



GOODNIGHT MOON



34

Title: Goodnight Moon
Author: Margaret Wise Brown
Illustrator: Clement Hurd
Copyright: 1947

Summary

Gentleness and rhythmic calm prevail as a young bunny prepares for bedtime and says goodnight to each familiar object in his room, including his window!

Bible

Read Psalm 127:2 about God giving to His beloved, even in their sleep. It is a wonder to consider that even while we're sleeping, the Lord is aware and giving. Discuss this idea with your child.

Or you can read Genesis 1:14-19 and share with your child briefly about the creation of the sun, moon and stars which took place on the fourth day of creation.

Art

Notice with your child the first picture of the story. The room is lighted (from the fireplace and at least one lamp) so the outside, beyond the window looks very *dark*. In the last picture, the room is dark and now the outside looks *bright*. Looking through the pictures in between, does it slowly become lighter outside? No, it just *appears* lighter as the room becomes darker. At night you can show your child how this concept works, as our eyes become accustomed to the dark and the outside light seems brighter.

Bright primary and secondary colors are used in this art work. You may want to take this opportunity to learn red, yellow and blue as the primary colors. If there is a great deal of interest, and if your child is inquiring about the green used, you can decide if going on to teach the secondary colors and how they are derived from the primary colors is appropriate at this time.

On the third double-page, color illustration, there is a picture hanging on the wall over the dollhouse and bookcase. It looks like a bunny fishing for a bunny. The picture is from another book written by the author of *Goodnight Moon*, called *The Runaway Bunny*. The same illustrator, Clement Hurd, created the pictures for both books. If your child knows *The Runaway Bunny*, he will recognize the picture of the bunny fisherman. If not, *The Runaway Bunny* is included in the lesson plans of this manual and when you get to that book, re-read *Goodnight Moon* and see if your child notices the picture.

Science: Zoology

Talk about and point out different kinds of animals included in the text or illustrations of *Goodnight Moon*. Look in the text for new animals to add to your classification game begun in *Blueberries for Sal*. You may want to make additional index cards for cows, bears, mice, elephants, giraffes, cats, rabbits, etc.

Memory

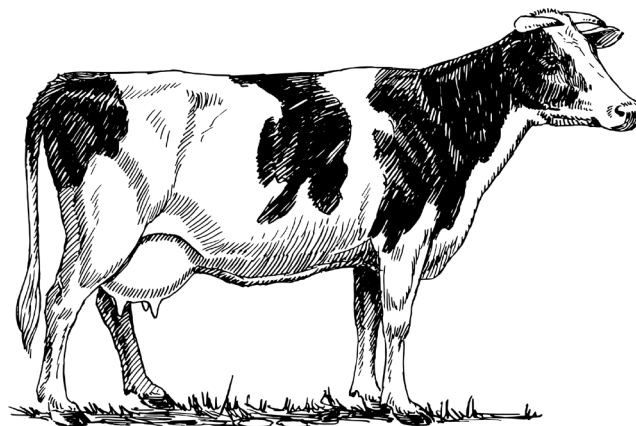
Play a memory game. First, read the story. Then look at the picture of the room. Close the book and try to remember as many items and details as possible.

Literature: Nursery Rhymes

The story makes reference to the nursery rhyme “Hey Diddle Diddle” where the “cow jumps over the moon.” If your child isn’t familiar with this rhyme, it might be a good time to share it with him. Nursery rhymes can provide the beginning of “sound” recognition and introduce the appreciation of rhyming poetry. Also, just as there was an allusion to a well-known rhyme in this story, there are many references made in literature to famous nursery rhymes. So, the knowledge of these rhymes increases your child’s cultural literacy. In other words, as your child is presented with these references, he will recognize the source and often appreciate the reason why an author included such rhymes in his story.

Literature: Storytelling

In the first illustration, there is a picture on the wall of three bears sitting in chairs. Does your child know the story of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*? If not, you



might want to share it now. Your child will then recognize the source of the three bears picture in future readings of *Goodnight Moon*.

Another storytelling project you might want to try is to use the *pattern* of story line in *Goodnight Moon*. In this way, your child might make up a story about saying “Hello” to everything around him in the morning. The light would get brighter and brighter and each item could be mentioned as the room “awakened.”

Parent’s Note

Like Margaret Wise Brown, Eloise Wilkin has written another wonderful “goodnight” book that you might like to find. It is called *My Goodnight Book*, 1981 Golden Press. It comes in the young child’s board book format and has beautiful, soothing pictures.

Vocabulary

This story uses the word *great* to mean big. Talk with your older child about this usage and also other ways to use great, such as great meaning fantastic, or great meaning influential or powerful.

Math: Shapes

Goodnight Moon has many shapes represented in the illustrations. Talk about circles, squares, triangles, etc., and let your child look for these shapes as he examines the illustrations during future readings.

The story disk for **Goodnight Moon can be placed by your child on the story-book map at the house under the moon.*