



Heartwood HOTEL

A TRUE HOME

TEACHER
GUIDE

About the book

When Mona the Mouse stumbles across the wondrous world of the Heartwood Hotel in the middle of a storm, she desperately hopes they'll let her stay. As it turns out, Mona is precisely the maid they need at the grandest hotel in Fernwood Forest, where animals come from far and wide for safety, luxury, and comfort. But the Heartwood Hotel is not all acorn soufflé and soft moss-lined beds. Danger lurks, and as it approaches, Mona finds that this hotel is more than a warm place to spend the night. It might also be a home.

This delightfully enticing start of a new chapter book series tells a tale of friendship, courage, and community, with exquisite black-and-white illustrations throughout.

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (USA)

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1484731611

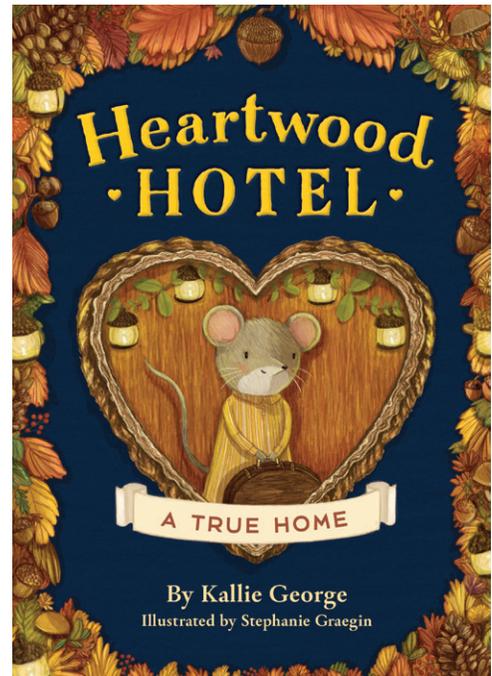
Paperback ISBN: 978-1484746387

HarperCollins (Canada)

ISBN: 978-1443443937

About this Guide

These discussion questions and activities are designed to support the goal of helping students explore the books and their own creativity. Tap into the adventure of this series with language arts lessons in creative writing, character studies and more!



The Heartwood Series



Book 1: A True Home

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (USA)

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1484731611 • Paperback ISBN: 978-1484746387

HarperCollins (Canada) – ISBN: 978-1443443937

Book 2: The Greatest Gift

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (USA)

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1484732342 • Paperback ISBN: 978-1484746394

HarperCollins (Canada) – ISBN: 978-0606399678

Book 3: Better Together

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (USA & Canada)

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1484732359 • Paperback ISBN: 978-1484746400

Book 4: Home Again

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (USA & Canada)

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1484732366 • Paperback ISBN: 978-1484746806

Book 5: Forever Family

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (USA & Canada)

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0316567732 • Paperback ISBN: 978-0316567749

Book 6: A Brave Beginning

Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (USA & Canada)

Hardcover ISBN: 978-0316567756 • Paperback ISBN: 978-0316567763

About the author

Kallie George is the author of several books for children, including the Magical Animal Adoption Agency series. She is an author, editor, and speaker, living on the Sunshine Coast in BC, Canada, near the sea. She holds a master's in children's literature from the University of British Columbia. In addition to writing books for young readers, she leads workshops for aspiring writers. She happened across the Heartwood Hotel on a hike with her husband and wishes she was a mouse like Mona so she could stay there, too. Visit Kallie online at kalliegeorge.com.



About the illustrator

Born during a blizzard on Groundhog Day in Chicago, Illinois, Stephanie Graegin spent her childhood drawing and collecting fauna in Fort Wayne, Indiana and Houston, Texas. She received her BFA in Fine Arts from the Maryland Institute College of Art in Baltimore, Maryland. She later attended Pratt Institute in Brooklyn, New York, obtaining a Master of Fine Arts in Printmaking. Stephanie now lives in Brooklyn, is still drawing, and has managed to keep her collection down to one orange cat. Find out more at graegin.com.



Book 1: A True Home

Questions for thoughtful discussion

- 1) How is the Heartwood kept secret from most animals?
- 2) What does the sign mean: We Live by Protect and Respect, Not by Tooth and Claw? What animals don't follow the sign's motto?
- 3) Tilly doesn't treat Mona very nicely, and Mona learns from Mrs. Prickles that her heart has a hurt. On Page 70, Mona says, "Did a hurt allow you to hurt others, though? Mona didn't think so." What do you think?
- 4) Mona breaks a lot of rules at the Heartwood—including letting in Ms. J, the June bug. Why did Mr. Heartwood make the rule to keep out bugs? What does he realize? Are there some rules you disagree with? Why?
- 5) Most small animals usually have two options when faced with danger—to run or hide. What does Mona choose to do at the end of the book? How has she grown?
- 6) There are a lot of animals that come and go at the hotel. Which was your favorite? Why?





