



# Activity Sheet

## **Night Animals**

**Written and illustrated by Gianna Marino**

In *Night Animals*, various nocturnal animals are afraid and hide from other night animals, until a bat explains they are all night animals. The story ends with a reassuring twist and shows there really is nothing to be afraid of in the dark.

**Tips to prepare for reading:** Ask children if they can think of animals that come out at night (badger, bat, crickets, mouse, owl, possum, raccoon or skunk). Show children the book *Night Animals* and tell them you are going to read a book about animals that are most active at night. Tell them the title of the book, the author and the illustrator.

**Ideas on reading the book:** Read the book expressively. Ask children to name the animals as they appear in the text.

**Activities and ideas to use after you read the book:** Ask children what was fun and silly in this book. Tell children *Night Animals* is meant to be a fun and silly book about being afraid; however, sometimes, we are afraid of things and it isn't fun and silly. Ask them what they can do when they're afraid or scared. Tell them it is okay to be afraid and tell them when they are scared they should talk to a helper (dad, grown-up friend, grandparent, mom or teacher).

Conclude with an art project. Ask the classroom teacher to provide black construction paper, white crayons, white chalk or white paint. Invite children to create their own nighttime illustrations like those in the story. For extra fun, give them plastic googly eyes to add to their drawings.

**Try this at home:** Read *Night Animals* with your child. When it's dark outside, take a walk around your neighborhood with your child. Ask them to listen for nighttime sounds. Talk about the different sounds that are heard.

Make a tent with your child using a table and a blanket. Read the story with your child in the tent using a flashlight for a nighttime effect.

**More from PBS KIDS:** Watch "The Cat in the Hat: Goodnight Animals." <http://pbskids.org/video/cat-in-the-hat/2365805659>

Play "The Great Nocturnal Hat Hunt." <http://pbskids.org/catinthehat/games/the-great-nocturnal-hat-hunt>

**Additional books to read:** *One Too Many: A Seek & Find Counting Book*, by Gianna Marino; and *Out of Sight Till Tonight!: All About Nocturnal Animals* (Cat in the Hat's Learning Library), by Tish Rabe.

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