Goodnight Moon
By Margaret Wise Brown

"Goodnight room, goodnight moon."
"Goodnight cow jumping over the moon."

The Story

It is a well-loved story about a little rabbit who says goodnight to everything before drifting off. This is a classic book that you may even remember from your childhood.

This is a great wind-down book for bedtime. It has a gentle rhyme and the pictures alternate between bright colors and black and white, helping set the tone and lead children to slowly fall asleep.

Some Ideas for Reading the Book with Young Children

Previewing a book:

Talking about the book before you start reading it can help get children excited about the book. Have children look at the cover. Can they guess what the book might be about? Have
them notice the colors and characters. You might read the names of the author and illustrator. This is called previewing a book and helps to capture children’s interests and attention. Notice how the father previews the book in the videotape.

**Using expression in your voice:**

Use your voice to make the book more interesting and fun! It can help to pretend as if you are telling a story. Notice in the videotape how the father reads slowly to make the story very soft. It brings the book alive! Your voice can be excited, suspenseful, soft, or loud.

**Before reading the book:**

Asking children a few questions before you read the book together can help get them interested.

- Ask your children how they get ready for bed.
- Ask who they say goodnight to.
- Ask what helps them go to sleep.

**After reading the book:**

Asking a few questions to children after you read the book can help them think more about the story. Of course, you won’t want to ask questions if your children have fallen asleep.

- Ask about things Little Bunny says goodnight to.
- Look at the last picture again. Do they think he is asleep?
- Look around your bedroom. What things would you like to say goodnight to tonight?
- Have them tell the story back to you.
My Goodnight Book

Have children make their own goodnight book. Talk with them about what they might say goodnight to before they go to sleep.

To make the goodnight book:

- Print out the cover (below).
- Take three or four other sheets of 8 1/2 x 11 inch paper.
- Staple the cover and sheets together to make a book.
- Let children use crayons to draw pictures about what they can say goodnight to.
- Write down their story on each page.
- Read it back to them.
My Goodnight Book
Storyteller Magnets

Create this special memory magnet. Cut a picture of your family reading together to fit on a yogurt or jar lid. Glue lid onto a paper doily or decorate the lid with lace. Glue a magnet to the back of the lid. Place on refrigerator as a reminder to read.

Lid + Lace + Magnet + Picture = Family Picture
Sing or chant the lullaby:

Hush little baby, don't say a word,  
Papa's gonna buy you a mocking bird.

If that mockingbird don't sing,  
Papa's gonna buy you a diamond ring.

If that diamond ring turns brass,  
Papa's gonna buy you a looking glass.

If that looking glass turns brown,  
You'll still be the sweetest little boy(girl) in town.
Hush Little Baby

Hush little baby, don't say a word. Papa's gonna buy you a mocking bird.

If that mocking bird don't sing, Papa's gonna buy you a diamond ring.

If that diamond ring turns Brass, Papa's gonna buy you a looking glass.

If that looking glass turns brown, you'll still be the sweetest boy (girl) in town!
Hey Diddle, Diddle

Point out that in *Goodnight Moon* there is a picture on the little bunny's bedroom wall of a cow jumping over the moon. Why would a cow jump over the moon? Teach your children the nursery rhyme, "Hey, diddle diddle."

Hey diddle diddle,
the cat and the fiddle,
the cow jumped over the moon.

The little dog laughed,
to see the sight,
and the dish ran away with the spoon.

Give them the characters to the nursery rhyme and have them retell the rhyme. They can make it as silly as they want.

- Print out the sheet of characters (below).
- Cut the characters apart following the dotted lines.
- Have children retell the nursery rhyme by putting the characters in order.