

IF ANIMALS KISSED GOOD NIGHT

by Ann Whitford Paul

Suggested Classroom Activities

Language Arts:

Students can share or write about what happens in their own families when babies or toddlers go to bed? Do they have favorite rhymes or rituals that have been used in their family?

This book lends itself well to Choral Reading. Students can choose an animal and practice reading aloud the two pages that describe how that animal kisses Good Night. They can present their Choral Reading of the whole book for another class, or for parents. Those who don't feel comfortable reading aloud in front of an audience can make large illustrations of the animals to hold up while that particular section is being read aloud.

The author used words that described sounds ("whiskery swishes" [walrus], "klick-a-klack" [parrot], etc. when the animals kissed Good Night. She also used words that described movements or shapes that pertained to the particular animals ("soooooo sloooooowww" [sloth], "twirling and twisting like rope loosely wound" [snake]. Students can write their own poems about other animals kissing Good Night, and try to use words that describe the sounds or movements these animals might make.

The author used specific words for the various baby animals: chick, cub, calf, etc. Students can do research to find the words for the young of their favorite animals and create a word chart for the classroom showing an illustration of each animal accompanied by the correct words. For example: lion – cub; cat – kitten; etc.

The sloth's Good Night kiss was very sloooooow. Students can do research on sloths to discover whether they really are so slow, and if so, why.

Science:

Students can research the animals mentioned in the story to find out where they live: specific habitat [ocean, trees, etc.] or specific part of the world. To add a **geography** component, they can create small illustrations of the animals, and affix them to a large map of the world.

Music:

Every culture has lullabies they sing to children at bedtime. Students can share those they remember from their own families. An excellent online source for favorite lullabies which includes lyrics and music can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/2442yz> (part of babycenter.com) Perhaps students will want to learn a few of these favorites.

Additional “Good Night” Books:

Brown, Margaret Wise, Goodnight Moon. (60th Anniversary edition)
HarperCollins, 2005.

Fox, Mem, Time for bed. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1993.

Metropolitan Museum of Art, Lullabies: an illustrated songbook. Gulliver Books,
1997.

Paul, Ann Whitford, Little Monkey says Good Night. Farrar, Straus, & Giroux,
2003.

Paul, Ann Whitford, Snail’s Good Night. Holiday House, 2008.

Wood, Audrey, The Napping House. Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 2004.

Yolen, Jane, How do Dinosaurs say Good Night? Blue Sky Press, 2000.