

## Sparkle Sleepytime

### All Story Descriptions by Season

Whether it is during the long, active days of summer or the shorter, busy days of winter, sometimes our little ones need some help to slow down. The stories in Sparkle Sleepytime are simple, soft and slow, all told with the aim of welcoming young and old into a time of rest or sleep.



### Autumn Season:

*This is a collection of 13 autumn stories, for the 13 weeks of autumn.*

#### Lucy Goose

Lucy is so excited about finally flying South for the winter, until she finds out what that really means. It turns out the South is not across the lake or over to the mountains — but very very very far away. She gets overwhelmed until the chief goose tells her a story

#### Bartholomew Beaver

Since Bartholomew Beaver was a very young kit, he always preferred working with the grown beavers rather than playing with the other kits his age. Recently, he has been more interested in the kits' games and fun, but he has had a hard time relating. "Listen" his mother tells him, "Beavers love to be listened to." He tries listening and is surprised by the results.

#### Goldie the Hawk

When Goldie flies with her mother and father high in the heavens, she does not see the beautiful sunset or the sparkling rivers or the leaping deer, she can only see hardship. She sees the bobcat that failed to catch her dinner, or the raccoon who fell into some mud, or the hummingbird who looks so tired. When Goldie's mother proposes they play a game where they point out things they see which are either encouraging and beautiful or discouraging and sad, mother and daughter start to have fun seeing things from each other's perspective.

#### Bonbon the Elephant

Bonbon is a model student in school — he does his best and is always polite. But when the elephant calf comes home, things are very different. He throws tantrums and fusses and can actually be rude. When his mother talks to his teacher about this, the wise teacher knows just what to do.

#### Little Hildy the Arctic Fox

Little Hildy is a happy, energetic arctic fox who suddenly gets worried when she notices that her father's fur is starting to turn white. When he tells her that this happens every autumn for all arctic foxes — including her — she starts to worry. Does this mean she is getting older? Does this mean that soon she won't be a pup anymore?

### **Kushka the Siberian Tiger**

Kushka loves adventure. She wants to travel the world like her great uncle who traveled with the circus. She wants to see the ocean and the desert and green mountains and waterfalls. She decides to take herself on her own little adventure — to the other side of the mountain to find her renowned uncle. But when she accidentally gets lost, and then found by her uncle, she realizes that small adventures are adventures enough!

### **Rocco the Gorilla**

Rocco's father is proud of his son. He loves how strong and big his son is and often shows him off to his friends. But Rocco does not like being strong and big. He just wants to be a kid. He wants to play and be silly. When he finally gets up the courage to explain that to his father, he is surprised (and delighted) by his response.

### **Serena the Manatee**

Serena, like all manatees, is an expert dreamer. She spends a lot of time in "dreamland" as they call it, and every morning she returns to the waking world filled with a peaceful joy. Nowadays, however, the manatees have a particular distraction that challenges their ability to stay asleep and dream: curious humans. Serena luckily learns a technique that works, one that lets the distractions fall away and allows her to fall deeply and peacefully asleep.

### **Colum the Common Pigeon**

Colum wants to go somewhere that no pigeon has gone before. He wants to discover a new land that has never been visited and he can't wait until he is old enough to go. When an experienced pigeon arrives in their coop from a foreign land, Colum learns that newness can be found in each moment, and exploring is all about what is new for you and only you.

### **Yasoda the Water Buffalo**

Yasoda sees how the people of their village treat all the water buffalo with deep respect — and she misunderstands. Instead of seeing the innate gratitude that was being expressed, she only saw an opportunity to be served. This does not last long, however, for her mother has an important lesson on gratitude especially for her.

### **Tip the Wilson's Snipe**

Tip wants to fly — to be specific, he wants to winnow, a special kind of flying that the grown up snipes are able to do. He tries and tries and finally his mother and father agree to teach him the first step — if

he agrees to rest. "Rest is just as important as work," says his father — and Tip realizes that his father is right.

### **Celia the Bear**

The only thing Celia loves more than sleeping is eating. She thinks about eating all day and then dreams about it all night. So when her mother finds some suet in the backyard of a farmhouse in town, Celia does something she should not do — she impatiently calls her mother to get more. This results in the two of them running quickly back into the woods and by the time they reach home, they are both very tired. Luckily her mother did get some suet and they enjoy it together before falling happily and deeply asleep.

