

3.1 Sleep, Baby, Sleep !



Sleep, baby, sleep !
Your father herds his sheep:
Your mother shakes the little tree
From which fall pretty dreams on thee;
Sleep, baby, sleep !

Sleep, baby, sleep !
The heavens are white with sheep :
For they are lambs - those stars so bright :
And the moon's shepherd of the night;
Sleep, baby, sleep !

Sleep, baby, sleep !
And I'll give thee a sheep,
Which, with its golden bell, shall be
A little play-fellow for thee;
Sleep, baby, sleep !

Sleep, baby, sleep !
And bleat not like a sheep,
Or else the shepherd's angry dog
Will come and bite my naughty rogue;
Sleep, baby, sleep !

Sleep, baby, sleep !
Go out and herd the sheep,
Go out, you barking black dog, go,
And waken not my baby so;
Sleep, baby, sleep !

- Anonymous



‘Sleep Baby, Sleep!’ is a traditional lullaby. A lullaby is a quick, soothing song that is used to ‘lull’ a child to sleep.

● **herds** : looks after the sheep. ● **thee** : you ● **heavens** : sky ● **bleat** : make a whinny sound ● **rogue** : Here, it means a child who does not do what is asked.



ENGLISH WORKSHOP



1. Sing the song.
2. Find the rhyming words used in the song.

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|---------------|---------------|----------------|
| ● sleep | ● trees | ● bright |
| ● be | ● dog | ● go |

3. The mother in this poem uses various ideas to make the child close its eyes and sleep. Find the stanzas where the following ideas are used.

Ideas

Stanzas

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| ● Threaten in a loving manner | Stanza ...4.... |
| ● Create a pleasant picture | Stanza |
| ● Remove the threat and make the child feel safe. | Stanza |
| ● Describe a night in a beautiful manner | Stanza |
| ● Promise a gift | Stanza |

4. Activity :

Form groups of 6 to 8. List the favourite songs/poems of all group members. Make a long list by putting together all lists prepared by the different groups. You may choose songs or poems from any language. Now describe your favourite songs with the help of the labels given below. Note that you can select more than one label for a poem.

For example, 'The Duck and the Kangaroo' by Edward Lear is a funny poem as well as a narrative poem.

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|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| ● patriotic song | ● prayer | ● inspirational song | ● folk song |
| ● lullaby | ● ballad | ● marching song | ● nursery rhyme |
| ● romantic song | ● nature poem | ● welcome song | |
| ● funny song/poem | ● sad song/poem | ● song for a special occasion | |
| ● title song | ● jingle | ● narrative poem | ● religious song. |

- Translate the labels into your mother tongue.