

Before We Sleep



Book Information

Author	Giorgio Volpe
Illustrator	Paolo Proietti
Publisher	Red Comet Press
Ages	4–8
Genre	Fiction
Text Structure	Third person narrative with dialogue
Themes & Ideas	Hibernation, friendship All that matters is being together.
Language & Literary Features	Dialogue, adjectives
Sentence Complexity	Simple, compound, and complex sentences
Vocabulary	burrow, hibernate, pleaded, nestled, forest, tige
Special Vocabulary	dialogue, adjectives, special colors: burnt orange, chestnut brown, amber, burgundy, coppery
Illustrations	Colorful, endearing illustrations

Story Summary

Little Red the fox and Hazel the gray dormouse are the very best of friends. They play together every chance they get. Fall is the perfect time to play hide-and-seek. Yet as winter approaches, Hazel starts to get ready for hibernation. Little Red doesn't want their fun to end. He wants to play all winter long, not wait until Hazel wakes in spring.

Can Little Red find a way to keep her up? To make the sun stay high, or make the forest hold its fruit? Maybe he can trick her into staying awake by telling her a story. Come along as two friends settle in for sleep—even if they might prefer to play the season away.



Focus

Hibernation

Activity Ideas

Writing/Drawing

Write a story about Fall. Illustrate.

Research Hibernation

Prepare your research for presentation to the class.

Animal Pictures

Using animal pictures have children sort the animals into different categories, such as animals that hibernate and animals that do not. Categories can be extended to include animals that survive the winter by migrating. Have children label their categories and paste them onto poster board to display for the rest of the class.

Pro's and Con's

Create a pro-and-con chart to discuss the advantages and disadvantages of hibernating.

Additional activities can be found in the following pages of this document.

Before We Sleep

With winter on the way and hibernation around the corner, a fox and a gray dormouse prepare for the long sleep.

Discuss the story and write your answers together.

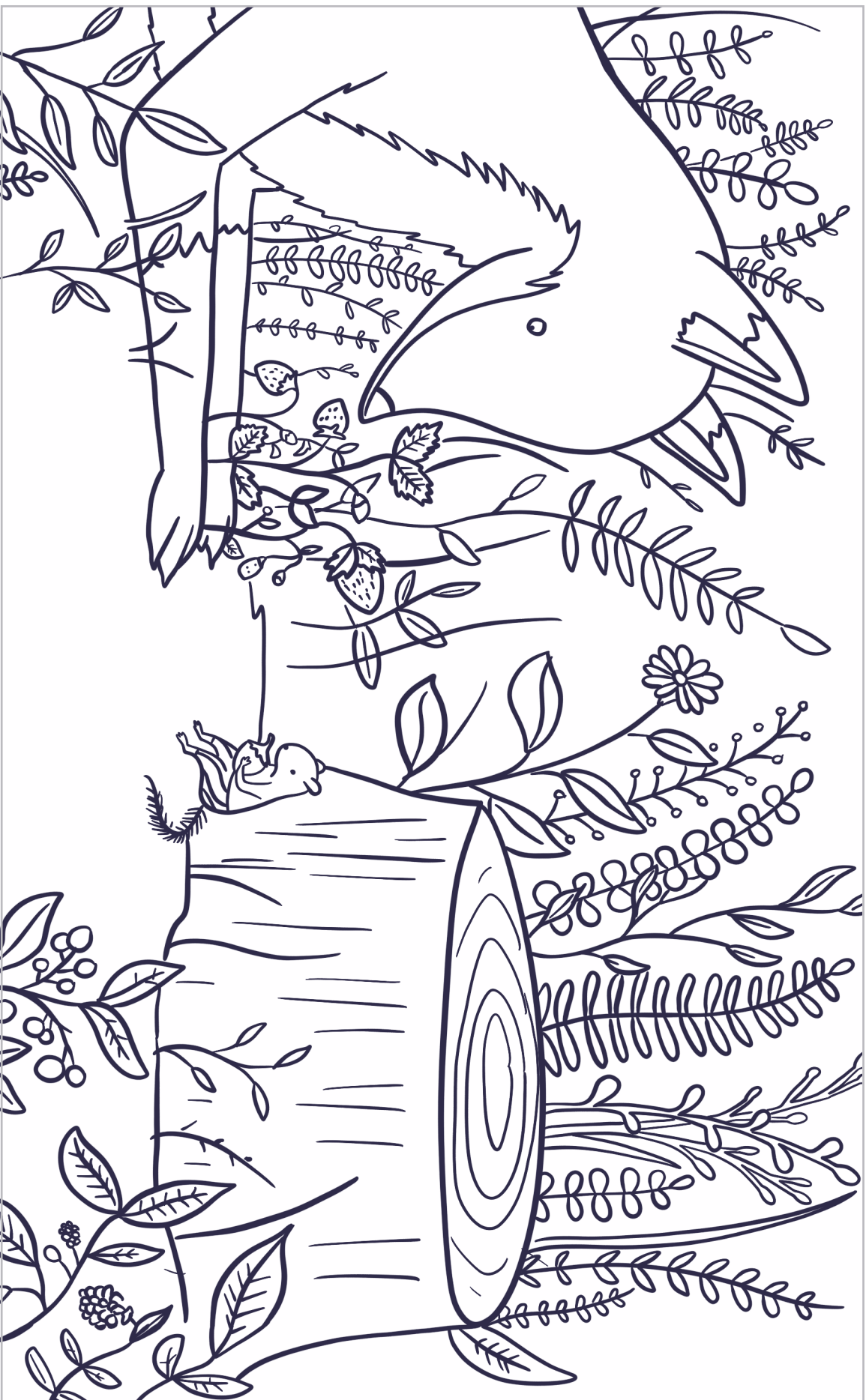
What is *Before We Sleep* about?

