

# *My Light*

by Molly Bang

Blue Sky Press. (an imprint of Scholastic, Inc.)

## A Reading and Discussion Guide

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### **SUMMARY:**

Listen to the sun, a golden star, introduce its impact on the earth and all living creatures. One reviewer called this “a story of sunlight to lamplight (how energy from the sun turns into electricity) from the point of view of the sun.” Stunning illustrations illuminate a detailed, informative text.

Recommended for ages 7-10.

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS AND ACTIVITIES:**

1. Look closely at the front and back covers of the book. What is this book about? What leads you to this conclusion?
2. Read page one. Who is telling the story? Who else could tell this tale?
3. Molly Bang provides extensive notes at the back of this book and at <http://www.mollybang.com/mylight.html>. Group students and ask them to research the following topics using Bang's information as well as print and electronic sources: generators, transformers, turbines, solar cells, photosynthesis, dams, electromagnetic spectrum, and coal. Read the book again as a class and ask groups to add relevant information.
4. The art in this book is intriguing. Consider the following questions:
  - a. Notice the changing text colors. Why did the artist decide on this?
  - b. Look at all the spiraling dots on the cover and throughout the book. What is their purpose?

- c. Search on the internet or locate in a biography of Vincent Van Gogh the painting, *The Starry Night*. Why have people connected this painting with *My Light*?

### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

Molly Bang, a distinguished author/illustrator of picture books, has turned her attention to environmental and scientific issues in recent years. Bang's interest in electricity was heightened when she added solar panels to her home: "I wondered how the tiny wires embedded in glass could actually catch sunlight and turn it into energy that powers my stove, water heater, ---and all my lights. This book is part of what I found out."

### **HELPFUL LINKS:**

Molly Bang's website <http://www.mollybang.com>

For young children: a puppet program "Meet the Sun" and craft  
<http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/projects/sunenergy.html>

How to build a solar hot dog cooker:  
<http://www.energyquest.ca.gov/projects/solardogs.html>



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