

Food Chains

Read 'Good Golden Sun' and use this as a stimulus to explore how sunlight is key to powering life on Earth. Explore food chains and research how different animals obtain their food. Children could create their own food chain diagrams showing the flow of energy from the sun to the final animal.



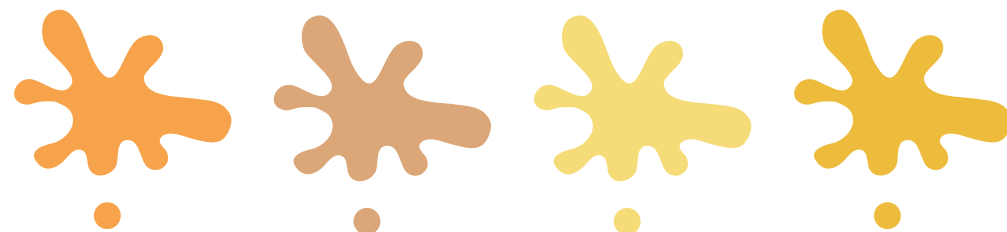
Shadow Play

The narrative in the book traces the mysteries of light from sunup to sundown. Along the way, the reader meets different animals in sunlight and shadow. Children could use building blocks to make shapes and draw around them. Consider how the shadow changes at different times of the day as the sun moves.



Sunlight Images

Ask children to create their own sunlight images using the colour palette from the book. Can they capture the feeling of the sun and its warmth?



Good Golden Sun by Brendan Wenzel

Good golden sun, there is much we'd like to know! Are you happy? Are you lonely? Are you feeling well today? Does your belly ever ache? Won't you come down to play? From sunbeam, to flower, to insect, to animal, to plant, to soil, and the earth itself...the sun makes, moves, and transforms life all around us. Celebrate the mysteries of light from sunup to sundown as it weaves its way through creation inspiring change, hope, wonder, and curiosity.



Get Creative

Author and illustrator Brendan Wenzel is known for using a mix of water colours and cut paper to create his illustrations. Look through the images in the books and see if you can recreate your own using similar techniques.



Descriptive Writing

Descriptive writing often uses the senses to paint a picture for the reader. Choose an image from the book and write a description of the scene using your senses to help structure your writing. You could use the sentence stems below to help:

I can see...
I can smell..
I can hear...
I can touch...
I can taste...



Asking Questions

Throughout the book, questions are asked by different creatures to the sun e.g. Do you ever get cold? How did you get so big? Are you happy? Are you sad?

Ask the children to write their own questions to the sun. They could even swap with a partner and answer in role as the sun itself!



Asking Questions - use the spaces below to ask your questions to the sun and then write answers in role as the sun itself...



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***Jenny Guest** is an independent educational consultant and writer alongside her role as an Assistant Headteacher in a large London primary school. She has been a primary school teacher for ages 3-11. Jenny is also an avid reader of children's literature and runs @bookishwaytoplay on Instagram, which aims to showcase and review the very best children's books, as well as create accompanying supportive learning activities for toddlers, preschool and primary school age children.*

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www.scallywagpress.com

GOOD GOLDEN SUN was highly commended for the Teach Early Years Award 2025 and is long listed for the Carnegie Medal for Illustration 2026

