

# Before We Sleep



## Book Information

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| 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<br>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?**

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

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

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

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

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# Before We Sleep

Pause at the indicated time stamps and discuss the story

**0:30**

What season is described? What clues did you use?

**0:30**

What does it mean that the forest was dressed?

**0:42**

Why would it be easier for Little Red to hide?

**1:19**

What games do you like to play outside?

**2:11**

Why would the winter be lonely for Little Red?

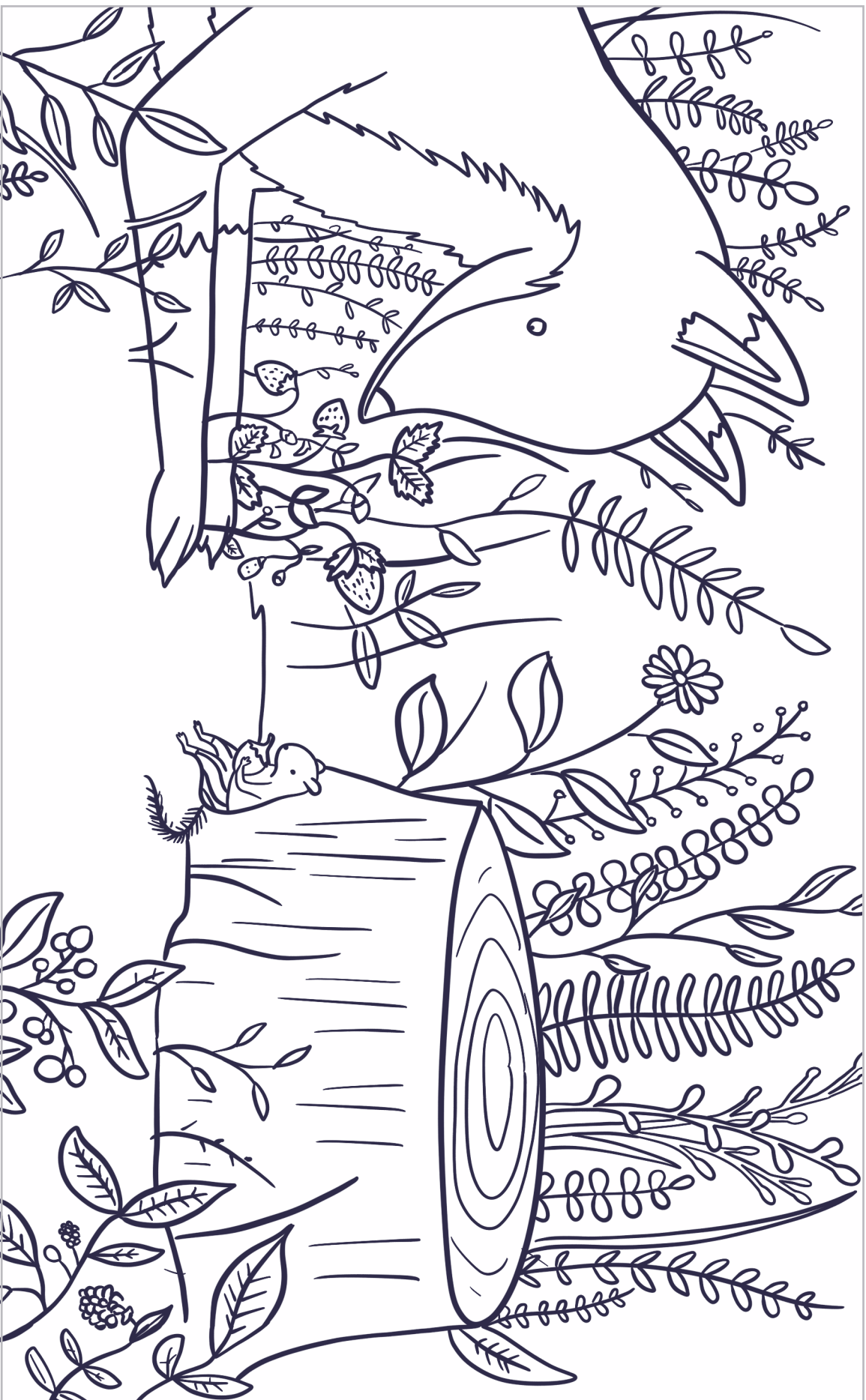
**4:44**

Why does Little Red want to tell Hazel a story?

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## After viewing the Book:

1. What is your favorite bedtime story. Does it help you fall asleep?
2. What are some ways that you might have tried to keep Hazel awake?



