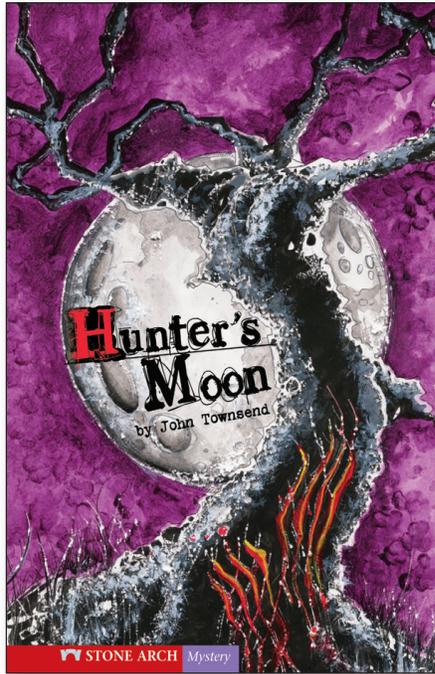




READER'S THEATER (Teacher's Version)



Hunter's Moon **by John Townsend**

PAPERBACK ISBN: 978-1-59889-447-9
HARDCOVER ISBN: 978-1-59889-352-6

Characters: **Neil – reads slightly below grade level**
 Joe – reads at grade level
 Tanya – reads slightly above grade level
 Jeff – reads below grade level
 Narrator – reads above grade level
 Sound Effects Person – struggling reader

Genre: **Mystery**

Ages: **10-14**

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Hunter's Moon page 1

- Narrator:** Neil works in the woods on Jeff's farm. He clears brush and tends the animals. Some people think a wild animal is loose in the woods. Neil is not so sure. Then he meets Tanya, who likes to draw animals. As they talk, they think they are alone in the woods. Then a rock hits a nearby tree.
- Sound Effect:** Thud!
- Joe:** Ha! Did I wake you up?
- Tanya:** Why did you throw that rock?
- Joe:** It was just a joke to keep you on your toes.
- Neil:** What do you think you're doing? You could have hit one of us!
- Joe:** Calm down, I know what I'm doing.
- Tanya:** How did you know I was here? Did you follow me?
- Joe:** Just keeping my eye on you, Tanya. After all, that huge beast could be after you.
- Narrator:** Joe turned to Neil.
- Joe:** Remember me from school?
- Narrator:** Neil did remember him. Everyone used to stay away from Joe. They all thought he was crazy.
- Neil:** Of course I remember you. Still crazy, I see.
- Joe:** Have you seen the big cat, the panther on the loose? The woods aren't safe for humans.
- Tanya:** Oh, here he goes again. He's going to give a big speech, about how we humans are hurting nature.
- Joe:** If you attack one of nature's children, nature will strike back! Be careful.

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- Narrator:** Later that day, Neil was in Jeff's house, telling him about Joe throwing the rock at them. Just then –
- Sound Effect:** Crash!
- Jeff:** What's that noise?
- Neil:** Look! There, on the floor!
- Jeff:** Something threw a brick through the window.
- Neil:** And there's writing on it.
- Jeff:** What does it say?
- Neil:** "Beware the Dogs." What does that mean?
- Jeff:** Nothing good. It's from an old saying that kids used for scaring each other on Halloween.
- Narrator:** The next day, Neil went to the town library. He looked in some old books, hunting for the old saying about the dogs.
- Neil:** Here it is!
- Beware the dogs that prowl the woods
And growl a Halloween tune,
But most of all, beware the cat
That hunts by the Hunter's Moon!
- Narrator:** A shiver went down Neil's back.
- Neil:** What does it all mean anyway?
- Narrator:** Then he heard the town clock ring.
- Sound Effects:** Clang! Clang! Clang! Clang!
- Neil:** Just twelve hours to go until the Hunter's Moon. A full moon on Halloween night.

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- Neil:** I wonder if a big cat really is prowling the woods.
- Sound Effect:** Hoowwwwwwwllll!
- Neil:** What's that?
- Narrator:** When Neil runs into Tanya again later that day, she has a plan.
- Tanya:** I think we should hide in the woods tonight, and see if we can catch that big cat.
- Neil:** I wonder if that's a good idea.
- Narrator:** What do you think? Is it a good idea? Something is prowling in the woods, but what? And who threw the brick through Jeff's window? Remember it's Halloween. Beware the Hunter's Moon!

THE END