



How the Sun Got to Coco's House

Bob Graham

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Follow the journey of the sun across the world from a whale's eye to a little girl's window in Bob Graham's tender, transcendent story.

While Coco sleeps far away, the sun creeps over a hill and skids across the water, touching a fisherman's cap. It heads out over frozen forests, making shadows in a child's footprints, and balances on an airplane's wing for a little boy to see. The sun crosses cities and countrysides, wakes furry creatures, makes a desert rainbow, and barges into Coco's room to follow her through a day of play. With an eye for capturing small moments of shared experience, Bob Graham illuminates the natural wonder that comes with every new day.

How the Sun Got to Coco's House Details

Date : Published September 22nd 2015 by Candlewick Press

ISBN : 9780763681098

Author : Bob Graham

Format : Hardcover 40 pages

Genre : Childrens, Picture Books, Environment, Nature, Fiction, Juvenile, Storytime, Cultural, Family, Animals, Travel

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From Reader Review How the Sun Got to Coco's House for online ebook

Nick Swarbrick says

Again the crude four stars. It doesn't do justice to this book, really.

We have standard Bob Graham characters - the pudgy dog and child, the slightly alternative parents - with the warm Bob Graham family set up, but this is set on a global scale, as the sun - a watery, bright yellow sun- lights up an arctic hillside, a whale, a wintry beach... Graham shows us a yurt with some beautiful geese caught in the sunrise, a little boy on a plane, an old lady all alone, maybe in China: this is Bob Graham's vision of a world touched by sunshine.

It is worth investigating, too: Is Coco the little girl, or the dog, on "her mum and dad's bed"? What is the Fox's story, as it appears in four pictures? Why end on a massive townscape?

A clever little book that made me smile on a wet commute - but also one with a message of hope, and beauty and unity.

Cheryl says

Because it has minimal text, and because the text is poetical, because the pictures are simple, the book would have been so much better if it were smaller than the usual picture-book. Instead, it's oversize, which creates in my mind a ridiculous dissonance.

Too bad, really... a child-size book would have captured the child-size delight in thinking about the sun's journey around all the people and countries of the world. As is, it's as if Graham got too full of himself after his other successes.

Alice Bennett says

Such a lovely tale to read to children about the journey of the sun. Has some really fantastic vocabulary and sentences that I would pick out as a teacher and work on them with my class. They could create their own pictures, inspired by the beautiful illustrations in this book. This book could also be used as a starting point to get the children to write their own descriptive poems using some of the words from the book.

Vernon Area Public Library KIDS says

Season: Winter

STEM: Science

Similar to The Silver Button, Graham explores various cultures around the world as he charts the progress of one item. This time, we follow the sun as its light touches various parts of the world until it reaches Coco's room. Graham's minimal text holds such lyrical wonder, especially evident in the curiously inviting first sentence: "It had to start somewhere." For such a conceptual idea (the sun came from somewhere else before

it entered your bedroom) Graham achieves it while opening up dialogue and provocation to search for more in-depth scientific answers.

Reviewed by: Miss Kelsey, Youth Services, Vernon Area Public Library

Sue Read says

This book surprised me. I was expecting to enjoy this picture book, having been drawn to it by the front cover; I liked the warmth of the wintry scene and the night sky. The illustrations throughout the book continue to please and offer the reader softly drawn, gentle colours and a mix of frames and page layouts. I like the way Bob Graham achieves depth in the illustrations depicting the sun rising and shining on the places it passes over.

The next thing I liked was the sentiment of this book. The humbling, grounding and comforting fact that we all share the sun; no matter who we are or where we live or what we have. For this story takes us on a journey around the world, passing over the arctic, frozen forests, cities, countryside, deserts and villages, introducing us to different people and glimpsing their way of life. The richness of conversation about being human and sharing this world with the animal kingdom, also depicted in the story, is inescapable.

The thing I loved about this book and that really caught my attention page after page was the language; it is beautiful. The sun is personified, by way of a wonderful range of verbs to describe its actions; crept, paused, plunged, skidded, touched, tumbled, caught, balanced and leapt. I immediately thought of the exciting language opportunities for children within these words, for they have movement, feeling, emotion and the power to inspire images.

