

The Boy Who Wouldn't Sleep Alone

Written by: Mira Meir

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Suggestions for Family Activities

The child's entry into the night is, to some extent, like embarking upon a journey, and I always hope that the story I told them would accompany them for a time as they travel, that it would be a kind of pleasant, shielding souvenir they take along with them, like a kiss on the cheek.

[David Grossman, "In the bedtime story bubble", *7 Yamim*, Yedioth Ahronoth]

A piece of advice when reading as a family

Reading together allows toddlers to identify with the main character in the book. Together with you, their parents, they learn to name the feelings that overwhelm them, and discover solutions for challenging situations.

Mira Meir (1932–2016) – Israeli children's book authoress, poetess, translator and editor. Her books for children, among them *Oren's Turtle* [*Hatzav Shel Oren*], *Sheluli* and *I Love Drawing* [*Ani Ohev Letzayer*] won prestigious awards as well as readers' hearts. Meir won the Zeev Prize for Lifetime Achievement, as well as other awards.

Alona Frankel (born in 1937) is an illustrator and author of children's books. She has written and illustrated over thirty children's books that have been translated into numerous languages, among them *The Family of Tiny White Elephants* [*Sefer HaPilpilim*], *Once Upon a Potty* [*Sir HaSirim*], and the series of books starring Naphtali. In addition, she has illustrated over forty children's books that others have authored. Frankel has won awards for her children's book illustrations.

A discussion on going to bed

You could discuss bedtime with your toddlers, and describe what you do before going to bed together: Do you usually sing a song together? Cuddle? Or perhaps read a story? You could invite your bedtime buddies – a doll, teddy bear, or blankie, to your story-time.

Listening to the story

Please scan the QR code to listen to the story. You may enjoy turning the pages of your book as you do.


Dramatizing the story with toys

Your children's favorite stuffed animals and other toy animals can also be part of the story: Add or omit one each time as you act the story out together.

Playing a game of 'Who is sleeping under the blanket?'

Ask your toddlers to close their eyes, and hide a stuffed or other toy animal under the blanket. When they open their eyes, you, parents, can give them hints as to the identity of the hidden animal, until your toddlers guess what it is. Does it bark? Does it hop

around and eat carrots? You could also switch roles, letting your toddlers give you, parents, hints about who is hiding there, underneath the blanket.

 Arts & crafts, stars and goodnight songs are available on the Sifriyat Pijama Pinterest.