

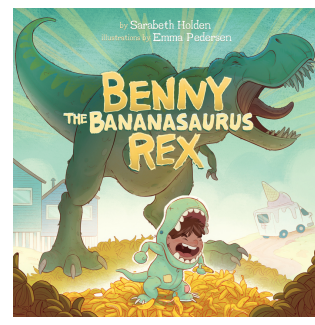
Forest of Reading 2024

Blue Spruce Activities

Benny the Bananasaurus Rex

Written by Sarabeth Holden

Illustrated by Emma Pedersen



Let's Make Pancakes

Benny eats a giant stack of banana pancakes every morning. Here is a quick recipe to make pancakes with your classmates/friends.

Ingredients:

- 1 and 1/2 cups of flour (you can use whole wheat, all purpose, gluten free or buckwheat flour will work)
- 2 tablespoons of sugar (any kind will work as well as honey or maple syrup)
- 1 tablespoon of baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon of salt
- 1 and 1/4 cups of milk (any kind including non-dairy)
- 1 large egg
- 4 tablespoons of oil (canola or any other neutral flavour oil)
- 2 ripe bananas - mashed (you know they are ripe when they get brown spots on the peel)

Batter Directions:

1. In a medium bowl mix together the flour, sugar, baking powder and salt.
2. In a second medium bowl, mix together the milk, egg, oil and mashed bananas.
3. Pour the wet or liquid ingredients into the dry ingredients and mix until just combined.

Cooking Instructions:

1. Heat a large skillet or frying pan to medium heat.
2. Add a teaspoon of oil or butter to the pan to help the batter not stick.
3. Add the batter to the hot pan. Depending on what size pancakes you want you can use a tablespoon measure or a 1/4 cup to measure.
4. Cook the pancakes until you can see bubbles on the top. Once you see bubbles it is time to flip the pancakes.
5. Flip pancakes and cook until the bottoms are golden brown. Serve them plain or with some delicious maple syrup on top.

Adapted from Inspired Taste <https://www.inspiredtaste.net/24593/essential-pancake-recipe/>



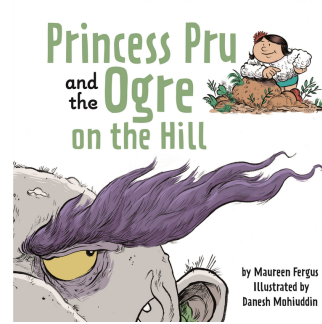
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Blue Spruce Activities

