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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

Lexile Measure: 950L (What's this?)

Series: Scientists in the Field Series

Hardcover: 80 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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Age Range: 10 - 12 years

Grade Level: 5 - 7

Customer Reviews

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.

Five...four...three...two...one...blastoff into an exciting adventure in Elizabeth Rusch's *The Mighty Mars Rovers*. Rusch explores one of the greatest scientific missions of our time through the eyes of its captain, Steve Squyres of the Jet Propulsion Lab (JPL). Page after page of crisp, full page color photos transport the reader onto the surface of Mars and into the world of the JPL scientists. Rusch recreates the experience of roving Mars so precisely that your heart will drop every time a rover hits a bump in the road. Her passion for Steve and the rovers transfers to the reader - expect to get lost on this beautiful, harsh, and unknown planet. Captions, sidebars, and photos help to bring this information-rich book to life. Not only is it well-written, but it is visually appealing and well laid-out - exceptionally accessible to a wide range of readers. We need more non-fiction like this for young adults. I can't wait to add *The Mighty Mars Rovers* to my home and classroom libraries! Erin Dees, 5th grade teacher

Steve Squyres and his team have worked in the lab for years to make what they hope will give the world it's first look at Mars. With this book's full color photographs and interesting text young people will feel like they have come along for the journey as well. This covers both Spirit and Opportunity. This would be helpful in report writing or just a great read for kids that are interested in space.

What an expedition! What a story! Appealing to adults, big kids, and even little tykes, the photographs tell a story all by themselves. However, when coupled with the outstanding text, the story of Steve Squyres and his incredible invention just clarifies that space exploration isn't over. It will be an inspiration to wanna-be astronomers and scientists who explore the edges of discovery on earth and in outer space. Highly recommended.

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.

Elizabeth Rusch has managed to capture the complex story of the Mars rovers in a format that readers of all ages will enjoy. Through the lens of Steven Squyersâ™ determination, we learn about the idea behind Spirit and Opportunity. The triumphs and tribulations of the Mars rover crew are recounted with clarity and detail, making for an engaging read. The text is accompanied by incredible photographs of Mars taken by the two rovers, bringing the Red Planet to life. Informative sidebars and an extensive bibliography make the book an excellent introduction to NASAâ™s ambitious and successful project. A must-read for anyone interested in space exploration.

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.

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