



Can't Sleep Without Sheep

Susanna Leonard Hill , Mike Wohnoutka (Illustrator)

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Whenever Ava can't sleep, she counts sheep. But Ava takes so long to fall asleep, it's the sheep that are growing tired-until finally, they quit! When the sheep promise to find a replacement that Ava can count on, chaos ensues as chickens, cows, pigs, hippos, and more try their hand at jumping over Ava's fence. Finding the perfectly peaceful replacement for sheep might not be so easy after all.

With irresistibly adorable art, this delightful take on a familiar sleep tactic is sure to become a bedtime favorite.

Can't Sleep Without Sheep Details

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From Reader Review Can't Sleep Without Sheep for online ebook

Danielle Mootz says

Funny little story about a girl named Ava who has trouble falling asleep and counts sheep every night. The sheep's want to quit but are on the hunt for a replacement.

Gwen Ayler says

No animal can replace a sheep when it comes to counting something to go to sleep. Always show your appreciation for your sheep.

Rebecca Gomez says

Fun illustrations, clever story. Great for bedtime, but would be a good read any time of day.

Darshana Khiani (Flowering Minds) says

Ava is young girl who has trouble falling asleep at night, tossing and turning, since her mind is so busy. Her mother encourages to count sheep. Initially this goes okay, but after a few days the sheep are worn out and want to quit. They assure Ava they will find suitable replacements. A slew of animals such as chickens, pigs, and even penguins, try out for the position; but for various reasons it doesn't work out. Through the process the sheep learn how special and irreplaceable they really are.

I love, love, love the middle section of the book where the different animals are trying out. It was laugh-out-loud hilarious, and I normally do not laugh out loud. I can't wait to read it to my girls. The strong points of this book are the concept and colorful, warm-colored illustrations.

[Click here for the original review at Flowering Minds.](#)

Tam says

I don't think my 4-year-old quite understood the whole concept behind counting sheep but he still enjoyed the book. He liked seeing what each animal planned to do.

Anna can't sleep so her mom told her to count sheep. The sheep had to jump the fence so many times that they finally stopped from being exhausted. They told Anna they would find her a replacement. They tried horses (too much fun), chickens (couldn't fly over the fence), pigs (wanted to stop to snack), and the cows (crashed through the fence). Soon many different animals were lining up to audition including penguins, hippos, buffalo, flamingos, armadillos, and beavers. A stampede began.

Anna realized she would never get to sleep. The sheep realized they couldn't be replaced.

:Donna Marie says

CAN'T SLEEP WITHOUT SHEEP I think it's safe to say we've all heard of the practice of counting sheep to fall asleep. Well, this book turns the whole process on its head! This is one of the freshest approaches I've read for a "bedtime" story, but between the hilarious illustrations (by Mike Wohnoutka) and playful text (by Susanna Leonard Hill), I think there may be too many giggles to allow for sleepiness. Of course, after having read *Can't Sleep Without Sheep*, the reader will be well-equipped with the "how to" of it! :D LOVE it!

Danielle Hammelef says

I loved this imaginative picture book. I'm now a huge fan of this author and can't wait to read more of her books. The illustrations are fun and this is a highly recommended bedtime or anytime story that adults and kids will want to reread again and again.

Angela says

Funny picture book. Ava can't sleep and counting sheep isn't helping. The sheep try to find other animals for her to count with hilarious results

Alesha says

This was a great addition to my "Sweet Dreams" themed storytime. It's a cute story about a very imaginative little girl named Ava. Ava, whose mind was often "full of ideas and questions, thoughts of today, and plans for tomorrow," had trouble falling asleep. At the suggestion of her mother, she tries counting sheep, but her mind is so busy, the sheep quit due to exhaustion! Rather than leaving Ava to deal with her insomnia alone, the sheep hatch a plan to help her out, and everything from the hilarious to the disastrous ensues.

The illustrations are so dreamlike and magical that it seems as if the reader is right alongside Ava and the sheep (and everyone else)!

