

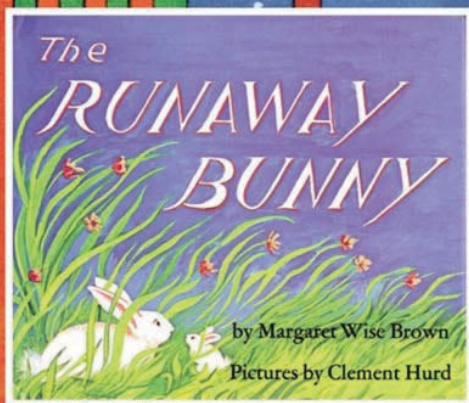
# GOODNIGHT MOON & THE RUNAWAY BUNNY PERFORMANCE GUIDE

THE PARAMOUNT THEATER

# ARTS EDUCATION



# GOODNIGHT MOON

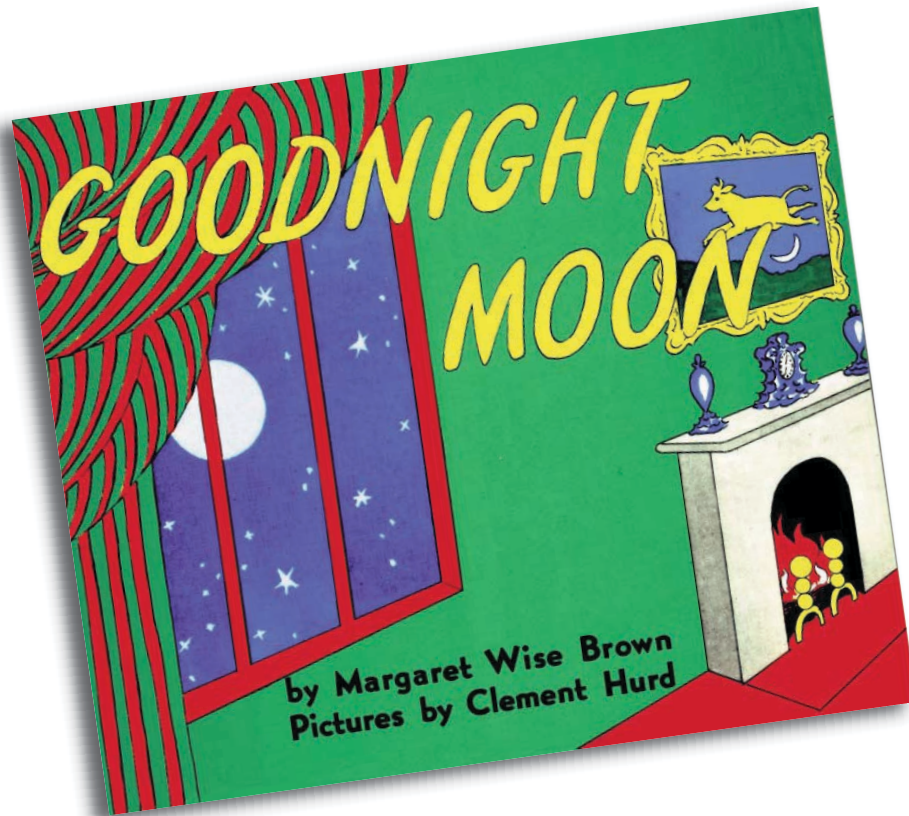


by Margaret Wise Brown  
Pictures by Clement Hurd  
Harper & Row, Publishers

**MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA**



# The Stories



In *Goodnight Moon*, a young rabbit goes through a bedtime ritual of saying goodnight to every object in sight and in his imagination, from the pictures on the walls to the brush and comb, to the moon and stars, to “the old lady whispering ‘hush!’”. The text is written in the form of a rhyming poem.

