

Under the Night Sky

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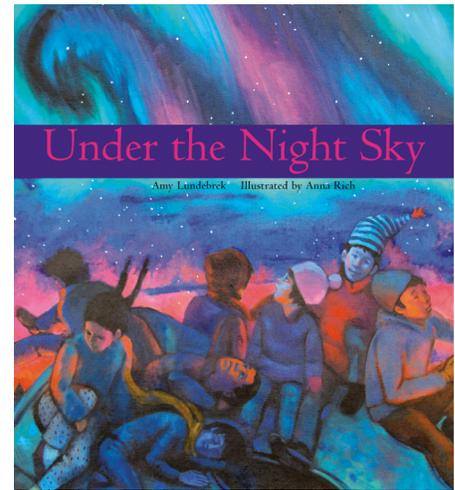
Illustrated by Anna Rich

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9 x 10, 32 pages, color illustrations

Children / Science / Nature; Grades 3-6



Summary

Winter has a special beauty for those living in northern climates—even for those who live in cities. And winter nights can provide the most spectacular sights of all! To her son's great surprise, a working, single mom breaks her routine one night and rushes her son downstairs to join their neighbors as they spontaneously celebrate the beauty of the northern lights—the aurora borealis. This mother and son capture a special moment they can look back on with great happiness.

Under the Night Sky will lead to discussions about

- The sky, the aurora borealis
- The importance of the natural environment in children's daily lives
- Different types of family traditions and celebrations
- Neighborhood gathering spots
- Storytelling traditions in families
- Changes in daily routines, experiencing excitement and confusion
- Single-parent families.

Before You Read

Background

Under The Night Sky can be used as part of a curriculum that encourages children and families to spend time outdoors experiencing nature and discovering its mysteries. In addition, *Under The Night Sky* can be used as a part of a curriculum that seeks to promote discussion about communities and the different experiences that can help bring people together.

Access Prior Knowledge

- What do you and your families do on winter nights?
- Do you ever look up at the sky and see more than stars?

After You Read

Activity

Weather Collage Exploration

- Make a collage depicting different kinds of weather. Magazine stories and pictures of dramatic weather are commonplace.
- Why do this activity? Discussing weather events can build awareness of the natural environment, and invite discussions about climate change and its causes.
- Ask students to bring in magazines and newspapers and have each student cut out the images, words, advertisements, and titles that have weather themes.
- Have the kids create collages combining both the winter weather events and the summer weather events.
- Encourage questions, thoughts, and feelings about different types of weather, and discuss the impact of weather on their lives.

For Further Discussion

- What kind of events does your community participate in? What kind of event would you create?
- What are some ways to keep track of the weather during the week?

Further Reading

The Secret Galaxy by Fran Hodgkins (Tilbury House, 2014)

Illustrated with remarkable photographs by a noted astrophotography and by NASA, *The Secret Galaxy* tells the story of the galaxy in the galaxy's own voice.

Internet Resources

You may find the following Internet resources helpful as your students continue to explore the topic of the book.

The Aurora Page

A source for Information, links and images about the "Northern Lights"

<http://www.geo.mtu.edu/weather/aurora/>

Science for Kids

The home of science and technology on the Internet for children around the world

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz>