

The Early Years Count Literacy Connection



The Night is Yours

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Preschool edition

Overview of Book

A group of children play in an apartment building courtyard on a hot summer evening under a full moon. Jumping rope to the beat of music from a neighbor's window, gazing at the stars, playing hide-and-seek in the moonlight—all a celebration of beautiful darkness, whether it be the night sky or shade of a child's skin.

Genre: Realistic fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are some words from *The Night Is Yours* to introduce in your classroom:

escape	blend
constellations	crouch
gleams	determined

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Approaches to Learning
Item A (*Initiative and
planning*)

Social and Emotional
Development
Item F (*Building relationships
with other children*)

Physical Development
and Health
Item I (*Gross-motor skills*)

Science & Technology
Item BB
(*Observing and classifying*)

Reading Tips

Since the story takes place at night, you might read with the lights off. Stop often to include all the children in the details and activity. For example, after reading say, "Look, see? The children are jumping rope and music is coming from these windows. Let's get up and jump, too!" In the middle, stop and say, "Let's play a quick round of hide and seek!" These activities during the read aloud will highlight Amani's experiences in the story and connect the children in the classroom with the children in the story.

Three readings are recommended to familiarize children with the story. Each reading provides an opportunity to introduce new vocabulary words, pose open-ended questions, and engage children in activities that make the story "come alive."

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Bring jump ropes to **Outside Time** for children to practice “double Dutch” like in the story.

Play hide and seek for **Large Group Time**. Use terms from the story: back, forth, left, right, up, down as children look for peers.

Have pictures of the moon's cycles displayed at the table as children measure and pour with whole, half and quarter cup measuring cups at **Small Group Time**.

Around the Room

Highlight the book's content and build on the children's excitement in a variety of locations.

Add books in the **Book Area** that show constellations and moon cycles as well as fiction like *Max and the Tag-a-long Moon* by Floyd Cooper.

Encourage children in the **Block Area** to design and build an apartment building with a courtyard like in the story.

Tape the “full” length of the room. Clearly mark “half” in the middle, and “quarter” on each side. Encourage creative measurements with materials.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one “right” answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *The Night Is Yours*:

What's your favorite game to play with friends?

What would you play if you could go outside at night?

Why do kids giggle when they hide?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
574-237-9740

@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *The Night Is Yours* with their child. Here's a sample message you can send:

While reading *The Night is Yours* with your child, share how you spent summer evenings with friends when you were young. Did you jump rope, play games, dance to music from a neighbor's window? After reading, make clear rules and play indoor hide and seek together. Play music your family enjoys and dance or jump together. If possible, look at the night sky together. Recall the story, “Amani knows the moon. Do you know the moon?” Together, pick out stars in the sky. Choose favorites. Like Amani's father does in the book, share with your child how they bring you brightness.