milk, just waiting.

So she ran  
to the tallest tree  
she could find,  
and she climbed

and climbed  
and climbed  
to the very top.

But Kitten  
still couldn't reach  
the bowl of milk,  
and now she was  
scared.  
Poor Kitten!  
What could she do?

Then, in the pond, Kitten saw  
another bowl of milk.  
And it was bigger.  
What a night!

So she raced down the tree  
and raced through the grass

and raced to the edge of the pond.  
She leaped with all her might—

Poor Kitten!  
She was wet and sad and tired  
and hungry.

So she went  
back home—

and there was  
    a great big  
        bowl of milk  
            on the porch,  
just waiting for her.

Lucky Kitten!