Activities for
Creative Nourishment

ACTIVITY

Create your own Motto

Above the Heartwood Lobby hangs the motto: “We Live by Protect and Respect, Not by Tooth and Claw.” If you lived in Fernwood Forest, what would your motto be? (Hint: first decide what kind of animal you are—a wolf would come up with a much different motto than a mouse!) Create and design your own motto in the banner below.



ACTIVITY

Create your own menu for the Heartwood Hotel

Every night, Ms. Prickles, the Heartwood cook, comes up with a new menu for the guests in the ballroom. Tonight, she's sick! You're in charge of the menu instead. What should the guests eat? Remember, this is food for animals! Design the menu below:

Menu

Appetizers

Main Courses

Desserts

Beverages

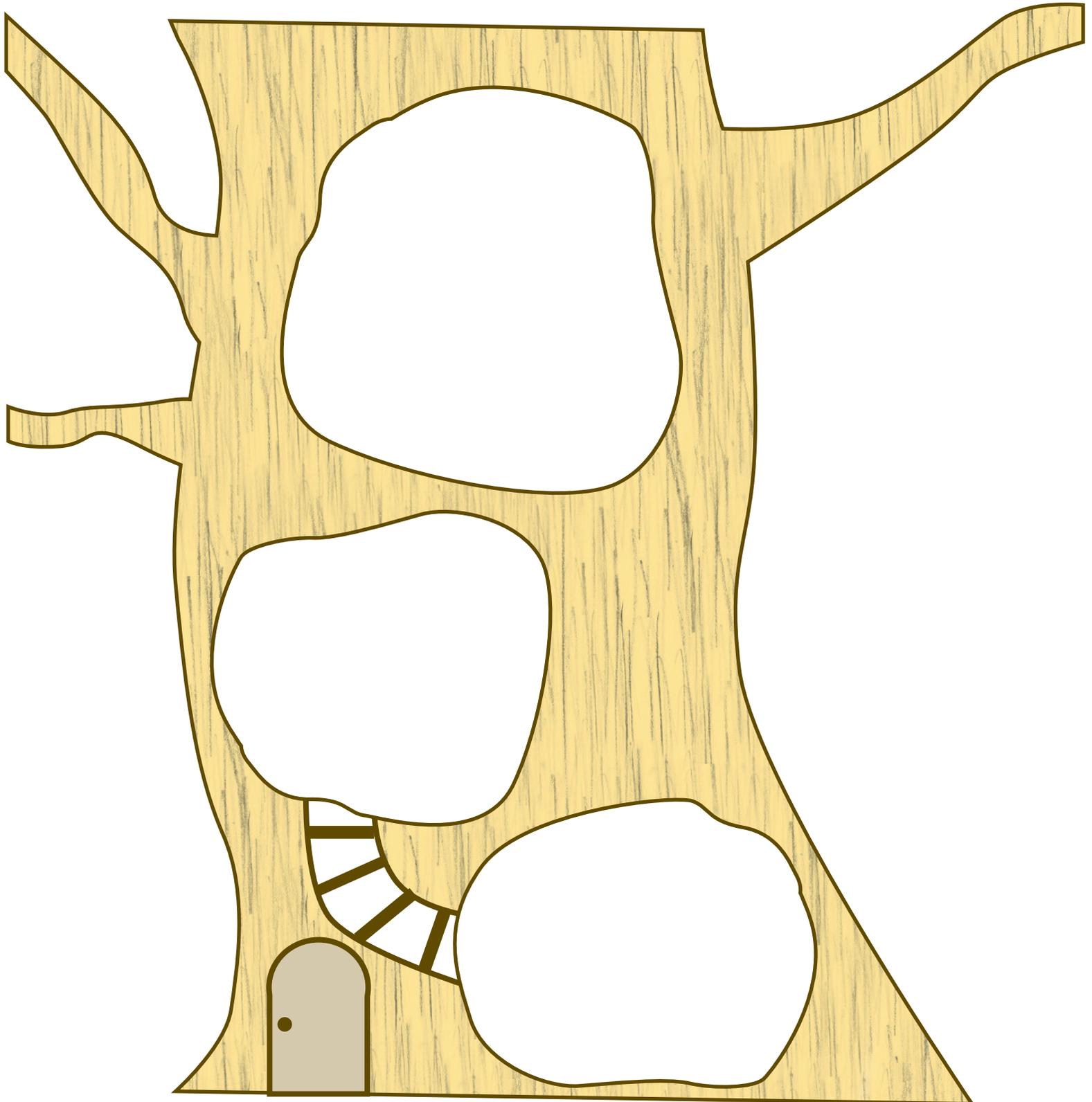
ACTIVITY

Design your own rooms at the Heartwood Hotel

Instructions:

Design your own rooms at the Heartwood Hotel by drawing all the furniture and other items.