Princess Pru and the Ogre on the Hill

Written by Maureen Fergus

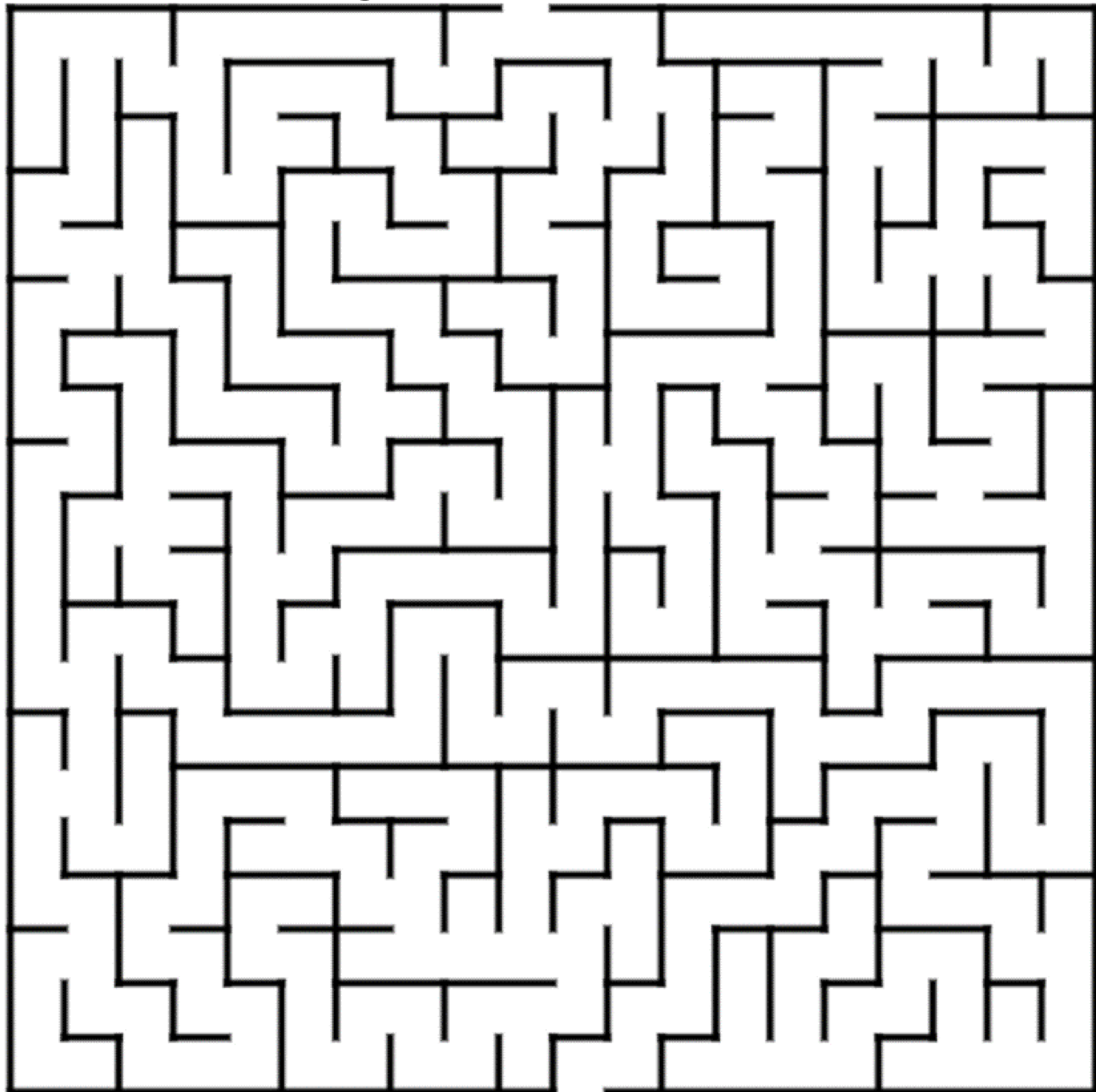
Illustrated by Danesh Mohiuddin



Help Oggy find his way to the bakery!



START



FINISH



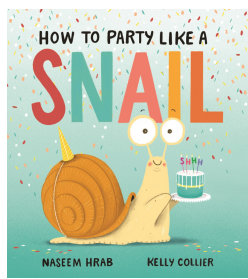
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Blue Spruce Activities

