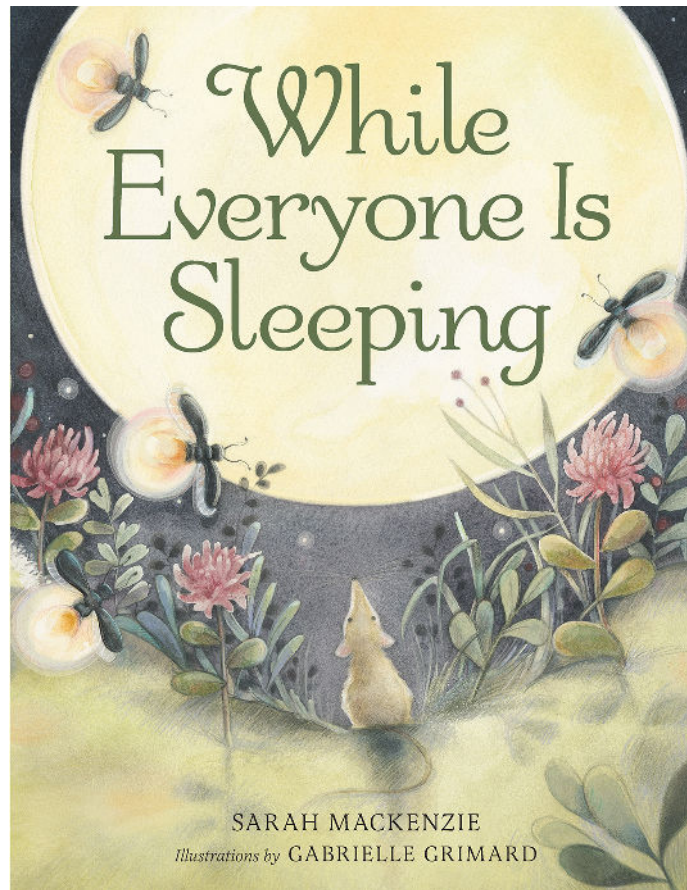


READ-ALoud
Revival
PREMIUM



family book club guide

WHILE EVERYONE IS
SLEEPING

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PRINT RELEASE: You may print/copy this Read-Aloud Revival® Family Book Club Guide as needed for single family use. You may not distribute this Family Book Club Guide outside of your family in print, electronically, or otherwise.



How to Use This Guide

At Read-Aloud Revival®, we use a simple recipe to create a meaningful and effective Family Book Club experience. It's not just another literature curriculum—it's richer.

We believe books are the most effective way for families to make rich, meaningful connections with ideas and with each other. This is the recipe we use for our Family Book Clubs:



1 READ

We read together, and we read alone. We let our reading lead to more reading, both upstream and downstream, to help us make new connections and encounter new ideas.

2 RELATE

We relate to the ideas we find in the books as well as to each other—through conversations with one another and by saving passages in our reading journals.

3 REMEMBER

Finally, we create a shared experience around the book, so it serves as a warm and happy memory in our children's minds and they look back on reading it with fondness.



We recommend printing this guide. Then scan the QR Code for easy access to all of the links. You will need to be logged into RAR Premium to view them.

How to use a QR Code:
Position your phone's camera as if to take a picture of the code. When a notification appears, tap it.



Scheduling Your Family Book Club

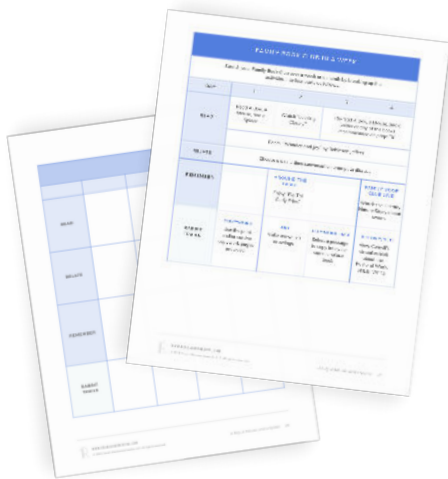
LESS IS MORE



Some RAR families choose to do Family Book Club in a single day. Others like to s-t-r-e-t-c-h out the experience, reading the book more than once and exploring rabbit trails along the way.

Pick and choose from the feast of ideas in this guide based on what appeals to your family's interests, keeping in mind that often, less is more. Be sure to take into account your own energy level as well.

SCHEDULES



We've provided some possible schedules on the final pages of this guide.

