

# Goodnight Moon

OCT 16-24, 2010 • The Playhouse, Overture Center



## Thank you for Choosing CTM

If you're like most decision makers, you have many choices and limited resources to invest in out-of-classroom learning opportunities. That's why we are so very grateful that you have chosen CTM's production of *Goodnight Moon* to enrich the lives of the young people you brought to the theater today.

This guide is designed to help you delve more deeply into the history, language and social studies of the story and more deeply explore the world created by CTM's artistic staff. Topics explored in this guide are curriculum-based to help you make the most of your CTM experience.

Look for the **purple type** to find activities throughout your study guide. From the youngest audience members to grown-ups who are yet young-at-heart, there's an activity inside the guide to engage every imagination.

## Suggestions for Preparing Youth for Attendance

### Theater is not Theater without an Audience

Live theater differs from watching television or movies.

Performers can see and hear you. As an audience member you are a vital contributor to the performance experience that you and those around you will have.

How you behave and how you react to the show will affect the artists' performances. That is why each performance is a unique experience, it will never be repeated exactly the same.

Talking to your neighbor, sending text messages, and other similar behaviors are distracting to the rest of the audience and to the artists. Please be respectful of the artists on stage performing for you by listening quietly.

Of course, it is appropriate to react to what you are seeing – some things may make you laugh, gasp out loud, or you may be asked to respond by answering questions from the performers, singing along or clapping. Most of all, it is important to be present "in the moment" by being attentive and enjoy the performance.

And of course – show your enthusiastic appreciation by applause at the end of the performance! CTM thanks YOU for coming to the show!

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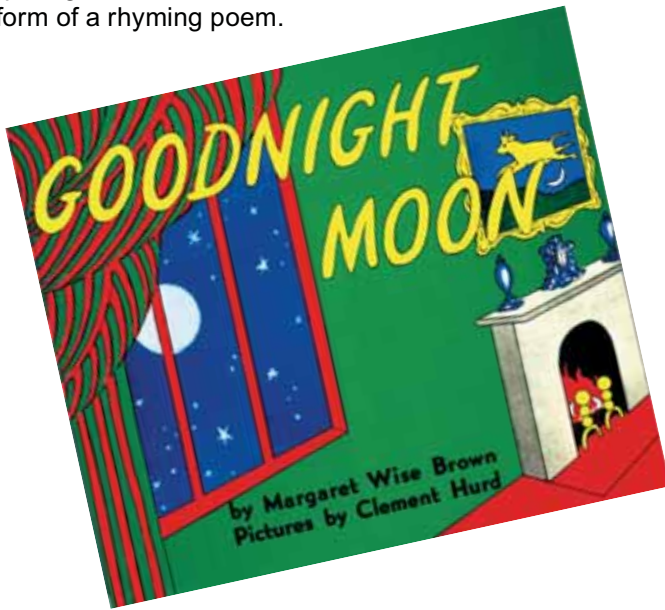
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## THE STORIES

### Goodnight Moon

In *Goodnight Moon*, a young rabbit goes through a bedtime ritual of saying goodnight to every object in sight and in his imagination, from the pictures on the walls to the brush and the comb, to the moon and the stars, to “the old lady whispering ‘hush.’” The text is written in the form of a rhyming poem.



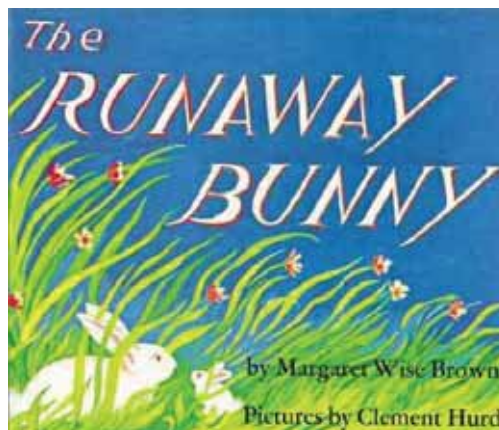
#### Before the show, ask your students:

- Can you name any of the things the bunny says goodnight to in the story? How many can you think of? Are there any things you see in the picture that the Bunny forgot to say goodnight to?
- What are some things YOU do to while you getting ready for bed?
- Who do you say goodnight to before bedtime? Who says goodnight to you?
- Why do you think the story is called “Goodnight Moon” when the Bunny says goodnight to so many different things?