How To Party Like A Snail

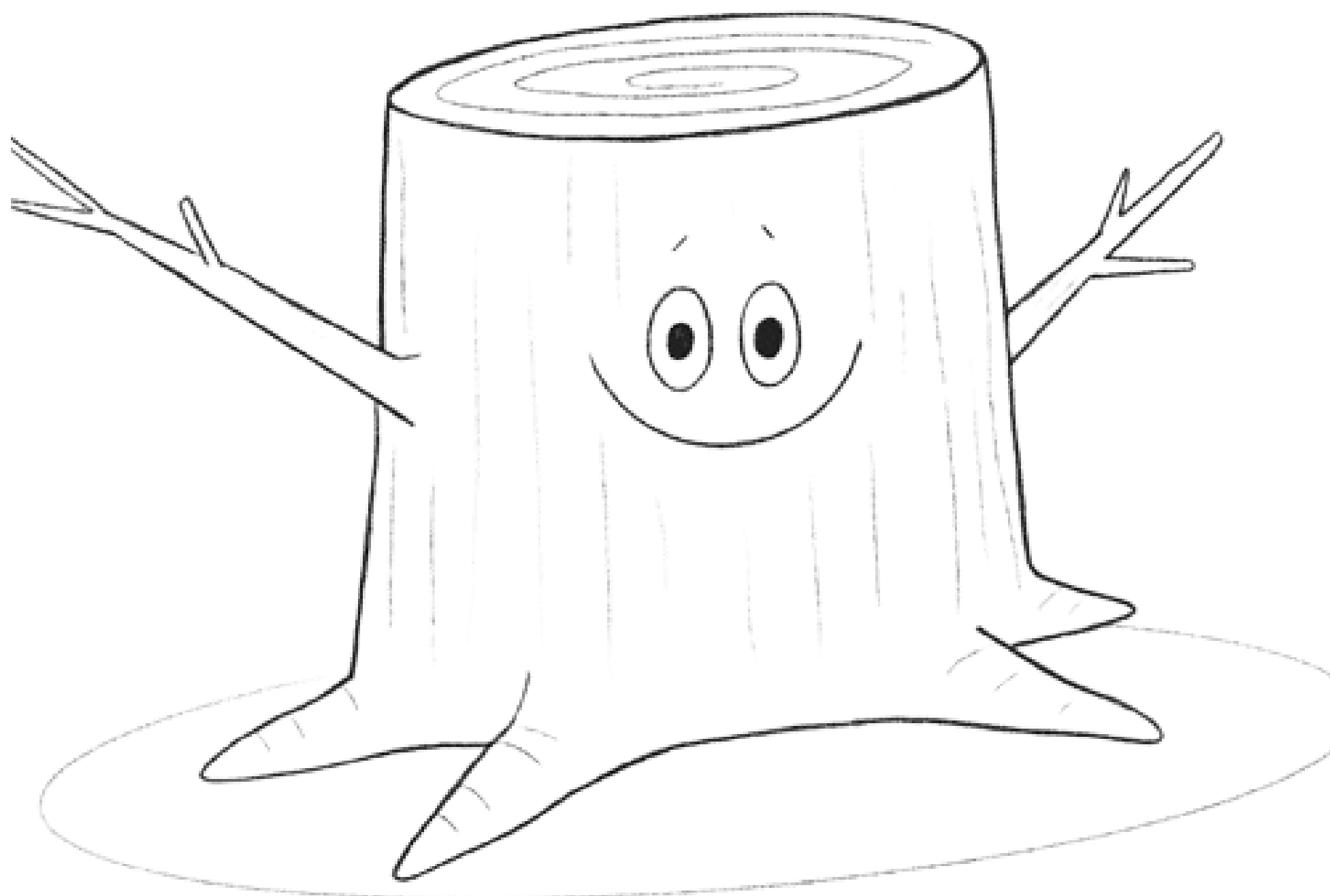
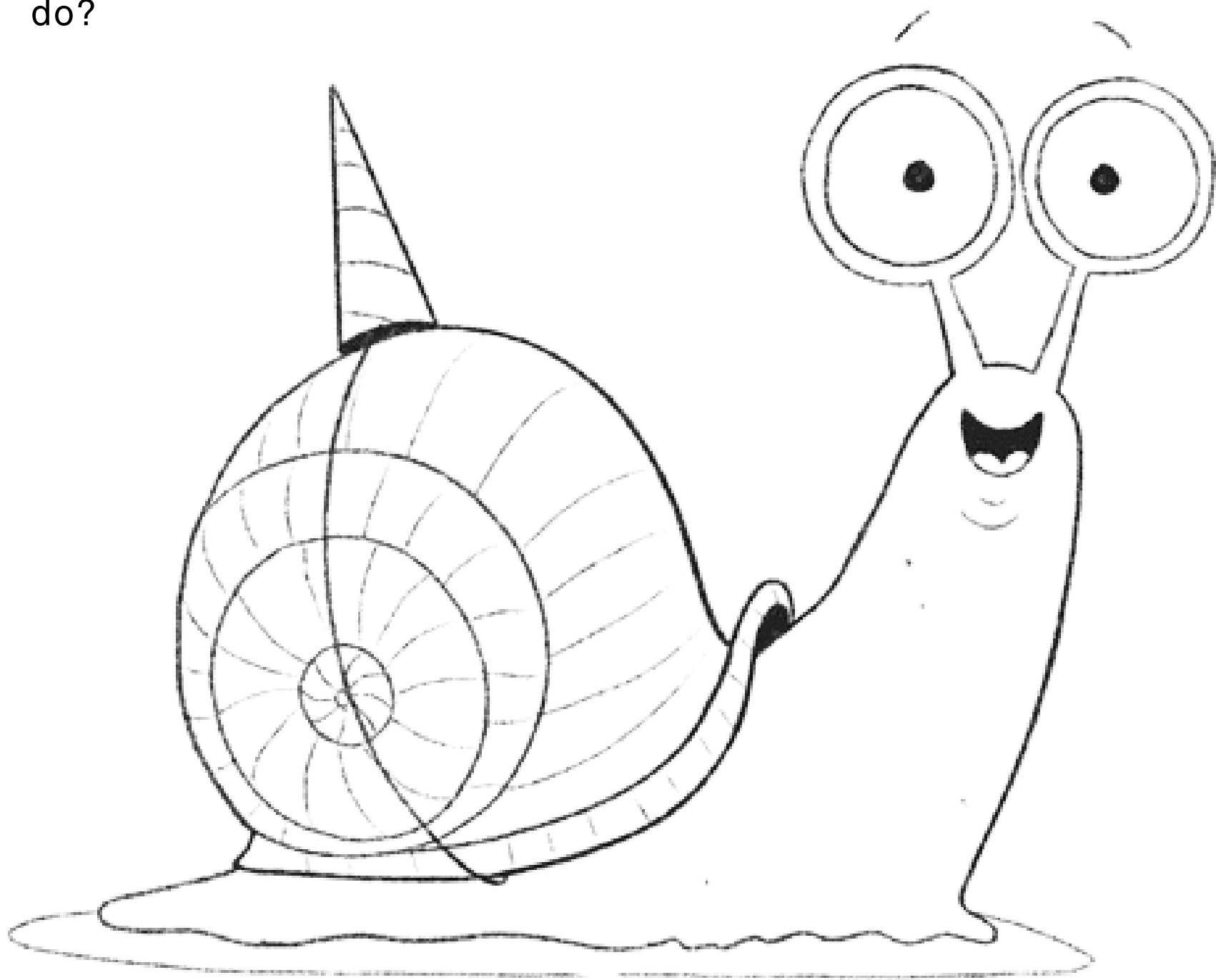
Written by Naseem Hrab

