

The Night I Fled *La noche de la huida*

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About: *La noche de la huida* tells the tale of a young girl fleeing through the forest to escape unnamed, but armed, assailants. The spare prose shows how her five senses each come into play as she navigates an unknown environment in search of safety. Inspired in part by Snow White, it takes a closer look at the sensations and feelings that children experience as they search for safety. Translated into English, it would be a valuable tool for exploring questions of safety and refuge with school-aged children.

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SAMPLE TRANSLATION

Page 1

And then she runs.

She sidesteps the last rays of sun.

She is frightened.

She brushes past knifelike shadows.

There is no going back.

page 2

She stops abruptly at the slightest rustle. Her body tenses like a hare that's been spotted.

Her head turns as if she is a frightened robin. She opens her eyes wide.

page 3

Then she closes them and remembers. The blade of the machete, the man's voice, the shriek of a wild boar.

They had wanted to kill her.

page 4

She opens her eyes again. There are no more shadows.

The night is swift, and it reaches her in the blink of an eye.

The girl holds her hand out in front of her, moves it from one side to another, trying to push away the cloud of darkness that blinds her.

A wind begins to blow, and it blows so strongly that it pushes her to a tree with thick roots. She curls up there, at the base of its immense trunk, which leads to a kingdom of branches far above.

She hears the cries and the breathing of animals she can't name.

She senses their steps on fallen bark, crushing the buds.

She needs to go, to find sanctuary.

They get closer.

They are almost here.

They are going to eat her up.