### The Runaway Bunny

In *The Runaway Bunny*, a young bunny tells his mother he wants to run away. “If you run away,” says his mother, “I will run after you.” As so begins an imaginary game of chase. Whatever the little bunny declares he will change himself into—a fish, a rock, a bird, a boat, etc. – his mother replies that she, too, will change herself so that she can always keep her little bunny safe and protected.



#### Before the show, ask your students:

- Can you name all of the things the bunny says he will become? How many can you name?
- If you could change into anything you wanted, what would you become? Why?
- Why do you think the little bunny wanted to run away?
- Have you ever wanted to run away? Why?



## About the Author- Margaret Wise Brown

Margaret Wise Brown wrote hundreds of books and stories during her life, but she is best known for *Goodnight Moon* and *Runaway Bunny*. Even though she died over 55 years ago, many of her books are still in print.

Margaret loved animals. Most of her books have animals as characters in the story. She liked to write books that had a rhythm to them, so many of her books rhyme or repeat a word pattern. She liked to place a hard word into a story or poem because she thought this made children think harder when they are reading.

She wrote all the time. There are many scraps of paper in a library in Westerly, Rhode Island where she quickly wrote down a story idea or a poem. She said she dreamed stories and then had to write them down in the morning before she forgot them.

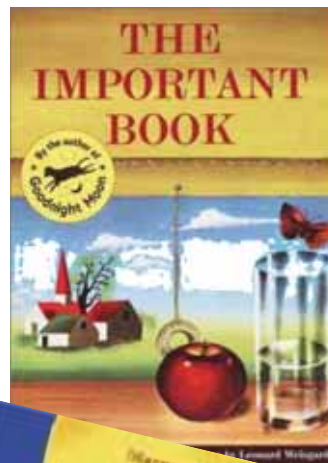
She tried to write the way children wanted to hear a story, which often isn't the same way an adult would tell a story. She also taught illustrators to draw the way a child saw things. One time she gave two puppies to someone who was going to draw a book with that kind of dog. The illustrator painted many pictures one day and then fell asleep. When he woke up, the papers he painted on were bare. The puppies had licked all the paint off the paper.

Margaret died after surgery for a bursting appendix while in France. Those who knew her say she was a creative genius who made a room come to life with her excitement. Her books remain some of the most popular books in the world.



### Activity

*Sometimes we think only of the adult author, not the author as a child. Have your older student write their own jacket cover biography as it would read if they grew up to be a writer making mention of themselves at their current age as seen in this biography about Margaret Wise Brown.*



## THE PLAY

CTM chose to cast (*have character be played by*) young people as the bunny, but others, like the production pictured here, cast an adult in the role.

### Activity

Would you choose a child or an adult to play the bunny if you were directing a production of *Goodnight Moon*? Why? Would you like to play that part?

*Goodnight Moon* premiered at Seattle Children's Theater and has played to enthusiastic audiences throughout the country. A one-hour musical based on the beloved book by Margaret Wise Brown and adapted by Chad Henry, *Goodnight Moon* is targeted towards very young children and includes many of the objects from the story such as the bears in chairs and the cow jumping over the moon coming to life.

It is fitting for CTM to open its 45<sup>th</sup> season with a show specifically for our youngest audience members. We are committed to presenting vibrant theater for all ages; intergenerational experiences that engage the entire community. For 60 years children have been lulled to sleep with the deceptively simple poetry of *Goodnight Moon* and its subtle sleep ritual. This production awakens the child in grandparents and parents alike as they accompany their little ones to the theater.



*Goodnight Moon* has presented exciting artistic challenges and opportunities to engage with artists of different genres. In addition to the characters, the great, green room and its familiar features has been brought to life in fully 3-D brilliance by master puppeteers and mask-makers and gifted scenic and costume designers. CTM's newly acquired technical theater assets have opened doors to greater design opportunities, such as:

specific lighting effects, sets and props to create the world of

*Goodnight Moon* and childhood memory. Outside funding was crucial to realize these pursuits.



CTM's *Goodnight Moon* serves as a gateway to future participation in Dane County's rich cultural landscape. As CTM cultivates new audience members, we infuse young people and their parents with an appreciation of the arts and a sense of belonging. When they say "Goodbye" after *Goodnight Moon*'s curtain call, audiences will feel encouraged to say, "Hello" to the many magical experiences offered throughout our community.

Unlike the sleepy bedtime tale you grew up with, the on stage production of *Goodnight Moon* includes tap dancing bears, a singing tooth fairy, and a vaudeville act with Clarabelle the cow jumping over the moon! The hilarious antics, colorful costumes, and toe-tapping tunes will engage audiences of all ages.

The Mermaid Theater featured puppets representing the main character of the bunny. CTM worked with local puppeteers on this project.

### Activity

Make puppets out of found objects such as those featured at [www.artistshelpingchildren.org](http://www.artistshelpingchildren.org)

## From Page to Stage Who, What & Where

**Cast** - the people who perform in a show. The people you see on stage **audition** (an event that is held during which time people may be asked to read from scripts, perform material they have memorized on their own, and/or engage in acting games in front of the director who will then choose who will play which character during the actual performance of the play). After

CTM productions feature children and adults, novices and professionals working side-by-side. This production provides an educational training ground where adults mentor young people in the craft of acting. Young people acquire a sense of accomplishment, increased confidence, and a greater sense of community.

### Activity

Choose a familiar book to adapt into a live play. Choose a director, designers, actors and musicians to tell the story. Don't forget your audience! Theater requires an audience.

a play has been **cast** (used here as a verb, meaning the action taken by the director in making choices), the cast will rehearse for several weeks in the day or evenings. **Rehearsal** is how theater people refer to "practice." **Have you ever been in a play? How do you think the cast felt today while they were performing this story?**

**Choreographer** - the person who creates dances and arranges movements for a musical. **How does movement help to tell the story or let you know something about a character? What kinds of dances are used in this show? Try some of the dances on your own!**

**Company** - the cast and crew of a show and any other staff who work on the show. It has been said that being part of the making of a play or musical is like a "team sport" or a "big family." Everyone has a job to do and by working hard doing something fun and rewarding, it's only natural to come together as a single unit, team or group. Company is another way of describing everyone without whom this play wouldn't happen. **Have you ever been part of a group like this? How does it feel to work together with people to create or accomplish something you can share with others?**

"Company" is also a word commonly used to describe a core group of people that regularly work with a certain theater company. CTM holds auditions for each different show during our season. Even though each show is cast (used here as a *verb*, meaning how the director chooses actors to play certain roles or parts) from auditions, many of the same actors will be seen on CTM's stage each season. Sometimes a theater will have an "acting company," which is a group of actors who will DEFINITELY be seen on stage during on or more show during a season. **Have you ever seen one of the actors on stage in a different CTM production?**

**Costume Designer** - the person in charge of the costumes for a show, costumes may be "built" (make from scratch) or "pulled" (chosen from costumes already made). Most CTM shows are costumed by a combination of both. **How did the costumes help you to understand the story?**

**Crew** - all the people who work together on a show except for the cast. The crew is very important before and during a show! Among other things, the crew makes sure that people and things are where they need to be when they need to be there. **After seeing *Goodnight Moon*, what do you think happened because of the crew? How many people were in the crew?**



**Director** - the person who provides the vision of how a show should be presented, who works with the actors on their roles, develops the blocking, and is in charge of the rehearsals



**Ensemble** - a group of actors, singers or dancers who perform together on the stage. In *Goodnight Moon*, as in many other plays and musicals, the actors in the Ensemble play many different parts. **Did you notice anyone who played more than one part? What did they do to create the other role?**

**Lighting Designer** - the person who designs the lighting for a show and works with the director to get desired effects. Lighting is a very important element because it helps to tell the story, move the action, and create mood. **How does the lighting in *Goodnight Moon* do these things?**



**Prop Mistress/Master** - the person in charge of all the props and who usually works with them during a show. Everything that an actor touches or uses (that are not worn like a costume) are considered props. Some props are made from scratch, others are found in CTM's warehouse. We have thousands of props stored on shelves and in drawers. **What are some of the props in *Goodnight Moon*? What do you think was made JUST for this show?**

**Set Designer** - the person who designs the sets for a show...in smaller theaters this person also builds the sets. The set designer, like other designers, works very closely with the director before rehearsals begin. The director will need to understand how the set works, and what kind of surfaces the actors will "play upon" before rehearsals begin. **Why do you think the set designer chose to create this type of set for *Goodnight Moon*?**

**Sound Designer** - the person who designs the sound direction for the show. Each of the sounds you hear that are not created by people on stage were decided, found or made, and recorded by the sound designer. **Listen closely...what sounds do you hear that are part of the sound design?**



**Stage Manager** - the person who runs the show from opening curtain to closing curtain and is in charge of everything on the stage and in the back of the stage. **Who is the stage manager in your class? How about in your home?**

