



Bedtime in Summer ♦

Lying in bed,
not a bit sleepy,
listening to lots of things
going on outside.
People chatting,
and watering their gardens,
and mowing the grass.
Birds calling,
boys shouting,
music from open windows
and a smell of supper.
The sun's still up.
It's slanting in under the curtains.
Alfie wonders
if he went downstairs
whether they'd let him stay up, too,
just for a little while.

Shirley Hughes
Alfie: The big Alfie and Annie Rose storybook
London, Random House, 2002