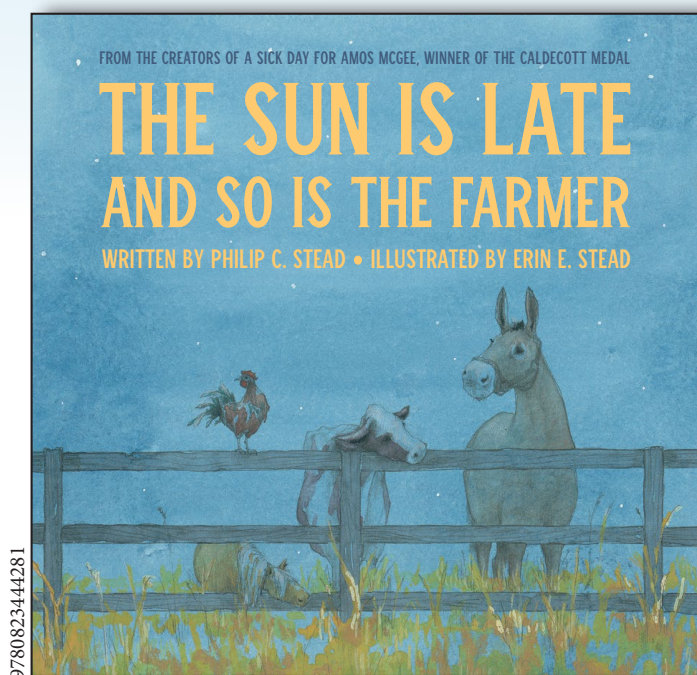


HOLIDAY HOUSE EDUCATOR'S GUIDE



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NEAL PORTER BOOKS

The Sun Is Late and So Is the Farmer

by **Philip C. Stead**

illustrated by **Erin E. Stead**

The Creators of *A Sick Day for Amos McGee*,
Winner of the Caldecott Medal

★“Endearing.”

—*School Library Journal*, Starred Review

★“Beautifully illustrated.”

—*Booklist*, Starred Review

★“Waste no time in adding this gem to the
storytime shelf.” —*Kirkus Reviews*, Starred Review

A Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection

ABOUT THE BOOK

On a peculiarly long night, three farm animals set off on a daring quest to bring the sunrise.

*A mule,
A milk cow,
A miniature horse,
Standing in a barn door,
Waiting for the sun to rise.*

As this trio rests in their comfortable barn, a realization slowly dawns on them: the sun is late to rise. After consulting Barn Owl (who always knows what to do), they take Rooster and set off on an epic journey further than they’ve ever gone before—through the acre of tall corn, past the sleeping giant, all the way to the edge of the world.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- Take a clue from the title of the book and discuss the time of day the novel is set. How many animals do you see on the front and back cover of the book? Who are they waiting for?
- The mule, the milk cow, and the miniature horse are standing in the barn door in the first illustration. Turn the page and study the wider view of the barn and the barnyard. How does the illustrator create silence? Note the light in the barn door. How does it cast a spotlight on the waiting animals?
- Explain why the miniature horse thinks Barn Owl will know what to do. Describe the chicken coop where Barn Owl likes to perch. Discuss whether he is a friend or enemy to the chickens. Follow Barn Owl on his adventure as the story unfolds.
- Explain why it takes courage for the mule, the milk cow, and the miniature horse to leave the barnyard.
- What is the sleeping giant that the animals see? How does it look scary in the dark? Explain how it belongs on the farm as much as the animals do.
- What is the rooster announcing? How do the colors in the illustrations change once the rooster wakes up the farm?
- Study the last illustration. What direction are the animals facing? Where do you think the farmer is leading them? How does this mean the problem is solved?

Guide created by Pat Scales, retired school librarian and independent consultant, Greenville, South Carolina.

ABOUT THE CREATORS



Erin E. Stead and Philip C. Stead are an award-winning picture book team. Their book *A Sick Day for Amos McGee* won the Caldecott Medal and was named a *New York Times* Best Illustrated Book and a *Publishers Weekly* Best Children's Book. Other popular books include *Music for Mister Moon* and their collaboration with Mark Twain on *The Purloining of Prince Oleomargarine*, a major *New York Times* bestseller and the recipient of much major media attention including profiles on *CBS Sunday Morning* and in *The New Yorker*. They live in Michigan.

