

# Goodnight, Mice! By Frances Watts and Judy Watson

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#### Teaching Notes written by Christine Sarandis

#### **Book Description**

Kiss Dad once.

Cuddle Mum twice.

'Goodnight, Mum and Dad.'

'Goodnight, mice.'

It's time to say goodnight – but the four cheeky mice skittering, scampering and scurrying to bed don't seem very sleepy!

This warm, affectionate story is the perfect bedtime book for the whole family to share.

Age 2+

#### **The Author**

Frances Watts spent nearly ten years working with some of Australia's most talented children's authors and illustrators as an editor before writing a book of her own. Her bestselling picture book *Kisses for Daddy* (illustrated by David Legge), was named an Honour Book in the Early Childhood category of the 2006 Children's Book Council of Australia Book of the Year Awards, and has sold over 250,000 copies worldwide in many different languages. Her second picture book with David Legge, *Parsley Rabbit's Book about Books*, won the Eve Pownall Award for Information Books in the 2008 CBCA Book of the Year awards. Other picture books include Captain Crabclaw's Crew (2009), illustrated by David Legge, and A Rat in a Stripy Sock (2010), illustrated by David Francis. As well as continuing to write picture books, Frances has been working on a series of junior novels about two very unlikely superheroes, Extraordinary Ernie and Marvellous Maud, will illustrator Judy Watson. She has also been writing the Gerander trilogy, the first book of which, *The Song of the Winns*, was published in 2010.

Frances lives in Sydney's inner west, and divides her time between writing and editing.

## http://www.franceswatts.com/

#### The Illustrator

Judy Watson is a Melbourne based illustrator, working part time from her home studio. Over nearly 15 years she has illustrated 15 children's books, many of them chapter books for young readers, including some Aussie Nibbles and Aussie Bites for Penguin Books. (Tim and Tig by Victor Kelleher, The Only Pony by David Metzenthen, Moon Station by Rachel Flynn, and Rosie Staple's Minor Magical Misunderstanding by Cath Crowley). Goodnight, Mice! is her first picture book, teaming her up with Frances Watts, author of the Extraordinary Ernie and Marvellous Maud series for ABC Books.

#### How to use these notes

The suggested activities are for a wide age and ability range. Please select accordingly.

# **Key Learning Areas**

- English and Literacy
- Music and Drama
- Art and Craft
- SOSE
- Mathematics

#### **Themes**

- Bedtime routines
- Family life
- Mice

#### Characters

Mitzi
Billy
Clementine
Oliver
Mum and Dad
Grandpa

## Rhyming text and the use of rhythm in the story

Discuss the rhyme and repetition in the story and the effect it has on the listener/reader.

 Does it make you read fast or slow and how does this pace match the pace of the mice's bedtime routine?

- Ask the children to practise and memorise specific pages and recite them to the class.
- Children could write their own short rhyming story, considering the necessity for the words to make sense as well as rhyme.

#### Before you read

- 1. Tell the students the title of the story and ask them to predict what it is about.
- 2. Now show the class the cover of the book, and ask them to predict what the story is about by looking at the cover illustration.
- 3. Finally, read the blurb on the back cover aloud, and encourage students to confirm and/or revise their initial predictions.

#### Read the text

Read the text to the students. Allow them time to absorb the text and illustrations. Ask for comments on the story in relation to their earlier predictions as well as feedback on the actual story.

#### **Discussion topics**

These topics may be used as discussion starters or lead to open-ended writing tasks.

- bedtime routines, e.g. teeth, bath, putting on pyjamas, stories
- good and bad things about bedtime
- counting sheep and other ideas used to help you sleep
- why you might have trouble getting to sleep
- story time singing songs or nursery rhymes
- sleep why we need it but don't always like it.

#### **Questions**

Begin by inviting the children to comment on the story before using direct questioning. Do they like the story? Why?

A range of the following questions may then be used to generate further discussion.

Each of the questions below relates specifically to the story, but can be used as a starting point to talk about the children's own experiences. E.g. See question 1 and 2 as an example.