Remember to think about the type of animal or bird that would stay in your rooms.



ACTIVITY

Sign the guestbook at the Heartwood Hotel

Imagine you are a guest that has just checked out of the Heartwood Hotel. Write about your stay in the Heartwood Guest Book. Did you have a good time? A bad time? What happened? Did you take part in any special festivals?

Heartwood Hotel

GUEST BOOK

Name: _____

Date of Stay: _____

Animal Species: _____



Picture of you

What you liked about the Heartwood:



ACTIVITY

Write an application letter to work at the Heartwood

The Heartwood Hotel needs a new staff member! If you're interested, fill out the application letter below:

The Heartwood Hotel

Your name: _____

What kind of animal are you? _____

Your age: _____

Check all the skills you have below:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chopping vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Dusting |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sweeping | <input type="checkbox"/> Washing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Singing | <input type="checkbox"/> Greeting guests |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Making a bed | <input type="checkbox"/> Guarding |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Picking berries | <input type="checkbox"/> Organizing |



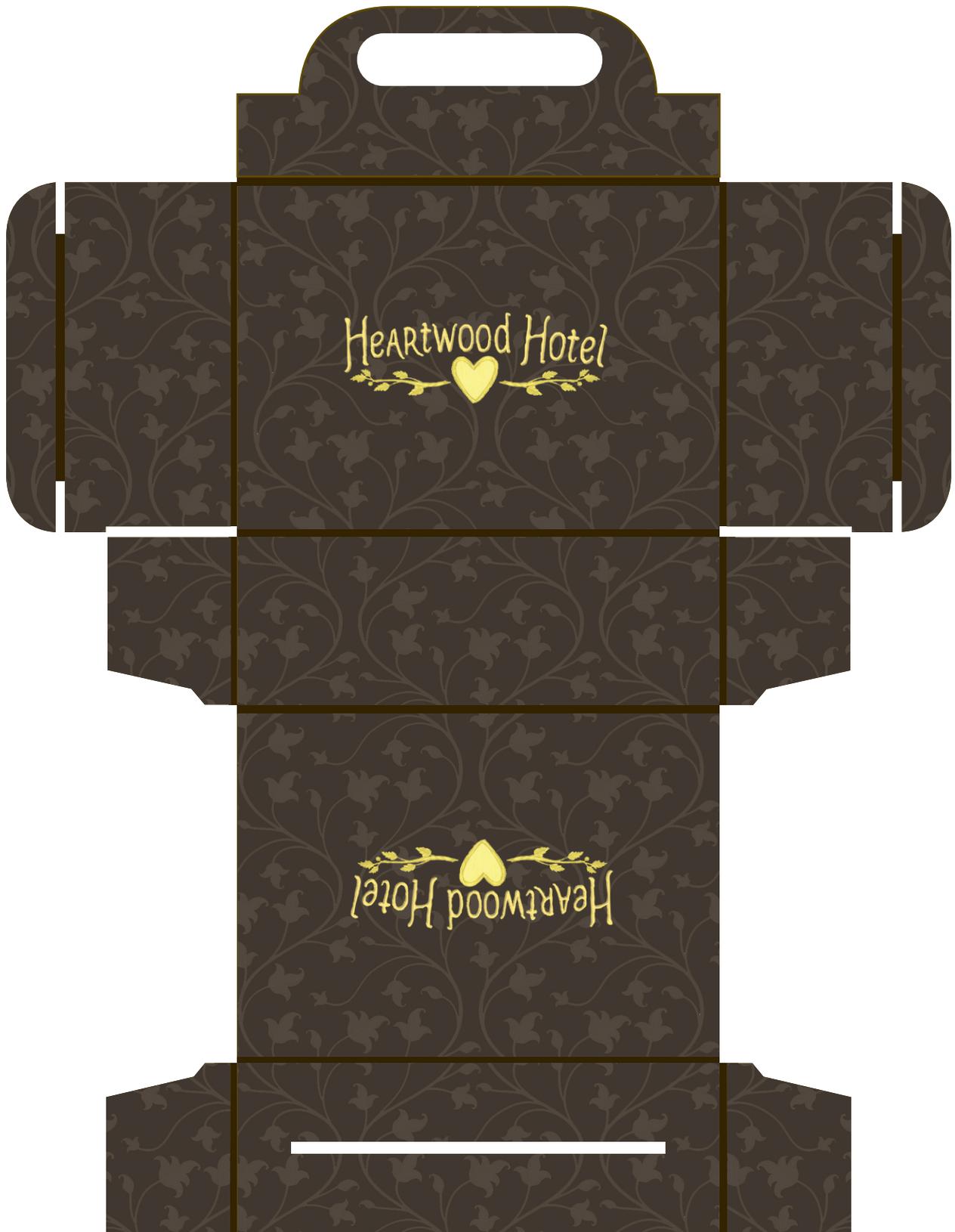
Draw a picture of yourself here

Why do you want to work at the Heartwood Hotel?

ACTIVITY

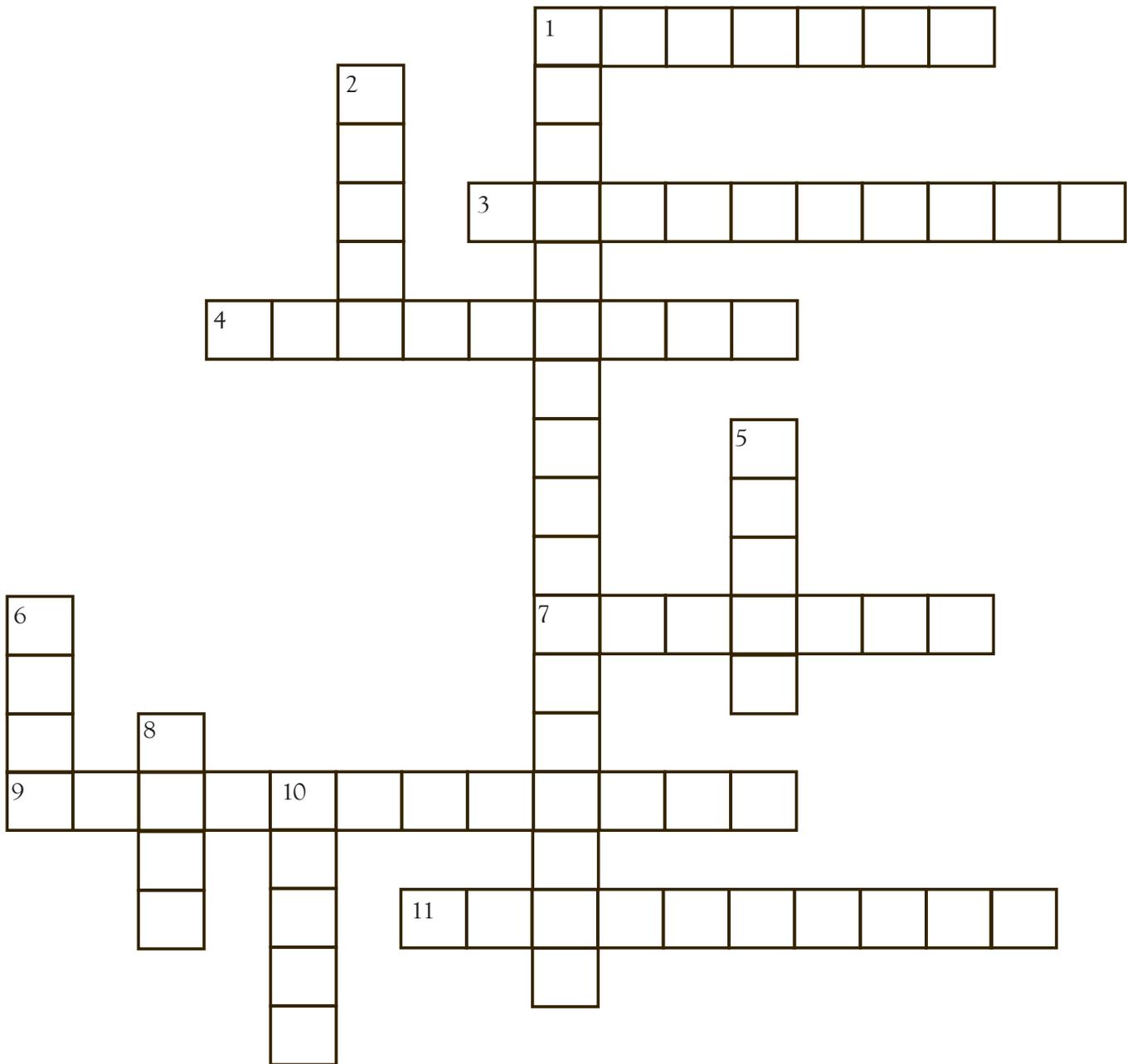
Make your own suitcase

Carefully cut out the shapes below. Then fold the suitcase into your own miniature case!