Illustrated by Kelly Collier



SHHH! It's Time to Color!

Coloring can be a relaxing activity. If you're ever feeling overwhelmed, you can colour Snail and Stump to help you feel a bit calmer. What are other calm or quiet activities that you can do?



Forest of Reading 2024

Blue Spruce Activities

Cocoa Magic

Written by Sandra Bradley

Illustrated by Gabrielle Grimard



I SPY CHOCOLATE!

How many chocolate items can you find. How many of each kind of chocolate can you find. Watch out for the candy!



Forest of Reading 2024

Blue Spruce Activities

The Kindest Red: A Story of Hijab and Friendship

Written by Ibtihaj Muhammad and S.K. Ali

Illustrated by Hatem Aly



Faizah and her classmates use their Superpowers to help others on Picture Day. Use your Superpowers to do a kind act for someone - at home, at school, in your community.

February 17th is Random Acts of Kindness Day but we can be kind anytime. Here is a list of kind things you can do, or you can add any fabulous ideas that you might have.



Your Acts of Kindness

For more ideas, activities, crafts and printables visit the Random Acts of Kindness Foundation's website at randomactsofkindness.org.



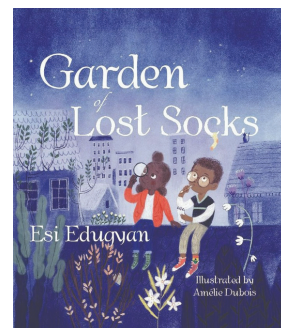
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Blue Spruce Activities

