

Approved for use in 6th grade Science

Summary of the Work:

For twelve-year-old Dash Gibson, being one of the first humans to live on a moon colony isn't all it's cracked up to be. But his life gets a jolt when a top lunar scientist mysteriously turns up dead. Dash suspects foul play, but no one believes him, so Dash takes the case himself – but he better watch out. If he doesn't crack the case quickly, he too might end up dead on the moon.

Rationale:

Using a read aloud and read along format engages students. Infused with fun moon and space facts, Space Case gets students excited about our unit on the Earth, Moon, and Sun system. Reinforcing concepts like gravity and characteristics of the moon, Space Case allows students to personally connect with what we are learning.

Professional Reviews and/or Critical Essays:

SPACE CASE

From the Moon Base

Alpha series , Vol. 1

BY [STUART GIBBS](#) · RELEASE DATE: SEPT. 16, 2014

When Dr. Holtz's body is discovered just outside the lunar colony, everyone assumes he made a mistake putting on his spacesuit—but 12-year-old Dashiell "Dash" Gibson has reason to believe this was no accident.

Earth's first space base has been a living hell for Dash. There's not much to do on the moon besides schoolwork and virtual-reality gaming, and there's only a handful of kids his age up there with him. The chance to solve a murder is exactly the type of excitement Dash needs. As clues are found and secrets are uncovered, Dash comes to understand that some of the

Noted Distinction:

NEW YORK TIMES BOOK REVIEW EDITOR'S CHOICE
KIRKUS STARRED REVIEW
2015 EDGAR AWARD NOMINEE
2016 TEXAS BLUEBONNET NOMINEE
A JUNIOR LIBRARY GUILD SELECTION
2015 KISS THE BOOK SELECTION
2015 MAINE BOOK AWARD NOMINEE

Readability

- Lexile Score: 750 L
- Readability Level: GR Level W- Middle Grades

Learning Resources Guidelines

- The novel meets the Learning Resources Guidelines.

Standard Alignment:

NGSS Standards

ESS1.A: The Universe and its Stars:

- * Patterns of the apparent motion of the sun, the moon, and stars in the sky can be observed, described, predicted, and explained with models. (MS-ESS1-1)

base's residents aren't what they seem to be. With a small cast of characters supplying an excellent variety of suspects, Gibbs creates the best kind of "murder on a train" mystery. The genius, however, is putting the train in space. Closed quarters and techno-mumbo-jumbo add delightful color to the proceedings. Thankfully, the author doesn't let the high-concept setting overshadow the novel's mystery. The whodunit is smartly paced and intricately plotted. Best of all, the reveal is actually worth all the buildup. Thrillers too often fly off the rails in their final moments, but the author's steady hand keeps everything here on track.

Fully absorbing. (*Mystery*. 9-12)

Pub Date: Sept. 16, 2014

ISBN: 978-1-4424-9486-2

Page Count: 352

Publisher: Simon & Schuster

Review Posted Online: May 28, 2014

Kirkus Reviews Issue: June 15, 2014

Categories: [CHILDREN'S ACTION & ADVENTURE FICTION](#) | [CHILDREN'S MYSTERY & THRILLER](#) | [CHILDREN'S SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY](#)

<https://www.kirkusreviews.com/book-reviews/stuart-gibbs/space-case/>

* Print resources are available from the library media center and libraries in the district. Contact any library media specialist to view the scholarly sources.

* Scholarly reviews are also available online through Books in Print and Gale. Contact the library media specialist to obtain username and password information to access the subscription database of full-text reviews.

- * Earth and its solar system are part of the Milky Way galaxy, which is one of many galaxies in the universe. (MS-ESS1-2)

ESS1.B: Earth and the Solar System:

- * The solar system consists of the sun and a collection of objects, including planets, their moons, and asteroids that are held in orbit around the sun by its gravitational pull on them. (MS-ESS1-2), (MS-ESS1-3)
- * This model of the solar system can explain eclipses of the sun and the moon. Earth's spin axis is fixed in direction over the short-term but tilted relative to its orbit around the sun. The seasons are a result of that tilt and are caused by the differential intensity of sunlight on different areas of Earth across the year. (MS-ESS1-1)

PS2.B: Types of Interactions:

- * Gravitational forces are always attractive. There is a gravitational force between any two masses, but it is very small except when one or both of the objects have large mass—e.g., Earth and the sun. (MS-PS2-4)

Literacy Standards

- * CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RST.6-8.9: Compare and contrast the information gained from experiments, simulations, video, or multimedia sources with that gained from reading a text on the same topic.

Approval:

Title: *Space Case*

by **Stuart Gibbs**

(Published in 2014)

	Submitted to Committee: Approved for Adoption:
Notes on the Text: Space Case uses many domain specific science vocabulary and is a great way for students to hear, use and be exposed to high impact science words. Additionally, it allows students to compare and contrast the science of the novel to the science we are learning in class.	Connection to the Curriculum: The middle grades novel <i>Space Case</i> by Stuart Gibbs connects with the 6 th grade unit: Earth, Moon, and Sun. This highly engaging novel provides a fictional (but factual!) account of what living on the first moon colony may be like someday from a tween's perspective.
Additional Connections: (AP, Honors, Essential/Applied, Dramas, Films, etc.)	