## 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?



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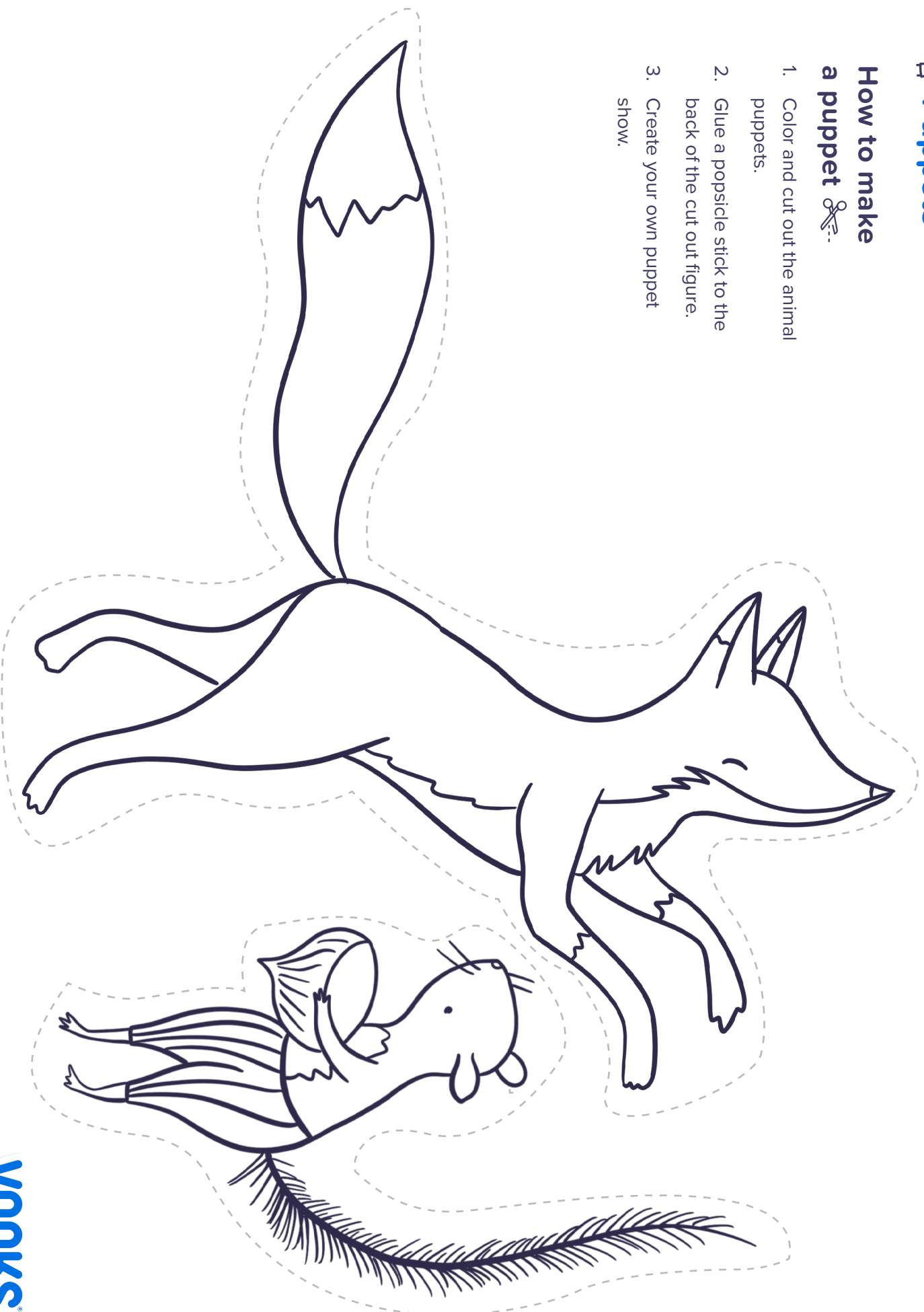
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## Puppets

### 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

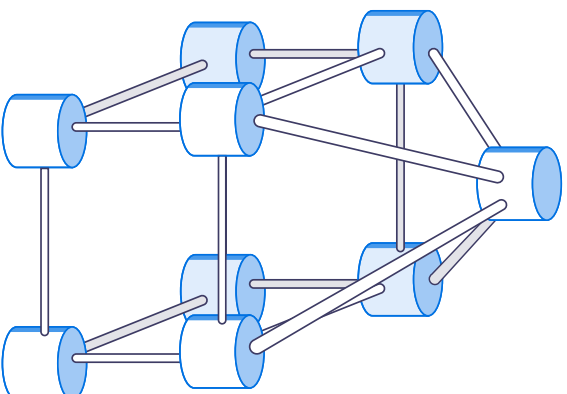
Build a hibernation shelter for Hazel

### Materials

- Toothpicks
- Mini-Marshmallows

### Directions

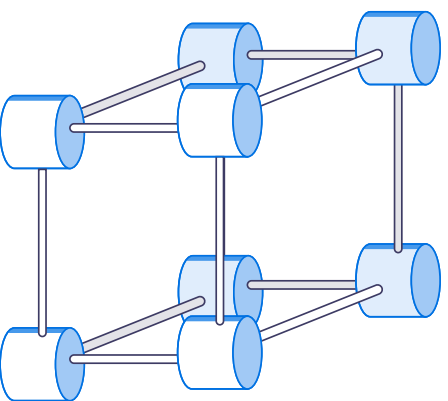
1. Create a hibernation shelter like the examples shown.
2. Attach a marshmallow to each end of a toothpick and connect more toothpicks to form a shelter, then let your creativity take over!



### PYRAMID

9 X 

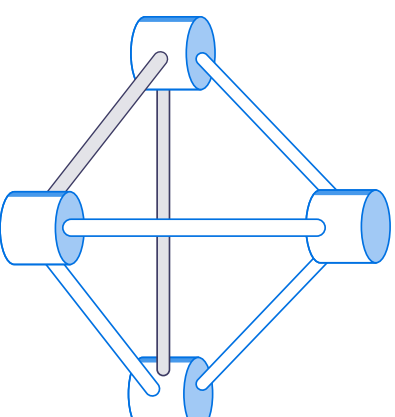
16 X



### 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

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| X | R | B | F | W | H | B | M | R | K | H | S | H | B | A | J | S | B | H | S |
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| 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 |
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| 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 |