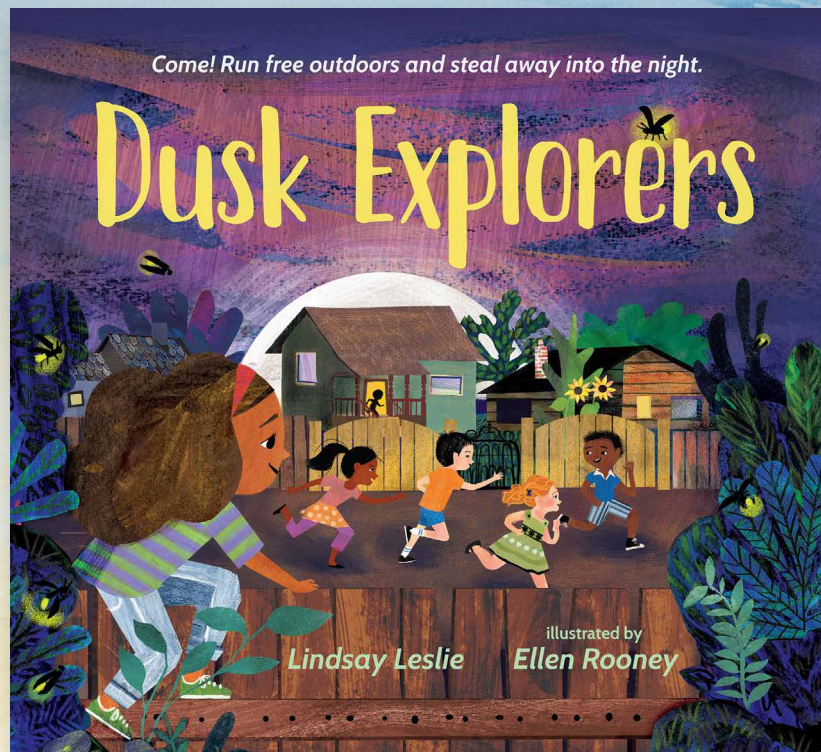


Be a Dusk Explorer!



It's that special time of evening, when the hours and the possibilities seem endless. Light is fading. A buzz of excitement and wonder takes over the neighborhood. . . . What outdoor adventures await?

Celebrate the magic of summer evenings spent outside with Lindsay Leslie's *Dusk Explorers*, illustrated by Ellen Rooney, and then head outside for some fun of your own!



Here are some suggestions:

1. Catch fireflies and put them in a ventilated jar. Release them before the night is over.
2. Find some slugs and have a slug race.
3. Photograph the setting sun with an adult. Have them pose you so it looks like you are holding the sun in your hand.



4. Climb a tree!
5. Collect rocks and make a rock family.
6. Notice the insects out at dusk. What are they?
7. Draw a sunset in chalk on your driveway or sidewalk.
8. Pick a blade of thick grass. Put it between your thumbs and clasp your hands. Blow where the grass is and try to make a whistle sound.

9. Catch and release toads. Make sure to name them!
10. Catch a moth. Draw what it looks like.
11. Hopscotch.
12. Collect leaves, trace them, and make them into characters.
13. Make a twig fort.



14. What sounds do you hear at dusk? Where do those sounds come from?

15. Find some roly polies.

16. On your evening walk, split into two teams and pick something to count, like bears in windows, rose bushes, cacti, or American flags. Whoever gets the most wins!

17. Take a walk, but pretend you are a car. Follow all the rules of the road. Use your turn signal!



18. Family leapfrog.

19. Helicopter—one person holds the end of a jump rope and swings it around. The other people jump over the rope as it comes around.

20. See any puddles? Jump in them.

21. Spot the cicadas!

22. Hot lava! Walk only in grass. If you step on any cement, you'll be in hot lava!

23. Use twigs, rocks, leaves, etc., to make a map of a town on the sidewalk or driveway.

24. Mark a large target out of sticks and stones. Use a frisbee or ball to see who can get a bull's-eye.

25. Find some dandelions. Have a contest to see who can blow the most seeds off with one blow.



26. Paint the changing sky. Use a timer and spend only one minute on a painting. See how many you can do.

27. Use a notebook to keep a dusk nature journal. What can you see, hear, and smell? What insects and birds come out at dusk?

28. Can you see the moon? Draw a picture of what it looks like each night that you can see it. Keep a journal through the summer and notice when you first see different plants, birds, and bugs.

29. Find a current sky chart online and find out what planets are visible in the evening sky. See how early you can spot them in the twilight.

