

Bonnie and Ben Rhyme Again

Author: Mem Fox

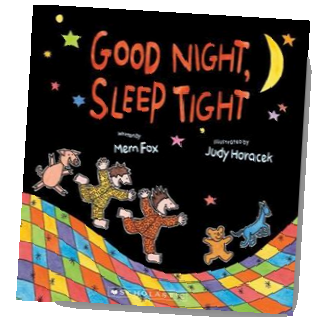
Illustrator: Judy Horacek

Published by Scholastic

ISBN: 9781742996240

Synopsis:

A companion to Good Night, Sleep Tight! Join Bonnie and Ben as they rhyme their way through the day...until a twinkle, twinkle, little star calls them home. From Mem Fox and Judy Horacek, the team behind best-selling classics including Ducks Away, This and That and Where is the Green Sheep?



Author Bio

Mem Fox was born in Melbourne, grew up in Africa, went to drama school in England, and came back to Australia in 1970, aged 22. In 1983 Mem became Australia's best-selling writer. Possum Magic, her first book, is still available in hardback after 34 years and has become a beacon of children's literature for millions of Australian families. She has written over 40 children's books and several non-fiction books for adults. Her books have been translated into twenty-one languages, and many of them have been international best sellers.



Mem is a retired Associate Professor of Literacy Studies from Flinders University, South Australia, where she taught teachers for 24 years. She has received many civic honours and awards, and three honorary doctorates. Her latest book: I'm Australian Too, takes her back to where she started: her passion for Australia. She hopes it will spark spirited discussions about Australian-ness, create an awareness of Australian immigration over the centuries, and begin to calm the rising racism in this country.

Illustrator Bio

When I was in my mid-twenties, and wondering what I would do with my life, someone suggested that I try drawing cartoons. I'd been writing poems and short stories virtually since I'd learned to hold a pen, and I'd always loved drawing and making pictures, plus I loved making people laugh. The suggestion made a lot of sense. I had also just discovered feminism and become more interested in social justice issues, so I had lots of things to say. I drew my first cartoon and at that moment I knew I wanted to be a cartoonist.



From childhood, I'd always loved cartoons and read them avidly, but it had never occurred to me until that day to become a cartoonist myself. I got a folio together and went knocking on doors trying to get cartooning work, and my 'career' gradually built from there. I've had thousands of cartoons published all over the world – in newspapers and books, for campaigns, for journals and magazines. I've had six collections of my cartoons published in book form, with another on the way (to be published in 2010).

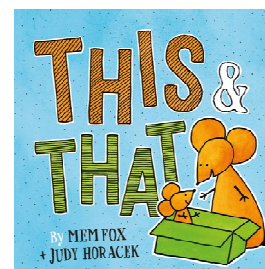
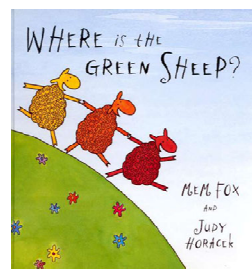
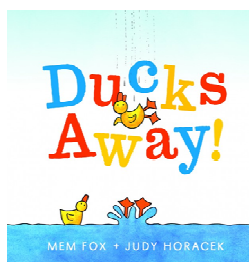
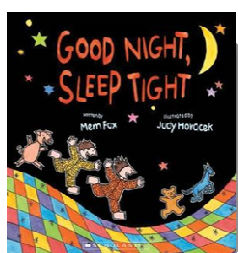
My cartoons also appear on all sorts of merchandise – greeting cards, aprons, teatowels, mugs, t-shirts available in shops all over Australia, and in other parts of the world. Much of my working life seems to have been devoted to finding new places to put cartoons!

As far as my involvement in children's books goes, I had always thought that one day I would like to make children's books, but had never really done anything about it. The catalyst was the wonderful Mem Fox sending me an email telling me how much she loved a small etching I had done of a green sheep. She said definitely belonged in a book. That led to us creating *Where is the Green Sheep?* together. I've since done three other picture books that I've written as well as illustrated.

Pre Reading:

Look at the cover of the book.
 Identify the author and the illustrator.

