



# ONCE IN A BLUE MOON

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**PDF 1: Warm-up & Reading**  
**Once in a Blue Moon!**  
**An Idiom Story**



Something that happens very rarely... almost never!

**Vocabulary**

Word	Meaning	Sounds Like
idiom	a common expression with a special meaning	ID-ee-um
rarely	not very often	RARE-lee
frequently	very often	FREE-kwent-lee
special	unusual and important	SPESH-ul
expression	a group of words with a particular meaning	ik-SPRESH-un
origin	where something comes from	OR-i-jin
full moon	when the moon appears completely round	FULL MOON
occasion	a special event or time	uh-KAY-zhun

### Warm-up Questions (Discuss in pairs)

1. What is something you do very rarely?
2. When was the last time you did something special or unusual?
3. Do you know any English idioms about time or frequency?

### The Story – Once in a Blue Moon

Emma loved looking at the night sky from her bedroom window. One evening, she was doing her homework when her grandmother called.

“Emma, did you know there’s going to be a **blue moon** tonight?” her grandma asked excitedly.

Emma was confused. “A blue moon? But the moon isn’t really blue!”

Her grandmother laughed. “That’s right! A ‘blue moon’ doesn’t mean the moon turns blue. It’s an idiom. We say ‘once in a blue moon’ when we want to talk about something that happens **very rarely** – almost never.”

Emma thought about it. “Like how I clean my room once in a blue moon?”

“Exactly!” said her grandma. “Or when I visit my old school friends once in a blue moon. It means it happens so rarely that it feels special when it does.”

Grandma then told her that the expression comes from a very old idea. A “blue moon” used to mean the third full moon in a season that had four full moons instead of three. Because that was so rare, people started using the phrase to mean “very rarely.”

Emma smiled and looked out at the big, bright moon. “So tonight really is a special night... once in a blue moon!”

### Quick Activity

Choose 4 words from the vocabulary box and write one sentence about the picture or the story:

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### Fun Facts

- “Once in a blue moon” means something happens very rarely.
- A real “blue moon” happens about every 2.7 years.
- The phrase has been used in English for over 400 years.
- People also say “once in a blue moon” when they are excited about something rare.

### Comprehension Questions

#### A. True or False

True / False

1. A blue moon means the moon actually turns blue.
2. “Once in a blue moon” means something happens very rarely.
3. Emma cleans her room very often.

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#### B. Answer the questions

1. What does the idiom “once in a blue moon” mean?
2. Where does the expression originally come from?
3. Give one example sentence using “once in a blue moon”.

#### C. What do you think?

Look at the big picture. Why do you think the girl looks happy?