### **Starlight and Sampson the Seagull Twins**

Whereas most animals organize their day according to the rising and setting of the sun, a particular flock of seagulls organizes theirs according to the tides. Most of the seagulls in this flock enjoy this schedule, but Starlight does not. She doesn't like waking in the dark and getting to work. Lucky for her, their long days always end with her favorite activity — going to bed!

### **Winter Season:**



*This is a collection of 13 winter stories, for the 13 weeks of winter.*

### **Hucho the Panda Cub**

Hucho the panda cub is big for his age and sometimes other pandas think he is fully grown. When a young male panda challenges him to a contest, Hucho isn't sure what to do and he tries to hide in a bamboo grove. His mother eventually sets things right and Hucho is able to do what he loves best: munch on bamboo with his fuzzy big head resting in his mother's lap.

### **Nira the Gray Wolf**

When little Nira, the gray wolf pup, hurts her foot while playing — she begins to worry. What if the wolf pack needs to leave her behind? But then her mother and father find out and explain to her the nature of a wolf pack: they stay together, no matter what.

### **Maurice the St Bernard**

Maurice is a young St. Bernard pup that lives with his family at the base of a mountain. His sisters are both strong and hard working St. Bernards, but what makes Maurice unique is his very particular sense of his own body. And when a hiker gets stuck on the mountain, this sense of self is precisely what brings Maurice to the rescue.

### **Carmen Chameleon**

Carmen is like most other chameleons with one notable exception: Carmen thinks that she is a lion. When she decides to prove it to her friends, a series of coincidences do manage to impress and delight them.

### **Davis the Gray Squirrel**

Davis and his little brother Micky like to watch their parents hop about the forest and dig holes in the now. When Davis decides to leave the nest and find out what is hiding in those holes, he is delighted to find some hickory nuts! As it's winter, the family shares the hidden bounty.

### **Sobek the Crocodile**

Sobek is named after his great grandfather who was a very brave and strong leader of the crocodiles. When his father starts tutoring him at a very young age, however, Sobek starts to become very nervous about - almost everything. This continues all night until Sobek's father realizes just what the Hatchling needs ... to be little just a while longer.

### **Minka the Tasmanian Devil**

Minka is a Tasmanian Devil pup with a very sensitive body. Lights are too bright. Sounds are too loud. Touches are too rough and though her brothers and sister have all left their mother's pouch, Minka prefers to stay there. That is, until she gets too big and has to leave. Luckily, however, Minka's mother also has a sensitive body and knows the challenges — and benefits — that it can bring.

### **Bunny Wonder the Rabbit Kit**

Bunny Wonder is indeed a wonder. He loves to run fast and leap and hop and spin and tumble. When the first snow comes, he is doubly excited. But a bobcat is spotted in the area, and Bunny Wonder has to play underground for a while. When he can't stand to be cooped up a minute longer, he comes up with a most unusual — and wondrous — plan.

### **Eula the Penguin Chick**

Eula is a happy penguin chick. She doesn't mind the bitter cold of Antarctica because she has her father and all the other fathers looking after her and keeping her warm. But when she learns that her mother will be returning soon and taking her father's place, Eula is filled with conflicting feelings.

### **Minnie the Dolphin**

Minnie loves the golden rules of dolphins: everyone belongs, always look out for each other, and always be kind and considerate. But when she accuses other dolphins of not following the rules, she realizes that it is actually she who is not following them.

### **Rocky the Donkey**

Rockmaplewestwindandcharming has a very long and complicated name. Though his parents are proud of his name, he is embarrassed by it. And then, one day in donkey training, he meets three donkeys that are at once interested and impressed by his name and their friendship begins.

### **Yoskolo the Polar Bear**

Yoskolo admires his older brother so much, he wants to be just like him. When he sees his brother quickly and adeptly climb an iceberg, and receive praise for his skills, Yoskolo jumps into the water to try it himself. He is too young for the challenge, however, and quickly realizes that the iceberg is too far and the currents too fast. So he turns and swims back to his anxious family. His mother and brother, however, are impressed with his swimming. As he goes to bed that night in his ice cave, he begins to understand that he doesn't have to be like his brother or have his brother's same skills; he can simply be himself.

### **Cora the Crow**

Cora is a confident, funny, and loving young crow. But sometimes her jokes are not appreciated by neighborhood birds. When her father tells her the difference between a joke and teasing, Cora spends the next day making amends — and the results feel good.

