



# Before I Go to Sleep

By *Thomas Hood*

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On a summer evening, when it's just too hot to sleep, a child amuses himself by imagining all the delightfully funny animals he would like to be. There's a tap-dancing giraffe, a musical chimpanzee, a mountain goat in silly socks ... the fun goes on and on until the boy - and young listeners - are finally ready for sleep. But before they drift off, children will enjoy looking for a special character who appears in each of the illustrations.

Maryjane Begin's lustrous, brilliantly detailed illustrations illuminate the imaginative night-dreams in Thomas Hood's classic nineteenth-century poem. Warm and playful, this reissue of a modern classic is just the book for bedtime snuggling.

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## **Before I Go to Sleep** By Thomas Hood Bibliography

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### Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

For children who find that the summer hours between bedtime and darkness are hard to pass, this book offers welcome relief. Fantasies that lead eventually to the Land of Nod run rampant in the head of a boy who must go to bed before nightfall. Dreams of being an industrious cat (mending a roof with the aid of mice and cardinals), a regal dog bedecked with crown and ermine-trimmed cape and a leaping mountain goat--complete with purple-and-pink-striped socks--pass through the restless child's mind. In style and content, Hood's 19th-century verse stands the test of time remarkably well, indicating that some of the problems children face are ageless. Begin-Callanan's splendidly detailed, deliciously colored paintings are filled with comical touches such as tourist penguins, with sardines hanging from the pockets of their "jams," lining up to buy ice cubes from a polar bear. By setting the pictures in progressive stages of darkness (similar to Clement Hurd's technique in *Goodnight, Moon*), the artist gradually draws the curtain on consciousness until the last page shows the darkened room of the peacefully sleeping boy. Ages 4-8.

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From School Library Journal

Kindergarten-Grade 2 Luminous acrylic illustrations bring this 19th-century poem to life. In the summer when I go to bed/The sun still streaming overhead/My bed becomes so small and hot/With sheets and pillow in a knot,/And then I lie and try to see/The things I'd really like to be. In each of the following verses, a boy imagines that he is a different animal, and that creature, as well as the narrator's dog, appears gloriously realized in the accompanying full-page painting. The text is pleasant enough, but it is Begins inventive menagerie that lifts this book above the standard illustrated bedtime verse. As the boy muses about being a giraffe (I'd do a tap dance in the street/with little bells upon my feet), the picture shows a smiling giraffe, clad in a striped waistcoat and a bow tie, tap dancing through a rainy city scene. Or maybe next a mountain goat/With shaggy whiskers at my throat shows that animal springing across a gorge, clothed in old-fashioned mountaineering garb and carrying the dog in a backpack. A visual dream come true. Kathleen Whalin, Greenwich Country Day School, CT

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About the Author

Thomas Hood, the son of a London bookseller, lived from 1799 to 1845. In his own time, he was best known for the humorous verse that established his reputation as a literary wit. But today he is often remembered for his lovely poems for children.

### Users Review

**From reader reviews:**

**Luis Vargas:**

Have you spare time for any day? What do you do when you have more or little spare time? Sure, you can choose the suitable activity for spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the Mall. How about open as well as read a book eligible Before I Go to Sleep? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You already know beside you can spend your time along with your favorite's book, you can wiser than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have different opinion?

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