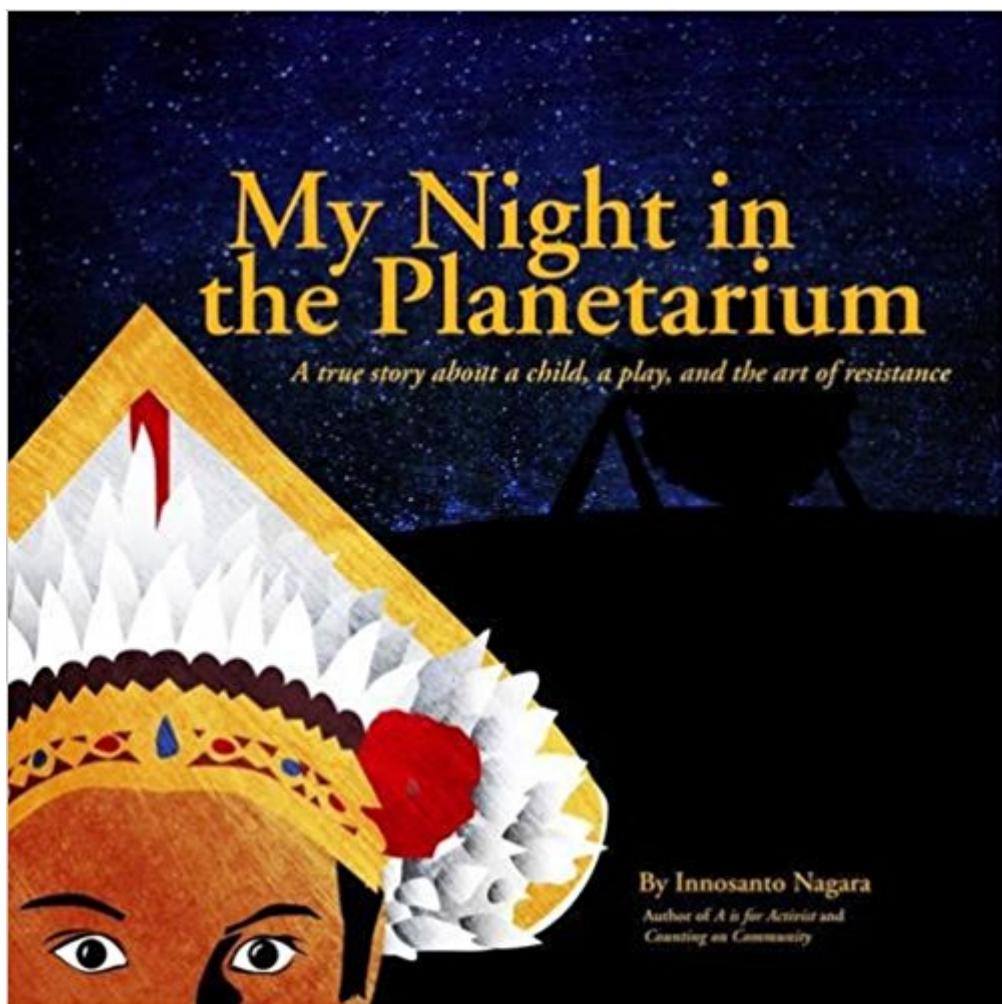


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# My Night In The Planetarium



By Innosanto Nagara  
Author of *A is for Activist* and  
*Counting on Community*



## Synopsis

From the author/illustrator of the bestseller *A is for Activist* comes *My Night in the Planetarium*, a high-adventure, true story from his childhood in Indonesia. The thrill of spending the night in a museum is the capstone to a story ultimately about free speech, political progress, and artistic defiance. Featuring Inno's gorgeous art style recognizable from *A is for Activist*, *Counting on Community*, and his joyous activism, *My Night in the Planetarium* cleverly and humorously combines history, geography, politics, and activism in an adventure story of childhood wonder, political resistance, and familial connection. Seven year-old Innosanto's father, a famous Indonesian playwright, is in trouble with the government for his newest play's unfavorable portrayal of governmental power and corruption. After a rousing performance at a large theater complex which also houses the Jakarta Planetarium, Innosanto's father manages to sneak out of town to avoid arrest while Innosanto and his mother spend an exciting night sleeping under the stars in the Jakarta Planetarium. A beautiful introduction to the history and culture of Indonesia, *My Night at the Planetarium* is an engaging, thought-provoking starting point for a discussion of colonialism, political corruption, and artistic resistance.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0700 (What's this?)

