



A play by **Chad Henry**

Adapted from the book *Goodnight Moon* by **Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd**

Produced by special arrangement with **HarperCollins**

Directed by **David Saar**

Musical Direction by **Alan Ruch**

Choreography by **JoAnn Yeoman**

Scenic Design by **Jeff Thomson**

Costume and Puppet Design by **Rebecca Akins**

Lighting Design by **Paul Black**

Sound Design by **TBA**

Stage Manager: **Abigail Hartmann**

**The Cast**

Bunny.....**Jon Gentry**  
Tooth Fairy, etc.....**Dwayne Hartford**  
Mouse, etc.....**Katie McFadzen**  
Old Lady.....**Jodie L. Weiss**

This production is supported in part by:



Arizona Commission on the Arts  
Bashas' Markets  
City of Tempe/  
Tempe Municipal Arts Commission  
Wells Fargo

Preview Guide for Parents and Teachers to  
Childsplay's Production of

***Goodnight Moon***

We hope you find this guide helpful in preparing your children for an enjoyable and educational theatrical experience. Included you'll find things to talk about before and after seeing the performance, classroom activities that deal with curriculum connections and education standards, and resource materials.

**The Story:**

Since it was originally released in 1947, parents around the world have read *Goodnight Moon*, one of the most beloved and well-known stories in American history, as a bedtime story to their little ones. Now this bedtime ritual is re-imagined as a delightful piece of musical theatre. It's seven o'clock in the great green room. There's a red balloon and a cow jumping over the moon. There are kittens and mittens and a talkative mouse. There's a quiet old lady who's whispering "hush." The dish and the spoon, the bears with chairs, and Mr. Nobody are all there to entertain Bunny. He even loses a tooth! But it's seven o'clock in the great green room and it's time to say goodnight. The Old Lady struggles to help Bunny fall asleep, but fire truck sirens and mooing cows keep Bunny sitting straight up in his bed. Bunny is wide awake and will not sleep until he says goodnight to every object within earshot. In this great green room, Bunny's imagination runs wild. The Old Lady almost gets her wish after reading the tale of *The Runaway Bunny*, but how can Bunny fall asleep in a room where pictures come to life in a flourish of song and dance and the Tooth Fairy turns teeth into stars? In the end, he successfully says goodnight to everything and is finally ready for sleep.

## Things To Talk About and Do After Seeing *Goodnight Moon*:

### Discussion Starters:

Now that you've read and seen *Goodnight Moon*, here are some things to talk about: **How does the play differ from the book? Why do you think the playwright chose to make the changes?**

**Story Structure:** All plays have three P's: People in a Place with a Problem. **Where does the play take place (setting)? Who are the people (or characters)? What are the problems (conflicts)? What happens at the beginning of the play? The middle? The end? What is the climax plot? Resolution?**

### Bedtime Rituals:

Bunny goes through the ritual of saying goodnight to everything in his room before bed. **What do you do before you go to bed? Is it the same every night? Do you have a favorite bedtime story? Do you enjoy bedtime or do you fight to stay awake?**

**Positive Attitude:** The cow finally jumps over the moon on her third try. She gets encouragement from the others and believes that she can do it. **Have you ever tried very hard to do something that you couldn't and kept working at it until you could? Have you ever gotten or given encouragement that helped you or another to achieve a goal?**

**Activities Linked to Standards (samples noted in bold):**

### Creative Drama/Theater:

► The play *Goodnight Moon* is basically a dramatization of the picture book with added dialogue, songs and situations.

You can dramatize any book in as simple or complex a way as you want. Here's a basic format to follow for Story Dramatization:

~Choose an introductory activity or warm-up connected to the story (to hook the students).  
~Share story with the group.  
~Review story with students.  
~Focus on characters, plot, setting and conflict(s).  
~ Assign characters and play the story (or just a section of it) out.  
~Evaluate by talking about what worked well and what could be improved upon next time the story is played.  
~Play the story again working on suggested improvements.  
~Evaluate again.  
~Closing activity (this could be as simple as a round of applause or a group high five).

