

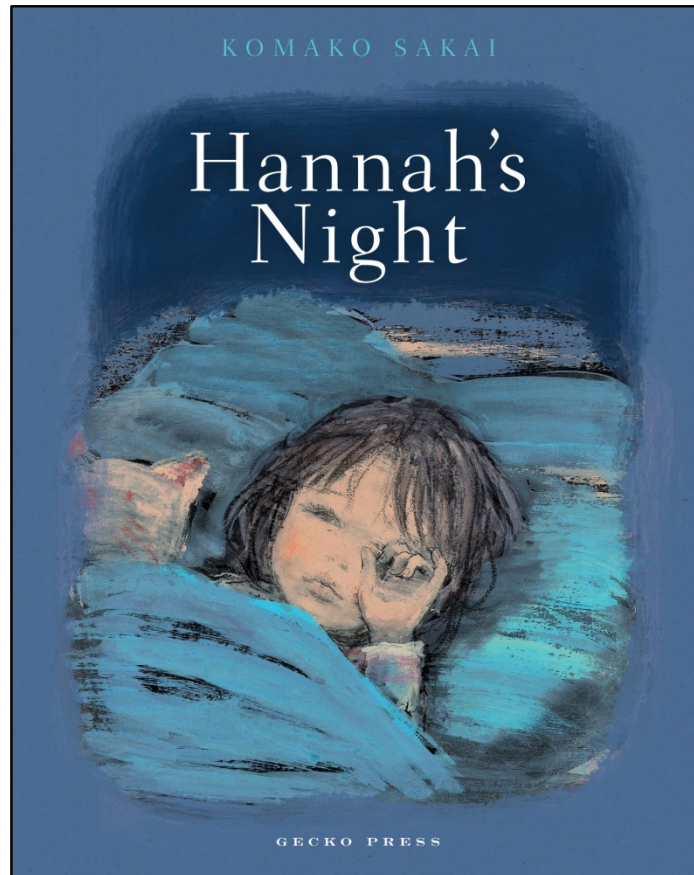


GECKO PRESS

Teaching Notes

Hannah's Night

by Komako Sakai



Synopsis

In the night, when everyone is asleep, Hannah wakes up suddenly and discovers a whole new quiet and exciting world of adventure. With nobody awake to tell her off, she can do just as she pleases and does just that – indulging in some night-time escapades.

The Author/Illustrator

Komako was born in Japan in 1966. She studied art in Tokyo before she began illustrating picture books. She is one of Japan's most popular children's author/illustrators, and has won many international awards for her work.



GECKO P R E S S

Teaching Notes

Hannah's Night

by Komako Sakai

Themes

This picture book, which tells a peaceful, quiet, meditative story using simple language and beautiful images, has several themes.

These include the innocence and wonder of a young child as Hannah discovers the mysteries of night-time and the dawn of a new day.

A further theme is the wonder of viewing the familiar in a new and magical way as Hannah delights in her night-time exploration of her home.

Another theme explored is the thrill of indulging in the illicit with the happy knowledge of there being no chance of suffering consequences.

Activities

1. Before reading the book, look at the cover image and title. Discuss what you think this story might be about.
2. Hannah lives with her sister, mother, father and their cat called Shiro. Write a description and draw an illustration of a person and/or pet living with you.
3. What does Hannah do when she gets up and what items does she take back to bed with her? What would you do and play with if you were free to explore your home in the middle of the night with no one to tell you off? Write a short story about your imagined night-time adventures.
4. Look at the double page spread of Hannah and Shiro. Either describe the scene orally in pairs or write a descriptive paragraph or poem based on what you can see.



GECKO PRESS

Teaching Notes

Hannah's Night

by Komako Sakai

5. Onomatopoeia is a figure of speech for a word which imitates a noise or action. What example of onomatopoeia can you find in the book? Think of more examples that could have been used to describe some of the other action in the book. For example, when Hannah and Shiro are walking down the stairs or when Shiro is drinking the milk.
6. Examine the illustrations in the book. What attracts your attention to a particular picture? What colours are used? What kind of lines and textures are used? Do the pictures mirror the text or go beyond what the story tells you?
7. Imagine you are lying on your bed in your room with a notebook and colouring pencils just as Hannah did. From memory draw a picture of your room. In pairs, draw a picture based on each other's oral description.
8. 'It was starting to get light' when Hannah looks out the window. What is the name for this time of day? Look at the origin, format and typical subject matter of haiku poems. Then write a haiku using this time of the day as your inspiration.
9. Do you like Hannah as a character? Why/why not? What do you think about her night-time escapades and what do you think they tell us about her and her personality?
10. What type of bird does Hannah see outside her bedroom window? Imagine you are an ornithologist. Make a pair of pretend binoculars. Using your binoculars go bird-spotting around your school grounds and/or local area? Choose one of the birds you spotted to research and create an entry for an illustrated encyclopaedia of birds.
11. Imagine you are Hannah's sister having just woken up in the morning and finding Hannah in your bed and your toys having been played with. Either write a personal diary entry about how you feel (think about how you would



G E C K O P R E S S

Teaching Notes

Hannah's Night

by Komako Sakai

describe the physical scene, as well as your feelings about Hannah's actions), or write a script based on a conversation you may have with Hannah. In pairs, act it out for your class.

12. In pairs, take turns to read the story aloud to one another. Discuss which is your favourite page and why? Do you agree with your partner's choice? Why/why not?
13. Write a plot summary of what happens in the book.
14. Write a reader's review of the book. Include what you liked/disliked about it and why? Give it a rating, such as stars or a number out of ten.
15. Find and read Komako Sakai's book *The Bear and the Wildcat* (Gecko Press, 2011). ISBN: 9781877467707.