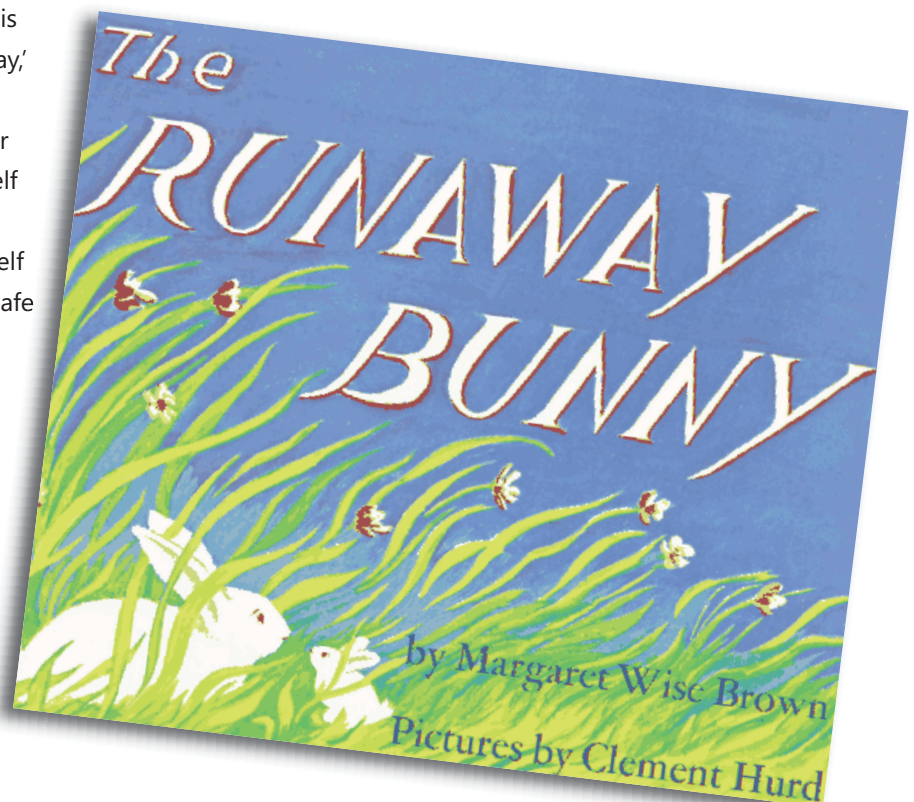
### Ask your students:

- Can you name any of the things the bunny says goodnight to in the story? How many can you think of?
- Do you like going to bed?
- What are some of the things you do to get ready for bed?
- Who do you say goodnight to before bedtime?

In *The Runaway Bunny*, a young bunny tells his mother he wants to run away. “If you run away, says his mother, ‘I will run after you.’” And so begins an imaginary game of chase. Whatever the little bunny declares he will change himself into—a fish, a rock, a bird, a boat, etc.—his mother replies that she, too, will change herself so that she can always keep her little bunny safe and protected.

### Ask your students:

- Can you name any of the things the bunny says he will become? How many can you name?
- If you could change into anything you wanted, what would you become? Why?
- Why do you think the little bunny wanted to run away?
- Have you ever wanted to run away? Why?



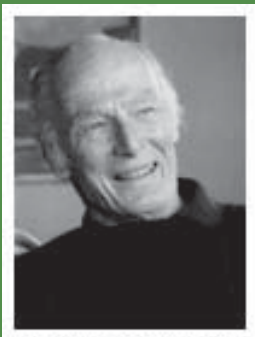
# Meet the Creators



When Margaret Wise Brown (1910-1952) began to write for young children, most picture books were written by illustrators, whose training and talents lay mainly in the visual arts. Brown was the first picture-book author to achieve recognition as a writer.

After graduating from Hollins College in 1932, Brown worked as a teacher and also studied art. It was while working at the Bank Street Experimental School

in New York City that she started writing books for children. Her first book was *When the Wind Blew*, published in 1937 by Harper & Brothers. Brown went on to develop her *Here and Now* stories and *Noisy Book* series while employed as an editor at William R. Scott. In the early 1950s, she wrote several books for the Little Golden Books series, including *The Color Kittens*, *Mister Dog*, and *Sailor Dog*.



Clement Hurd (1908-1988) was an American illustrator of children's books. He is best known for his collaborations with author Margaret Wise Brown. He also illustrated a number of books written by his wife Edith (a friend of Brown's), as well as *The World Is Round*, a children's book written by Gertrude Stein.

The son of a New York mortgage banker, Hurd was educated at St. Paul's School in Concord, New Hampshire, studied architecture at Yale University and painting with Fernand Léger in Paris. On seeing two of his paintings, Brown asked him if he would consider illustrating children's books.

## Have You Read...?

In addition to *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*, Margaret Wise Brown and Clement Hurd also teamed up to create *My World* and *Bumble Bugs and Elephants*.

Other books by Margaret Wise Brown include:

- *My World of Color*
- *The Moon Shines Down*
- *Two Little Trains*
- *Sneakers, the Seaside Cat*
- *The Little Fir Tree*
- *The Important Book*

## Ask your students:

- Have you heard of any of these books?
- How many have you read?
- Do you remember the stories?
- Do you remember any of the pictures?



## Take a Closer Look!

Look carefully at the bookshelves pictured in *Goodnight Moon*. You'll see that one of the little rabbit's books is *The Runaway Bunny*. One of three framed pictures on the walls shows a scene from the same book.



# About the Production



The performance of *Goodnight Moon and The Runaway Bunny* employs a variety of styles of **PUPPETS**—including rod and table-top puppets—to tell the two stories. Amazingly, all of the puppets and scenic elements are manipulated by just two puppeteers!

