

## GOODNIGHT SHEEP

SALLY BARTON AND CHERIE DIGNAM

ISBN (HB): 9781760993986

YEAR LEVEL: K-2

### ABOUT THE BOOK

Lilly May tries to count calming, soothing sheep to help her get to sleep, but Lilly May's sheep aren't the calmly kind. All 10 of them are up to no good and it takes a lot of finagling before all of them are tucked up in bed and fast asleep. The book is a delightful twist on the familiar ritual of counting sheep as Lilly May encounters a mischievous flock. The story playfully explores number and bedtime routines through lyrical language and vibrant colours.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR

From the age of six, when Sally Barton took her first book from the library, words and stories became an important part of her life. She not only spends her days creating fictional worlds for both adults and children, but she also passes this love and knowledge on to her students as a tutor for children with learning differences. Sally previously worked for the police, but was happiest at her job in a public library while she finished her degree in Legal Studies. Sally is an avid amateur genealogist and loves to travel.

### ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

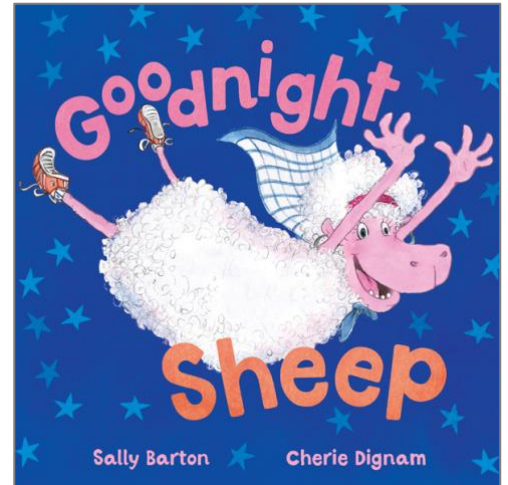
Cherie Dignam has always loved drawing and nature, and all animals, especially cats. Cherie was born in North Dublin, Ireland, and now lives in Perth, Western Australia. Cherie originally studied animation drawing studies at Ballyfermot Senior College in Dublin, before completing her BA Hons in design (illustration) at Cranfield University in the UK. Cherie is an illustrator who enjoys the challenge of a wide range of subjects. She is inspired by lots of things – street life, curious commuters, office oddballs, weird and wacky animals, and lots of day-to-day household objects.

### STORY THEMES

- Bedtime routines
- Counting
- Colours
- Rhythm and rhyme
- Perseverance
- Problem-solving
- Individuality
- Creativity

### EARLY YEARS LEARNING FRAMEWORK

- [Belonging, Being & Becoming: The Early Years Learning Framework for Australia \(V2.0\)](#)
  - EYLF V2.0 Learning Outcome 1.1: Children develop knowledgeable and confident self-identities, and a positive sense of self-worth.
  - EYLF V2.0 Learning Outcome 3.1: Children become strong in their social, emotional and mental wellbeing.
  - EYLF V2.0 Learning Outcome 3.3: Children are aware of and develop strategies to support their own mental and physical health and personal safety.



- EYLF V2.0 Learning Outcome 5.2: Children engage with a range of texts and gain meaning from these texts.
- EYLF V2.0 Learning Outcome 5.3: Children express ideas and make meaning using a range of media.
- EYLF V2.0 Learning Outcome 5.4: Children begin to understand how symbols and pattern systems work.

## AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM OUTCOMES

- F–2 English
- F–2 Mathematics
- F–2 Health and Physical Education

## USEFUL WEBSITES

- Author's page: [fremantlepress.com.au/contributor/sally-barton](http://fremantlepress.com.au/contributor/sally-barton)
- Illustrator's website: [cheriedignam.com](http://cheriedignam.com)
- Positive Bedtime Routines (Raising Children Network): [raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/sleep/better-sleep-settling/bedtime-routines#positive-bedtime-routines-for-babies-toddlers-and-preschoolers](http://raisingchildren.net.au/toddlers/sleep/better-sleep-settling/bedtime-routines#positive-bedtime-routines-for-babies-toddlers-and-preschoolers)
- What Makes Us Unique? (NSW Department of Education): [education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/student-wellbeing/attendance-behaviour-and-engagement/anti-bullying/factsheets/ES1-Unit-2-What-makes-us-unique.pdf](http://education.nsw.gov.au/content/dam/main-education/student-wellbeing/attendance-behaviour-and-engagement/anti-bullying/factsheets/ES1-Unit-2-What-makes-us-unique.pdf)
- Guided Meditation for Kids: [greenchildmagazine.com/free-meditation-guided-relaxation-scripts-kids](http://greenchildmagazine.com/free-meditation-guided-relaxation-scripts-kids)

