

Heartwood HOTEL

HOME AGAIN

TEACHER
GUIDE

About the book

It's summer at the Heartwood Hotel, and everyone is in a flurry getting ready for Ms. Prickles's wedding to Mr. Quillson! Meanwhile, a new mouse guest named Strawberry comes to stay. She's sweet and soft-spoken like Mona, and gifted in the kitchen just as Mona's mother was—could Strawberry be a long-lost relative?

But when lightning strikes part of Fernwood Forest and starts a fire, all thoughts go to the guests and staff hurrying to leave to make sure their homes and families are safe. Mona works to protect the Heartwood from harm, but as the fire rages on, it's becoming dangerous to stay. Can Mona and her friends save their home before it's too late?

In this installment of the Heartwood Hotel series, Mona faces her greatest challenge yet, and she might discover just what family truly means

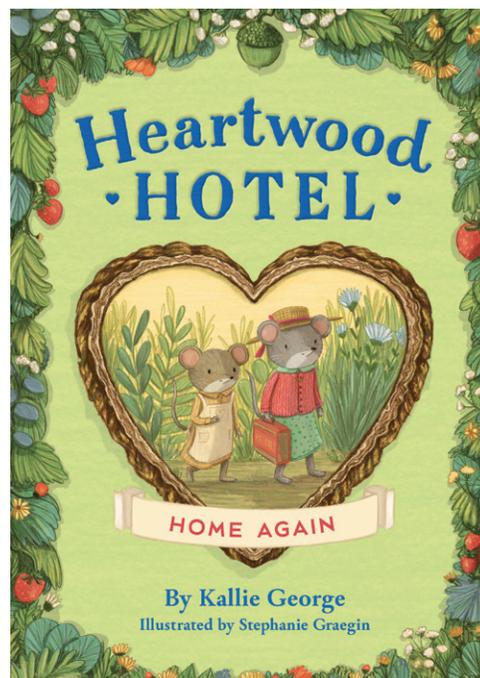
Little, Brown Books for Young Readers (USA & Canada)

Hardcover ISBN: 978-1484732366

Paperback ISBN: 978-1484746806

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.



Questions for thoughtful discussion

- 1) Who is the surprise guest that turns up at Ms. Prickles' wedding? Who do Mona and Tilly THINK she might be?
- 2) Why does Harmony have trouble sharing her news? Do you like telling someone bad news, or do you find it difficult? Why or why not?
- 3) Mona and Tilly find a bat's baby blanket that has been left behind in a guest room. It is probably not worth many Fernwood Farthings, but does that make it not very valuable? Why or why not? What does "valuable" mean to you?
- 4) If you had a choice to stay at the Heartwood Hotel or the Inn Between, which one would you choose? Why? What are some of the differences between the two hotels? What are some of the similarities?
- 5) How does Mona convince Mr. Heartwood to leave the Heartwood? What do she and Mr. Heartwood learn about the Hotel?
- 6) Strawberry turns out not to be who Mona thought she was. Was Mona disappointed? Why or why not?



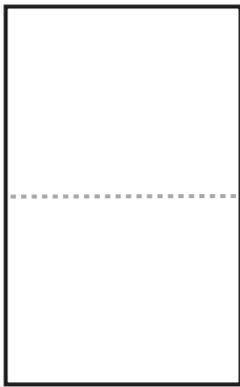


Activities for Creative Nourishment

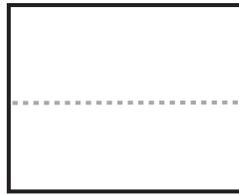
ACTIVITY

Make your own book for the Heartwood Hotel Library

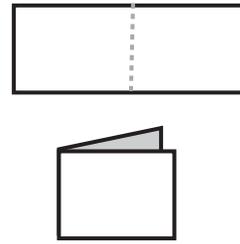
Instructions: Create your own book by following the instructions below.



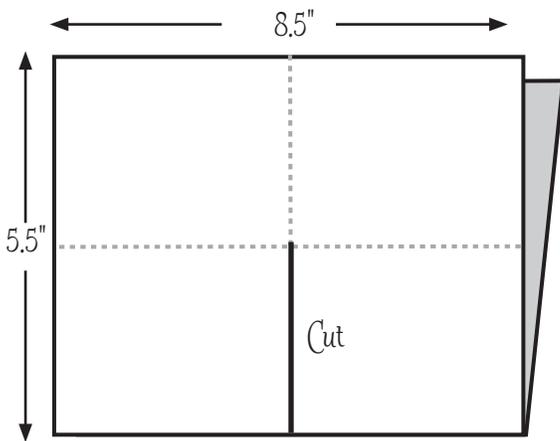
1. Start with a 8.5 x 11 page and fold it in half.