ACTIVITY

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

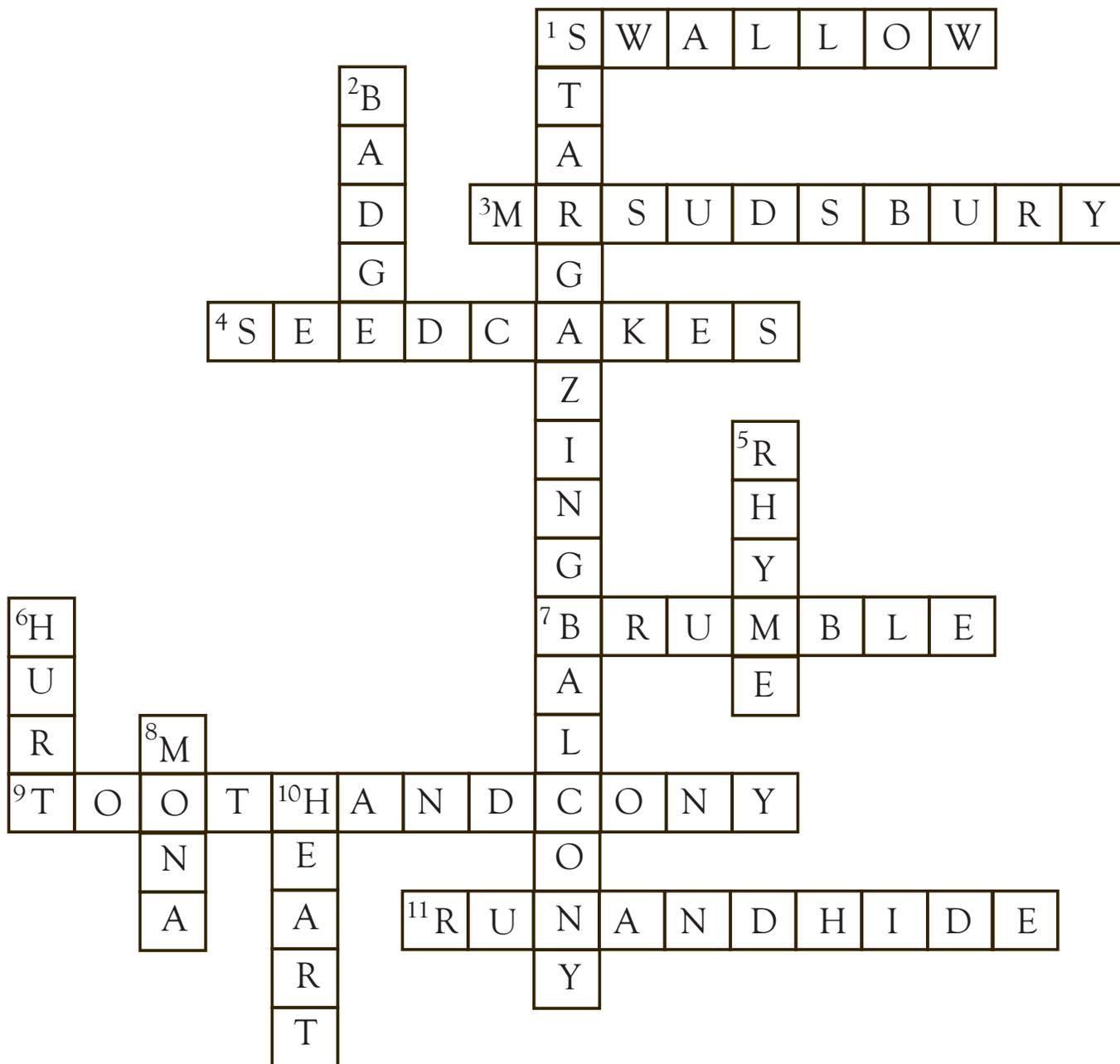
- 1. Cybele is a ...
- 3. A nervous skunk
- 4 . Heartwood food
- 7. A confused bear
- 9. We Live By Protect and Respect, Not by...
- 11. Two things animals usually do

DOWN

- 1. At the top of the tree
- 2. What Gnarl wears
- 5. Mr. Heartwood speaks in...
- 6. What Tilly has
- 8. Maid at the Heartwood
- 10. The secret lock

ACTIVITY

Crossword Puzzle



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Illustrated by
Stephanie Graegin

www.heartwoodhotel.com