

Peace at Last

SECTION

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About the book

Peace at Last is a lively, engaging text about a family of bears. It is late and the bears are tired so they go upstairs to bed. Mrs. Bear falls asleep straight away but Mr. Bear cannot get to sleep because Mrs. Bear is snoring. So he decides to go and sleep in a different room. He tries baby bear's room, the living room, the kitchen and even outside in the garden and car. Unfortunately, everywhere that Mr. Bear tries to sleep something keeps him awake. Be it a dripping tap, a ticking clock or an owl hooting. Eventually he returns to bed. He thinks he has found some peace and quiet at last, but no sooner does he fall asleep than the alarm clock rings and it is time to get up.

This charming picture book has a predictable, and repetitive structure. The repeated refrains in the dialogue enable young children to join in when reading aloud and older children to have confidence to read large sections of the text independently.

The text is complemented by wonderfully detailed and colourful illustrations. The subtle details in the pictures, such as the clocks which appear throughout the book showing the night disappearing while Mr. Bear is still awake, mean that there is more to be explored than just the words with a cursory glance at the illustrations. The illustrations help to bring the story to life.

Peace at Last has a familiar setting and a simple plot structure. It also contains many of the Key Stage 1 high frequency words. Therefore, it is an ideal book to use when planning both reading and writing activities linked to the National Literacy Strategy Key Objectives (Reception Year to Year 2).

About the author

Jill Murphy was born and brought up in London. She knew from an early age that she wanted to become an author/illustrator. When she was a young girl she wrote and illustrated a collection of little storybooks that her mother has kept to this day.

She attended a strict convent school. It was memories of her experiences at this school that gave her the inspiration for her first book, *The*

Worst Witch, which was published when Jill was 24. She also attended Chelsea Art School and Croydon Art School.

Shortly after this time she worked as a nanny and in a children's home before becoming an author and illustrator.

Jill Murphy has written and illustrated numerous books for children. Many of her books have won prestigious literary awards. *Peace at Last* was commended for the Kate Greenaway Medal and *The Last Noo-noo*, a story about a little monster called Marlon, was

awarded the Smarties Book Prize.



Facts and figures

Peace at Last:

Author/illustrator: Jill Murphy

First published: 1980 Publisher: Macmillan

Awards: Commended for the Kate Greenaway Medal.

Jill Murphy:

Has written and illustrated many books for children, including: *The Worst Witch* series, *On the Way Home*, *Whatever Next!*, *Five Minutes' Peace* (Winner of the Best Book for Babies Award and shortlisted for the Children's Book Award), *All in One Piece*, *A Quiet Night In*, *The Last Noo-noo* (Winner of the Smarties Book Prize 1995), *All For One*, *Mr. Large in Charge*.

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