***THE MOON PRINCESS***

*Long ago, there was a king who ruled his kingdom very well. After a few years he had a son and his son turned out to be very brave, smart and intelligent. However the prince loved gardening so much that he used to tend to the royal gardens himself. In the middle of the garden lay a special kind of orange tree which used to yield fruit every season and the fruit tasted like nectar. When the prince went to the gardens after a full moon night and sat under the orange tree he noticed that about thirty oranges were missing from the tree. He quickly ordered a few soldiers to stand guard around the tree. But when he went there the day after another full moon he found the soldiers sleeping under the tree. This time he decided to guard the tree himself. The next full moon night he hid behind the bushes and waited. At exactly midnight he saw a faint glow near the moon and suddenly he saw a faint figure of a young woman with a pot in her arm and as she took a step forward a staircase made out of pearls formed from the moon to the earth. As she came closer he could see her more clearly and the prince was in awe of her beauty. She had long flowing hair upto her knees and big, blue eyes. Unfortunately as soon as the woman’s feet touched the ground a mist spread all over the area and the prince fell unconscious. The next time the prince covered his mouth and nose with a cloth and waited for the beautiful woman to come from the moon. As soon as she stepped onto the ground the prince took a sword in his hand and stood in front of the pearl staircase. The woman turned around in alarm and the prince asked her “Who are you and why have you come here?” the astonished woman replied with a guilty face “I am the princess of the moon. I love gardening and have spent a lot of money on buying different exotic plants but I have never seen or tasted an orange this unique that is why I come here every full moon night to take some oranges and use their seeds to grow more of these special orange trees in my kingdom.”**the prince told the princess that if she married him he would give her as many oranges as she wanted but the princess replied “I would love to marry you but on one condition. Every month you should allow me to visit the moon for five days.” The prince agreed and they lived happily ever after and even today the princess visits the moon and comes back every now and then.*

*--Eva Thomas, VI B*