However you choose to schedule your Family Book Club, remember that the key ingredients of a solid literature education are reading, relating, and remembering. Everything else is just a rabbit trail.

TIP

Most Family Book Club activities can be enjoyed by everyone, regardless of age or grade level.

When activities lend themselves better to a particular age group, you'll see the following icons:

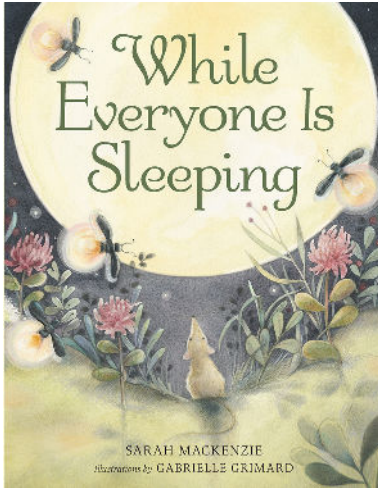
- ♥ YOUNGER KIDS
- ☆ OLDER KIDS



Step 1
READ



About the Book



TITLE	While Everyone Is Sleeping
AUTHOR	Sarah Mackenzie
ILLUSTRATOR	Gabrielle Grimard
RECOMMENDED FOR	All ages

Just before first morning light, Little Shrew is awakened by the moon. A mysterious fragrance leads her to a garden of moonflowers where moths flutter, crickets hum, and frogs and peepers keep the beat.

Join Little Shrew's merry romp in the moonlit garden in this bedtime story for adventurous souls.



SARAH MACKENZIE

You know Sarah Mackenzie best as the host here at Read-Aloud Revival, but she also happens to be the author of this book!

She and her husband have six kids and live in eastern Washington. You can usually find Sarah homeschooling, reading aloud, and just maybe dancing in moonlit gardens whenever possible.

GABRIELLE GRIMARD

Gabrielle Grimard draws worlds in which she'd like to live. Focusing on light and color, she primarily uses watercolor, gouache, and oil paints. She lives with her family in Quebec, Canada.



Looking Closely

with Sarah Mackenzie



[WATCH SARAH INTRODUCE THIS BOOK](#)

5-minute watch

ANTHROPOMORPHISM

Do you know what anthropomorphism means?

Anthropomorphism is the attributing of human characteristics or behavior to an animal or object.

According to Britannica, the term was derived from the Greek words: *anthropos* (“human”) and *morphe* (“form”). It was first used to refer to the attribution of human physical or mental features to deities (like those Greek gods who are so mischievous and pretty fun to read about).

Have you read *The Trumpet of the Swan* by E. B. White? Louis (the swan) and his family members are a perfect example of anthropomorphism. After all, I don’t know any swans who can actually play the trumpet, do you?

While Everyone Is Sleeping tells the story of a little shrew who sleeps in a bed, dances in the garden, and has quite a few human characteristics. But Little Shrew isn’t the only character who is anthropomorphized in this book!



Let's take a look at this passage:

“We glide, we stride, and then we slide, Waltzing till we're bleary-eyed—Merriment to moonflower song! Frolicking, we sing along...”

What human characteristics of Little Shrew and the other garden creatures do you notice?

RHYME SCHEME

A rhyme scheme is the order (usually a pattern) a writer uses to make the ends of their lines rhyme.

Here's an example from *While Everyone Is Sleeping*:

“Moths flutter, wings beating,
Beetles nod a silent greeting.
Katydid and crickets hum
Almost like they knew I'd come.”

The words “beating” and “greeting” rhyme, so we can call them “ A ”

The words “hum” and “come” rhyme, so we can call them “ B ”

So then, the rhyme scheme for that page is:

A
A
B
B

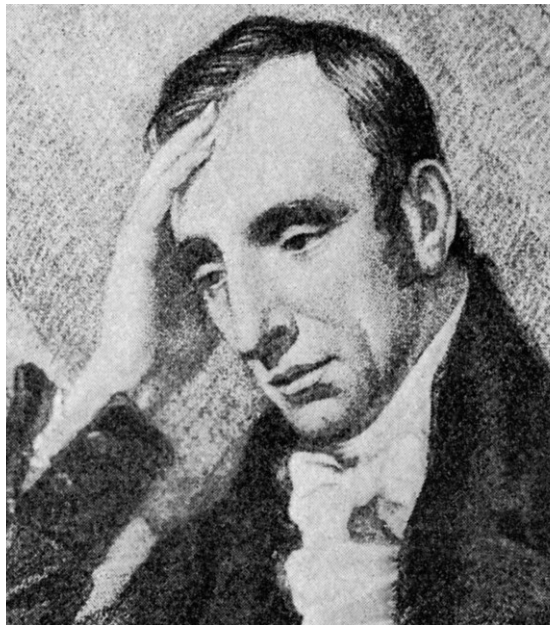
Poets usually change up their rhyme schemes from time to time. Did Sarah do that in *While Everyone Is Sleeping*? See if you can determine the rhyme scheme for other pages in the book.

