

The
Early Years Count
Literacy
Connection



**I Just Want to Say
Goodnight**

Written and Illustrated by
Rachel Isadora

Preschool edition

Overview of Book

The sun is setting on the African veld and it is bedtime for little Lala. She is not ready! She simply must say goodnight to everyone and everything that matters to her. Will Lala ever get to bed?

Genre: Realistic Fiction

Vocabulary

Books are a rich source of words new to children. Here are a few words from *I Just Want to Say Goodnight* to introduce in your classroom:

village veld

Each time you read the book, choose 2 or 3 words to highlight.

Use age-appropriate definitions and/or the illustrations to help children gain an understanding of each word's meaning.

Use these new words throughout the day, reminding the children, "That's a word from our story!"

Connecting with the HighScope Curriculum

COR Advantage 1.5

Social And Emotional
Development
Item D (*Emotions*)
Item G (*Community*)

Language, Literacy and
Communication
Item L (*Speaking*)
Item M (*Listening and
comprehension*)

Creative Arts
Item AA (*Pretend play*)

Social Studies
Item FF (*Knowledge of self
and others*)

Reading Tips

Acknowledge to the children how difficult it is to go to bed as soon as you're told to. "Are you ever ready just then?" Ask children to describe their bedtime routines.

Read the book in a gentle tone, responding to the bold and italic text elements like when her parents begin to get annoyed. Even so, her parents are still accommodating Lala's needs, so there is a sweet tone to their "annoyance"!

Point out that even though Lala lives in a different country, she is a lot like us. Ask the children to point out things in the story that remind them of themselves. For example, Lala has parents, a pet, her room, and even the same book we all know, *Good Night, Moon*.

Throughout the Routine

Refer to the book throughout the day and use new vocabulary words in meaningful ways. Active engagement with the story helps the content come alive.

Ask children to bring a favorite item to the rug at **Departure Time** to “say good night” to it. Add, “See you tomorrow!”

At **Small Group Time**, provide laminated pictures of different landscapes, such as African velds (grasslands with shrubs and trees), forests, prairies, savannahs, deserts. Give the children animal figures to place where they might live. Ask questions like, “Why do you think that is a good place for them to live?” or “What do you think they eat?”

Around the Room

Highlight the book’s content and build on the children’s excitement in a variety of locations.

Add blankets and other bedtime props to the **House Area** for children act out the story as they put baby dolls to bed.

Add *I Just Want to Say Goodnight* and other bedtime stories to the **Book Area**. Include *Goodnight, Moon* by Margaret Wise Brown, the book that Lala reads in the story.

Put animals like those in the book in the **Block Area** to enhance pretend play and encourage acting out the “goodnights” in the story.

Open-ended Questions

Enhance active engagement and early critical thinking skills by asking open-ended questions. These questions encourage children to explain why or how things happen, make predictions, or brainstorm possibilities rather than give one “right” answer.

Here are some questions you might ask for *I Just Want to Say Goodnight*:

What do you do to keep from going to bed?

What are the people carrying on their heads? What do you think is inside them?

Is your bedroom like Lala’s? How so?

How come Lala has all these animals around?

For more information on how to use books and stories with children to enhance your curriculum, contact
The Family Connection:

website—
www.famconn.org

Facebook—
@famconnsjc

phone—
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@ Home

Since many of the children in our county will have this book at home, use it as a way to further the home-school connection. In your daily contact—in person or by text, email or other notes home—encourage families to share *I Just Want to Say Goodnight* with their children. Here’s a sample message you can send:

I Just Want to Say Goodnight is a universal story about a small child who is not quite ready for bedtime. After reading the story, you might ask your child what he or she wants to say good night to. Then walk with or carry your child through the home and whisper “good night” to many things. “Good night lamp. Good night kitchen. Good night front door. Good night sister. Good night kitty. Good night teddy bear.”