

Māhuri



Night Lights

Ready to Read Phonics Plus



by Samantha Montgomerie | illustrated by Giselle Clarkson

Whānau Notes

Your child can read the story to you.

Help them with any words they don't know.

After reading, talk about the story, characters, and pictures.

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Ministry of Education

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It is night, and the sky
is dark.

Ruru glides high in the sky,
by the light of the moon.



“What a dark, still night,”
sighs Ruru.

Ruru likes a dark, still night.
His feet cling tight to
the tree.

He sits and looks.



A light flickers and flashes
in the sky.

“What is that?” asks Ruru
as he looks up at the
night sky.



Ruru hears a splash.

Frog is by the stream.

Ruru swoops across

to Frog.

“Do you see the light?”

asks Ruru.



“Look to the right!”
says Ruru.

Lights flash in the sky.

The lights are bright.

The pink and green
lights flicker.



The night sky lights up.
The lights are glowing
right across the sky.



The night lights glow.
“What a sight,” sighs Frog.
“I like a still, dark night,”
says Ruru. “But the night
lights are just right!”

Focus points

- This book introduces the trigraph **igh** where three letters make one sound.
- It includes “words to tell” – help children look for the sounds they already know in these words.

Before reading

This book provides children with the opportunity to practise reading the letters and sounds they are learning in meaningful connected text.

Say each sound quickly

oo ai ay ea igh

Blend the sounds together to read a word

night light sigh tight bright right

High-frequency words

of what you are

Spelling

Use previously learned letters and sounds to help children spell and read words.

If this word spells **sigh**, can you spell **sight**? Change **sight** to **light**.

- sigh → sight → light → flight → fight
- night → tight → right → bright → fright

Vocabulary

Tell the children the meaning of any new vocabulary:

- **still**: not moving or making a sound; the quiet time of the night when most animals and people are asleep
- **cling**: hold onto something; hold on tightly
- **flickers**: make small, quick movements
- **flashes**: sudden bursts of light, flame, or heat

Morphology

Show children how the word **light** can change (light, lights, lighting). Notice the part of the word that is the same and the part that is different. Use different forms of the word **light** to orally create sentences.

During reading

- Show the book to the children and read the title together. Make a connection between the title and the picture.
- The children read each page together using their decoding skills. Once the page is read, guide them to connect the meaning of the text with the illustration.
- If a child gets stuck while reading, help them blend the sounds together to read the word.

Words to tell

dark sky hears glowing asks across

Remind children to sound out the letters they already know.

After reading

Discussion questions

- What did the animals see in the sky?
- Who did Ruru hear splashing in the stream?
- What colours are the night lights?

Story discussion

Talk about the lights the animals see in the night. Encourage the children to talk about what the lights might be. Discuss the Aurora Australis (the Southern Lights), which are a natural display of light that appears when tiny particles from the sun hit Earth’s atmosphere. They are most visible on dark, clear nights.

Fluency and story retell

Reread the story to build accuracy and fluency; share the story with a buddy.



Rākau
Tree



Māhuri
Sapling

Focus sounds

igh



Tupu
Seedling



Kākano
Seed

