

DON'T LET THE PIGEON STAY UP LATE!

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by Mo Willems

Ages: 2-7; Grades: PreK-2

Themes: Families, Bedtime, Health, Humor

Running Time: 6 minutes

SUMMARY

The feisty pigeon from *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* and *The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!* is back, and this time he is not tired! Using all of his powers of persuasion, the pigeon cajoles and pleads to stay up, just a little later. He thinks of everything from educational TV to quality conversation, but just can't help letting little, then bigger, yawns escape. Young viewers are sure to relate to the pigeon's antics, while parents and caregivers are sure to relate to the classic signs of overtired hyperactivity. Will the pigeon succeed in his quest to stay up late?

OBJECTIVES

- Students will make text-to-text and text-to-self connections.
- Students will discuss the benefits of getting enough sleep.
- Students will create and describe a personalized bedtime routine.

BEFORE VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Read a nonfiction book about sleep to students. Create a chart entitled, "Why Sleep is Important". Encourage students to listen for information to add to the chart. After reading discuss some questions:

- What happens to the body when we sleep?
- What happens when we don't get enough sleep?
- What are some things that can help us get to sleep?
- What are some things that people do when they are tired?

Tell students that they are going to see a funny movie about a pigeon who doesn't want to go to bed. Ask them to watch for signs that the pigeon is really tired, even if he says he isn't.

Begin a character study of the pigeon. Show the movies, or read the books, *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!* and *The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!* Tell students that some ways that we learn about characters are by things that they do and things that they say. Introduce a graphic organizer, such as a web or a T-chart, and encourage students to watch and listen for things that the pigeon does and says. Record these on the organizer. Then, talk with children about what they learned about the pigeon based on things he says and does. Add to the character study after watching *Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!* Create a bulletin board with pictures of the pigeon, on which children write one word that describes him from the class discussions.

AFTER VIEWING ACTIVITIES

Revisit making text-to-self connections. Ask students if they've ever felt like the pigeon and not wanted to go to bed. Then, guide students through a writing activity where they brainstorm all of the reasons that they might give to their parents or caregivers for why they should be able to stay up late. Have students make a book in which they draw a picture on each page that shows one of their reasons for staying up late. Older children can add a sentence to their pictures. Ask parents/guardians to send a picture to school of their child sleeping. Have children add this picture to the last page of their books. Set aside a time for sharing!

Have students share what they do before going to bed. How do they wind down? Do they have a set bed time? Give students an opportunity to share their bedtime routines with each other. Then, show them a picture chart of your bedtime routine. This may include pictures of brushing teeth, reading a book, listening to music, cuddling a pet, drinking water, taking a bath, and putting on pajamas. Provide these same pictures for students to cut out and glue onto a piece of construction paper, in the order of things that they do before

bed. Emphasize that students don't have to use all of the pictures, and encourage them to draw pictures of their own, if their routine includes something different. Send their bedtime routine posters home to help students remember the importance of winding down and getting a good night's sleep.

Introduce children to different lullabies from around the world. Teach these songs during community meeting time or during social studies. Show students where on the map or globe the lullaby originates, and include photos of that place. Extend the learning by highlighting any specific sleep facts such as: where do people sleep, do people from this culture sleep together or on their own, and are there any special sleep rituals practiced by this culture.

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Good Night, Gorilla, by Peggy Rathmann
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