

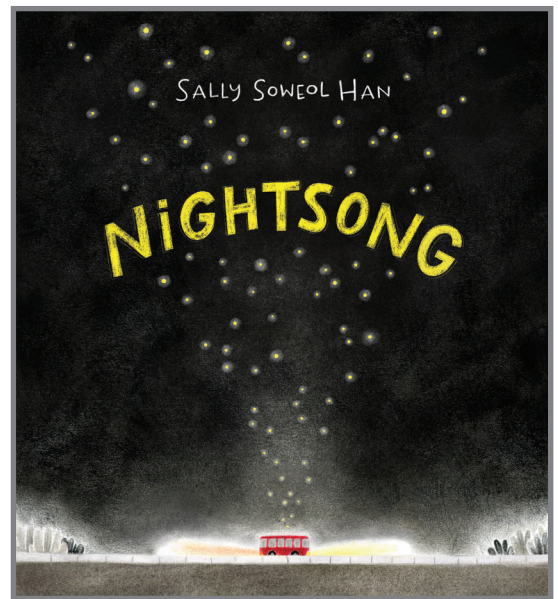
# Nightsong

AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR  
**SALLY SOWEOL HAN**

SCIS: 5461515

ISBN: 9780702266188

RECOMMENDED FOR: Lower Primary



## SYNOPSIS

Lewis is relieved when he and his mother can finally head home after a long day in the bustling city. When their bus gets a punctured tyre and he is forced to wait on the side of the road, Lewis soon discovers that a quiet evening in the country is anything but boring. In fact, it isn't even quiet!

## ABOUT THE CREATOR

Sally Soweol Han is a Korean-Australian artist who is passionate about creating stories and illustrating heart-warming picture books for all ages. She is fascinated with traditional techniques and most of her illustrations are hand drawn and painted. Sally was awarded a gold medal at 3x3 Illustration Awards 2017 and has been longlisted in the World Illustration Awards. She was the winner of the 2023 CBCA Awards in the New Illustrator category for her debut picture book, *Tiny Wonders*. Sally is devoted to illustrating whimsical work for picture books, in the hope of delivering warmth and joy to all readers.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR OF NOTES

Christina Wheeler, is a practicing teacher librarian with a background in the Australian curriculum (English).

## THEMES

- Nature
- Appreciation; Gratitude
- Sound; Music

## STUDY NOTES

- Before reading *Nightsong*, look carefully at the front and back covers. What predictions can you make about the story? What might a nightsong be?
- After finishing the text, discuss the endpapers of the book. Why are they yellow?
- On the first page opening, Lewis is busy drawing as the adults talk. Draw speech and thought bubbles for each person on this page. What do you think they are saying and thinking?
- Examine the first spread carefully. What else could make sounds on this page? What noises would those objects make?
- How does Lewis's body language share with readers how he is feeling? Use 'freeze-frame' to depict different parts of this story.

- When the bus gets a flat tyre and the passengers disembark, what do they do on the side of the road? What could they learn from Lewis? You could also use speech and thought bubbles for these characters.
- After reading the spread on pp 12–13, stop and make predictions about what may happen next.
- Compare the spreads on pp 16–17 and pp 18–19. What do you notice about the use of colour in these spreads? Why has the colouring changed? How does this reflect the themes of the story? In the spread on the right, discuss what is making each of the sounds.
- Choose one of the creatures from *Nightsong* to read about. Create an information report that shares details of its appearance, habitat and behaviours.
- What are nocturnal animals? Why do they sleep during the day and become active at night?
- How would this story be different if it was called Daysong?
- It is not just animals that make noises. What other parts of nature does Lewis notice making sounds?
- If you were Lewis, how would you feel when the new bus comes along?
- In the role of Lewis, recount your day to someone at home or write a journal entry about it.
- Discuss the use of onomatopoeia and imagery to depict the sounds and places in *Nightsong*.
- Retell this story from the bee's point of view.
- Recreate this story through play or via a dramatisation.
- On each page opening, take note of the sounds that Lewis hears. Create a classroom display of these to use when innovating on the text, such as by writing this story as a poem or song.
- With your class, walk around your school, taking note of the things that you hear. Take photos of these spaces. As a class, match these sounds and images. Co-create your own story called Schoolsong.
- At home, take time to listen to the nightsong in your neighbourhood. Use a graphic organiser to compare the sounds from *Nightsong* with those from your local area.
- Discuss the importance of 'reading pictures' as well as the written text to fully understand the story. Discuss the role of illustrations in conveying meaning.
- Which is your favourite spread of *Nightsong*? Why is it your favourite? Share with a friend.
- What do you think is the main message in *Nightsong*? Why do you think the author wrote it?
- Have you ever felt like Lewis, being bored and anxious to get home only to discover a world of adventure in unexpected places? Share with a friend.