Can you find a page that's not A, A, B, B?

Bonus points: identify the rhyme scheme of the poem, “To Sleep” by William Wordsworth, on page 10!



Poetry



TO SLEEP

Have you ever had trouble falling asleep?

In this poem, the English Romantic poet William Wordsworth describes not just counting sheep, but an entire meadow full of delightful sights and sounds...and that's not helping him sleep!

He looks pretty tired in this picture, doesn't he? Do you have "fresh thoughts and joyous health" when you sleep well?

 *Printer-friendly* 

Find the poem on the next page, where we've formatted it to easily print at home.



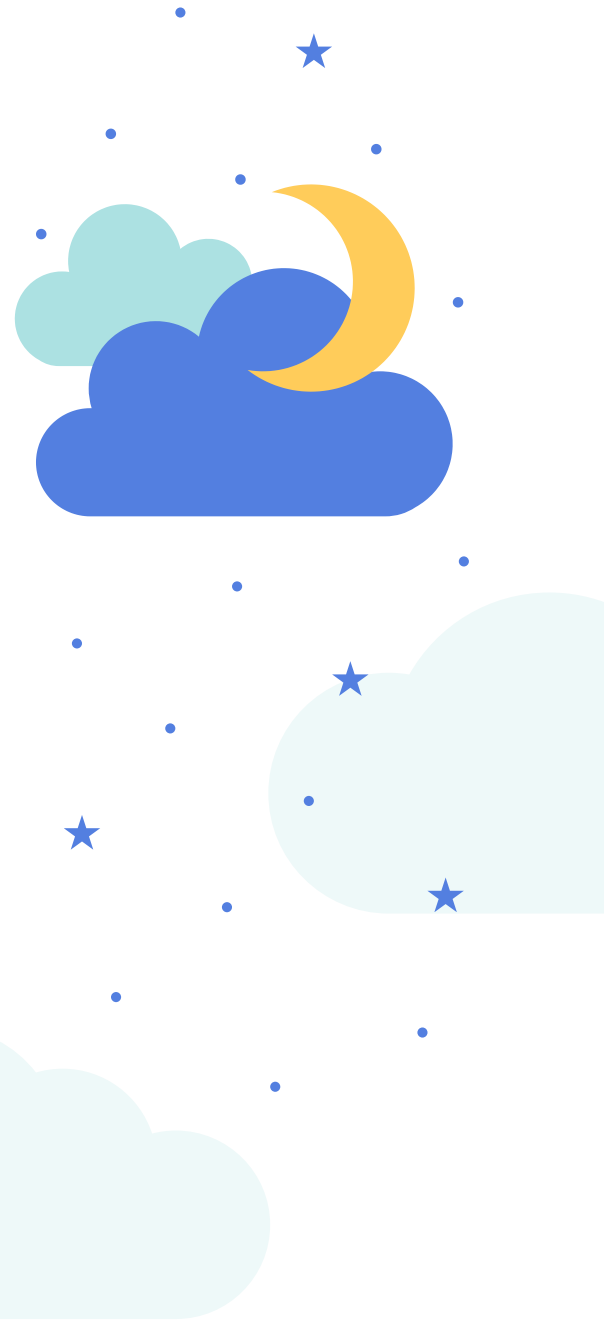
To Sleep

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH | 1770-1850

A flock of sheep that leisurely pass by
One after one; the sound of rain, and bees
Murmuring; the fall of rivers, winds and seas,
Smooth fields, white sheets of water, and pure sky—

I've thought of all by turns, and still I lie
Sleepless; and soon the small birds' melodies
Must hear, first uttered from my orchard trees,
And the first cuckoo's melancholy cry.