- Do the pictures on the front cover look familiar?
- Has anyone seen pictures like this in a book before?
- Do the sheep look familiar.
- See below for other books illustrated by Judy Horacek



Curriculum Links ENGLISH FOUNDATION

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Themes

Rhyme
Nursery Rhymes

Author Study: Mem Fox

Mem Fox has written over 40 picture books for children.
Choose a selection of them to read and discuss.

Ask if anyone had a favourite book?
Can they say why they liked that book more than the others?

Is it the:

- Story?
- Language/rhyme/rhythm?
- Illustrations?

After reading a selection, ask if the students can identify what was similar about all of the stories?

Reading Aloud

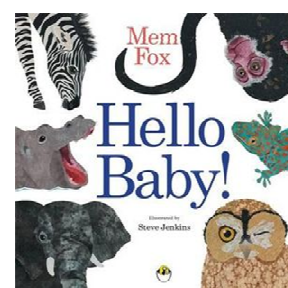
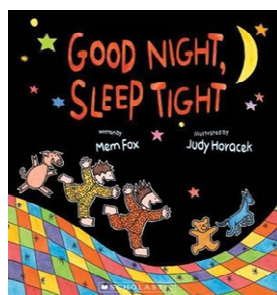
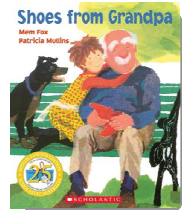
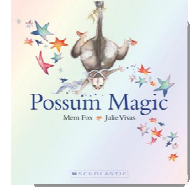
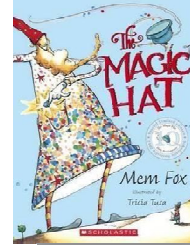
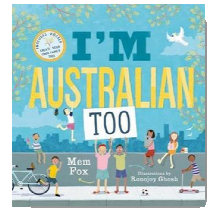
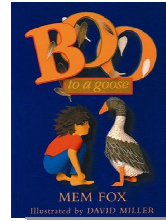
Choose any Mem Fox book and read with no expression.
Read the same book with expression and exuberance.

- Which reading did the class enjoy more?
- Why?

See below for some YouTube clips of Mem reading her own book:

Mem Fox reading Good Night, Sleep Tight
<https://youtu.be/fJMwhxVjyh4>

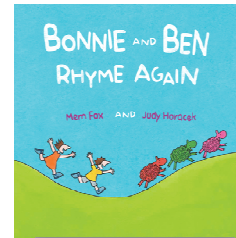
Mem Fox Reading Hello Baby!
<https://youtu.be/vj86YBUq5A8>



Nursery Rhymes

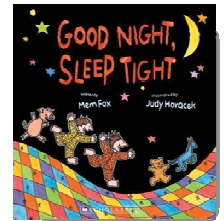
Nursery Rhymes featured in this book:

- Jack and Jill
- Little Bo Peep
- Little Jack Horner
- Little Miss Muffett
- Ring-a-Ring-a-Rosie
- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star



Nursery Rhymes Features in Good Night Sleep Tight

- It's Raining It's Pouring
- This Little Piggy
- Pat-a-Cake
- Round and Round the Garden
- This is the way the Ladies Ride



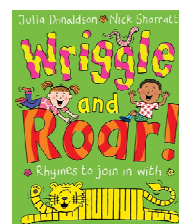
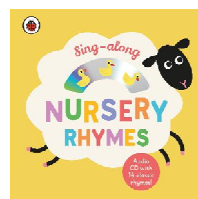
Some of the rhymes in the story have actions that go with the rhymes. Ask who knows any of the actions for:

- Twinkle Twinkle Little Star
- This Little Piggy
- Pat-a-Cake
- Round and Round the Garden

Do you know of any other rhymes that have special actions?

- Incy Wincy Spider
- Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes
- If You're Happy and You Know It Clap Your Hands

See these books below that feature Action Rhymes.



For rhymes in other languages and from other cultures see below:

My Village: Rhymes From Around The World

This book contains 22 nursery rhymes from Iran to Iceland, and Samoa to Switzerland. Each one has been carefully chosen and beautifully illustrated by Mique Moriuchi.

A celebration of cultural diversity, each poem appears in its original language (19 languages are included) next to an English translation so young children can delight in quirky, touching and funny verses from all over the world.