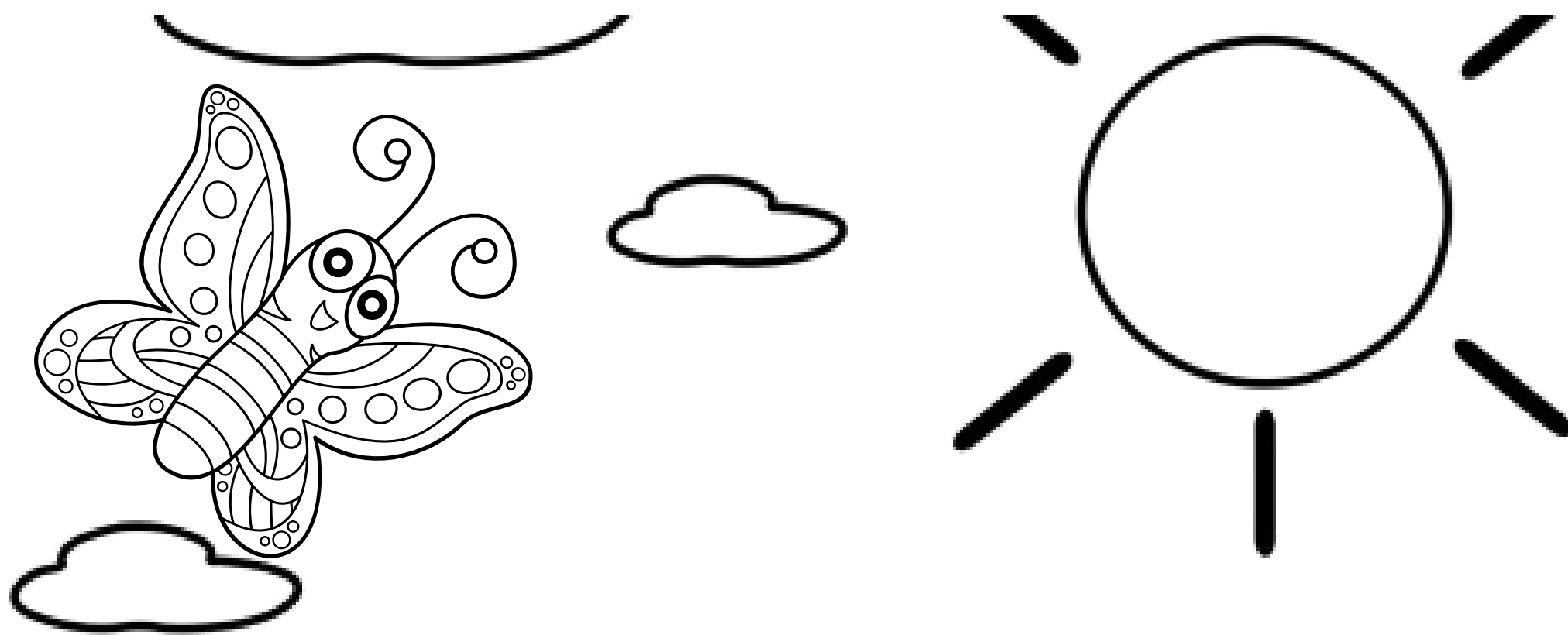
Garden of Lost Socks

Written by Esi Edugyan

Illustrated by Amélie Dubois



In the story *Garden of Lost Socks*, Akosua helps her friend Max find his missing yellow, green, and red sock with black stars. If we could really grow socks in a garden, what would it look like? Draw and colour some sock flowers in the garden below.



Forest of Reading 2024

Blue Spruce Activities

Garden of Lost Socks
Written by Esi Edugyan
Illustrated by Amélie Dubois



Make a Sock Puppet

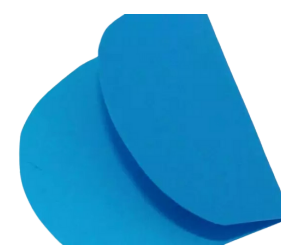
With the help of a grownup, use one of your old socks to make a sock puppet (or more than one) and put on a puppet show.

You will need:

- Old sock(s)
- Coloured cardstock
- Scissors
- Wool
- Glue
- Pom poms, ideally white
- Black felt

Step 1

Fold a piece of card. With the folded edge at the bottom, draw a semi-circle and cut round it. This is the mouth.



Step 2

Take the cardboard mouth and push it inside your sock, all the way to the toe. When it's at the toe end, push the toe of the sock into the fold. This is the inside of your puppet's mouth.



Step 3

Take some strands of wool and tie them together in the middle. Cut it to whatever length you like at the sides. You can even braid it if you like.



Step 4

Glue your hair in place, on top of the sock. A glue gun works well but you could also use white glue. Just hold it in place and wait for a while until it sticks.



The 2 pom poms, we used white ones, will be the eyes. Cut out small circles of black felt and glue them on the pom poms. Then stick your pom poms into place on your sock puppet. If you don't have pom poms you could cut some round shapes from felt for the eyes instead. Or use buttons.

Step 5

Make a friend for your sock puppet. Repeat the process with the other sock to make a second puppet. You can make more if you'd like, changing their hair or gluing on accessories to make them different.

Now your child can put on a puppet show with different characters. What kind of mischief will these little sock monsters get up to?



Benefits of Puppet-Play for Children

Puppet shows are a great activity for kids to enjoy on their own or with others.

They help with:

- Imagination. Children have to come up with story lines, characters and events. Which all takes a lot of imagination and creativity.
- Fine motor skills. They have to use their fingers to make the puppets wiggle and talk. This all means practicing those fine motor skills.
- Role play. Kids can use the characters to express feelings. These might be ones that they themselves have. Or they might act out scenarios that they worry about.
- Speech. In order to put on a puppet show they have to speak loudly and clearly so that their audience understands what is happening. All this practice helps with their speech.
- Confidence. Putting on any kind of performance helps kids develop confidence and find their voice.

