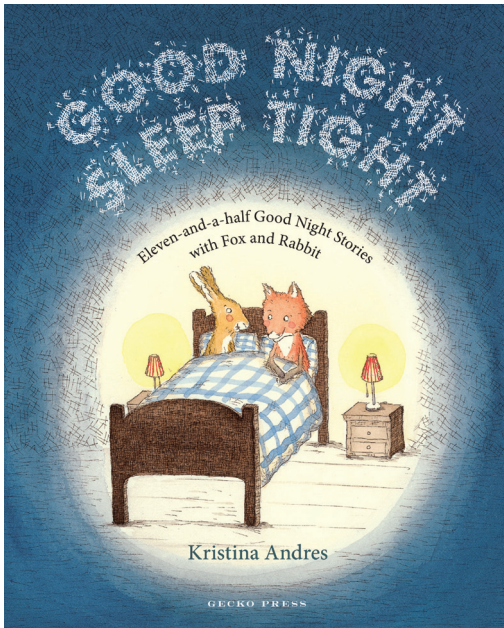


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## Teaching Notes



### Good Night Sleep Tight

Eleven-and-a-half Good Night Stories with  
Fox and Rabbit

By Kristina Andres

#### Synopsis

Fox and Rabbit live quite far away, in a bright little house beyond the mole hills. If they can't sleep, they count the good nights (335 in total). When they wish each other a good night, the rustling pear tree, the raspberries and the stars join in. Sometimes they swing on the lightshades.

#### The Author

Kristina Andres was born in Greifswald in 1971 and grew up in Mecklenburg, where she lives today. She studied history of art and literature and then moved to the Hamburg Academy of Fine Arts. She has been working as a freelance artist since 2002. She has written and illustrated numerous children's books and received several awards.

#### Themes

There are two key themes in this beautiful and funny book that will appeal to all readers, no matter their age or background.

**Friendship**—Fox and Rabbit have a very fun and special friendship. Together they share a great sense of humour and adventure.

**Community**—While the stories are focused on the friendship of Fox and Rabbit, we also meet a wonderful and diverse cast of characters from their wider community, including Elephant, Kangaroo, and the Wolves.

#### Level One Activities—Text (before and while reading)

1. Before you read the book, look at the cover (front and back) of the book. What can you tell about the story from the title, font, illustrations, and blurb? Think about the colours and style of illustrations and what they might tell you about what sort of story this is.

2. Either on your own or in pairs find the definition (meaning) of the following words that appear in the story and then use them in a new sentence:

- Snout (p6)
- Relentless (p19)
- Dusk (p36)
- Curses (p40)

3. There are many examples of personification in the story, including “the pear trees whispered” (p15). Personification is when you give human qualities or abilities to an object or animal. It’s a fun language feature that helps to bring a story alive! As you read the book, look for other examples of personification and make note of four or five of your favourites.

## Level Two Activities—Responding to the text (while reading)

1. Why do you think the shopkeepers mistake Fox for a wolf (pp. 8-9)? Clue: how did we see Fox get out of the house on the previous page? Also, why do you think people are more scared of wolves than foxes?
2. On page 10 Fox says: “I left my shadow at home.” Is it possible to leave your shadow? Have you tried? Experiment and discuss.
3. On page 13 we see that Elephant has been washing Fox and Rabbit’s bedding. Why is he doing this?
4. Why do kangaroos have pouches (p. 25)? Also, can you remember a time you couldn’t stop laughing? Discuss in pairs.
5. Look carefully at the illustration on page 29. What can you see in the trees? What type of birds are they and what do you know about them?
6. Why do you think that Fox says: “Sheep make my whiskers stand on end” (p. 30)?
7. How can we tell from the picture on page 46 that the wolves don’t take very good care of their house? Would you like to live there? What might you do to make the house and garden more appealing?

## Level Three Activities—Creating based on the text

1. Design your perfect bedroom. You could either draw a floor plan or create a diorama using a shoe box or other small box.
2. Make your own animal shadow puppets. You could make them using cardboard or you could use your hands. In groups of 3-4 try and make puppets for as many of the characters in the book as possible.
3. Write a short paragraph describing how it makes you feel to be tucked up in a warm bed on a cold and stormy night. Think about the sounds around you, both inside your house and outside.

## Level Four Activities—Beyond the text

1. Fox and Rabbit have trouble getting to sleep. What do you do to get to sleep? Share your advice with others in groups of 3-4.
2. In pairs find four facts about foxes and four facts about Rabbits. You could use the Internet or the library. Share with your class.
3. What is a crescent moon (p. 34)? Do you know why it is called this? Can you name other types of moons?
4. Lottie the Sheepdog is a working dog. What do you know about working dogs and how they're different from dogs that are kept as pets in the home?
5. Bats are nocturnal animals (p. 49), which means that they are active during the night. What other types of nocturnal animals can you name?



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