### **Spring Season:**



*This is a collection of 13 spring stories, for the 13 weeks of spring.*

### **Lorillai the Lambkin**

Lorillai loves jokes. She loves tricks and she loves pretending. The problem is that most of the other sheep do not enjoy her tricks and jokes and start to think that she never tells the truth. This becomes particularly difficult when Lorillai slips down a small ravine and needs help getting back up – but the other sheep think she is still joking.

### **Halldora the Humpback Whale**

Halldora the whale calf has heard many stories about people and their boats – and she would like to see one for herself. When the opportunity finally arrives, she is excited and a little nervous. She and her mother jump at the perfect time to see a boat filled with happy people, and there is one person in particular that catches Halldora's attention: a little girl with a special sparkle in her eye.

### **Dustin the Sand Crab**

Dustin loves games but doesn't like the rules. He doesn't like how the games the other crabs play always have to be the same and so he chooses not to play at all. When his Uncle advises him to try enrolling and exciting the other crabs to play his games – rather than persistently complaining, Dustin transforms the play for all the other crabs.

### **Rye the Meerkat**

Rye loves his bedtime routine. He and his parents do the same thing every night and even have a song to help them remember every step. When the night comes when both his parents are on patrol, Rye must teach his aunt how it all works – and he is surprised by what happens.

### **Alex and Toph the Hummingbird Twins**

Alex and Toph, like all hummingbirds, love all things quick. They learn quickly, they eat quickly, they fly quickly – but when it comes to leaving the nest and sleeping in their own nest, they are not so quick. In fact they don't want to go. But then their parents suggest they start to build their nests just for fun – and this changes everything.

### **Gobi the Camel Calf**

Gobi loves her mother. She watches everything she does and tried so copy it perfectly. There is one way, however, that Gobi believes she is different from her mother: Gobi loves jokes. She loves to think about them and wonders what would happen if she actually played a joke on her mother. But before she actually tries, she is surprised to see that she has more in common with her mother than she thought.

### **Nova the Emu Chick**

Nova loves being a bird. She loves her wings, and as she watches the eagle soar overhead and the hummingbird buzz from flower to flower, she wonders what it will feel like to fly. When her mother tells her that emus do not fly, she is initially heartbroken. But then her mother shows her what emus can do.

### **Johnny Shark**

Johnny Shark loves to explore. His aunts and uncles often take him on adventures to see beautiful coral or deep caves or gardens of seaweed. One day Johnny's uncle takes him to see a shipwreck and Johnny gets to do some exploring all on his own.

### **Terrance the Fox**

Terrance loves smells. His sensitive nose delights in the smell of moss, of newly cut hay, of nearby chimney smoke and willow roots. After a long night of sniffing every corner of the hay field, Terrance is ready for a deep and sweet-smelling sleep.

### **Piper the Frog**

Piper, the young bullfroglet, is afraid to go on land. When she was very little, she had a small scare and the fear has stayed with her. When a big bullfrog comes to her for help, she learns that he is afraid of diving – and she is very good at diving! She helps him – and in doing so, decides to be just as brave as he is.

### **Flemming the Otter**

Flemming wants to be chief of the sea otters one day, just like his Uncle Colum. Unfortunately, he thinks that being a chief means being strong, confident and really bossy. But being strong, confident and really bossy all the time is stressful! And it makes a little otter really tired. When he learns from his uncle that

the most important quality in a leader is telling the truth, Flemming relaxes, and finds life is so much easier when you're just being yourself!

### **Farrah the White-Tailed Deer**

Farrah loves her days. She loves the tall grass where she sleeps, the long walks with her mother, and playing with friends. Her mother says that being a deer means being "open to change," but Farrah doesn't want anything to change. And then, quite suddenly, her bed in the hay field is no more – and Farrah learns the challenge and benefit of change.

### **The Caterpillar and the Flower**

This is a springtime story inspired by the Easter Festival about a fat little caterpillar who dreams of a bright red flower far away. Although others feel his dreams are only fancy, the little caterpillar undergoes a transformation and sees that his dream is not only possible, but there is even so much more.

### **Summer Season:**



*This is a collection of 13 summer stories, for the 13 weeks of summer.*

### **Kiddo the Koala**

Kiddo is like most other Koala joeys but for one special distinction – Kiddo is very... expressive. When he is mad, he shouts. When he is sad, he cries. When he is scared, he shrieks and when he is happy, he laughs. His mother is like most koalas and is patiently present for him while he expresses how he feels and then holds him close while they both take a satisfying nap.