Hardcover: 24 pages

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Language: English

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ISBN-13: 978-1609807009

Product Dimensions: 9.4 x 0.4 x 9.3 inches

Shipping Weight: 13.6 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 stars 4 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #170,050 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #27 in Books > Children's Books > Education & Reference > History > Asia #79 in Books > Children's Books > Biographies > Social Activists #149 in Books > Children's Books > Geography & Cultures > Explore the World > Asia

Age Range: 6 - 9 years

Grade Level: 1 - 4

## Customer Reviews

Gr 2-5 •Nagara recounts what happened the night he and his mother stayed in a planetarium after a performance by his father's acting troupe. Nagara's father was an actor, playwright, and activist who often used his art as a means of peaceful protest against the oppressive government of Indonesia. Anticipating a clash with authorities after a final performance, his father escaped with the departing audience while Nagara and his mother hid out for the night in the planetarium, under the stars, so to speak. Nagara does provide some brief historical background of Indonesia: its colonization by the Dutch, its eventual independence, and the rise of a military-run government. The narrative is intimate and occasionally casual, which softens the impact of some of the scarier moments of the story but still engages readers and manages to explain colonization to young listeners. The pacing feels uneven at times, but overall this is a solid read. Collage and mixed-media illustrations are full of vibrant colors and lush detail. A brief epilogue gives further information about Nagara's father and his work. VERDICT A strong choice for larger collections looking to grow their international biography sections. •Jody Kopple, Shady Hill School, Cambridge, MA

"It's a stirring tribute to the power of the arts to challenge injustice, recounted with the confidence of a practiced storyteller." •Publisher's Weekly "My Night in the Planetarium is a sweet, smart tribute to the author's father, to the radical power of art, and to the rich history of Indonesia. With gorgeous illustrations and an engaging narrative, this is art and resistance as seen through a child's eyes, and told by a fantastic storyteller."--Kate SchatzRad American Women A-Z and Rad Women Worldwide "I loved this story so much, my God it is just like the reality we are living in, just like a mirror, it inspires and guides us to do what we need to do. This story makes us want to cry and scream out: it is enough, let us be brave and stop lying to ourselves, face the reality! It is a story that gives us hope and tells us not to hesitate and it teaches our children to always follow the truth even if it is sometimes difficult."--Nabil Al-RaeeArtistic Director at The Freedom Theater in Jenin refugee camp, Palestine "Innosanto Nagara's beautifully illustrated My Night in the Planetarium is a delightful narrative about Indonesia: the fourth largest country, which we should all know more about. Told from the point of view of himself as a young boy, the story encourages children to be curious, engaged and courageous. What a wonderful lesson about history and people power, written and illustrated with great charm and wit."--Medea BenjaminCo-founder, Global Exchange and Code Pink "Can children be fascinated by dictatorship, persecution, the struggle against silence in a country very few people have heard about? This enchanting book proves that this sort of story, treated with delicacy and humor can and should reach a

wide audience."--Ariel DorfmanPlaywright, novelist, and human rights activist. Author of Death and the Maiden, and many other works.

A beautifully-illustrated children's book that tells the story of an Indonesian boy's experience during the Suharto years when his father's drama troupe produced shows critical of the government. Highly recommended

I wanted to know more details about hiding in the museum and the author's father's dance and involvement in protest. But I guess that'd be too much for a picture book.

Freeman Awards  Winners 2016 Children's Literature My Night in the Planetarium by Innosanto Nagara (Seven Stories Press) The Indonesian-born graphic designer, Innosanto Nagara, shares  a true story about a child, a play, and the act of resistance  in his award-winning autobiographical picture book. Starting with a lightly humorous overview of Indonesian history, through colonization by the Dutch, he leads up to 1977, a pivotal moment in his life, during the brutal rule of President Suharto.

Nagara  stunning illustrations depict a play performed in traditional Indonesian dance costumes created and performed by his father in which an unspecified army general is criticized. Police are sent to arrest his father and Innosanto and his mother flee from the production and hide in an adjacent planetarium. What could be a terrifying experience for a child becomes a night filled with the security of strong parental love and the magic of the stars.

Nagara  newest work, along with his earlier books, show the heroic potential of ordinary people and the power of art to challenge injustice.

I love all of Innosanto Nagara's kids' books, as does my daughter, who has grown up with them.... But THIS one is a different animal altogether: My Night in the Planetarium is a master work by a master storyteller. The illustrations are pitch-perfect and stunningly colored, as always with Nagara's books, but the true gem here is the story itself: a profound and poetic tale of a young boy forced into hiding with his family under the Indonesian dictatorship, told in a tone of retrospective wonder. The innocence of the child's world makes the awful political reality of the grownup world comprehensible and even intriguing. **BEST KID'S BOOK of 2016!**

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My Night in the Planetarium This Book Is a Planetarium: And Other Extraordinary Pop-Up

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