

**Minnesota Storytime
Reading Guide**

Title: *Night Driving*

Author: John Coy

Illustrator: Peter McCarty

**Publisher and
Copyright Date:** Henry Holt, 1996

**Connection to
Minnesota:** Minnesota author

Summary: This is a story in which a young boy describes a nighttime car trip to the mountains with his father.

Suggested ages: 4-6, 7-10

Tips for Reading:

- As the story is written in the first person, read the book with the voice of an excited young boy taking an overnight car trip with his dad.
- If possible, dim the lights in the room a little to set the mood.

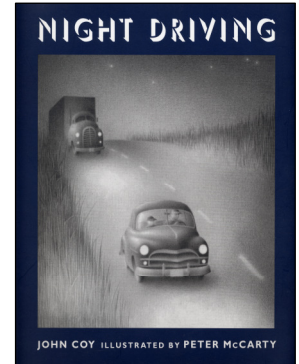
**Questions
before reading:**

- Have you ever taken a long car trip? Who did you go with? What did you see along the road? Did you get bored? What did you do for fun in the car?
- Do you think it would be fun to go camping in the mountains?
- Are you scared of the dark?
- Would you like to stay up all night sometime?

**To Introduce
this story say:** In this story, a boy and his dad go on a long car trip to the mountains. They do most of the driving at night. Let's see what happens.

**Questions
After Reading:**

- Why, do you think, are the illustrations black-and-white?
- What are some of the things the boy and his dad see in the night? Smell? Hear?
- What things do they do to help them stay awake?
- What makes this car trip so special for the boy?
- What are some of the funny things that happen in the story?



RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Art**
- Draw a pictorial map of their journey showing what they saw between home and the mountains.
- Culture:**
- Share a story with the child(ren) about when you were a child and took a special trip with someone.
- Language:**
- Play the alphabet game from the story with storytime audience (using food, animals, items mentioned in this book, objects seen in the room, things seen on a walk, etc.).
- Music:**
- Play a CD, cassette or record of “cowboy songs”, and help the child(ren) learn a “cowboy song”.
- Science**
- Draw the Big Dipper constellation and Polaris on a flip chart or use glow-in-the-dark stars on black paper and turn the lights out.
 - Talk about the phases of the moon.
- Writing:**
- Write a story about a car (bus/airplane/train) trip you have taken with someone special.
- Suggestions for English Language Learners:**
- Clarify cultural elements: cowboy music, alphabet game.
 - Clarify idioms: “hit the brakes,” “take the wheel,” “a flat [tire],” “semi,” “trucker.”
- Related Books:**
- ***The Night Worker*** by Kate Banks, illustrated by Georg Hallensleben (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2000)
 - ***Fishing in the Air*** by Sharon Creech, illustrated by Chris Raschka (HarperCollins, 2000)
 - ***My Father’s Boat*** by Sherry Garland, illustrated by Ted Rand (Scholastic, 1998)
 - ***Me, Dad & Number 6*** by Dana Andrew Jennings, illustrated by Goro Sasaki (Harcourt Brace, 1997)
 - ***Lucky’s 24 Hour Garage*** by Daniel Kirk (Hyperion, 1996)
 - ***Just Us Women*** by Jeanette Franklin Caines, illustrated by Pat Cummings (HarperCollins, 1984)