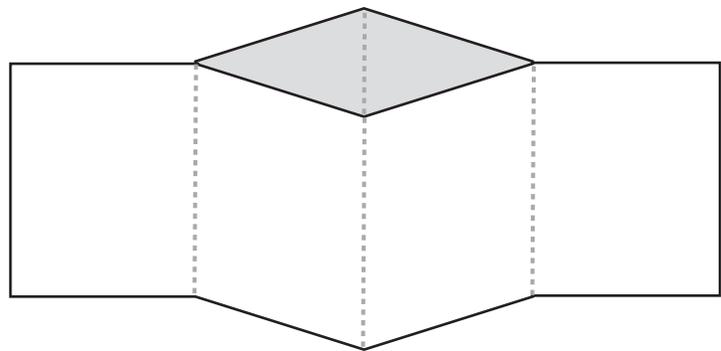
2. Fold the page in half again.



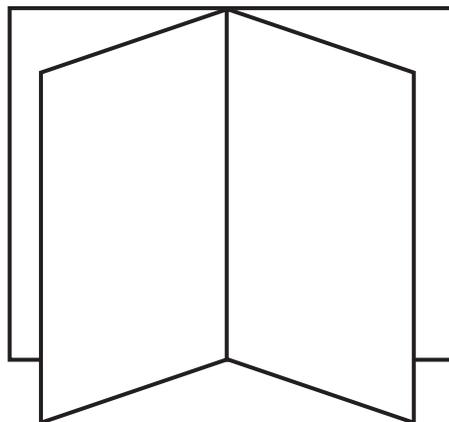
3. And again!



4. Open and cut halfway up, beginning at the fold. Open and refold to 11 x 4.25.



5. Push in the ends ...



6. . . . and you have a miniature book. Fill the pages with words and pictures, and you will have the perfect book to fit the library in the Heartwood Hotel.

ACTIVITY

Design your own furniture

In the space below, design furniture for the inn between for each item listed. How creative can you be?

A thimble:

An eraser:

A spoon:

Your own idea!

ACTIVITY

A boot for a house

Use this template to design a "boot-house" for a mouse!



ACTIVITY

Design your own rooms at the Inn Between

Instructions:

The Inn Between exists between the floors of an inn for humans. Can you create the rooms in the Inn Between—drawing the big people floor and the little animal floor?

