

# Don't Hog the Hedge!

Guided Reading



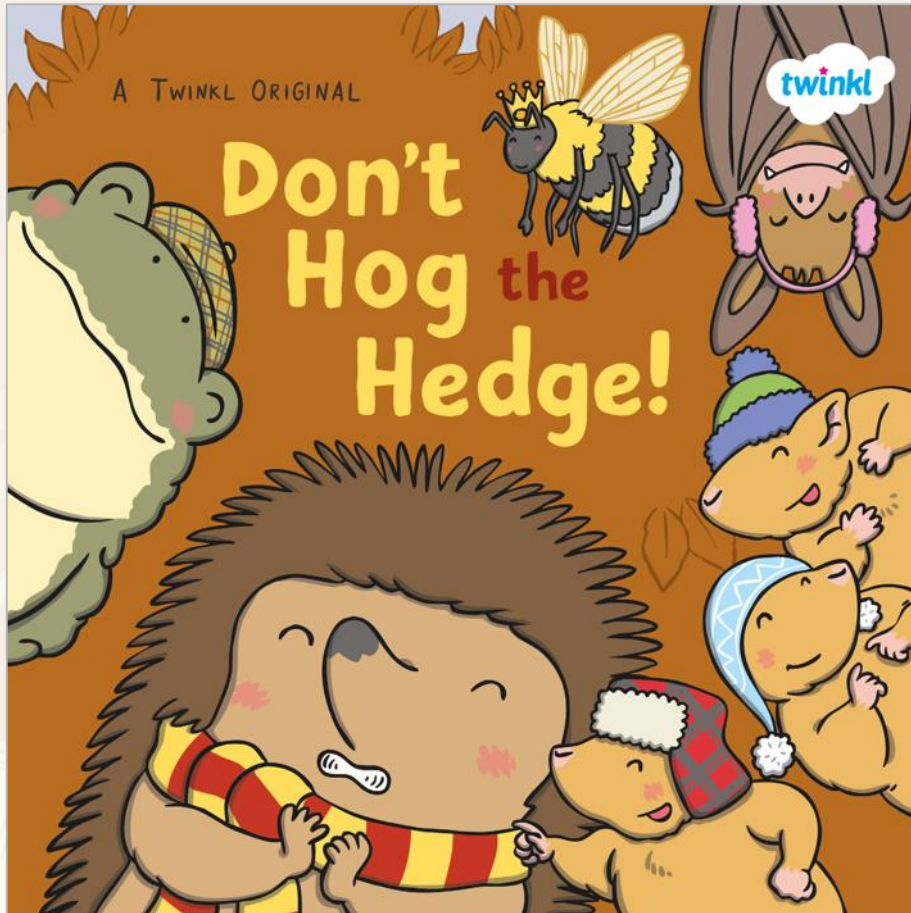
# Don't Hog the Hedge!

Read the book 'Don't Hog the Hedge!'  
and look at the illustrations.

See if you can answer the questions  
as you read each page.







What do you think this book is going to be about?



Do you think it is fiction or non-fiction?



What characters do you think will feature in this book?



What is  
'hibernation'?  
Have you heard  
this word before?



Who might the  
'unexpected  
visitors' in the  
story be? Can you  
make a prediction?



"Goodness me!" snorted Hattie the Hedgehog. "It's half past September already. I haven't got time to play! I must finish my hibernation checklist."



As the leaves grew crispier, and the air colder, Hattie worked hard to prepare her winter home.

She snuggled tightly into her cosy and comfortable hedge, just in time for the Big Sleep.



Why hasn't Hattie got time to play?



Look at the last sentence. Which words tell us that Hattie's hedge is great for sleeping in?

Just as she was drifting off, little footsteps caused her to open her eyes.

"Who could that be?" she grumbled, as she stuck her furry and slightly damp nose out of the hedge.

Three dormice, Dylan, Dexter and Doris, popped up out of a patch of fallen leaves.

"We were just admiring the beautiful home you have made," Dylan squeaked. "Could we stay here for the Big Sleep too?"