- (From the story) How were the mice feeling at the beginning of the story?
- 2. (About the children's own experiences) How do you know when you're ready for bed?
- 3. Why was it time to put away the toys?
- 4. How did the mice indicate that they were tired?
- 5. What did the mice do to Grandpa?

- 6. What happened to Oliver during the trip upstairs?
- 7. Did the mice seem tired once they started their bedtime routine?
- 8. What did the mice do in the bath before they were cleaned?
- 9. Why did Oliver's washing end in tears?
- 10. How many different ways did the mice run off to bed after they had cleaned their teeth?
- 11. Learn and repeat the rhyme recited to Clementine before her brothers and sister chose a story.
- 12. How many times was the bedtime story read?
- 13. How was each of the mice's final goodnight rituals different?

#### Key Learning Areas – Activity ideas

#### **English and Literacy**

- Ask students to retell the story in their own words.
- Make a list of words about bedtime and make class sentences about the children's routines.
- Make a class book with children using their own page to draw and write about their favourite bedtime or pre-bedtime activity or routine. Or follow the format of the book and using the children's names, make up sentences for a class book using the following format: '[Insert child's name] is weary and [Insert child's name] is sleepy.' etc.
- Brainstorm. Have students tell the things they do to get ready for bed at night. Make a list on the board. Then make a cross word or word find using the children's words.
- Ask students to share any special things they like to do at bedtime.
- Reread and discuss the alliterative phrases in the story. Then ask them to
  write their own alliterative phrases or poem after reading some examples
  to them. See the following link for suggestions.
  <a href="http://www.yourdictionary.com/grammar/examples/examples-of-alliteration-poems.html">http://www.yourdictionary.com/grammar/examples/examples-of-alliteration-poems.html</a>
- Discuss the use of and effectiveness of rhyme in the story.
- Children make up their own rhyming sentences about bedtime.

#### **Music and Drama**

- Learn and sing some Bedtime Iullabies and nursery rhymes.
- Talk about Bedtime sayings and their origins and meanings: 'Sleep tight. Don't let the bedbugs bite.'
- Ask children to work in small groups to retell the story dramatically.
- Have a dress-up day in which everyone wears his or her pyjamas.
- Play I-Spy using a bedtime theme.
- Retell the story by singing sections of the rhyming text and creating actions for them.

#### **Art and Craft**

- Make your ideal bed out of boxes and other recyclables.
- Create a class mural using collage to illustrate the children's going-tobed routines.

- Make a mouse using a walnut shell. <a href="http://crafts.kaboose.com/walnut-shell-mouse.html">http://crafts.kaboose.com/walnut-shell-mouse.html</a>
- Make a 'mouse ears' headband.
   <a href="http://familycrafts.about.com/od/craftstechniques101/ig/Chapter-13---">http://familycrafts.about.com/od/craftstechniques101/ig/Chapter-13---</a>
   Pick-a-Theme/Animal-Ears-Headband---Mouse.htm
- Make a pine cone mouse.
   http://familycrafts.about.com/cs/pineconecrafts/a/blpinecmice.htm
- Lots more mouse crafts including finger puppets, paper bag puppets, egg-carton mice etc can be found at: <a href="http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/pets-mouse.htm">http://www.dltk-kids.com/animals/pets-mouse.htm</a> and also at:
   <a href="http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/mouse.shtml">http://www.enchantedlearning.com/themes/mouse.shtml</a>
- Children create a diorama with an image from the story.
- Children create mice out of clay or papier-mâché.
- Read the story Frederick by Leo Lionni and then use the illustrator's style to create a collage mouse scene.

#### SOSE

- Does anyone in the class keep mice as pets? If so, perhaps they could bring them in to show the class. If not, children can research and create a report on an aspect of mice such as their habitat, life cycle, diet, and the different varieties.
- Set up a small mouse house in the classroom so that the children can learn about their characteristics.
- Discuss bedtime routines, why they are important and what activities help children to slow down and prepare for sleep.
- Talk about why parents or carers may get cross or impatient with children at bedtime.

