

Apollo 8: The Mission That Changed Everything

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“Apollo 8: The Mission That Changed Everything,” is a nonfiction book detailing the events leading up to the Apollo 8 moon mission, the events during it, and the events after it. The book explains the importance of Apollo 8, a mission that consisted of performing the first journey to the moon and orbiting it, without attempting to land humans on it. People would land on the moon on Apollo 11 following soon after 8. The book is laid out in a way that I found to be a little bit confusing at times.

It alternates between the narrative of the main story and other pieces of additional information that appear on blue pages splitting up the story. Sometimes these pages break up sentences into 2 pieces pages apart. This can make you lose your train of thought and forget what you were reading previously. This is especially true if like me, you read the blue pages as they appear so that nothing is missed. If you skip them and continue the story it will flow as it should. As this book seems to be geared towards children (based on the font size, page size, images), this seems like it could be confusing for less experienced readers to understand.

Overall, the book is still captivating despite how much attention I’ve brought to one setback of it, evidenced by the fact I finished it in one sitting. Examining the reasons why NASA was so desperate to achieve their goals helps to create a feeling of desire for success, even for younger readers that didn’t live through the era in which the Space Race occurred. As a gift this book will be good as long as you are sure that the recipient is interested in things like space and science as it is an easy read in my opinion. To reiterate, “Apollo 8: The Mission That Changed Everything” is a good book for young readers (8-13) interested in space and science.

Recommended Titles:

“Apollo 13”- Jim Lovell and Jeffrey Kluger

“The Space Barons”- Christian Davenport

“Astounding”- Alec Nevala-Lee