**T-S1C1-201,-202,-203,-204, R01-S2C1-01,-02,-03,-04.**

► Bunny asks the old lady about a picture of his dad in a boat. Old lady tells him the story just as she has done many times before. Make up your own stories based on pictures from books and magazines. You can also use personal photos. With a partner, practice telling your stories to each other. Make sure your story has a beginning, middle and end. Take turns telling your story to the class. **VA-S2C4-201,-202,-203, T-S2C2-101,-102**

### Visual Art:

► As a class, create a moon and stars ceiling project. Decide which planets and constellations you would like to include. Create the planets and constellations by using paper, cardboard, crayons, glitter or anything else you can think of. Arrange the stars and planets on the ceiling in your classroom. **VA-S1C2-101,-102**

► An illustration is a frozen picture that communicates a moment in a story. Choose one or more characters and a moment in a scene from the play and create your own illustration of it. You can also choose a sentence or paragraph from the book *Goodnight Moon* (or another favorite book) to illustrate. Hang your work in the classroom. **VA-S1C1**

### Writing :

► Make a list of all of the things in your bedroom that you could say "goodnight" to. If you can't spell the name of an item, draw a picture of it and ask for help spelling it. Use all the items as spelling words. Practice writing the words until you have them memorized. **W01-S3C2-01**

► Use the list you created from the above activity and come up with two or more words that rhyme with each word on your list. **W01-S3C1-02**

### Reading:

► Choose a selection of nursery rhymes to read together as a class. Copy them or use an overhead projector so everyone can follow along. For pre-readers, read a sentence and have students echo it back until they have the whole rhyme memorized. **R00-S1C2**

► Together with your class or family, come up with a list of at least twenty books that you can read together. Have a chunk of time set aside everyday for group reading. Take turns reading aloud or choose an adult who can read to you. **R-S1C5**

► Different cultures have different stories about the moon and the stars and how they came to be in the sky. Go to the library and/or internet and see how many of these stories you can find. Share them with your class. **4FL-D2**

## Things to Talk About and Do Before Seeing *Goodnight Moon*:

Here are topics for discussion or activities to use before or after seeing the production:

Bedtime • Rituals • Imagination • Nursery rhymes • Story time • Telling time • Illustration • Pretend play

**Hold That Thought:** Ask students the questions in **bold type** on this page before seeing the play and talk about their answers afterwards!

**Theater Etiquette:** It's helpful to review the rules of theater etiquette before seeing a show, especially since this may be the first live theater experience for some of your students. Please take a moment to discuss the following pointers prior to seeing the performance:

~Use the restroom before seeing the show as we do not have intermission during our school performances.

~Stay seated during the performance.

~ Be respectful to the performers and other people in the audience by not talking during the performance. Remember, the actors can see and hear the audience just like you can see and hear them.

~ Appropriate responses such as applause or laughter are always welcome.

~Food, candy, gum and beverages are not allowed in the theater.

~Use of cell phones (including text messaging), cameras or any other recording device is *not allowed in the theater at any time!*

~**How is seeing a play different than seeing a movie?**

**Read the Book!** It's always great to have an idea of what the story is about before seeing a play. Since *Goodnight Moon* is also a very well-known book, read it before you see the play.

**What from the book do you think will be the most challenging to put on the stage?**

**Here are some things to look for regarding the elements of design (set, costumes, music, projections, puppets and lights):**

▶ The scenic design (set) and properties (props) were directly influenced by Clement Hurd's illustrations in the book. Look closely at the illustrations before you see the play. **What about the set and props is the same as the pictures in the book? What is different?**

▶ The costumes were inspired by artist Arthur Rackham (go to [www.bpib.com/illustrat/rackham.htm](http://www.bpib.com/illustrat/rackham.htm) for examples of his work) and the 19<sup>th</sup> century Mother Goose illustrators. **What does a character's costume communicate about that character?**

▶ Projections (much like a movie or slideshow) are used in this production to create things like the night sky. The windows of the set are actually rear projection screens. **How do the projections help to tell the story?**

▶ A musical is a story that is told through speaking, singing and dancing. In this production, the music is a recorded track that actors sing along to. **How does music affect the mood of various scenes in the play?**

▶ Many of the objects and some of the characters are puppets that are brought to life by the actors. **How many different puppets can you find in the play?**

▶ Lighting plays an important part in setting the mood and time in a play. Lights are also used to

create special effects. **How do the lights change to suggest the time of day or night, to suggest a particular mood or to create a special effect?**