#### **Mathematics**

- Survey the students to discover which bedtime routines are part of their day. Then create a pictograph to show each pre-bedtime activity undertaken by the students. Analyse the graph with the class and count and record: how many people have a bath, how many have a story? etc.
- Count the number of things the mice did before they went to bed and then compare them with a class survey.

#### Other books by the author

#### **Picture Books**

- A Rat in a Stripy Sock
- Captain Crabclaw's Crew
- Parslev Rabbit's Book About Books
- Kisses for Daddy
- This Dog Bruce

#### **Fiction**

- The Song of the Winns
- Extraordinary Ernie and Marvellous Maud
- The Middle Sheep
- The Greatest Sheep in History

#### Other books about bedtime

- A Bedtime for Bear by Bonnie Becker
- The Random House Book of Bedtime Stories
- Best Bear by Emma Dodd
- Can't You Sleep Little Bear? and Sleep Tight, Little Bear by Martin Waddell
- Cornelius P. Mud, Are You Ready for Bed? by Barney Saltzberg
- Don't Let the Pigeons Stay Up Late by Mo Willems
- Get Into Bed: A Story About Going to Sleep by Virginia Miller
- Goodnight Harry by Kim Lewis
- Kiss Goodnight, Sam by Amy Hest
- Sweet Dreams, Maisy by Lucy Cousins
- Time for Bed by Mem Fox
- Ten, Nine Eight by Molly Bang
- Charlie and Lola: I Am Not Sleepy and Will Not Go to Bed By Lauren Child
- Good Night, Me by Andrew Daddo
- Emily Brown and the Thing by Cressida Cowell
- Sleep Tight, My Honey by Lisa Shanahan
- Bedtime for Frances by Russell Hoban
- Where Does the Sun Go at Night? by Mirra Ginsburg

#### Picture books about mice

- Frederick by Leo Lionni
- The Lion and the Mouse fable one excellent retelling is a beautiful wordless book by Jerry Pinkey, 2010 Caldecott Medal Winner
- The Gruffalo by Julia Donaldson

# **Worksheet 1: Cloze Activity**

Complete the following sentences using the words provided.

| 1.Mitzi is weary and Billy is      |
|------------------------------------|
| 2.Clementine's and Oliver's        |
| weepy.                             |
| 3.The mice are too and tired       |
| to                                 |
| 4.It's time to put all the away.   |
| 5.Mitzi once. Billy yawns          |
| 6.Mum and Dad say: 'It's time for, |
| mice.'                             |

| bed   | teary  | grizzly | play  |
|-------|--------|---------|-------|
| yawns | sleepy | toys    | twice |

## **Worksheet 2: Sequencing Activity**

Sequence the events in the story either pictorially or in sentence format.

As a class activity, the children could offer suggestions as to the sequence of events in the story and then this could be printed out and children could rewrite the sentences and then add their own illustrations.

Alternatively, teachers could use the sentences below and remove the numbering, allowing the children to work out the sequence for themselves. Each sentence could represent a page in a book, to be illustrated.

| The mice are tired and grizzly.                                  |
|--|
| 2. They pack up their toys.                                      |
| 3. The mice yawn.  |
| 4. They wake Grandpa up and he kisses them goodnight.            |
| 5. The mice rush up the stairs.                                  |
| 6. Mum and Dad sigh and wonder what happened to the sleepy mice. |
| 7. The mice take a bath, playing and washing themselves.         |
| 8. The mice brush their teeth.                                   |
| 9. The mice rush up the hall.                                    |
| 10. They put their pyjamas on.                                   |
| 11. The mice hop into bed.                                       |
| 12. They listen to a story.                                      |
| 13. The mice close their eyes and say goodnight.                 |