What does 'drifting off' mean?



Do you think Hattie is happy to see the dormice? Why?

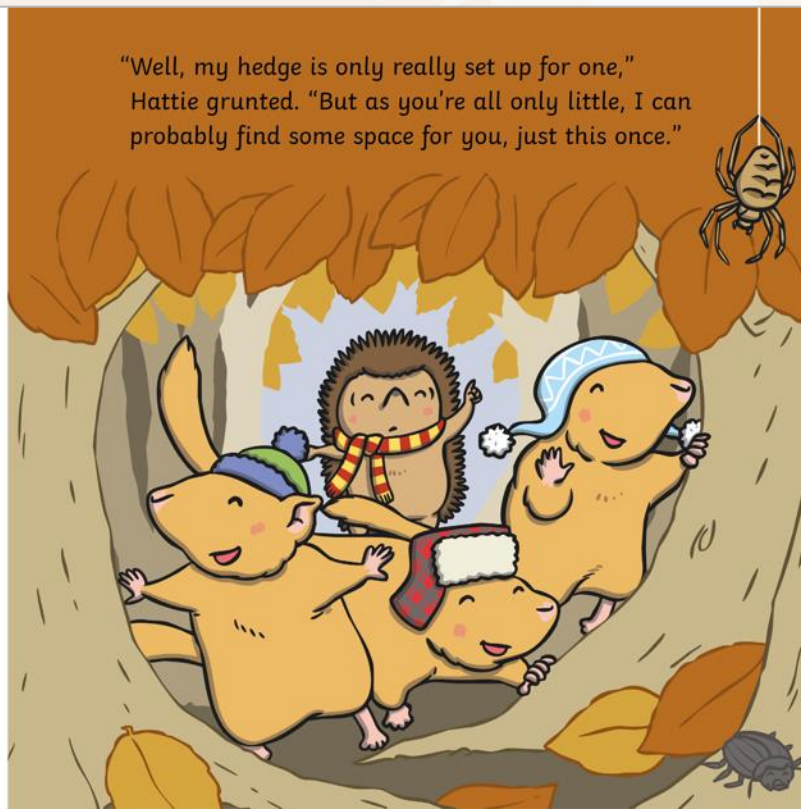


"Your nest looks so wonderfully warm and you have prepared it so well. So, please...



don't hog the hedge!"

"Well, my hedge is only really set up for one," Hattie grunted. "But as you're all only little, I can probably find some space for you, just this once."



The dormice ask Hattie not to 'hog the hedge'. What do they mean? Can you think of another way of saying this?

Just as soon as they had settled in, Hattie heard a new, very strange sound heading their way.

Thud...

