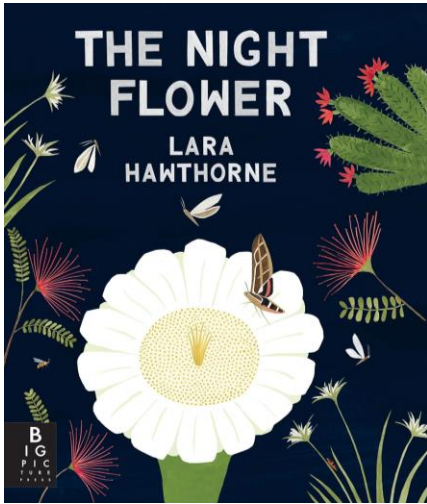


## Discussion Guide for Families



*The Night Flower: The Blooming of the Saguaro Cactus*

Author: Lara Hawthorne

Illustrator: Lara Hawthorne

**Themes:** Nature, Botany, Biodiversity

**Book Brief:** The Night Flower is a book about a desert flower that blooms only once a year. It shows how animals gather to see this special event in the Sonoran desert.

### READ ALOUD

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#### Before Reading: Build Background

- Model how to connect to the story by talking about deserts and the different creatures that live there. Discuss the idea of plants blooming and why that's special.
- Introduce some vocabulary words related to the desert ecosystem, like "cactus" or "bat".

#### While Reading: Make Connections

- Throughout the story, the author explores how the plants and animals coexist in the desert ecosystem. Pause every couple of pages and have your child name some of the plants and animals that are mentioned in the book.

#### After Reading: Ask Questions

- What did you learn about the lifecycle of the Saguaro Cactus?
- If you were an animal in the desert, which one would you be and why?

### RELATED ACTIVITIES

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#### If your child enjoyed this book, consider:

- Taking a nature walk in a local park or natural area to observe plants and animals in their habitats. Look for flowers, cacti, and other desert plants, and try to identify any animals you encounter.