

Discussion Guide for Families



After Dark: Poems about Nocturnal Animals

Author: David L. Harrison

Illustrator: Stephanie Laberis

Themes: Poetry, Nocturnal Animals, Ecology

Book Brief: A collection of poems that delve into the mysterious and fascinating world of nocturnal animals

READ ALOUD

Before Reading: Build Background

- Model how to connect to the story by discussing with your child how the world changes after dark. Explain to your child that nocturnal animals are animals that are awake at night and asleep during the day. Ask, "What do you think nocturnal animals are doing while we are asleep?"

While Reading: Make Connections

- As you read through the poems, ask questions about the animals and their behaviors. Consider questions such as "How do you think the bat feels flying through the night?" or "Why do you think the owl chooses to hunt at night instead of during the day?"

After Reading: Ask Questions

- Which poem was your favorite and why?
- What is one new thing you learned about nocturnal animals?

RELATED ACTIVITIES

If your child enjoyed this book, consider:

- Choosing an animal from the book and researching more about it. Create a poster or a short presentation about its habits, diet, and where it lives.
- Gather pictures, facts, and drawings about the nocturnal animals from the book. This can be a fun way to remember what they've learned and to share it with others.