**Here are some words from the production that you might want to use for vocabulary or spelling words:**

clock, kitten, mitten, mush brush, hush, pandemonium virtuoso, conceive, achieve succeed, measles, mumps, chicken pox, Jupiter, Mars, constellations, comets, meteorites

**Margaret Wise Brown (1910-1952):** The author of *Goodnight Moon* and many other popular children's books was born in May 1910 in Pomfret, CT. In school, she excelled in athletics. After graduating, she worked in teaching and studied art. Her philosophy was that children wanted to read about their own lives instead of reading traditional fairy tales or fables. She loved animals (especially dogs) and they appeared as central characters in many of her books. Several of Brown's books have been re-released with new illustrations decades after their original publication. Many of her books are still in print with the original illustrations and have been translated into several languages. Margaret Wise Brown was known to have lived an extravagant life and had a wide and prestigious social circle. After meeting him at a party in 1952, she became engaged to James Stillman Rockefeller, Jr. While on a book tour in Nice, France, she contracted appendicitis. She died from complications from surgery on Nov 13, 1952 at the young age of 42. For a wonderfully detailed biography of Ms. Brown go to [www.margaretwisebrown.com/long\\_bio.htm](http://www.margaretwisebrown.com/long_bio.htm)

*"They have man tooth fairies, too. Just depends on who gets the night shift." ~ Mouse to Bunny*

## Interesting Internet Connections:

[www.margaretwisebrown.com](http://www.margaretwisebrown.com)

-website dedicated to Margaret Wise Brown

[www.margaretwisebrown.com/allbooks.htm](http://www.margaretwisebrown.com/allbooks.htm)

-a list of all of Margaret Wise Brown's books

[www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/moon/mphases.htm](http://www.dltk-teach.com/rhymes/moon/mphases.htm)

-a great phases of the moon activity

<http://home.hiwaay.net/~krcool/Astro/moon/#mf>

-a very informative site on all things related to the moon

[www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/mythology/planets/Earth/moon.html](http://www.windows.ucar.edu/tour/link=/mythology/planets/Earth/moon.html)

-a source for cultural myths about the moon

[http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/wil/rimes\\_and\\_rhymes.htm](http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/go/wil/rimes_and_rhymes.htm)

-a rhyme a week resource

[www.readwritethink.org/lesson\\_images/lesson216/picturecards.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson216/picturecards.pdf)

-rhyming picture cards from Hey Diddle Diddle that you can reproduce

[www.readwritethink.org/lesson\\_images/lesson216/picturecards.pdf](http://www.readwritethink.org/lesson_images/lesson216/picturecards.pdf)

-a wonderful interactive site for young children with stories, poems, games, songs, etc

[www.zelo.com/FAMILY/NURSERY](http://www.zelo.com/FAMILY/NURSERY)

-nursery rhymes and songs with sound

[www.time-for-time.com/default.htm](http://www.time-for-time.com/default.htm)

-a source for teaching how to tell the time

[www.adha.org/kidstuff](http://www.adha.org/kidstuff)

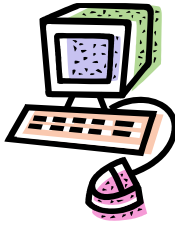
-dental care for kids

[www.toothfairy.org](http://www.toothfairy.org)

-the tooth fairy online

[www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sleep](http://www.bbc.co.uk/science/humanbody/sleep)

-dedicated to the science of sleep, lots of fun information



## About Childsplay:

Childsplay is a non-profit professional theatre company of adult actors, performing for young audiences and families.

Our Mission is to create theatre so strikingly original in form, content or both, that it instills in young people an enduring awe, love and respect for the medium, thus preserving imagination and wonder, the hallmarks of childhood, which are the keys to the future.

We love to hear from our audience members!

**Childsplay**

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**Email us at: [info@childsplayaz.org](mailto:info@childsplayaz.org)**

**Web Site: [www.childsplayaz.org](http://www.childsplayaz.org)**



## Goodnight Moon Booklist

Prepared with the help of  
Tim Wadham, Youth Services  
Coordinator for the Maricopa  
County Library District



### Curriculum Connections:

#### Bedtime

*Time to Say Goodnight* by Sally Lloyd Jones  
*Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late* by Mo Willems  
*Counting Ovejas* by Sara Weeks  
*Bedtime for Frances* by Russell Hoban  
*When Sheep Sleep* by Laura Numeroff  
*Goodnight, My Duckling* by Nancy Tafuri

