Tick Tock Till Bedtime
Lizzie works down in the town
In the largest office block...
The one beside St Peter’s Church,
The one with the broken clock.
Lizzie has a little boy
And Frankie is his name...

He waves as she goes off to work
Each day is just the same.

And every night when she returns
She tells him things she's seen...
The problems she's had to solve
The places she has been.
On Monday at her meeting
Lizzie heard she’d have to wait...

On Friday, for a parcel
That might make her get home late.
Frankie clutched teddy
His most favourite cuddly toy...
As he shrugs with disappointment
Lizzie smiles back at her boy.

“I promise I will do my best,”
Lizzie smiled, then said...

“And tell you all about my day
And tuck you up in bed.”
On Tuesday Lizzie filed reports
And helped John look at quotes...
She organised her team to meet
And asked June to write the notes.
On Wednesday Frankie asked his mum
"What else have you done?
Daddy fitted next door’s kitchen
His job sounds far more fun!"

His mum replied "All jobs are different,
And I enjoy the work I do,
But the hours that I have to work
Mean I can’t spend as much time with you."
That day Lizzie worked so hard
No time for cups of tea...
So many things to organise
And no bedtime with Frankie.
The next day Frankie was upset
“Why did you stay behind?”
And Lizzie gave him a big hug
“I thought you wouldn’t mind?”

“I like to hear about your day,”
He said to her surprise
“I’m bored of daddy’s stories
About cupboards the wrong size.”
Later on that afternoon
Lizzie met some people...

Planners for the local church
That needs a brand-new steeple.
On Friday Lizzie’s email pinged
She had a tracking code...

Now she could find out the time
The parcel hit the road.

The driver had 10 stops to make
And they were number eight...

“I hope the traffic isn’t bad,”
She thought, “Or they’ll be late.”
She checked the tracking once again
Now they were stop five
Each time she looked they were nearby
Not much further left to drive.

She looked out of the window
As the light began to dim
She thought about her Frankie
And saying goodnight to him.
The clock is ticking on the wall
And there’s now no one about...

Will this delivery ever come?
Time is running out!
Just then a truck pulled up outside
And straight away she knew
It was what she’d been waiting for
The parcel delivery crew.
Back at home in time for bed
And Frankie’s wide awake...

He asks, “What was the parcel
That made you have to wait?”

“It was an important document,”
Says Lizzie with a smile...

“And I’m the only person
Who can sign for such a file.”
On Monday back at work again
The weekend was such fun
But today Lizzie has an early start
So much work needs to be done.

“It’s time for sleep now,” she says
As she kisses him goodnight...

“It’s time to go to dreamland
Don’t let the bed bugs bite!”
She has meetings, piles of paperwork
Lots of calls she has to make...
There are emails to catch up on
And no time to have a break.
When she finally looks up at the clock
Lizzie thought it would be fine...

But it's far later than she imagined
She won't make Frankie's bedtime.
Lizzie grabs the telephone
To tell Frankie that today...

She won't be home for stories
"Sometimes work gets in the way."

"It's ok," says Frankie
Not sounding so forlorn...

"I'll see you in the morning."
Then he gave out a yawn.
Back at home just after bed
With Frankie tucked in tight...
Lizzie whispers while he’s sleeping
And turns off the bedside light.

"I’ll talk to you in the morning,"
Then lays a kiss upon his head...
Lizzie thinks about tomorrow
And being home on time instead.
About the Author
Children's author, Giles Paley-Phillips, currently hosts the podcast BLANK, and is a previous winner of the People’s Book Prize, Heart of Hawick Children’s Book Award 2013, Bizziebaby Gold Award and The US Forward National Literary Award for his book The Fearsome Beastie.

About the Book
Tick Tock Till Bedtime was created by global job site Indeed to celebrate the highs and lows that come with a working week, and to portray how this can affect whether a parent makes it home for bedtime or not in a way that children can understand.

The story is part of a campaign from Indeed which aims to arm workers in the UK with the tools they need to have proactive and positive conversations about job search and work with their children, partners, friends and colleagues.

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