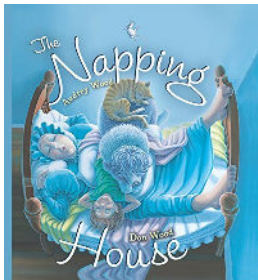
Even thus last night, and two nights more I lay,
And could not win thee, Sleep, by any stealth:
So do not let me wear to-night away.
Without thee what is all the morning's wealth?
Come, blessed barrier between day and day,
Dear mother of fresh thoughts and joyous health!



Reading in Stream

All books talk to other books—the books that came before them (upstream), after them (downstream), or are similar in tone, topic, or theme (in stream).

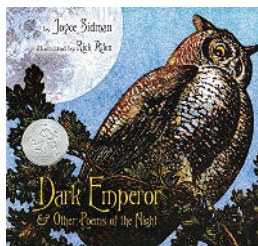
We recommend these books that are in the stream of *While Everyone Is Sleeping*. After all, reading begets reading. The more you do it, the more you want to do it! These books can satisfy your voracious readers.



THE NAPPING HOUSE

by Audrey Wood, illustrated by Don Wood

This (funny!) nighttime book has a refrain very similar to the refrain in *While Everyone Is Sleeping*! And it's by one of Sarah's favorite author/illustrator pairs. (All ages)



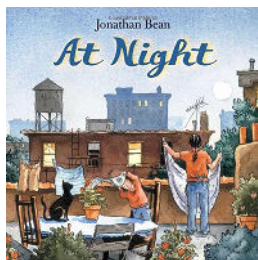
DARK EMPEROR AND OTHER POEMS

by Joyce Sidman, illustrated by Rick Allen

These odes to nocturnal animals are the perfect mix of poetry and science. Can you find the allusion to the poem, "Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening"?

SCIENCE

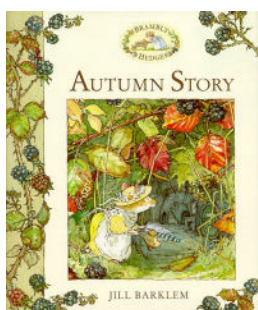
POETRY



AT NIGHT

by Jonathan Bean

Someone in the big city can't sleep in this delightful book. (All ages)

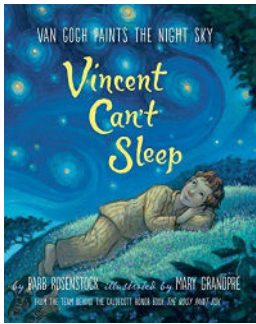


AUTUMN STORY

by Jill Barklem

Primrose, Lord Woodmouse's daughter, meant to help with the harvest but wandered away. Before she knew it, she was lost, all alone in the dark, and frightened. Another favorite nighttime story about a little animal out after dark. (All ages)

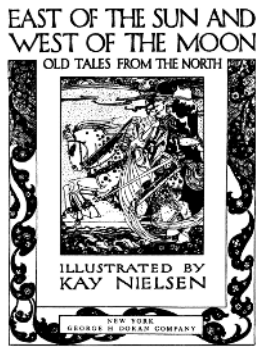




VINCENT CAN'T SLEEP

by Barb Rosenstock, illustrated by Mary GrandPré

Vincent van Gogh often found himself unable to sleep and wandered under starlit skies. Those nighttime experiences provided the inspiration for many of his paintings, including his most famous, *The Starry Night*. (All ages)



“EAST OF THE SUN AND WEST OF THE MOON”

illustrated by Kay Nielsen

This public domain short story is a nighttime tale in the style of “Beauty and the Beast.”

HIGH SCHOOL



Dinnertime Conversation



Adult readers don't answer comprehension questions to prove they've read a book. Rather, they exchange ideas in true conversation, which helps them think about the ideas in their reading more deeply.

To help your kids develop the skill of becoming thoughtful, discerning readers, use the following open-ended discussion prompts to spark a conversation.

Dinner is an especially good time for this, because it's easier to shed the trappings of “school” and “reading comprehension” when we're sharing a meal around the table. Make curiosity your true goal. If your child can discuss a book in natural conversation, they comprehend it—we promise.

Prompts

- Should Little Shrew have gone outside? Why or why not?
- What do you notice about the endpapers at the beginning and end of the book? Why do you think Gabrielle Grimard chose to make changes?
- Little Shrew is lured to the moonlight by the “secrets of the wild and free.” What secrets did Little Shrew discover? What secrets did you discover?
- The creatures Little Shrew dances with in the moonlit are nocturnal (they sleep during the day and come out at night). Did any of these surprise you? If so, why?
- Is there any particular rhyme in this book that is especially delicious to say out loud? Which one?
- What's one thing you don't want to forget about this book? Why?