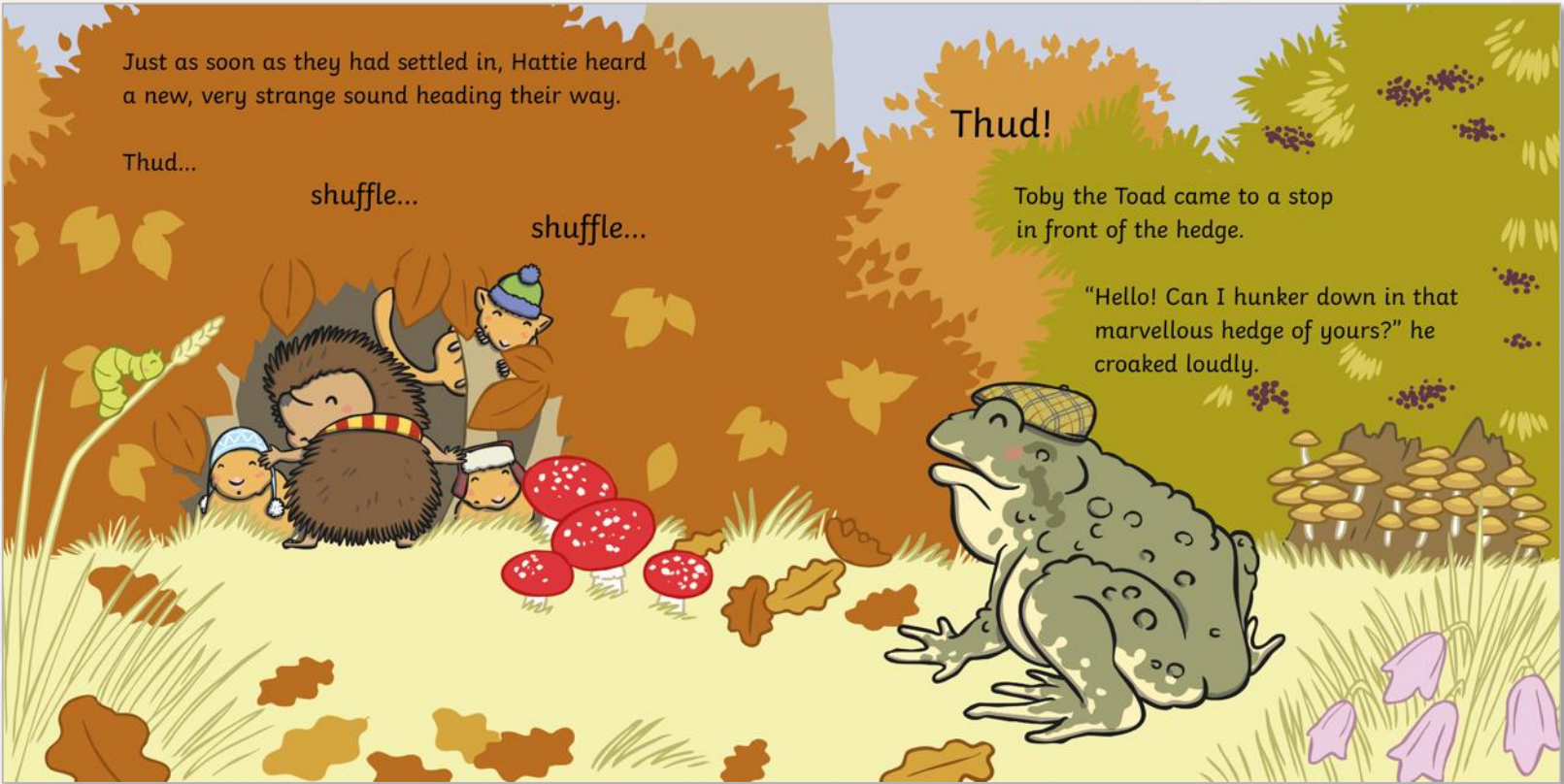
shuffle...

shuffle...

Thud!

Toby the Toad came to a stop in front of the hedge.

"Hello! Can I hunker down in that marvellous hedge of yours?" he croaked loudly.



What does 'hunker down' mean?