In *Goodnight Moon*, part of the visual magic comes from the use of **BLACK LIGHT**. Black light makes fluorescent colors glow in the dark, and makes anything black invisible to the eye. In *Goodnight Moon*, the puppets and scenery are painted with fluorescent paint, which makes them really stand out under the ultraviolet light. The puppeteers are onstage as they work with the puppets. They wear black clothing and black masks and perform in front of a black wall. This makes them almost invisible to the audience and allows them to execute all kinds of visual illusions with the puppets.

The show also employs pre-recorded **NARRATION** of Margaret Wise Brown's text of the two stories, and original **MUSIC** composed by Steven Naylor especially for this production.

This production is by **MERMAID THEATRE OF NOVA SCOTIA**. Founded in 1972, the company ranks among Canada's most respected creators of theater for children. Mermaid has performed for more than three million people on four continents.



## Make Your Own Puppets!

### Sock Puppet

[www.daniellesplace.com/HTML/puppets.html](http://www.daniellesplace.com/HTML/puppets.html)



# Bunny Basics



Rabbits are ground dwellers that live in environments ranging from desert to wetland. They have long ears that allow them to hear very well. In addition to their prominent ears, which can measure more than 4 inches long, rabbits have long, powerful hind legs and a short tail.

## Did You Know?

- Rabbits are not rodents but belong to their own order called **LAGOMORPHS**.
- Rabbits are **HERBIVORES**, which means they eat plants, but do not eat meat.
- Rabbits' teeth never stop growing. They keep them from growing too long by constantly chewing to wear them down. Rabbits will chew on almost anything but house rabbits especially like remote controls!
- House rabbits generally live 8-12 years.
- According to the Guinness Book of World Records, the oldest rabbit in the world lived to the age of 18.
- Larger rabbits generally have shorter lifespans than smaller rabbits.
- Outdoor rabbits have (on average) a much shorter lifespan because of the many risks and hazards associated with living outside.
- Rabbits should not be kept as a classroom pet.

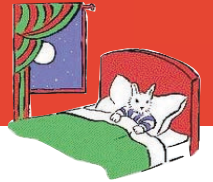


## Ask your students:

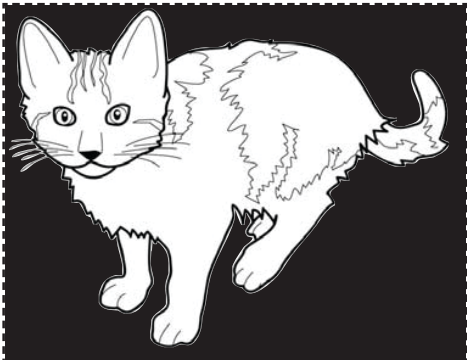
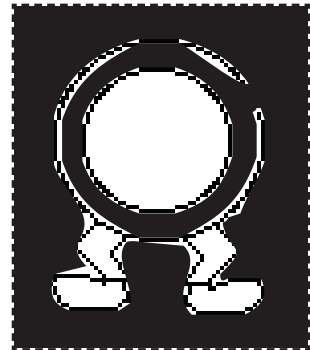
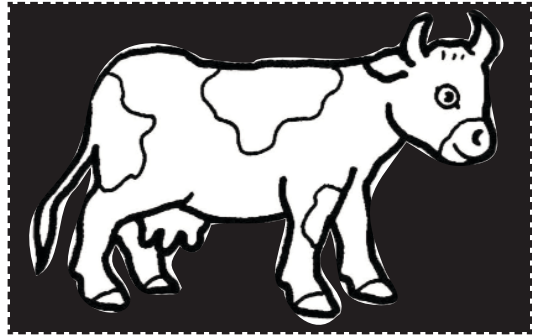
- Can you think of any other famous rabbits besides the ones in *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny*?
- What do real rabbits eat? Do the rabbits in *Goodnight Moon* and *The Runaway Bunny* eat or drink anything?
- A herbivore is an animal that eats only plants, such as fruits, vegetables, grass, and leaves. Carnivores eat meat. Omnivores eat EVERYTHING. Are rabbits herbivores, carnivores, or omnivores? What about people?



# Rhyme Time



Cut out the pictures below. On the next page, have your students match the pictures to the correct spaces in order to create their own picture book for this nursery rhyme.



