



## ***Switching on the Moon* - collected by Jane Yolen & Andrew Fusek Peters**

**Published by Walker Books, RRP \$39.99.**

Blissful sleep is the focal point for this collection of bedtime poetry. A variety of soothing rhymes encourage the little ones to put away their toys and settle down for the night.

Of course, some children protest at all efforts to coax them into bed. Their stalling tactics can be quite creative. Several poems will appeal to them too.

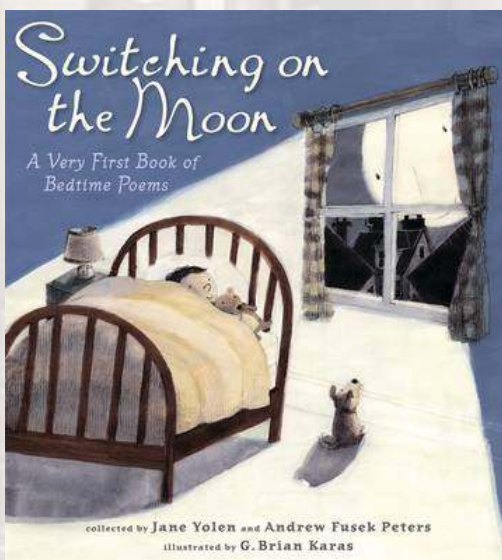
“Why can't I go to bed dirty? What's so special about being clean? I am dirty today. I'll get dirty again. So why bother to wash in between?”

The short, succinct poems are ideal for selecting a few to read without over-extending the bedtime routine. There's a range of themes to choose from: the night sky, bath time, tucked-up in bed, sweet dreams, and what happens in the night.

The illustrations are a generous size in this large format, quality hardback with durable paper. Artist G. Brian Karas sets restful scenes with subdued blues and browns, golden lamplight, milky clouds and twinkling stars. Bubble baths, soft beds, warm pyjamas and cuddly toys add to the ambience. Cute kids enliven the pages with their night-time antics.

Many poems use the power of suggestion to encourage children's eyes to close. “Droopy, drifts, drowsy, dozy, dream of everything that's cozy.” Guaranteed to have parents nodding off – hopefully the children will too.

**Reviewed by children's book author, Jean Bennett.**



**Promoting the enjoyment of children's literature.**