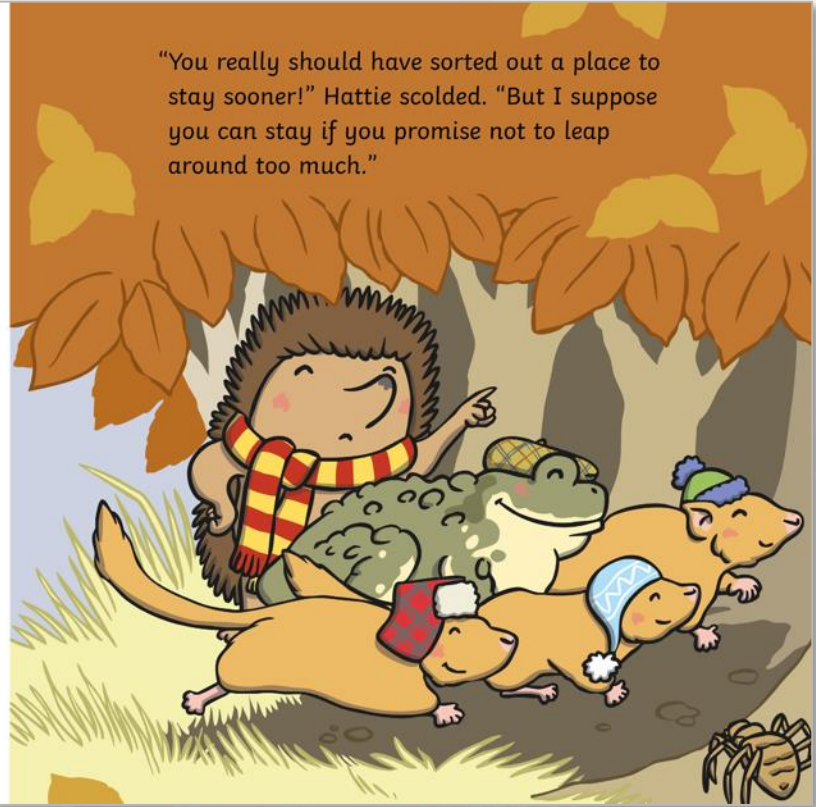


"Your nest looks so comfy and you have prepared it so well. So, please...



don't hog the hedge!"

"You really should have sorted out a place to stay sooner!" Hattie scolded. "But I suppose you can stay if you promise not to leap around too much."



What does 'scolded' mean?

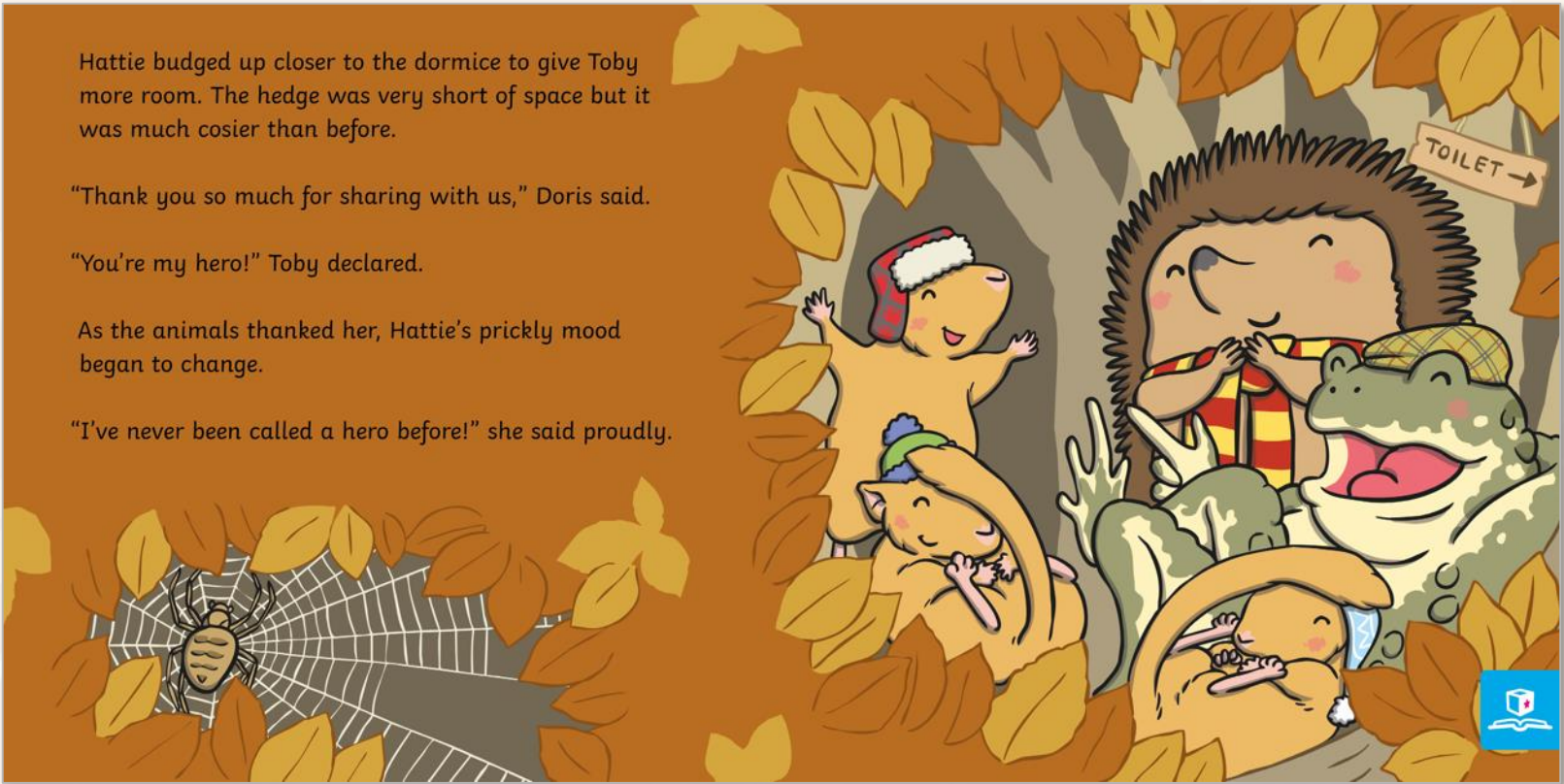
Hattie budged up closer to the dormice to give Toby more room. The hedge was very short of space but it was much cosier than before.

