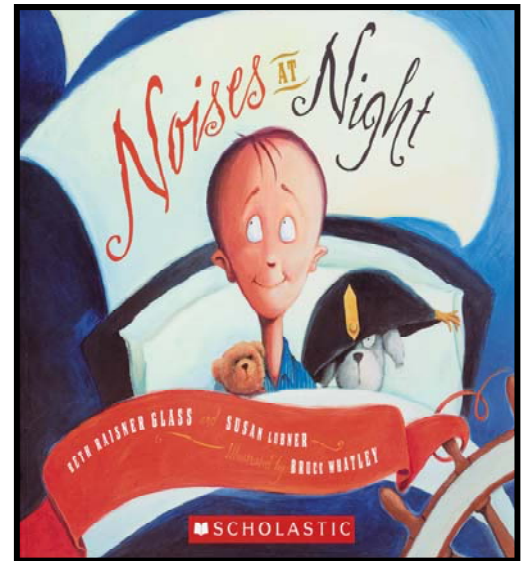


TEACHER'S BOOK NOTES

Noises at Night

Written by Beth Raisner Glass and Susan Lubner
Illustrated by Bruce Whatley



About the book

A little boy tries to get to sleep, but keeps hearing the sounds of his house at night – the drip of a tap, the bark of a dog outside, a truck passing by. He soon makes a game of imagining the sound and what it might be, and so the drip of the tap becomes the lap of waves on a sailing ship (he is the captain at the helm). The creak of the bed becomes the creak of a treasure chest opening, with the narrator dressed in explorer clothes, making a great discovery. And so the little boy conquers his fear of the dark and finally falls asleep to the 'sound' of the quiet.

Authors Beth Raisner Glass and Susan Lubner wrote *Noises at Night* not only to entertain, but also to give children a different perspective on the things that scare them so that they can take control. In the words of Beth Raisner Glass, 'The goal was to connect with children's feelings and to validate them, but also to put them in charge of those feelings so that they can deal with them.' The rhyming text is based on readings and research by the authors to find out what children enjoy in a story, and the verse is structured so that children can predict the rhyming words, and 'interact' in its telling.

The authors: Beth Raisner Glass & Susan Lubner

This is a first picture book for co-authors Beth Raisner Glass and Susan Lubner. Beth is a junior primary teacher, and was inspired to write the story when her eighteen-month-old son was kept awake by all the strange noises in the family's new house. She wrote the story to entertain, but also to help children put into perspective the unknown things that scare them. With her friend Susan Lubner, Beth honed her story in verse to get the rhyme and the rhythm just right, through 40 drafts. The result is a text that is easy to read aloud and will entertain young children at bed-time.

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The illustrator: Bruce Whatley

Bruce Whatley was born in South Australia, but after ten years his family moved to the UK, where he studied visual communications and later worked in the advertising industry. He returned to Australia with his family in the 1980s, and later spent some years working in the US. Bruce now works in a NSW country town as a full-time writer and illustrator.

Bruce has produced a number of well-loved picture books, most often in collaboration with his wife, Rosie Smith. His first, based on the family dog Skitty, was *The Ugliest Dog in the World*. It was followed by titles such as *Looking for Crabs*, *That Magnetic Dog*, *Detective Donut* and *Little White Dogs Can't Jump*.

Bruce Whatley's *Looking for Crabs* was shortlisted for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year, 1993; *Detective Donut and the Wild Goose Chase*, co-written with his wife Rosie Smith, was Honour Book in the CBCA Picture Book of the Year awards in 1998; *Diary of a Wombat* by Jackie French was Honour Book for the CBCA Picture Book of the Year in 2003.

Bruce's special contribution to *Night Noises* is the inclusion of the little boy's teddy bear in each illustration as a parallel element to the adventures of the narrator. In the last illustration in the book, he seems to come alive, smiling as the little boy at last falls asleep.

Ideas for teachers

Theme: *Noises at Night* tackles the fears that beset children when they hear noises at night, and aims to give them the resources with which to rationalise these fears. The power of imagination comes to the rescue, giving the child the power to deal with the problem.

The text can be used as a basis for a discussion about noises, and what they could be, to extend the story.

The story can be dramatised, with each child reciting a verse and miming the action.

The text can be used as a springboard from which children can create their own imaginary adventures. They could then illustrate their favourite imaginary adventure, if not create another verse as well, to make another 'spread' for the book. Questions could include 'Which favourite toy would you bring on your adventure?'