Do you have a friend(s) that you want to spend lots of time with?

What do you and your friend(s) like to do when you are together?

How do you feel when you are not with your friend(s)?

Why is it important to have a friend(s)?



Drawing and Writing

NAME _____

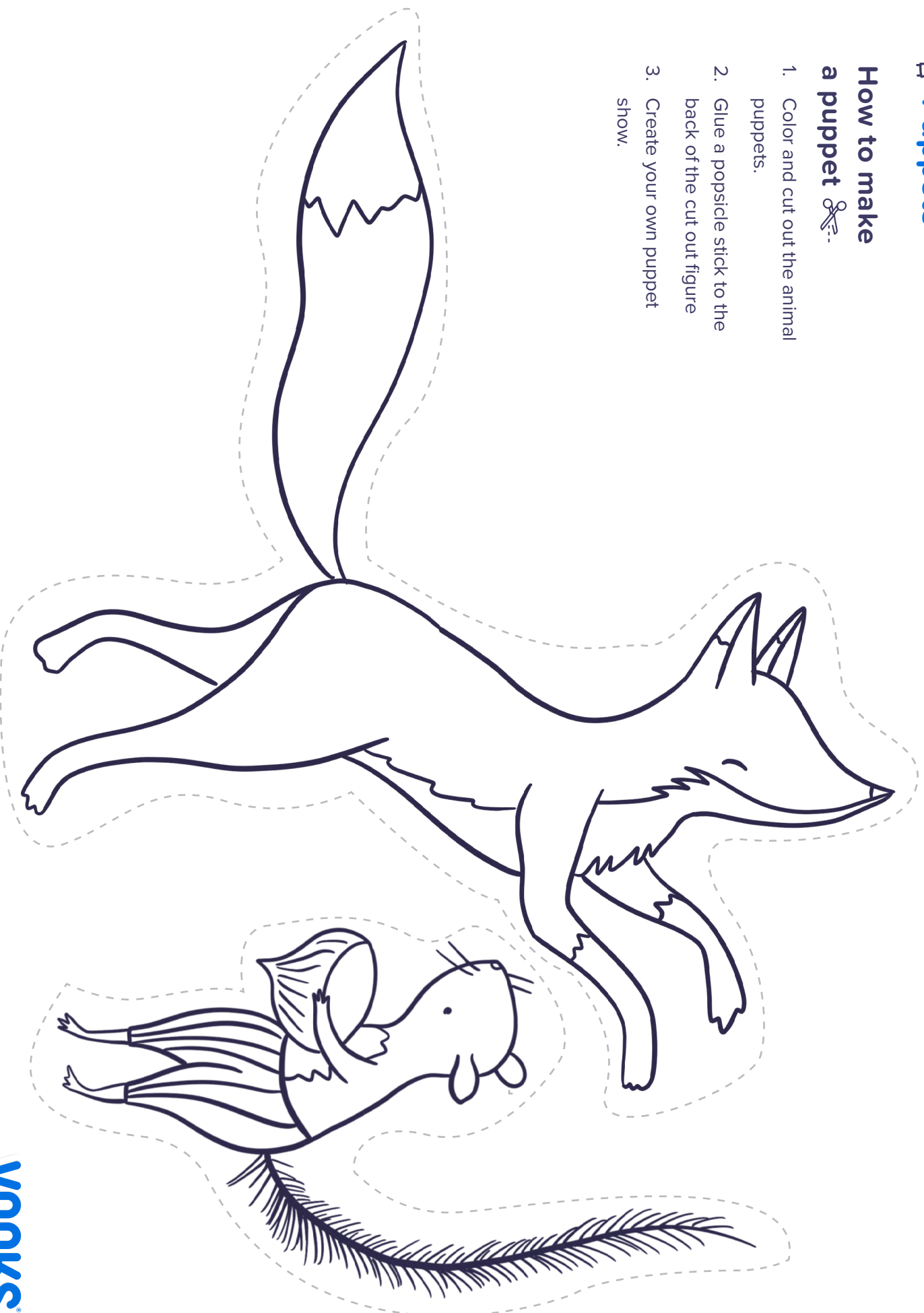
Draw a picture and write a story about what it would be like to sleep all winter. Would you like to hibernate through the winter? Why or why not?



Puppets

How to make a puppet

