

Midnight At The Library

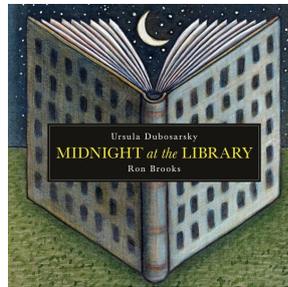
By Ursula Dubosarsky & Illustrated by Ron Brooks

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\$24.99

In *Midnight at the Library*, critically-acclaimed author, Ursula Dubosarsky, and award-winning illustrator, Ron Brooks, traverse space and time, telling the story of a book throughout history. Dubosarsky and Brooks piece together the story of a book that was opened and loved, given and taken, closed and lost, found and forgotten before being discovered, uncovered and preserved at the library. Beautifully written and splendidly illustrated, this is a story about the inception, creation and preservation of books and culture. This enchanting children's book has vast educational potential and is sure to captivate the hearts of book-lovers across the nation, encouraging them to find their own book of wonder.



Teacher Notes have been based on those supplied by the publisher. A full version is available on our website.

Themes:

- Inception, creation and preservation of books and culture

Discussion Questions & Activities:

- Look at the cover of the book with the class. What do you think this book will be about? What do you see that makes you say that?
- What libraries do you know?
- Have you visited a library? Can you describe it?
- What does a library do and what do we use libraries for?
- In *Midnight at the Library*, author Ursula Dubosarsky has written a book about a person writing a book. Discuss how everyone tells stories, whether the stories relate to what we did during the day, what our favourite books or toys are, what our families get up to, or something we make up during creative play.
- The boy in *Midnight at the Library* who wrote the golden book lived a long time ago and in another country. Discuss how people also tell stories about their country and their culture. Can you share a folk tale or legend you know from a different country?
- Draw a picture of you and your friends/family visiting your favourite library.
- *Midnight at the Library* is a mixture of both true and made-up stories. Discuss which elements in the book are based on real events and which ones are imagined.
- Identify imaginary creatures (e.g. Pegasus, unicorns, dragons, etc.) from books you've read, and discuss how they are based on real animals.
- *Midnight at the Library* explores how books can become a part of history as well as telling us much about our past—including about how people think, live and survive. Discuss how books, newspapers, magazines, etc., can help us find out about the past and about important places that are a part of our heritage.
- Identify an important heritage site in your suburb/town/city. Research the following: what it is, how and why it was created, what happened there and why it is an important part of your heritage/history.
- In *Midnight at the Library*, the children have to use their detective skills to find the golden book. Discuss how finding out about the past is like being a detective; you need to do the following: find clues in books, newspapers, photographs and objects, interview people who have experienced whatever it is you are investigating and work out the links between things.
- Create a book: Examine *Midnight at the Library* and identify the structure of the book: front cover, dedication, imprint, title page, text and illustrations, end matter, endpapers, back cover. Discuss the purpose of each element. Create a book including all these elements. Pick one of the artistic styles used by Ron Brooks to illustrate your book (surrealism, modernism, impressionism, realism, collage, photography).