

Night Noises – teaching ideas

Learning areas

English
Art
Humanities

Example of

Picture book
Junior fiction
onomatopoeia

Values addressed

Family
Appreciation
Personal history

Experience of

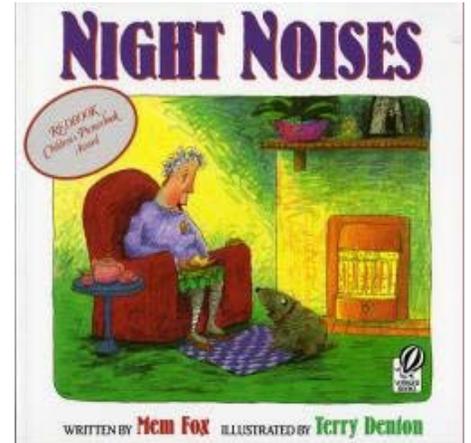
Visual literacy
Words sounding like sounds
Growing old

These notes are based on an idea by Walker Books. Originals of activities for other books can be found at www.walkerbooks.com.au.

Night noises – an overview

Written by
Mem Fox

Illustrated by
Terry Denton



Night noises – an outline

As elderly Lily Laceby dozes by the fire, her dog, Butch Aggie, becomes alarmed by strange noises outside. Finally awakened by Butch Aggie's growls and barks, Lily finds a lovely surprise waiting for her.

Author/Illustrator information

Mem Fox was born in Australia, grew up in Africa, studied drama in England, and returned to Adelaide, Australia in 1970. Mem has written over thirty picture books for children and five non-fiction books for adults. She is an influential international consultant in literacy, but she pretends to sit around writing full time.

Terry Denton was in Melbourne and originally studied architecture when he left school. He later withdrew, as he didn't want a degree that he felt he wouldn't use. Terry knew he wanted to be an artist but he wasn't sure what kind. Over the next 7 years he tried animation, theatre, sculpture, etching, painting, cartooning, and worked part time. Terry has illustrated over 20 books, six of which he wrote.

Classroom activities – *Night Noises*

- As the story is read ask:

What is happening at each stage in the story?

How has Mem Fox described the old lady? What words has she used and has she used other things we know about to describe her?

After Lily falls asleep, how does Mem Fox describe what is happening outside? How does that make you feel? Is it necessary to have pictures or are the words enough?

Some of the words are written in big red writing. Why do you think they were written this way?

Lily's dreams are shown in the little pictures. What do you think she is dreaming about in each of these?

Do you think the story gets a little scary? Why? Do you think Lily is scared?

Do you think the story would be scary if it was during the day time?

Lily has a very big family at the end of the story. Is there someone she has a special relationship with? Who? Why do you think she has?

Do you often see old people and children together? Do you have an old person that is close to you? Who?

- After the story, students could draw or write about a person that is special to them.
- Students could draw things they dream about or special memories that they have. Why do they think they dream about these things, or remember these things in particular?
- Students could discuss their favourite bedtime story and explain why they like it so much. They could also discuss whether or not they think this is a good bedtime story.