



## TEACHER GUIDE

# Jump the Moon by Kathy Simmers

## OVERVIEW

*Jump the Moon* is an inspiring true story about the relationship between a young girl and a pony named Me Too. Through their shared experiences, the girl learns about perseverance, empathy, and the power of dreams. This guide will help students explore these themes, develop critical thinking skills, and engage in creative activities that encourage them to reflect on their own dreams, goals, and relationships.

## Objective

By the end of the unit, students will be able to:

- **Reading Comprehension:** Students will develop their ability to recall details from the story and understand the emotional journey of the characters.
- **Character Development:** Students will learn about the development of the girl and Me Too's relationship, focusing on themes of empathy, trust, and love.
- **Vocabulary Building:** Introduce new words such as "shabby," "nickered," and "perseverance," and use them in context.
- **Creative Expression:** Encourage students to create their own stories of friendship, dreams, and perseverance.

## Pre-Reading Activities

### 1. DISCUSSION STARTER

- Ask students if they've ever had a pet or an animal they took care of. What did they do to help their animal feel comfortable and loved?
- Introduce the idea of "dreams" — What are some things they dream of doing or having? Discuss how dreams can come true if we work hard and are kind.

### 2. INTRODUCE THE CHARACTERS

- Show a picture of a pony and ask students what they know about ponies.
- Introduce the main characters: the girl and Me Too (the pony). Ask students how they think they will work together to accomplish something special.





## During Reading Activities

### 1. STORY MAPPING

As you read, create a story map with the students. Highlight important events in the plot:

1. The girl meets Me Too.
2. The bond grows between the two.
3. The girl and Me Too win the horse shows.
4. They are separated but they never forget each other.
5. The girl searches for the pony.
6. The reunion.

### 2. CHARACTER FEELINGS

Pause during key moments in the story and ask the students how they think the girl or Me Too is feeling. For example:

- When everyone is afraid of Me Too.
- When the girl dreams about the pony after they are apart.

Have students draw or describe how these characters might feel using facial expressions or simple words.

## Post-Reading Activities

### 1. CHARACTER REFLECTION

- Discuss the characters' growth. How did Me Too change over the course of the story? How did the girl change? What helped their relationship grow?
- **Activity:** Have students write or draw about a time they helped a friend or an animal. How did it make them feel?

### 2. DREAMS AND GOALS

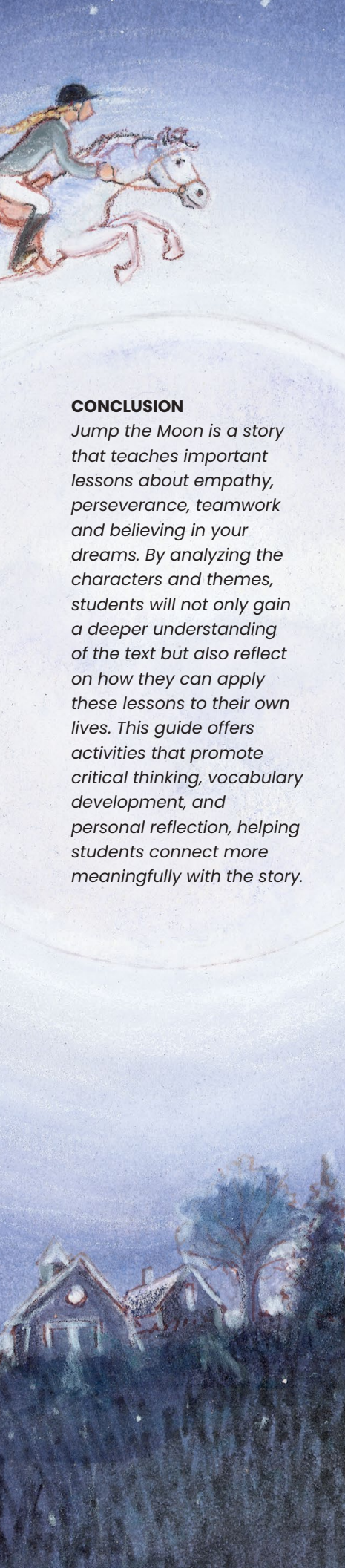
- Talk about the importance of working toward our dreams, just like the girl and Me Too worked toward jumping the moon.
- **Activity:** Have each student draw or write about a dream they have and the steps they could take to make it come true.

### 3. VOCABULARY EXPANSION

- Select key vocabulary from the story (e.g., "shabby," "nickered," "trainer") and explore the meanings with the class.
- **Activity:** Have students create their own sentences using these words.

### 4. CREATIVE ACTIVITY

- **Story Extension:** Ask students to imagine what happens next in the story. Do the girl and Me Too go on new adventures? Have students write or illustrate the next chapter of the story.
- **Art Project:** Have students create a drawing or collage of the girl and Me Too together, jumping the moon or riding through the stars.



## CONCLUSION

*Jump the Moon is a story that teaches important lessons about empathy, perseverance, teamwork and believing in your dreams. By analyzing the characters and themes, students will not only gain a deeper understanding of the text but also reflect on how they can apply these lessons to their own lives. This guide offers activities that promote critical thinking, vocabulary development, and personal reflection, helping students connect more meaningfully with the story.*

## Assessment

- *Comprehension Check:* Ask students to recall key events and character actions in the story.
  - *Character Analysis:* Have students draw or write about the feelings of the main characters at different parts of the story.
  - *Creative Writing:* Assess students' creative stories and understanding of the themes (e.g., dreams, perseverance, and friendship).
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## Additional Activities

- **Field Trip Idea:** If possible, arrange for a visit to a barn or farm with ponies to give students a real-life connection to the story.
  - **Guest Speaker:** Invite someone who works with animals (such as a trainer, veterinarian, or animal caretaker) to discuss how they care for animals and the special bond they share with them.
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## Key Themes to Explore

- The power of kindness and patience in building relationships.
- The importance of caring for and understanding others, even when they are different.
- The beauty of dreams and how perseverance can make them come true.
- The connection between humans and animals.