# Rhyme Time

Hey diddle diddle, the

and the

, the

jumped

over the

. The little

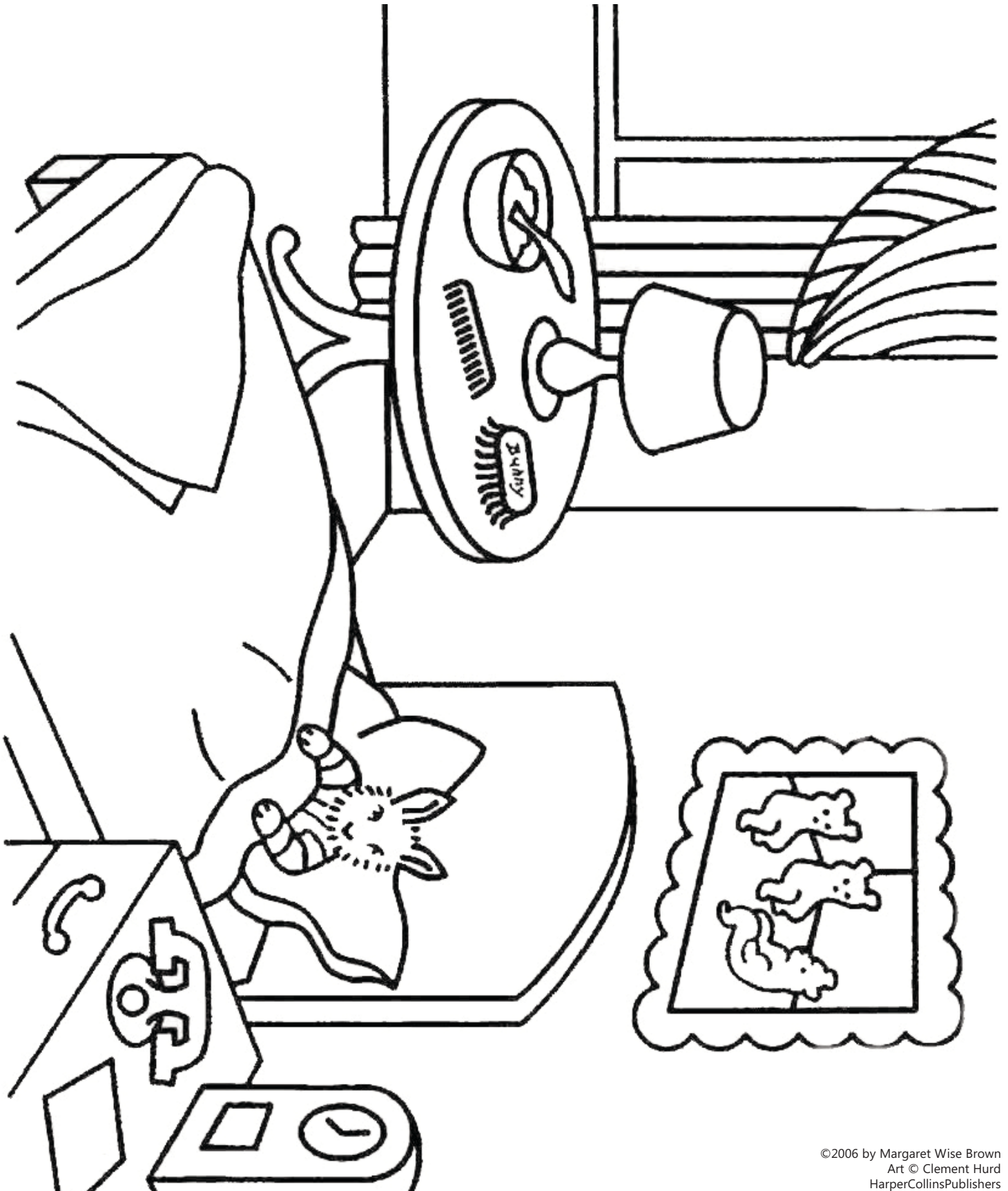
laughed to see such sport, and the

ran away with the

.



# Color the Bunny



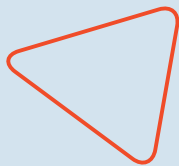
©2006 by Margaret Wise Brown  
Art © Clement Hurd  
HarperCollinsPublishers

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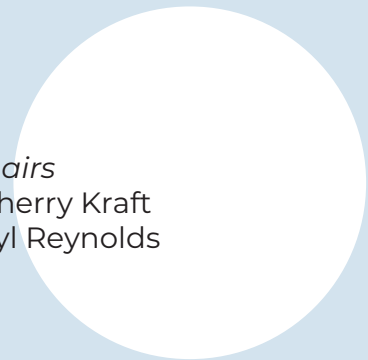
Our Arts Education Partners have made it possible for over 230,103 students and teachers from all over Central Virginia to attend live performing arts at The Paramount Theater since 2004. The Paramount believes that performing arts are an essential part of every child's education, and we know that as students enter this historic Theater, for many it is their first exposure to live theater, a powerful human experience that can be life changing and one they all deserve to know. To ensure ALL students are able to attend a performance, EVERY ticket is subsidized by the generosity of our Arts Education Partners.

Please consider joining us!



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