#### Worksheet 3: Word Search

| а | k | V | q | X | g | b | 0 | g | а | р | а | е | S | е |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| g | е | t | S | а | р | h | t | 0 | 0 | t | g | m | р | 1 |
| S | n | е | С | i | m | j | Х | g | а | n | С | i | 1 | n |
| W | r | i | g | g | 1 | i | n | g | i | t | W | t | i | У |
| е | У | b | r | S | У | i | n | 1 | Х | h | g | d | S | р |
| S | u | 1 | t | е | r | r | f | f | i | g | i | е | h | е |
| t | n | 0 | Z | 0 | р | f | a | S | W | i | g | b | m | е |
| S | r | 0 | n | Z | u | m | k | е | S | n | g | S | 0 | W |
| У | 1 | S | 0 | n | i | е | a | р | t | d | 1 | У | u | S |
| g | а | е | S | Z | r | r | 1 | С | У | 0 | i | 0 | S | 0 |
| u | S | 1 | е | S | i | a | g | Z | S | 0 | n | t | е | а |
| n | j | С | p | р | S | n | 0 | Х | У | g | g | У | t | р |
| S | f | S | r | h | У | d | g | n | i | р | р | i | k | S |
| У | 1 | d | d | u | С | У | a | W | n | S | k | i | S | S |
| m | r | а | W | n | b | р | У | j | a | m | а | S | i | t |

bedtime scampering story cuddly scrub teary dozy skipping toothpaste giggling sleepy toys goodnight snoozing tub grizzly snoring warm kiss snuffling weepy mice snug whiskers mouse soap wriggling play splash yawns pyjamas splish

http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/code/BuildWordSearch.asp#

#### Worksheet 3: Word Search Solution

# **Solution**

```
+ + + + + + + + + + + E S +
G E T S A P H T O O T G M P +
+ N E C I M + + G + N + I L +
WRIGGLINGITW
                   TIY
+ Y B R S Y I + L + H G D S P
SULTERRF+IGIEHE
T N O Z O P F A S + I G B M E
S R O N Z U M K E S N G S O W
YLSONIEAPTDLYUS
GAESZRRLCYOIOSO
USLESIAGZSONTEA
N + C P P S N O + + G G + + P
S + + R H Y D G N I P P I K S
YLDDUCYAWNSKISS
M R A W + B P Y J A M A S + +
```

```
(Over, Down, Direct
                        PYJAMAS(7,15,E)
                                                 SPLISH(14,1,S)
                        SCAMPERING(10,11,
      ion)
                                                  STORY(5,5,SW)
 BEDTIME (13, 7, N)
                                                  TEARY (10, 9, NW)
                               NW)
 CUDDLY (6, 14, W)
                        SCRUB(2,11,SE)
                                                TOOTHPASTE (11, 2, W
DOZY(7,13,NE)
GIGGLING(12,5,S)
GOODNIGHT(11,12,N
  DOZY(7,13,NE)
                      SKIPPING(15, 13, W)
                                                  TOYS (13, 11, N)
                        SLEEPY(1,8,SE)
                        SNOOZING(1,6,SE)
GOODNIGHT (11, 12, N
                                                   TUB(1,7,NE)
                        SNORING(3,9,NE)
                                                   WARM(4, 15, W)
GRIZZLY(8,11,NW)
                      SNUFFLING(4,10,NE
                                                  WEEPY (15, 8, N)
  KISS(12,14,E)
                                                WHISKERS (12, 4, SW)
                           SNUG(1,13,N)
   MICE(6,3,W)
                                                WRIGGLING(1,4,E)
  MOUSE (14,7,S)
                           SOAP(15,9,S)
                                                YAWNS(7,14,E)
  PLAY(4,12,NW)
                         SPLASH(10,8,SW)
```

http://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com/code/PuzzleSolution.asp?submit2=Solution#

# Worksheet 4: Examples of alliteration in the text

#### **Alliteration**

snuffling, snoring, snoozing

wriggling, giggling

skittery-skippeting

rub-a-dub dry

skipping and skittering

skidding and sliding

scampering, scrambling, scurrying

## Use of the 'Once, Twice' format

#### ONCE, TWICE

Mitzi yawns once. Billy yawns twice.

Kiss Grandpa once. Kiss Grandpa twice.

Wash whiskers once. Wash whiskers twice.

Button up once. Button up twice.