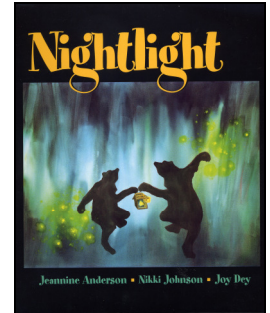


**Minnesota Storytime  
Reading Guide**



- Title:** *Nightlight*
- Author:** Jeannine Anderson
- Illustrator:** Nikki Johnson
- Art Director:** Joy Dey (Note: This is one of just a few children's books that gives the art director equal credit on the cover along with the author and illustrator.)
- Publisher and Copyright Date:** Windward Publishing, 2004
- Connection to Minnesota:** Minnesota author, Minnesota illustrator, Minnesota art director, Minnesota publisher
- Summary:** This is the story of how two adventurous bears plus other north country animals explore the woods and take time to notice the beauty of fireflies and the northern lights.
- Suggested ages:** 4-6, 7-10
- Tips for Reading:**
- Read the book silently to yourself before reading it aloud so you are familiar with action words that give hints as to how sections could be read aloud.
  - Make sure to show the beautiful illustrations while reading each page.
  - Read softly and slowly the section that begins with "As day gave way to nightfall..."
  - After reading "dropping the nut on sleeping bears" pause and ask, "What do you think will happen next?"
  - When the story tells about the animals with eyes wide open, use facial expressions to enhance the reading.
  - After "bears gazed in wonder" use dramatic hand motions with the words arc, swirl, and burst.
  - Where it states "excitement grew" and uses all capital letters on some words, read with a faster rate and a more excited and louder voice.
  - Don't forget to read the factual sections after the story that explain the northern lights and fireflies.
- Questions before reading:**
- Who has seen the northern lights?
  - What do you know about fireflies?
  - What do you know about black bears that live in the forest?
  - Do you have a nightlight?
  - What do you think animals have in the woods that would be like a nightlight?

**To Introduce  
this story say:**

This is a story about two adventurous bears named Aurora May and Borealis Burl. They learn many things about their home in the woods and discover an amazing nightlight in the sky. Let's read to find out what type of nightlight they saw.

**Questions  
After Reading:**

- What are some things that the bears learned?
- Name the other animals that were in the story.
- Do you know another name for the northern lights?  
Hint: (Think of the bears' first names)
- Can you describe the different types of nightlights that were in the story?

**RELATED ACTIVITIES**

**Art:**

- Experiment with watercolors to paint the Aurora Borealis.

**Dramatization:**

- Act out the different animals' actions that appear in the story while it is read aloud a second time.

**Music:**

- Watch the Walt Disney video "Fantasia." It is a combination of classical music and visual delights where music gives the mood for color and form.

**Science:**

- Create a firefly house from a milk carton and plastic wrap. Cut out large squares on each side of the milk carton. Cover with pieces of plastic wrap and tape down to make the windows. Wait for a dark, warm July evening and try to catch some fireflies.
- Learn more about the northern lights from other books, videos and the internet. You can use a search engine like Google to find many web sites, including <http://www.geo.mtu.edu/weather/aurora/>

**Writing:**

- Write a poem about fireflies, northern lights, or other items from nature. Be sure to add your own feelings.

**Related Books:**

- ***Fiddler of the Northern Lights*** by Natalie Kinsey-Warnock, illustrated by Leslie W. Bowman (Dutton, 1996)
- ***Up North at the Cabin*** by Marsha Wilson Chall, illustrated by Steve Johnson (Lothrop, Lee & Shepard, 1992)
- ***The Night Rainbow*** by Barbara Juster Esbensen, illustrated by Helen K. Davie (Orchard, 2002)