

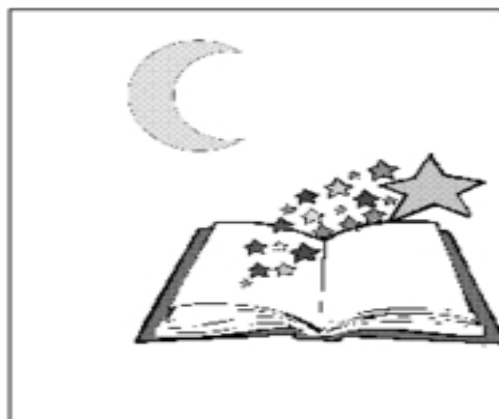
4. *The Moon by Night*
by Madeleine L'Engle (Excerpt)

A "It was a most peculiar feeling. "The solid ground under my feet gave a shudder. "I stood still. "It kept on feeling as though the ground were shivering. "Then suddenly there was a jerk under me. "It was something like when you go water skiing and someone cuts the motor and then suddenly speeds up again, trying to throw you.

B "The next jerk did throw me. "It was a much bigger jerk, and I fell flat on my face in the soft grass of the field. "Underneath me the ground seemed to heave the way your stomach does when you're terribly, terribly sick. "I clung to the grass because there wasn't anything else to cling to. "It was as though the whole earth, the whole planet, were jerking out in space, veering wildly out of course, and I was on its back clinging to its mane.

C "Behind me there was terrible noise. "It was louder than thunder and it seemed to keep on and on until I thought my head would burst. "Then the noise began to break into separate parts, a sound like thunder, a roar like the ocean in a storm, great crackings, crunchings, and finally all the noises got smaller and with spaces of quiet in between, and then they stopped. "The silence was so complete that it was as frightening as the noise had been. "I managed to turn my head, and the top of the mountain wasn't there any more. "It didn't seem to be anywhere.

D "Then I remembered the town of Frank in Alberta, the mountain that had fallen on the town. "I pressed my face into



the grass of the field, and, as the earth heaved beneath me, I thought I was going to throw up, too, from terror. "But I didn't.

E "I looked around again. "The top of the mountain was still gone. "Everything looked different. "I realized that most of the mountain had fallen into the field, because the mountain was much closer to me and the field was much narrower than it had been before.

F "I lay there, clutching the grass, not daring or even able to move, even if the rest of the mountain should fall on me. "But after a while I realized that the tremors were less violent, that the earth was becoming quiet again. "I staggered to my feet. "The ground seemed quite solid beneath them. "I looked for Zachary. "The pile of rock was still there, but it was a different shaped pile. "I didn't see Zachary.