

## The Night Box – by Louise Greig, (BBC Bitesize – <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zj6qmfr>)

### Extract 1

*Darkness tumbles into the air. It dances and whirls around the room. It goes under the bed, under the chair - everywhere!*

*'Hello, Night!' laughs Max.*

*Night is mischievous! It chases blue, white, pink and green away.*

*Max presses his ear to the darkness. Night turns tiny sounds up LOUD.*

*Just a plink! That's all. Just a drip, not a waterfall!*

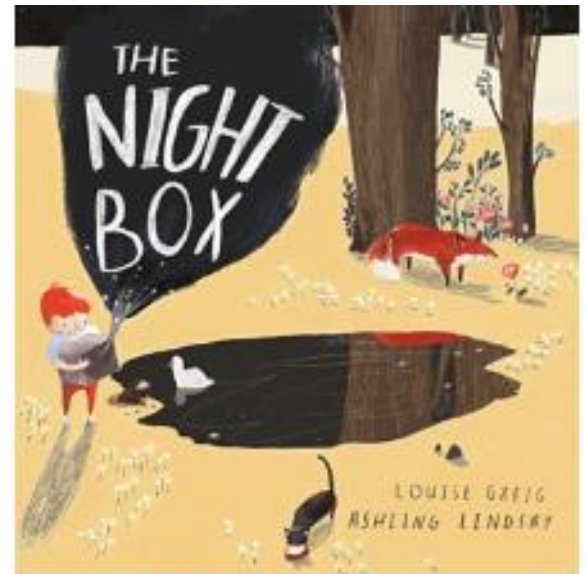
*Just a tap on the windowpane. Just a little branch as gentle as rain, nothing more.*

*Just the tinkle of a bell then a prrrrr- not a lion! It's a kitten!*

*Max holds on tight as darkness swirls and spills like ink into the world. Night is huge. It can hold a house. And a pond, and a forest.*

*A mountain, and a whale, even an ocean too!*

*Night soars, streams, stretches up to the sky like a kite and suddenly a thousand stars sparkle and fizz, shine and spin. This way, they say to a swan. Where is she going? She beats her strong white wings and honks one word - home.*



'The Night Box' by Louise Greig, illustrated by Ashling Lindsay. Published by Egmont.

### Activity 1:

1. Read or watch the first extract again. What do we find out about Night and darkness?
2. Decide on the three most important jobs that Night does.
3. Write out the three most important jobs. Call your list 'Top three jobs that Night does'.

## Extract 2

*Night is gentle. It floats down to the ground like a feather. It covers a fawn, asleep with her mother. Night is brave. Leave them in peace, Night warns.*

*Night shakes itself into the trees. Come badger! Come mole! Come owl! Come fox! Let's play!*

*And out of the shadows they snout and snuffle, leap and swoop.*

*Night gives a moon to a pond. And a mole to a goose! Now a rose has a fox. And a kitten? She has the milk!*

*Everything has something in the dark. The branch has an owl, and the wall has a tree, and Max has a bear and a soft, warm bed.*

*Night is kind. Night stays in Max's room, silent and strong all night long, to hold in its arms a bear and a boy.*

*But Night gets sleepy too. Goodnight me, it sighs to itself. My job is done. It is time to return.*

*And when Night falls asleep...*

*Max opens the box and WHOOSH! Night slips inside as Day sweeps out.*

*Day breathes into the leaves, quiet flies out of the trees, yellow rises from the rooftops. And a new song begins.*

**Activity 2:**

Read or watch the first and second extracts again.

The writer makes Night and Day sound like real people - this is called **personification**. That is why the writer gives Night and Day a capital letter to start their names.

Can you find five examples of how the writer makes Night or Day seem like a person?

You might want to record them in a table.

Example From The Text	How This Makes Night Or Day Sound Like A Person
1. <i>Night chases blue, white, pink and green away.</i>	The word 'chases' makes it seem like Night is running and chasing the colours.
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

### Activity 3:

1. Read or watch both extracts again. In activity 2, you found examples of how Night seems to be a person.

2. Imagine that Night writes a diary entry before he or she goes to sleep.

What would Night write about? You can use the extracts to help you or you could use your imagination.

3. Write your diary entry. Try and write five sentences.

#### Top tip!

These might help you to organise your ideas.

- How would Night start his or her diary? For example you could use **Hi, Hello, Good night, Dear** or **To**.
- What would the first line be? Usually, we summarise our day. For example, **I've had the best day** or **Guess what happened today?**
- What will you tell your diary? What have you been doing? Use the extracts or your imagination to help you. You might want to use words like **First, Next, Then, After that** or **Finally** to structure your events.
- How will you close your diary? You could think of a reason to end it. For example, **Got to go back into the Night Box, I am so exhausted!**
- How will you end your diary? You could use **Bye, From** or **Love**.