There are some stunning phrases for children to 'borrow' and place in their writing; imagine being able to use 'chasing the night', 'took passing glances at itself', 'bold as you like', 'it briefly trapped itself in a paper boy's bell' in your writing or be motivated by these ideas as you create your own.

There's one more surprise. Just when you are completely caught up in the poetic language of the sun's power and journey, we are reminded of the title once more as the sun settles on Coco's house and this becomes a familiar story about a young child excitedly waking up parents and playing with friends on a snowy day.

This book is a gem.

Zoe Hickey says

This book has brilliant illustrations and makes note of how the sun is universal and that everyone in the world has that in common. Would be good for Year 2 to look at the vocabulary used. Thinking about what other animals the sun would see and different people who would see it. The personification used could spark the children's imagination and you could get the children to create their own poems with some ambitious vocabulary. Amazing book to share!

Mathew says

What a lovely, clever story. As Coco prefers for sleep, we move away to follow the sun as it rises across a snowy tundra past polar bears, oceans, whales, across the east past cities and slumbering citizens until it finally reaches Coco in time for him to wake up. Graham's lovely frames and panels give us a sense of scope and wonder alongside the narrative which is touching with sprinklings of rich language. A lovely way in to subtly introduce children to the scope and size of the world and those who live on it.

Edward Sullivan says

Another wonderful example of Graham's remarkable ability to capture big ideas in small, seemingly insignificant moments.

Fiona Hill says

This book subtly introduces children to the relationship between earth and the sun. It shows the sun's journey across the sky using beautiful descriptions, whilst helping children to begin to understand that when we are fast asleep, even though we can't see the sun, it is shining bright somewhere else.

Lynn says

No one celebrates the moments of wonder in our everyday world like Bob Graham. The large size book provides lots of room for sweet and funny illustrations depicting the sun moving across the planet and finally arriving in Coco's yard and the surprise of an overnight first snow.

a perfect book for both pre-school and kindergarten classes and snuggly lap times.

Jillian Heise says

Just lovely. Follow the path if the sun awakening over the world.

Alice Bennett says

Sun is personified, using the most amazing verbs "plunge" and "skidded". Opportunity to pull out words to add to children's vocabulary. Universal book as the sun touches everywhere in the world. Nice, soft pastel colours reflect the comfort and calm feelings that the sun brings. Collect verbs on whiteboard to use in

writing later on.

Great for Year 1 and Year 2 - guided reading for more able children.

Kelsey says

Age: Infant-1st grade

Similar to *The Silver Button*, Graham explores various cultures around the world as he charts the progress of one item. This time, we follow the sun as its light touches various parts of the world until it reaches Coco's room. Graham's minimal text holds such lyrical wonder, especially evident in the curiously inviting first sentence: "It had to start somewhere." For such a conceptual idea (the sun came from somewhere else before it entered your bedroom) Graham achieves it while opening up dialogue and provocation to search for more in-depth scientific answers.

Benjamin Smith says

I really enjoyed this, following the journey of the sun around the world, before it reaches Coco and spends the day with him. Lovely illustrations

Bookrapt says

As Coco sleeps, we follow the journey of the sun as it rises in various parts of the world. Each page of this picture book is an individual story in itself, showing what happens when early morning sun rays light and warm a certain street, house, village, or forest. There is a wonderful mix of the domestic and the geographic as the reader travels the world with the sun.

The sun's movements link the individual stories together and the book ends in a satisfying way when sun rays reach Coco's bedroom window and wake her.

The illustrations are soft, gentle, and tell each story from a different perspective - through the window of a plane, or a paper boy on his bicycle. The text is brief and full of beauty and movement.

As a read aloud there is room to extend the story through further exploration about what is occurring on each page. Sunny yellow endpapers are the perfect opening and closing moments of this beautifully designed book.

How the Sun Got to Coco's House is as warm, uplifting, and full of promise as the first rays of the rising sun. A delightful book to share with pre-schoolers or early readers either in a group setting, or as a bedtime story.

Reviewed by Lee Rowe (Bookrapt)