1. Color and cut out the animal puppets.
2. Glue a popsicle stick to the back of the cut out figure
3. Create your own puppet show.



Building Challenge

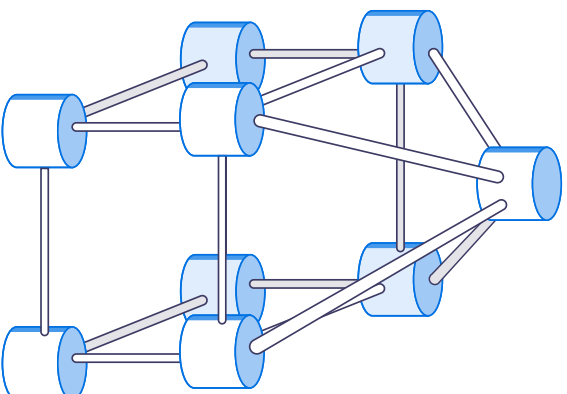
Build a hibernation shelter for Hazel

Materials

- Toothpicks
- Mini-Marshmallows

Directions

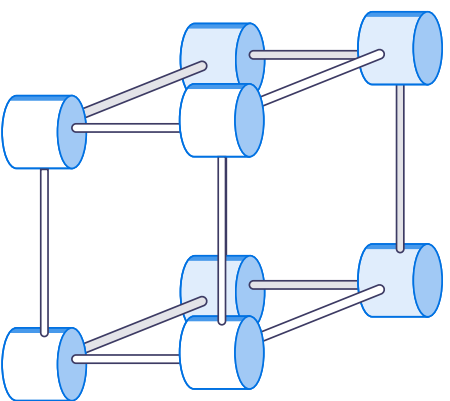
1. Create a hibernation shelter like the examples shown.
2. Attach a marshmallow to each end of a toothpick and connect more toothpicks to form a shelter, then let your creativity take over!