TIP

It's a conversation,
not a quiz.

Rather than peppering your kids with questions, we recommend simply having a casual conversation by using any of these prompts and opening the conversation by answering the question yourself.



Step 3

REMEMBER



Family Book Club Live

WRITING IN RHYME

[Join Sarah](#) as she teaches fun ways to incorporate rhyme into your writing using *While Everyone Is Sleeping*.

She'll also show you what this book looked like in its earliest stages (there weren't any shrews at all in the first version!), as well as how Gabrielle's illustrations changed and developed during the making of this book.



Best for ages: 6-17



We'll begin on November 10 at:
11am PT / 12pm MT / 1pm CT / 2pm ET

SUPPLIES NEEDED

Paper

Pen/pencil

WoW Guide ([available to download HERE](#))

Have your book handy, so you can flip to the pages Sarah mentions during the workshop!



Around the Table

We like to create family memories around the table that tie to our Family Book Club.

After all, we're always preparing meals for our families! Rather than adding to our to-do lists, we're simply transforming something we're already doing (eating together) into something memorable (a Family Book Club memory).

FIREFLY PIE

Some of the most magical elements of *While Everyone Is Sleeping* are the glowing fireflies Gabrielle Grimard (and art director Cara Llewellyn) created for the dust jacket.

To celebrate this book, make Firefly Pie for lunch or dinner.

[This copycat recipe](#) is from the Happiest Place on Earth (and definitely one of Sarah Mackenzie's favorite places on earth!).

Used prepared chili to make dinner even easier.

LATE-NIGHT SNACKS AND STARGAZING

Make a big bowl of popcorn (Sarah's favorite late-night snack!) and enjoy it while stargazing. Take your snack and a thick quilt or blanket out to your backyard or another open green space, and take in the nighttime sights and sounds.



Image courtesy of Picky Palate



RABBIT TRAILS



Art



PAINT A FIREFLY SCENE

Fireflies are soft-bodied beetles that produce light, mainly at twilight, to attract a mate. Light production happens through a process called bioluminescence. Synchronized flashing even happens in some species.

[Paint your own firefly scene](#) with Nana from [You Are an Artist](#).

And keep on creating in chalk pastels with this [painting tutorial for a night sky](#) with the Northern Lights shining overhead.

JIMSON WEED BY GEORGIA O'KEEFFE

In one of her most amazing paintings, Georgia O'Keeffe painted moonflowers (also called jimson weed). The painting is known for depicting the flowers as full of energy, as though they are dancing.

Georgia O'Keeffe (a rather famous artist!) really liked these flowers. They grew in places like New Mexico where she lived. Even though these flowers were poisonous, she thought they were beautiful.

She described them as white trumpets with strong veins that looked like they were holding the flower open. Some had a pale green center, and others were a pale Mars violet color. These flowers bloomed in the evening when it was cool and under the moonlight. Georgia once counted 125 of them at her home.

→ [See the painting for yourself here](#)



Image: Georgia O'Keeffe, A Portrait, by Arthur Stieglitz, circa 1920-22



History & Geography



USDA ZONES

Moonflowers are originally from tropical regions of South America. In the United States, they can be grown in USDA zones 9-12.

Do you live in one of those zones? You can check what zone you live in by [entering your zip code on this map.](#)

Moonflowers are perennials, which means the plants come back each spring without needing to be replanted.



Nature Study & Science



NIGHT-BLOOMERS

Learn all about night-blooming plants, like the moonflower, in this [episode of the No Sweat Nature Study](#) podcast.

FIREFLIES

Learn more about fireflies by listening to [this podcast on fireflies](#) from No Sweat Nature Study with Cindy West.

♥ Younger kids may enjoy watching [this video](#) from SciShow Kids.



Your Commonplace Book

Saving favorite words and phrases is something you can do in your commonplace book. Writers are word people—they often hoard words the way squirrels hoard nuts!

Sometimes, we save words because they are new to us. Other times, it's just because we like the way they sound.

Here are some words and phrases I'm saving from this book.

Which ones are you saving? Jot them down in a reading journal or notebook!

TIP

A list of “favorite words from my reading” is a useful (and enjoyable) page to add to any commonplace book.



Here's a passage worth saving in your commonplace book:

Copywork & Grammar

Copywork is simply copying a grammatically correct sentence and noticing the mechanics of that sentence in the process. We recommend copywork for ages 6+. Copying well-written sentences allows your students to be grammar detectives, noticing grammar rules within the context of books they're already reading.

