

Laura McShane

Harvest Moon 55 min

Objective:

Help students understand the relationship of lunar cycles to the growing season.

Big Idea:

Recognize that the Earth is affected by the moon.

1. Warm Up / Anticipatory 20 min

Fall is a great time to revisit Tomie DePaola's Strega Nona character. In Italian, a "strega" can be interpreted as a witch. Strega Nona uses "magic" to make her garden grow in [Strega Nona's Harvest](#).



Tomie DePaolo (pronounced Tommy da-POW-la)

Visit Wonderopolis for the meaning of [Cornucopia](#)

2. Investigation and New Learning 20 min

Science Links provides a great monthly tool for exploring the phases of the moon:

<http://sciencenetlinks.com/esheets/moon-phases/>

Discuss the phases of the moon with students.

3. Review & Check for Understanding 30 min

Share the pop-up [Brava Strega Nona!](#)

and [Look and Be Grateful.](#)



Assign students to take home a blank calendar for September and/or October and to draw their own observations of the moon each evening.

Italian phrases in Tomie DePaola's books are printed in italics. Ask the students if they can translate the words from Italian:

Qui siete, i miei amici piccoli - here you are, my little friends

mio caro - my dear

la luna - the moon

libro di giardino - garden book

bella luna - beautiful moon

ingrediente segreto- secret ingredient

insalata-salad

Santo cielo- good heavens

grazie -thank you

arrivederci, buonanotte - good-bye, good night