PYRAMID

9 X 

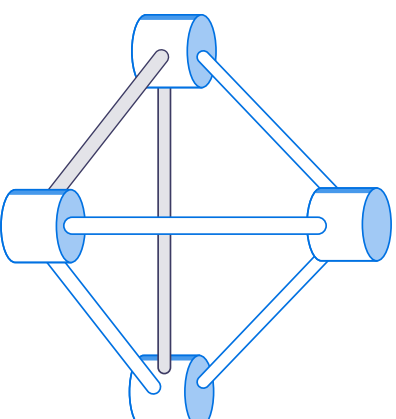
16 X



CUBE

8 X 

12 X



PYRAMID

4 X 

6 X



Word Search

NAME _____

Find the words from the *Before We Sleep* word bank in the word search below.

The word can be positioned in all directions, written from left to right, from right to left, horizontally, vertically, and diagonally, but is always on one straight line.

Word Bank

- ☐ BAT
- ☒ GROUNDHOG
- ☐ OPOSSUM
- ☐ SQUIRREL
- ☐ BEAR
- ☐ HAMSTER
- ☐ RACCOON
- ☐ TOAD
- ☐ CHIPMUNK
- ☐ HEDGEHOG
- ☐ SKUNK
- ☐ TURTLE
- ☐ FROG
- ☐ MOUSE
- ☐ SNAKE
- ☐ WOODCHUCK
- ☐ BUMBLE BEE

X	R	B	F	W	H	B	M	R	K	H	S	H	B	A	J	S	B	H	S
K	R	L	E	R	R	I	U	Q	S	K	C	N	E	P	R	R	R	E	Y
N	E	L	T	R	U	T	D	M	U	E	O	H	E	O	B	T	P	D	J
L	Q	O	F	X	A	O	G	N	B	O	O	V	I	X	Y	B	Y	G	C
V	Q	D	O	C	P	E	K	I	C	L	G	W	V	P	T	B	I	E	H
B	Y	W	I	O	F	W	B	C	B	X	E	J	Q	W	M	M	H	H	Z
I	N	F	S	R	U	Q	A	M	D	R	M	H	B	V	R	U	K	O	M
J	I	S	H	E	X	R	J	K	F	K	L	C	T	O	A	D	N	G	A
N	U	P	L	T	T	Q	S	J	G	J	F	N	O	J	N	K	B	K	K
M	U	M	Z	S	L	L	X	N	D	O	Z	H	I	X	H	E	O	Y	J
U	V	Q	C	M	Q	C	G	F	G	Q	R	Z	W	I	L	S	A	A	D
I	O	W	A	A	D	P	I	N	E	N	H	F	C	U	G	U	I	Q	F
B	N	G	G	H	Y	A	A	K	Y	D	D	K	F	E	R	O	P	L	W
S	A	D	T	K	P	A	A	J	G	Q	A	O	Q	H	O	M	D	C	S
S	O	T	V	F	J	N	K	R	W	O	O	D	C	H	U	C	K	S	J
J	J	A	Z	L	S	Y	J	E	C	G	U	E	G	H	N	D	R	D	E
Y	D	X	K	B	F	A	H	Q	O	H	J	X	A	C	D	J	J	G	Y
R	E	V	E	E	A	O	F	U	Q	P	T	Y	A	X	H	Y	V	S	K
N	S	C	O	A	V	A	Y	X	V	W	B	M	W	A	O	Q	X	R	D
B	M	Y	Z	C	Y	T	P	U	F	R	P	Y	W	C	G	Z	H	W	P