Mastering good language is best done incrementally over time. Good grammar appears again and again as your student reads and copies well-written language.

We recommend choosing just one language/grammar rule from the gray box to discuss, depending on your student's age.

PASSAGE

Firefly blinks, glowworm shines,
Casting light on twisting vines.

GRAMMAR RULES



While Everyone Is Sleeping is written in verse, or poetry. Sometimes each new line of poetry is capitalized.

You can see that “casting” is capitalized even though it’s not the beginning of the sentence.



Does Wordsworth capitalize each line in the poem included in this guide? Would you? How do capitalization choices change the poem’s effect?



Printer-friendly

You'll find copywork pages in both print and cursive type on the following pages. We've formatted them to easily print at home.



Firefly blinks,

glowworm shines,

Casting light on

twisting vines.

Firefly blinks,

glowworm shines,

Casting light on

twisting vines.

SUPPLIES & SCHEDULES



Supply List

BOOK(S)

FAMILY BOOK CLUB PICK

- While Everyone Is Sleeping*

ANY BOOKS FROM READING IN STREAM:

- The Napping House*
- Dark Emperor and Other Poems*
- At Night*
- Autumn Story*
- Vincent Can't Sleep*
- "East of the Sun and West of the Moon"

TIP

Put books on hold at your library right away, if possible.

ART

- Chalk pastels
- Dark construction paper
- Copy paper

PRINTOUTS

- Copies of the poem and copywork on pages 10, 24, and 25

AROUND THE TABLE

FIRE-FLY PIE

- 1 lb ground beef lean
- 1 lb mild ground sausage
- 1 Tbsp minced garlic
- 1/4 tsp Lawry's garlic salt
- 1/4 tsp kosher salt
- 1/4 tsp black pepper
- 29 oz tomato sauce
- 15-oz can black beans drained
- 15-oz can white beans drained
- 2 10-oz cans Rotel mild diced tomatoes
- 1/2 cup prepared salsa verde
- 2 tsp chili powder
- 1 Tbsp ground cumin
- 1 Tbsp dry Ranch Dressing mix
- 1 tsp fresh lime juice
- 8 small bags Fritos
- 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese
- 24 slices jalapeños

STARGAZING SNACKS

- Popcorn



Sample Schedules

FAMILY BOOK CLUB IN A DAY	
READ	Read <i>While Everyone Is Sleeping</i> and watch “ Looking Closely. ”
RELATE	Choose a dinnertime conversation prompt to discuss
REMEMBER	Enjoy Firefly Pie



FAMILY BOOK CLUB IN A WEEK

Stretch your Family Book Club over a week by breaking up the activities into four parts as follows.

DAY	1	2	3	4
READ	Read While Everyone Is Sleeping	Watch “Looking Closely”	Reread While Everyone Is Sleeping or read any of the books from Reading in Stream	
	Poem: “To Sleep” by William Wordsworth			
RELATE	Choose a dinnertime conversation prompt to discuss			
REMEMBER		AROUND THE TABLE Enjoy Firefly Pie		FAMILY BOOK CLUB LIVE Join us for a WoW Workshop Nov 10
RABBIT TRAILS	COPYWORK & NATURE STUDY Use copywork pages or listen to the nature study podcast	ART Paint with chalk pastels	COMMONPLACE Select a passage to copy into your commonplace book	HISTORY/GEO Learn about plant hardiness



FAMILY BOOK CLUB IN A MONTH

Stretch your Family Book Club over a week by breaking up the activities into four parts as follows.

WEEK	1	2	3	4
READ	Read <i>While Everyone Is Sleeping</i>	Watch "Looking Closely"	Reread <i>While Everyone Is Sleeping</i> or read any of the books from Reading in Stream	
	Poem: "To Sleep" by William Wordsworth			
RELATE	Choose a dinnertime conversation prompt to discuss			
REMEMBER		AROUND THE TABLE Enjoy Firefly Pie		FAMILY BOOK CLUB LIVE Join us for a WoW Workshop Nov 10
RABBIT TRAILS	COPYWORK & NATURE STUDY Use copywork pages or listen to the nature study podcast	ART Paint with chalk pastels	COMMONPLACE Select a passage to copy into your commonplace book	HISTORY/GEO Learn about plant hardiness



READ				
RELATE				
REMEMBER				
RABBIT TRAILS				

