

Author's purpose

Authors write with a purpose. The purpose of my story is to both provide information and entertainment.

1. To learn about animals
2. To hear rhyming in a text and show how authors use repetition in a text to keep a rhythm when they write.
3. To help children understand the elements of setting, character, and a plot.
4. To give the letter z a chance to shine!

Nuzzles

By Annie Petrozzelli Spear

Copyright 2004





On a cool spring night, the moon shines bright. It lights the farm below with its soft glow. After a day of fun, animals gather each little one. But it is not a hug or a kiss, or a wave or a wink that bids these little ones goodnight. It is a nuzzle they're given, that's just right.



Without arms to hug or lips that kiss, think of what little animals could miss. Animals give nuzzles and show they care. Just watch on the farm as these animals share.

In the quiet shadows...



Horses nuzzle their foals and tickle them with their wet noses,



Cows nuzzle their calves as they rest in beds of grass,



Geese nuzzle their goslings with their beaks,



And sheep nuzzle their lambs in their cozy beds of straw.

Deep in the woods beyond the farm, other nuzzles are given by animals large and small. Because nuzzles are good for animals any size at all!



Behind the farm, a mother deer curls up beside her little spotted fawn and gives her a nuzzle.

Nuzzle, nuzzle and sweet dreams little fawn.



**Where the farm meets the forest, a mother fox glides up to her kit,
wrapped in its bushy tail to keep it warm in the cool grass...**

Nuzzle, nuzzle and sweet dreams little kit.



In a den out of sight, a mother wolf looks at her litter of pups. She scoots towards them and nuzzles each one quickly and gently...

Nuzzle, nuzzle and sweet dreams little pups.



Over a hill and near a stream in another den, an enormous mother bear tenderly nuzzles her two cubs with her long nose...

Nuzzle, nuzzle and sweet dreams little cubs.



Along the mountainside, a mother elk moves her large nose into her little calf's neck...

Nuzzle, nuzzle and sweet dreams little calf.



As the animals are saying goodnight outside, back in the farmhouse the family is getting ready for bed too. A young boy, who spent all day watching the animals, lies in his soft, warm bed waiting for his mother to tuck him in. Suddenly he gets an idea.



When his mother comes into his room to say goodnight, he gives her a hug and a kiss, but before letting go, he buries his head in her neck. Softly he moves his head back and forth, *Nuzzle, nuzzle, Mom. Goodnight.* he says.

Surprised, his mother smiles and giggles. Then she whispers, *Nuzzle, nuzzle and sweet dreams, my little one.*



**As the little boy closes his eyes and falls asleep,
so do the foals and the lambs,
the goslings and the calves,
the kits and the cubs,
the pups and the fawns.
The farm is now silent as all the little ones sleep peacefully in their beds...**

Nuzzle, nuzzle and sweet dreams little ones.