Heidi-Marie says

So fun! I love it. A perfect one to add to the preschool bedtime theme I'm planning--and much more fun than the other things I was coming up with. I love the different animals who were trying. The illustrations are quite humorous. Should be fun to try.

3/20/13 & 3/21/13: Fabulous. The kids were into it and the parents loved it. Both times it took until the page with the chickens for them to get hooked, but after that they were all for it. The larger Wed. group seemed to

miss something; perhaps not being able to see the illustrations as well? I don't know. But the Thu. group really got into it. I also remembered to have them stampede along with the buffalo on that day. But both groups enjoyed the part of the animals getting impatient when I asked them to tell me what animals they saw. There were so many and they loved seeing all the different ones. Everyone liked the ending, even if the parents got it better than the kids.

9/17/14 Parents loved this. The kids liked the pictures and different animals. Might not have quite grasped the concept, but it worked.

9/9/15 Used in Lambs & Sheep theme. Everyone got it, and loved it.

Alison says

Author Susanna Hill leaves ample room in the text for Mike Wohnoutka's pleasant and humorous illustrations. Mike Wohnoutka will be in Rochester Hills, MI for the annual Authors in April event: www.authorsinapril.org

Ina says

What happens when the sheep a young girl counts quit because she will not fall asleep? An hysterical tale about a competition to find a replacement animal! The horses were too beautiful, the chickens couldn't jump the fence no matter how hard they tried. This is a laugh-out-loud good time story with lovely illustrations. There are all kinds of animals that try to be the next great counting animal - from armadillos to penguins...there are pigs more interested in snacks than jumping the fence, and buffalo that just run right through the fence. Finally, Ava talks the sheep who, after all, "are fluffy and peaceful and perfect" to come back to work and she is finally able to fall asleep. My story time audience laughed, and also enjoyed identifying all the different animals who are lined for the audition. Definitely a story time winner!

Jo Oehrlein says

A little girl has such an active mind that she has trouble going to sleep. The sheep get bored because it takes her so long/so many. They try to find substitutes, but the other animals are silly and cause issues. The sheep finally give in.

Julie Grasso says

Well, here is another book that my 2.5 year old loved from the first read. In my opinion, the sign of a truly fabulous aged appropriate read, is if they are captivated from the moment the book opens. We loved the quirky take on the age old bed time ritual of counting sheep, and Susanna managed to make this extremely engaging and very funny along the way.

The text is expertly sparse, leaving so much room for the illustrator.

Our favourite pages are when the pigs have to stop for snacks and are too lazy to jump over the fence, and the Penguins looked at themselves, then looked at each other and said "We need a plan".... Priceless.

I must confess, I wanted to get this one out, regardless of whether the small target audience in our house wanted to or not lol. I have read so much from Susanna on the craft of picture books that I wanted to see the product of her writerly wisdom. I was not disappointed.

We give this one 5 Stars.

Lynn Davidson says

Gorgeous in words and illustrations, funny, wonderful for children of all ages.

When I watched the trailer for it I absolutely had to have this book! It is funny, adorable, exquisitely illustrated, and so fun to read.

Ava has a hard time going to sleep, her mind is just too busy, so she counts sheep. The problem is that it still takes Ava so long to get to sleep that the sheep complain they are getting too tired jumping the fence so she can count them. They quit! Not wanting to leave little Ava without something to count on, they try to find other animals to replace them, and what happens next is hilarious. Pigs, horses, penguins, and the list goes on. So very enjoyable.

The day my husband brought Can't Sleep Without Sheep in from our mailbox, I couldn't wait to read it. When I read this book through for the first time I also read it to my husband because I wanted to share it with him, and I laughed out loud at the antics, the surprises and the amazing and hilarious illustrations. It's even better than the trailer reveals. I have to say, the author and illustrator are a great team for this story.

This is a completely gorgeous book. An added bonus is that if you go to Susanna's website: <http://www.susannahill.com/books.html> you will find activities that go with the story and that you can print off for children to do.