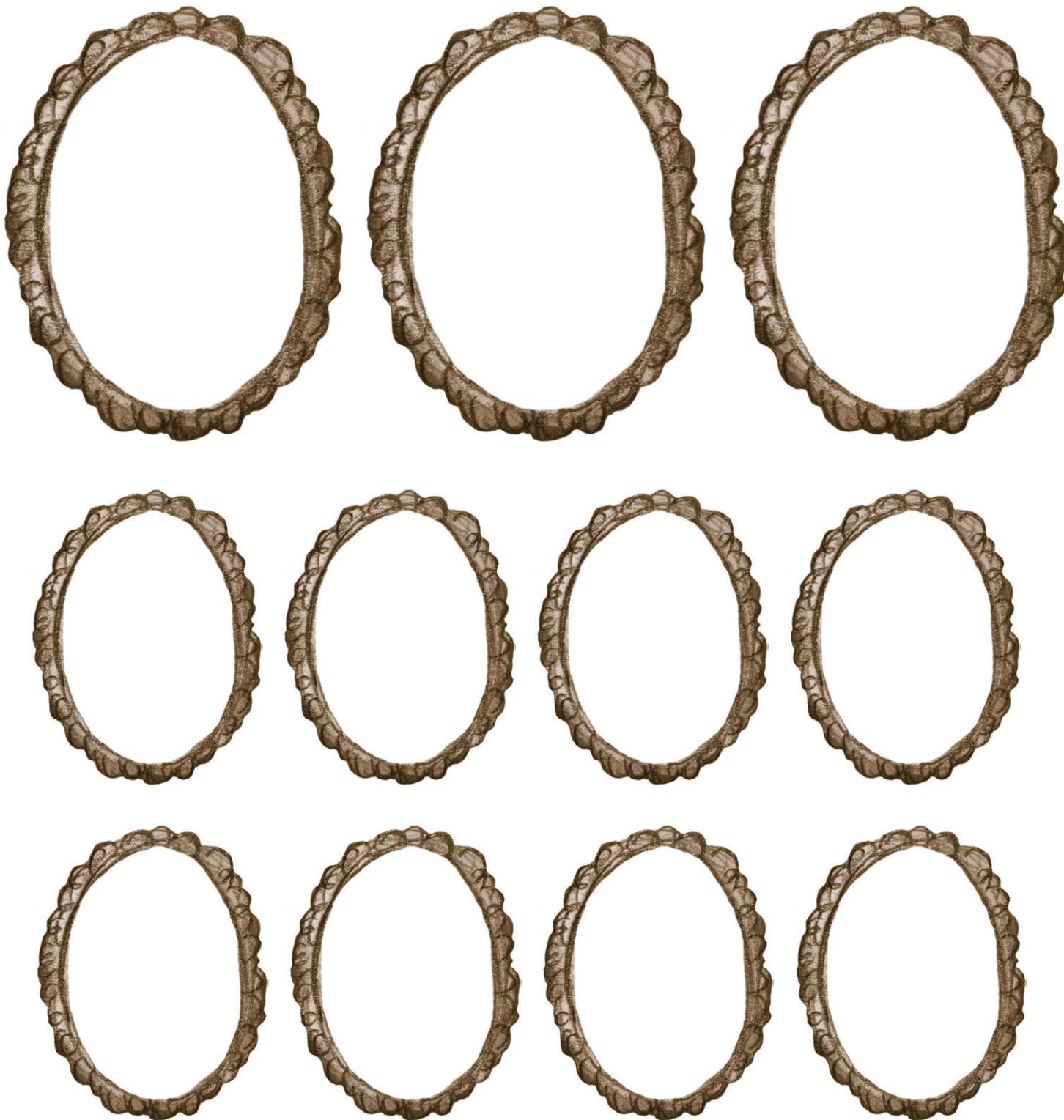


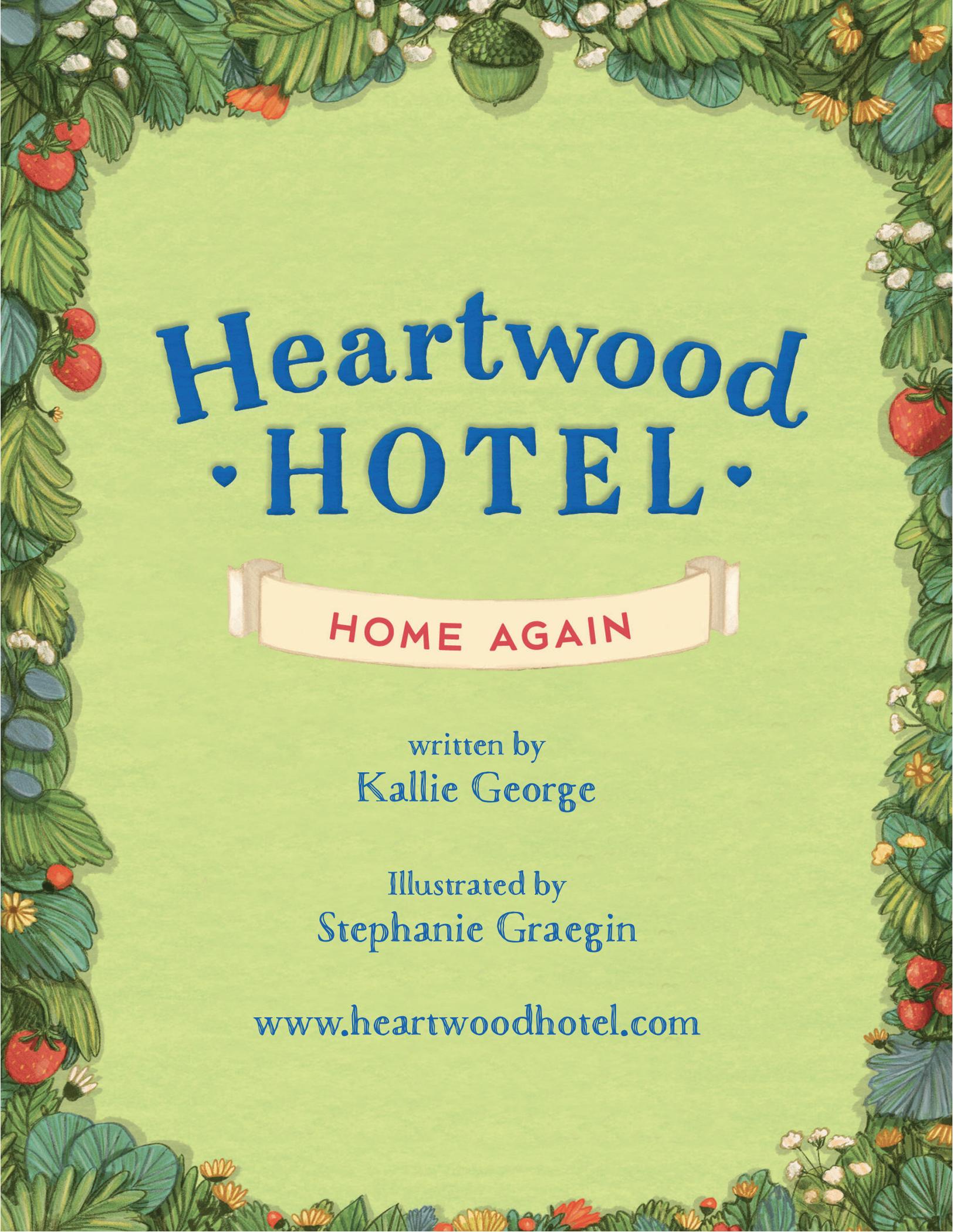
ACTIVITY

Create your own tiny portrait

Instructions:

Draw a family portrait, pretending you are the drawing centipede that draws the portrait for the Heartwood staff at the wedding. How tiny can you make it?





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Illustrated by
Stephanie Graegin

www.heartwoodhotel.com