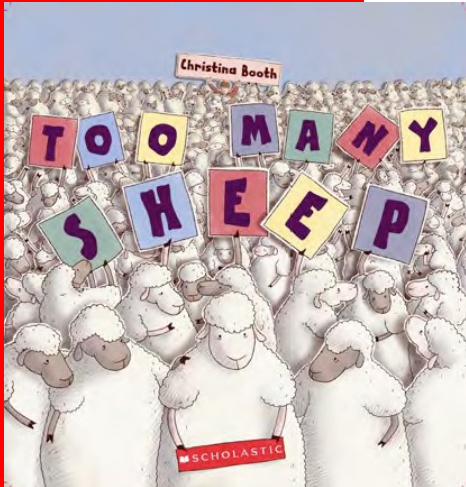


# TOO MANY SHEEP

Christina Booth



**ISBN:** 9781760155506

**RRP:** \$16.99

*How can SHEEP help you SLEEP?*

*They sit on my bed and jump on the floor.*

*They play hide and seek.*

*They go down the hall.*

*They shower and shave, and there's one on the loo!*

*They have snacks in the kitchen.*

*Oh, what will I do?*

Grandpa Jack says counting sheep helps him sleep. But a houseful of sheep brings more chaos than calm. A truly, woolly delightful story that tests the age-old theory about counting sheep to go to sleep. Illustrated with warmth and humour by the author.

Study notes written by  
Jacqui Shilson-Josling



SCHOLASTIC

## STUDY NOTES

- Look at the endpapers. How do you think they have been designed? Draw pictures of animals or cut some out from old magazines and paste them in on a sheet of paper to make your own animal endpapers. How do yours look different to those in the book?
- 'When I can't sleep, I just count sheep.' this is an example of an old wives' tale, a tradition or custom passed down through generations to solve common problems. Can you think of some other old wives' tales? Think of a problem in your everyday life and invent your own old wives' tale to solve it.
- 'Counting sheep' is a way to try to fall asleep. Why do you people have trouble falling asleep? What are some other ways to help fall asleep?
- To entice sheep, the boy makes an 'invitation to play'. What do you think is necessary to put on an invitation? Ask students to choose a friend and make them a personalised invitation to play, including things that the person likes.
- Look at what the sheep are doing: reading newspapers, eating human food etc. What other examples can you find in **Too Many Sheep** of the sheep doing 'human' things? When animals or things are given human qualities, this is called personification. Personification is very common in stories. Find another story where an animal is personified.

- The sheep in the story get up to all kinds of mischief. Research what sheep do in real life. What do they eat? How do they behave? Why do humans keep sheep on farms?
- In the beginning of the story, the boy has trouble falling asleep. Why do you think he can't get to sleep? Write a short story about why he can't get to sleep. Perhaps base the story on a time you couldn't get to sleep.
- Go to the spread where the sheep are climbing in the boy's window. Look at the text 'HOORAY! SHEEP!' Compare the use of font size and all-capitalisation here to other passages of text in the book. How is meaning conveyed here? Give students the same passage of text. On the computer, ask students to manipulate parts of the text, using size, font, colour, capitalisation and word placement. Compare students' text to illustrate how this techniques affect meaning.

Copyright © Scholastic Australia, 2016.