### **Malcolm the Chipmunk**

Malcolm the chipmunk loves to snuggle. He loves it more than anything else. His parents, however, can't snuggle all the time. So Malcolm finds other clever ways to feel the hugs and squeezes he loves so much.

### **Mariah the Angus Calf**

There is something curious and strange about the old horse named Magus - and all the Angus Cattle advise the calves to stay away from him. One calf, however, wonders why Magus seems to know things that the cows don't and how he can seemingly disappear and then reappear somewhere else. When she finally finds out Magus' secret, she realizes that anything the old horse can do, she can do as well.

### **Chip the Border Collie Pup**

Chip loves his life in South Australia. He loves to sit with his brother Tucker and watch their parents tend sheep together. He loves the fields and the farmhouse and their little dog house next door. But what Chip loves more than anything is the young girl that lives in the farmhouse named Ruby.

### **Happy the Honey Bee**

Right when Happy is about to become a forager bee and join her friends outside the hive, she receives the news that she has been chosen to join the new queen and swarm to a new hive. This is bad news at first, but when she meets some other worker bees her age, the disappointment turns to inspiration.

### **Simon the Mouse**

While little Simon, the speckled mouse pup, plays with his friends in the kitchen of an abandoned mansion in town, he often looks toward the old butler's quarters. He is looking for his Aunt Hattie – and wondering what her adventurous life is like. And then, when he finally meets her, he hears stories about the big world outside the kitchen he has known his whole life.

### **Greycat the Kitten**

Under the porch of a farmhouse outside of town, a litter of three kittens is born. The family that lives there adopts the kittens and the children name them Jewell, Tasmania and Greycat. At first the children aren't as interested in Greycat – but they are in for a surprise.

### **Goldwater the Turtle**

Goldwater loves to do every quickly. Eating, cleaning, learning - everything is a race for him and this quality is starting to get on his family's nerves. That is, except for his great grandmother Sandlewood – she patiently watches her great granddaughter and then ... challenges her to a race. This story is about how doing things 'well' can have better results than doing things 'quickly'.

### **Sunny the Raccoon Kit**

Sunny is a raccoon kit who doesn't want to go to bed because he is too interested in the sun. After many weeks of long bedtimes, his father finally takes Sunny on a morning walk to watch the sun rise – and Sunny is at once amazed and very, very tired.

### **Safi the Giraffe Calf**

Safi and her twin sister Gwendele both want to stand and walk. When Safi decides that her legs don't work correctly because she isn't able to walk on her first try, Gwendele persists. By the end of the day Gwendele can not only walk but she can join the bigger giraffes for story time. When Safi sees this, she changes her mind and resolves to join the others.

### **Rama the Rhino Calf**

Rama the Rhino loves everything about mud baths – especially how they make him feel invisible in the forest. One day, after enjoying a mud bath, he meets up with a real boy who luckily can't see him!

### **Winger the Wombat**



Winger is excited about school – that is, until he learns that one of the classes will be about finding food in the garbage and composts of the town's people. He doesn't want anything to do with making messes and being rude, but he is surprised to learn that the class is quite different than he expected!

### **Maggie the Patient Cicada**

This is a story about a kind Cicada named Maggie, who delights all the other grubs under her tree, while waiting patiently for her day to emerge.

This story explores the natural cycles of things, and teaches that everything has its own time and place. And it's a story about patience for the great things to come!

### **Sample Pack:**



### **Aiden the Harbor Seal**

Aiden the Harbor Seal is curious about people. He has never seen a person, but he has heard stories about how they swim, how they climb, and how they ride in boats. When his mother takes him to see the remains of a very big and very old boat, he is amazed by what he learns about the world of people. And, at day's end, as he curls up with his mother, he is grateful for the enormous adventure.

### **Lavinda the Cheetah**

Lavinda the Cheetah loves the savanna. She loves the acacia tree that marks her home, and she loves her friends and families. What she does not like, however, is running. When her mother, a very fast runner, takes her out of school for some special time together, the two of them spend the day walking and chatting and then - running. At the end of the day, Lavinda snuggles down to sleep, feeling so much better about just being herself.

### **JT the Bat**

JT can't wait to fly. He can't wait to catch bugs with the grown bats. But most of all, he can't wait to hear the applause of the spectators as the bats make their nightly exit from under the bridge in town. His parents tell him that he will know when it is time to join them, but it takes a happy accident for him to learn that it is true. After a long night of new adventures, JT returns to his familiar home for a long, well-earned sleep.