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The Mighty Mars Rovers: The Incredible Adventures Of Spirit And Opportunity (Scientists In The Field Series)



Synopsis

On June 10, 2003, a little rover named Spirit blasted off on a rocket headed for Mars. On July 7, 2003, a twin rover named Opportunity soared through the solar system with the same mission: to find out if Mars ever had water that could have supported life. A thrilling addition to the acclaimed Scientists in the Field series, The Mighty Mars Rovers tells the greatest space robot adventure of all time through the eyes and heart of Steven Squyres, professor of astronomy at Cornell University and lead scientist on the mission. This suspenseful page-turner captures the hair-raising human emotions felt during the adventures with two tough rovers.

Book Information

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

-NYPL 100 Titles for Reading & Sharing, 2012 4.5 (star) "Enthralling . . . How extraordinary to visit Mars in Spirit; readers will be very glad of the Opportunity."--Kirkus, starred review 4.5 (star) "Well documented and fully illustrated with many colorful photos and digital images, this is a book that space technology fans won't want to miss."--Booklist, starred review 4.5 (star) "This detailed look at planning, implementing, maintaining, and troubleshooting a highly complex scientific mission puts a human face on an incredible accomplishment."--School Library Journal, starred review 4.5 (star)

"Rusch's account skillfully captures the exciting quest for knowledge that drives Squyres and his team through the leaps and setbacks of scientific exploration."--Horn Book, starred review

The award-winning freelance writer Elizabeth Rusch has published more than one hundred articles in magazines such as *Muse*, *Smithsonian*, and *Mother Jones*. She is the author of a number award-winning nonfiction titles for children, including: *Generation Fix*, *Will it Blow?*, *The Planet Hunter*, and *For the Love of Music: The Remarkable Story of Maria Anna Mozart*. This is her first book for  Houghton Mifflin. Elizabeth lives in Portland, Oregon, with her family. Liz has a four-inch-high scale model rover, which she kept next to her computer for inspiration while writing this book. The model rover toppled over and broke so many times that she can't believe *Spirit* and *Opportunity* have survived roaming Mars for more than six years. You can visit Liz online at www.elizabethrusch.com. 

This could be a good read aloud to 4-6th grade students - even 7th/8th. Fascinating, fascinating how a team of engineers and scientists can design, create and send a small rover to Mars to explore and learn more than we've ever known about the planet. If you're exploring the Next Generation science standards with students - this book is the perfect illustration of what the standards mean by science and engineering, by scientific and engineering practices, by true collaboration - over time that includes patience and perseverance. My only criticism is the focus on one person as a thread - Steven Squyres, the geologist who had the dream of the rovers and applied to NASA year after year for funding. I think readers/listeners who can comprehend this text developmentally could handle the focus on a team - maybe 3-5 people who were involved through the whole project along with many, many others. What's implied in the book is that this was a team effort - I think the structure of the book needed to be a scaffold for this central idea and that the audience could handle this.

A little disappointed there aren't more mars pictures. There's a lot of pictures of people standing around with various expressions, which is great to give credit, but I was hoping for more of the robot, design / build and mars landscapes.

Got it for my 5 yr old grandson. He is very into rockets, rovers and probes of the solar system.

A little verbose

My daughter-in-law was so happy to get this book for Christmas and she can't wait to get into it as she is an avid reader and a teacher.

My 3 year old son is fascinated by the Curiosity Mars rover. He loves to have the story of Steve Squyres and his robotic explorers read to him over and over and over and over again...

Bought this book, the poster and the model together and it made a perfect package of fun and learning!

My 8th grader loved it. He said very detailed, great pics, informative and interesting.

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