# Night Night, Curiosity

## Activity Guide

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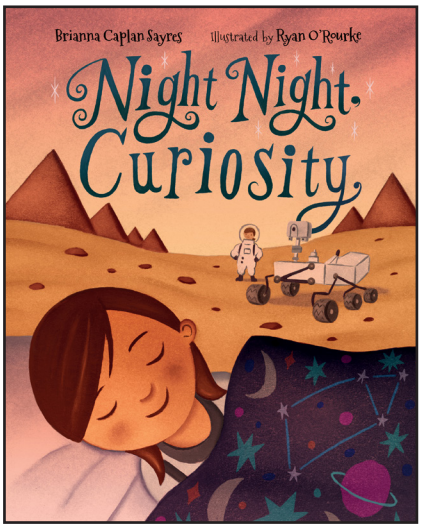



Brianna Caplan Sayres
Illustrated by Ryan O'Rourke
978-1-58089-893-5 HC
e-book edition available


### About the Book

One girl's star-studded imagination transforms the comfort of home into the final frontier in this sweetly lyrical rhyming story. While Mom works the night shift at NASA's control room, Dad helps our intrepid young explorer get ready for bed. Step by step, each part of the bedtime routine transforms into the stages of a mission to Mars.

Ignite dreams of space travel with this bedtime read-aloud by bestselling author-illustrator dream team Brianna Caplan Sayres and Ryan O'Rourke, and vetted for accuracy by a NASA engineer.

### About the Author

Brianna Caplan Sayres is a former elementary school teacher who has written several beloved books for children, including *Where Do Diggers Sleep at Night?* and *Where Do Steam Trains Sleep at Night?* She lives with her family in Seattle, Washington.

### About the Illustrator

Ryan O'Rourke has illustrated picture books about trains (*Alphabet Trains*), trucks (*Alphabet Trucks*), boats (*Alphabet Boats*), construction equipment (*Up! Up! Up! Skyscraper*), and spacecraft (*Eight Days Gone*), as well as many other topics. He lives in New Hampshire.

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# Reading Aloud

## Before You Read

Show your class the cover of *Night Night, Curiosity.* Ask them what they see. Read the title together and ask what they think the book will be about. Record their answers on chart paper.

Then read the flap copy together. Does anyone want to change their guess, or do they think their first guess was probably right?

As a class, reflect on these questions:

- What do you know about outer space?
- What do you know about Mars?
- What do you know about NASA?

## After You Read

As a class, discuss the following:

- What is *Curiosity*?
- Who is the main character of this story?
- Did all that really just happen, or was some of it imaginary? How do you know?
- Do you think this is a good book for bedtime? Why or why not?
- What did you notice about the illustrations?
- Do you have a favorite page of this book? Why is it your favorite?

## Related Reading


Lendroth, Susan. *Hey-Ho, to Mars We'll Go!* Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2018.

McReynolds, Linda. *Eight Days Gone.* Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2012.

Siy, Alexandra. *Cars on Mars.* Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2011.

Slade, Suzanne. *Daring Dozen.* Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2019.

Van Vleet, Carmella, and Dr. Kathy Sullivan. *To the Stars!* Watertown, MA: Charlesbridge, 2016.


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# Activities

## Language Arts

- What's a rhyme scheme? With close reading, identify the rhyme scheme of *Night Night, Curiosity* as a class. Use the worksheet on page 4 to practice rhyming skills.
- *Night Night, Curiosity* is about one family's bedtime routine. Ask your students to describe their bedtime routine using words and pictures.
- Brianna Caplan Sayres compares the bedtime routine to the process of landing an exploratory vessel on Mars. Ask your students to compare part of their daily life to a historical or scientific event using words and pictures.
- There are many idioms and figures of speech that use words related to outer space. How many examples can your class think up?
- As a class, visit *Curiosity's* accounts on Twitter (@MarsCuriosity), Instagram (@marscuriosity), and Facebook (NASA's Curiosity Mars Rover). Check out *Curiosity's* homepage at mars.nasa.gov/msl/home. Discuss what you find there. Why do you think workers at NASA chose these words and images to share?

## Science

- The main character of *Night Night, Curiosity* has a mom who works at NASA. What do your students know about NASA? Fill out the knowledge web on page 5 as a class or individually.
- Invite an astronaut, astronomer, or other scientist who studies outer space to visit with your students. Prepare for this visit by brainstorming questions together with the class.
- Where in the universe are we? As a class, diagram and label the solar system. Use a few modeling activities, such as those offered by NASA or *National Geographic*, to explain the magnitude of astronomical distances.
- Is Pluto a planet? Hold a silent vote at the beginning of class, then discuss the scientific definition of a "planet" together. Divide the class, assigning half to argue for and half against Pluto's planetary status. Record students' arguments on a T-chart. At the end of class, hold another silent vote. Did students' opinions change?
- The *Curiosity* rover's creators programmed it to sing "Happy Birthday" to itself in honor of its Martian "birthday." Listen as a class to a recording of this song: https://youtu.be/uxVVgBAosqg. As a class, do some research: How does this robot "sing"?

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# Rhyme Time Worksheet

**Using context clues, fill in the blanks from the word bank!**

Dad wraps me in a _____ . . .

Our journey's quite a _____.

We hit the Martian _____.

Our shield burns bright with _____.

| heat | towel | atmosphere | feat |
|---|---|---|---|

**List three rhyming words for each of these:**

**Mars** _____

**rocket** _____

**fly** _____

**space** _____

**rover** _____

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# Knowledge Web: NASA