**Control Booth** - the place in a theater from which all the sound and lights are controlled. The Stage Manager sits in this room with headphones on, giving directions to people in the booth and back stage throughout the show. He/she is not communicating with the actors, however. If you turn around you will see the control booth at the back of the theater. **Did you find the control booth? Who or what did you see?**

**House** - used to describe the audience and where the audience sits. You will both sit in the house and be the house while you are watching the play. Sometimes actors will say to one another "great house!" because when audiences are attentive and polite. **What do you think the actors said about the house after the performance you attended? If you liked today's show, please tell your friends and family so that the actors have a full HOUSE for other performances of this show!**

**Offstage (Backstage)** - the area of the stage which the audience cannot see. This is a very busy place during the play. It is important for everyone to be very quiet and focused. Trained or experienced actors will not try to communicate with the audience when they are backstage, like peeking out of the curtains. **Did you see actors or stage crew offstage during the show? If so, what were they doing?**



**Set** - the setting of the stage for each act and all the physical things that are used to change the stage for the performance. CTM builds the set from new and used materials in an enormous warehouse in Madison. It takes many artists and builders to construct, paint, and prepare each set. Get this: a few days before the first performance of each different play, the technical crew takes apart the set at the warehouse, drives across town with it in a big truck, and then puts all of the pieces back together on the stage in the theater. This is accomplished in a few hours or a day. The actors will have a few days or nights to rehearse on the set before you see the play. **How would YOU have made the set for this play? What would you have done differently?**

## The Stars of CTM

**CTM's sky is filled with many stars! Some of the brightest stars can be found twinkling in CTM's business office, in the community, in stores, businesses and in government buildings throughout Dane County.**

**CTM Staff:** CTM employs nearly a dozen people who work in various positions all year. Some of the jobs that people do include answering your questions on the phone, making sure your teachers and parents know about the shows and classes at CTM, and finding the right people to do all of the jobs on the last two pages and more!

**CTM Board of Directors:** Fifteen grown ups from all walks of life volunteer their time to help CTM in lots of important ways. They spend their time and resources with us because they believe in CTM's ability to do important things in the community.

**Ticket Buyers:** By coming to today's show, your teacher, principal or parent organization helped to make *Goodnight Moon* possible.

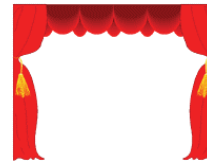


Acting is make-believe. However, theater rent, costumes, posters, wood and paint aren't pretend. Putting on a show costs a lot of money.

It takes a lot of this



to make magic on this



CTM pays for a show like *Goodnight Moon* by charging money for tickets. Please be sure to thank the grownups that paid for your ticket today. We are so grateful that you could be here.

Ticket sales aren't the only way that CTM pays for productions like *Goodnight Moon*.

**Sponsors & Donors:** Through the year, people generously give gifts of money to CTM because they want to make sure that we can continue offering fun and educational experiences like this to you! Sometimes people wish to give these gifts privately and you won't see their names. When you do see names of people, companies and restaurants when you're looking at CTM posters or programs, it means these people helped CTM pay for the show you're watching. They want to make sure you opportunities to see wonderful live performances with your classmates. We are grateful for their support! Just a few of the people who helped to make today's show possible are:



  
**WISCONSIN arts BOARD**  
Creativity. Culture. Community. Commerce.  
This project is supported in part by a grant from the Wisconsin Arts Board with funds from the State of Wisconsin and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**Take a closer look!**

Look carefully at the bookshelves pictured in Goodnight Moon. You'll see that one of the little rabbit's books is *The Runaway Bunny*. One of the three framed pictures on the walls shows a scene from the same book.