#### Rituals

*Night Shift Daddy* by Eileen Spinelli

#### Imagination

*Imagine* by Ruth Brown  
*Beverly Billingsly Takes the Cake* by Alexander Stadler

#### Nursery Rhymes

*Mother Goose's Little Treasures* by Iona Opie and Rosemary Wells  
*The Arnold Lobel Book of Mother Goose* by Arnold Lobel  
*¡Pío Peep! Traditional Spanish Nursery Rhymes*  
*My Very First Mother Goose* illustrated by Rosemary Wells  
*Little Boy Blue and Other Rhymes* illustrated by Rosemary Wells  
*Here Comes Mother Goose* illustrated by Rosemary Wells

#### Storytime

*When the Library Lights Go Out* by Megan McDonald

#### Telling Time

*It's About Time!* by Stuart J. Murphy  
*Time To--* by Bruce McMillan

#### Pretend Play

*Orson Blasts Off* by Raul Colon  
*Not a Box* by Antionette Portis  
*Roxaboxen* by Alice McLerran



All materials are available through your local library. Check it out!



The Man in the moon, looked out of the moon, and this is what he said, "It's time that now I'm getting up, all children went to bed."

## Want Some Drama in Your Classroom?

If you would like help incorporating drama into your curriculum by having Teaching Artist come into your classroom, Childsplay can help. We offer a variety of artist-in-residence and teacher training experiences. We can also help with pre- and post-show activities related to the production. For more information, contact Patricia Black, Director of Education, at:  
[pblack@childsplayaz.org](mailto:pblack@childsplayaz.org) or 480-350-8129



**Script, Music and Lyrics by Chad Henry**  
**Based on the book by Margaret Wise Brown**

Directed by **David Saar**  
 Musical Direction by **Alan Ruch**  
 Choreography by **JoAnn Yeoman**  
 Scenic Design by **Jeff Thomson**  
 Costume and Puppet Design by **Rebecca Akins**  
 Lighting Design by **Paul Black**  
 Sound Design by **Christopher Neumeyer**  
 Stage Manager: **Abigail Hartmann**

**The Cast**

Bunny.....**Jon Gentry**  
 Various Roles.....**Dwayne Hartford**  
 Mouse, etc.....**Katie McFadzen**  
 Old Lady.....**Jodie L. Weiss**

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**Can you fill in the blanks of this well-known nursery rhyme?**

Hey \_\_\_\_\_ diddle, the cat and the \_\_\_\_\_,  
 The \_\_\_ jumped over the moon,  
 The little \_\_\_ laughed to see such sport,  
 And the \_\_\_\_\_ ran away with the spoon.

**Today your child/student saw a production of *Goodnight Moon* performed by Childsplay. Here are some things to think about and some activities to do now that they've seen the show!**

**Ask your child/student about the play they saw.**

► Ask them about the story and the characters: What happens in the beginning, the middle and the end of the play? How many characters can they remember? Which character was their favorite and why? What were some of the things the characters did? What was their favorite part of the play?

► Ask them about the costumes, scenery, props, puppets, lights, and music from the production. Have them draw pictures to help describe the things that they talk about.

► Ask them about something new that they learned from the play.

**Counting Game: In order to be able to tell time, you need to know your numbers and how to count! How many of each item do you count? Write the total number in the blank next to the row.**

☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺ \_\_\_\_\_

♥♥♥♥♥ \_\_\_\_\_

☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ ☀ \_\_\_\_\_

♪♪♪♪♪ \_\_\_\_\_

))) \_\_\_\_\_

\* \* \* \* \* \_\_\_\_\_

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**What is the total amount of all the items?** \_\_\_\_\_

Can you match the pictures and the words? Draw a line connecting each word to its picture!

OLD LADY



BUNNY



DISH



TELEPHONE



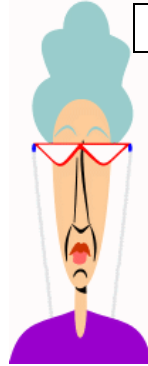
BALLOON



DOG



CLOCK



COW



SPOON



BEAR

MOUSE

Color the cat and the fiddle!



*What Time Is It?*

What time is it on the clocks in the box below? Use the clock to the right if you need help with the location of the numbers on the clock.



<u>11:00</u>	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____