

Goodnight Moon

BY MARGARET WISE BROWN
PICTURES BY CLEMENT HURD

Goodnight Moon is called a classic of modern children's literature.

What does this mean?

It means that for over 50 years children and parents have read and reread this simple story. But there's more than just a simple story and rhymes—every time you reread the book you see something else in the pictures.

What's the mouse doing on different pages? What time is it on the clock?

What's going on with the moon? Has someone been eating that mush?

Remember: Don't save this book just for bedtimes. *Goodnight Moon* may become one of your child's favorite books so read it anytime, anywhere.



Margaret Wise Brown, author

1910-1952

Margaret Wise Brown wrote more than 100 books for children, including *Runaway Bunny* and *Little Fur Family*.

Her most popular book was *Goodnight Moon* which combines realistic images with make-believe. She was the middle child in her family and her nickname was “Tim” because her hair was golden like the color of a type of grass called timothy. She was known as the storyteller and daydreamer in the family while she was growing up.

Clement Hurd, illustrator

1908-1988

Goodnight Moon was Clement Hurd’s most famous book, too. Because the pictures on each page are so similar, children are invited to explore both the familiar and the unknown.

Clement Hurd began drawing when he was 13. He studied painting in Paris, then moved to New York City.

He met his wife Edith Thacher when he joined the Writer’s Laboratory at the Bank Street College of Education. They began to work together and ended up collaborating on more than 75 books together. Although many of the books are out of print, you can find them at your local library. Even their son, Thacher Hurd, became an artist and writer and continues the family tradition of writing and illustrating children’s books. He and his wife created the Peaceable Kingdom Press which publishes children’s posters and notecards.

Notice that the pictures Clement Hurd has painted go right to the edge of the page. This was a new style for picture books.

Activities to do with *Goodnight Moon*:

Use this book to learn about things that happen at night.

Look for the moon through the window every night. Talk about its size and shape and where it is in the sky.

Make a night picture, using blue or black construction paper.

Whenever you can, refer to a line or an idea from a book your child likes. For example, “Oh, that moon reminds me of the moon outside the window in *Goodnight Moon*. I wonder if there is a cow jumping over it. Let’s look for one.”

Use this book to talk about shadows.

On a moonlit night, go outside and look at the moon and take a moonlit walk, looking at and talking about shadows.

Play with shadows, using flashlights outside or in a darkened room.

Use this book to talk about nighttime routines and goodbyes.

Say goodnight to objects and friends in your child’s room. Carry your child around the room, naming objects as you go. Older children can do the naming while sitting on your lap or walking around themselves. When you put your child to bed for a nap or for the night, make up your own chant (for example, “Good nap Teddy Bear”; “Good nap books”; “Good nap trucks”; “Good nap everyone”).

Get a small toy mouse (or other stuffed animal) and move it around the room after your child is asleep so she can make a game of finding it when she wakes up. Or you can do this as a version of “Hide and Seek,” asking your child to close her eyes while you hide the stuffed animal. Make sure to make it pretty easy to find!

Sing related songs, at bedtime or other times, such as “Twinkle, Twinkle” (*Here Comes Mother Goose*, page 80).

When getting ready to leave a favorite place, say goodbye to objects and friends in the room.
“Goodbye piano, goodbye rug, goodbye water table...see you tomorrow!”

Use this book to teach about rhyme.

Pause before you get to the second rhyme of a rhyming pair. Point to it with your finger, and then start to say the first sound. This gives your child a chance to say the word. You are giving your child two kinds of clues: *visual*—by pointing and *auditory* (or a clue you hear)—by saying the first sound of the word.

You can do this for all the rhyming pairs in *Goodnight Moon*: house, mouse; balloon, moon; bears, chairs; kittens, mittens; hush, brush, mush; clocks, socks.

Here is a fun rhyme about mice.

Once there lived a quiet mouse,
In a quiet little house.

*Stick out one finger
Wrap up your finger in your other fist*

When all was quiet as can be,
OUT POPPED HE!

Raise up both your hands.

