



Sleep Little Kiwi, Sleep

by Deborah Hinde

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Sleep Little Kiwi. Sleep and the New Zealand curriculum

Sleep Little Kiwi, Sleep provides a valuable classroom resource for younger students across multiple curriculum areas.

Written in simple, easy-to-read language, the text uses many language features to describe little kiwi's night-time journey through the bush. Onomatopoeia and word families are used to describe little kiwi's movements (twirl, whirl, swirl, splish, splash, splosh) – words that will inspire listeners to move and devise their own movement-based word groupings. From a science perspective, the story provides a perfect introduction to ecosystems and food chains, and a springboard for discussing the disastrous effect that introduced predators have within New Zealand's own bush ecosystems.

Kiwi are, of course, beloved native animals, and will be well-known to readers. Less well-known will be the host of other creatures that the story introduces. An informative illustrated glossary at the end depicts 21 animals (native and introduced) that live in the New Zealand bush and that children will enjoy searching for in the illustrations. Both Māori and English names and words are used in the glossary and story, providing a useful introduction to te reo Māori, and an example for how learners can begin to incorporate the language in their own stories and texts.

***Tūi farewells the day with a song,
as the sleepy sun tiptoes away.
Darkness settles softly.
Birds close their eyes.
All is quiet.
All is still.***

Darkness falls, and little kiwi ventures out in search of kai. Stars shimmer and insects scuttle, but little kiwi must be careful – he isn't the only one awake in the night forest. Toriura (the stoat) is also awake and looking for something to eat.

Can little kiwi escape his hungry jaws? And what other predators are out hunting in the night forest?

Written in gentle language, full of musicality and soft internal rhyme, Sleep Little Kiwi, Sleep is destined to become a favourite, both in the classroom and in homes.

Illustrated in Deborah Hinde's trademark gorgeous colour palette, the pictures are crammed full of native New Zealand animals, some familiar and some less well-known. Sleep Little Kiwi, Sleep is the perfect introduction, and a lullaby of love, to the wonders of the New Zealand bush.



Book Details

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