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Song of night

AnnMarie Hamar

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Nakamura, Katherine Riley. *Song of Night*. Illustrated by Linnea Riley. Blue Sky, 2002. ISBN 0439266785. \$15.95. 40 pp.

Reviewer: AnnMarie Hamar

Reading Level: Preschool; Primary

Rating: Excellent

Genre: Picture book; Poetry

Subject: Children--Sleep--Juvenile fiction; Bedtime--Juvenile fiction; Animals--Infancy--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews

It's night and time for all little animals to get ready for bed. Duckling splashes and plays in the bath. Three kittens curl up to hear a bedtime story. Papa Bear sings a lullaby to his baby while a little bunny and his mother gaze at a constellation shaped like a carrot. Soon it will be time for lights out and one last kiss goodnight.

This soothing, rhyming story has minimal text. Riley's charming soft-toned illustrations contain bold humor, such as showing mice using rodental floss. Each double-page spread is devoted to one of the rituals little children often follow as they get ready for bed—brushing their teeth, hearing a story, and crawling under the bedcovers to be tucked in. One particularly charming drawing shows all the animal parents and children gazing up at a large moon and boat-shaped clouds. This is the first collaboration for this mother-daughter team.