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## Balinese Folktale Picture Book *Go to Sleep Gecko* (August House) Joins SmartyPal's Collection of Interactive Learning Apps

Combining mobile technology with timeless folktales promises to actively engage children in learning.

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Atlanta, Georgia (December 10, 2015) <u>Go to Sleep Gecko</u>¹ is now available for download as an interactive learning app from esteemed learning platform <u>SmartyPal</u>². Go to Sleep Gecko, written by <u>Margaret Read MacDonald</u>³, joins <u>The Drum</u>⁴, written by <u>Rob Cleveland</u>⁵, as part of a small but growing collection of award-winning August House picture books adapted for the iPad. SmartyPal's innovative learning platform is infused with challenging activities that adapt to each child's individual learning level. The games are designed to vary based on a child's unique strengths, ensuring that kids are actively engaged in learning as they explore a story. You can enjoy this multimedia version of *Go to Sleep* Gecko, which includes fun reading games and exercises, through SmartyPal's app in the <u>iTunes Store</u>⁶.

The endearing Balinese folktale *Go to Sleep Gecko* follows the story of a restless young gecko who learns that, ultimately, his well-being depends on the entire village working together. Every night Gecko is awakened by the fireflies outside

<sup>3</sup> http://www.augusthouse.com/#!MARGARET-READ-MACDONALD/c1rrl/i9uacnn9108

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> http://storysearch.augusthouse.com/?allMediaSearch=true&fq=title:Gecko

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> http://www.smartypal.com/

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> http://storysearch.augusthouse.com/?allMediaSearch=true&fq=title:drum

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> http://www.augusthouse.com/#!Rob-Cleveland/c1rrl/TestimonialsItem2\_i9u9e7pv5\_2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/smartypal-educational-stories/id934497478?mt=8

his window, and when Gecko doesn't get his rest, he gets a little grumpy. He goes to Elephant, the head of the village, to complain. His request that the fireflies stop working at night sets off a comical chain of problems for and complicates everyone's life.

In October 2014, Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong, read *Go to Sleep Gecko* to over 200 guests and children to commemorate kidsREAD's 10th anniversary. The <a href="video">video</a> of the event shows how engaged the children are with *Go to Sleep Gecko* and Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. In addition to being celebrated in Singapore, this charming picture book has received a number of other respected awards including: Cooperative Children's Book Center Choices, The KIND Children's Honor Award, Book of the Year Finalist, Children's Picture Books category; Anne Izard Storyteller's Choice Award, Best 100 Children's Book Picks and the Flicker Tale Award of North Dakota

August House is a highly acclaimed and award-winning multimedia publisher of children's picture books, folktale anthologies, and resource books. Located in Atlanta, GA, August House has developed one of the most highly respected collections of folktales from the world's great oral traditions.

You can find more information about August House at AugustHouse.com<sup>8</sup>.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> http://www.youtu.be/iBQ2D4t0ANw

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> http://augusthouse.com