

LUNA

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Saul has an unusual pet named Luna. As you read, monitor how well you follow what happens, and reread to clarify anything you don't understand.

Luna was a lovely caterpillar. She lived in a glass tank. Every morning, Saul brought Luna leaves to munch. Saul talked to Luna every day. One day he said, "Luna, my Grandpa's sick. We're going to see him. I wish you could come." "I wish I could, too," Luna seemed to say. Saul asked his mom. "I'm sorry, Saul. The tank's too big and heavy," he said.

Saul was sad and lonely at Grandpa's house. Grandpa was asleep most of the time. And Saul's mother was busy taking care of Grandpa. Saul missed Luna. He wanted to tell her how lonely he was. When they got home, Saul rushed in to see Luna. "Did you miss me?" he asked his caterpillar. Saul asked inside the tank. Luna was gone. Saul looked all around his room. No Luna. "Mom!" Saul cried. "Luna is gone! Why did we have to go to Grandpa's?" Mom hugged Saul. Then she said, "Grandpa couldn't take care of himself. Luna can. She's probably outside having a great time. But I'm sure she misses you,"

That night Saul watched the full moon rise and thought about Luna. Then he thought about Grandpa. And then he fell asleep. Woke up. A giant moth stood glowing in the moonlight. "Climb

on my back," she said. "Let's go for a ride." They flew to the moon. Saul looked down. "The earth is magical!" he said. So it is," said the moth. At breakfast Saul told his mother about the giant moth. Mom said, "You were dreaming. Moths don't carry people. And they can't fly to the moon!" Then she smiled and said, "But sick people can get better! Grandpa just called. He took a long walk this morning."

That evening Saul found a crumpled something in the tank. It looked like an old leaf. "I guess that's what's left of Luna," he said to himself. Suddenly a beautiful moth landed on the table it looked just like the moth in his dream, only much smaller Luna," the moth seemed to say. "I've changed, that's all. But I'll always be your friend." Then Luna flew into the moonlit night.