## CLASSROOM IDEAS

### ***Goodnight Sheep pretend play***

1. Set up an imaginative play area as a cosy bedroom. Get creative by upcycling cardboard boxes into snugly beds for sheep plush toys, together with soft pillows and blankets.
2. Encourage children to re-enact positive 'get ready for bed' routines by guiding toys through calm sleep rituals. Provide picture books for preschoolers to read bedtime stories to toys in the play space.
3. Help children build strategies to calm the body and mind (EYLF V2.0 Learning Outcome 3.3) by guiding them through simple breathing and mindfulness techniques, learning ways to wind down at the end of the day.

### **Creative Writing**

Discuss story structure (i.e. the beginning, middle and end) by exploring these questions together:

- a. Where does the story take place?
- b. What problem did the main character, Lilly May, face?
- c. How does the story end?
- d. Is the problem solved?

### **Music Makers!**

1. Use the sheep rockstar characters in the story as inspiration for children to make their own musical instruments and band. Provide recyclable and craft materials (plastic bottles, cardboard boxes, paper towel rolls, ribbons, rubber bands, beads, tape, etc.) for preschoolers to design and create their very own DIY instrument.
2. Make a stage for the band to perform, and support children's understanding of key musical concepts (beat, tempo and dynamics) as they play. Sing nursery rhymes together about sheep to support language and literacy skills such as 'Baa Baa Black Sheep', 'Mary Had a Little Lamb' and 'Little Bo-Peep'.

## English – Baa-riliiant Ryhmes!

Curriculum mapping – [AC9EFLE04](#), [AC9E1LE04](#), [AC9E2LE04](#)

1. First, ask students to identify the rich rhyming vocabulary throughout the story:

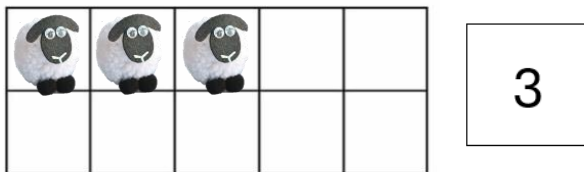
one/fun	twice/nice
two/blue	way/day
hats/that	hand/band
vest/best	lute/flute
hands/land	shock/flock
red/head	flight/light
chair/air	peep/sheep

2. Download the Match the Rhyming Words activity sheet from the Fremantle Press website and have students match up these rhyming words.

## Mathematics – Sheep Ten Frame

Curriculum mapping - [AC9MFN01](#), [AC9MFN02](#), [AC9MFN03](#), [AC9M1N04](#)

1. First, have students create their own 'ten frame' using washi tape to make a grid on A3 paper.
2. Next, make 10 'sheep counters' using black and white pompoms, googly eyes and cardboard.
3. Then, ask students to match each numeral from 1 to 10 (use plastic, wooden or paper numbers) together with the 'sheep counters' to visually demonstrate quantities. Ask students to add and subtract numbers on their ten frame to extend numeracy learning.



## Health and Physical Education – 'I am unique' poster

Curriculum mapping - [AC9HP2P01](#)

1. Discuss the quirky and mischievous personalities of the 10 sheep in the story with a focus on promoting positive perspectives about difference.
2. Next, ask each student to draw a self-portrait in the centre of a large piece of cardboard. Students can then draw pictures and add descriptive words about themselves, such as being a good friend, their family culture, their favourite games, their personal achievements, and things they like to do. Share messages about the importance of celebrating each person's uniqueness to support the development of a positive identity.
3. Ask students to share their poster with the class and describe the importance of respecting and appreciating their own and others' personal qualities.



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