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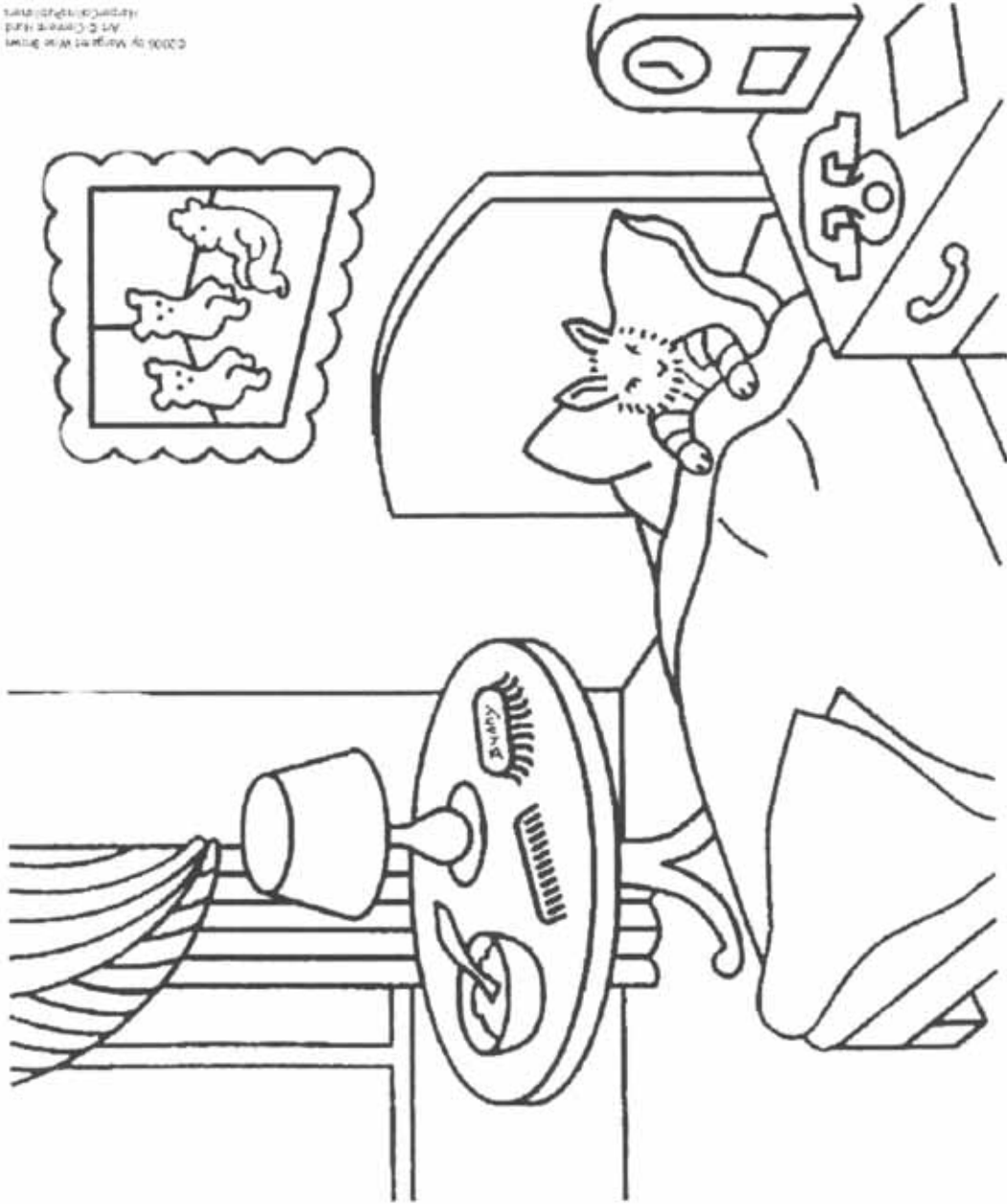


## STORY QUESTIONS / PICTURE QUESTIONS

1. Where does this story take place? Is it summer or winter? Why do you think as you do?
2. Name at least five things that the bunny says goodnight to.
3. Do you think the bunny was planning to have a bedtime snack? What makes you think this?
4. Look carefully at the colored pictures. Nine different things move or change during the story. How many can you find?
5. What game do the kittens play?
6. Do you think the mouse is afraid of the kittens? What makes you think this?
7. What might be some of the goodnight noises that the little bunny hears while falling asleep?
8. Is there anything in the bunny's bedroom that you would like to have in the room where you sleep?
9. The bunny says goodnight to many things to help him fall asleep. What do you do to help you fall asleep?



©2008 by Margaret Wise Brown  
Art & Creative Fund  
Illustration: [unreadable]



## Seth Says...



Seth is a third grader who has attended CTM shows since he was four years old. He shares the following advice with young theater-goers.

- Keep your feet off of the chairs
- Pay attention to the story, not to your neighbor
- Spit out your gum before you get to the theater
- Remind your grown-ups to turn off their cell phones
- Go ahead and laugh when you think something's funny
- Clap to say, "The play was great!"

This Study Guide was prepared by CTM with the help of the following resources:

<http://ebookpedia.net/GOODNIGHT-MOON-study-guide-2009.html>

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

<http://www.umass.edu/fac/centerwide/school/index.html>

<http://www.overturecenter.com/community/overture-onstage/educators-resource-guides>