"Thank you so much for sharing with us," Doris said.

"You're my hero!" Toby declared.

As the animals thanked her, Hattie's prickly mood began to change.

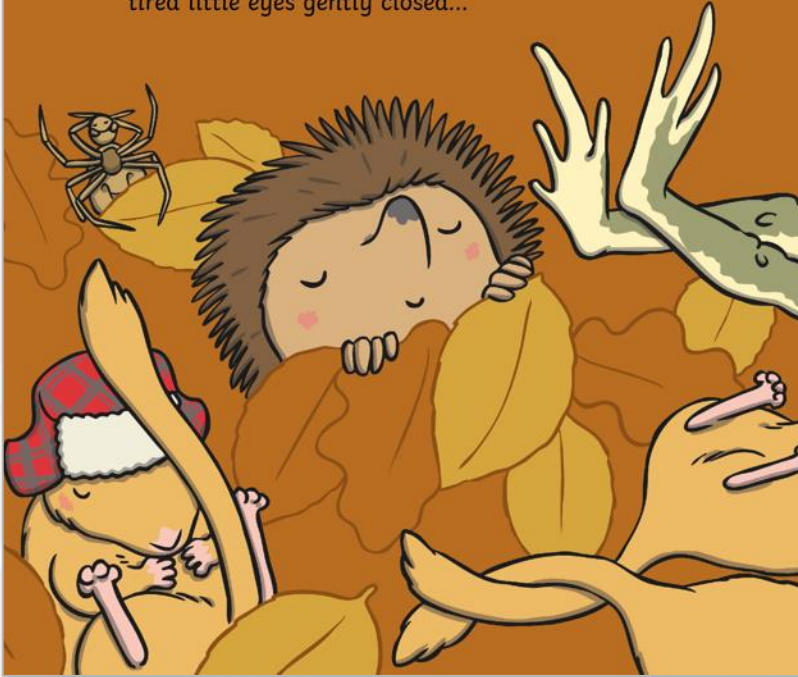
"I've never been called a hero before!" she said proudly.



What do you think makes Hattie's 'prickly mood' change?



She happily snuggled down tight into her leafy bed with her new companions, but just as her tired little eyes gently closed...



Buzzzzzzzzzz! A bumblebee appeared.

"Sorry to disturb you all," she called, "but I can see that the home you have made is, quite simply, fit for a queen. And well, here I am – Queen Beatrice!"



What is another word for 'companion'?



Do you think that Hattie will let Queen Beatrice share her hedge? Why?

"Your nest looks so safe and you have prepared it so well. So, please...



don't hog the..."

"Yeah, yeah, yeah! You don't need to ask, Your Majesty," Hattie chuckled. "Just come on in and make yourself at home."



Why has the author used an ellipsis on this page? What word should be here? Why is it missing?



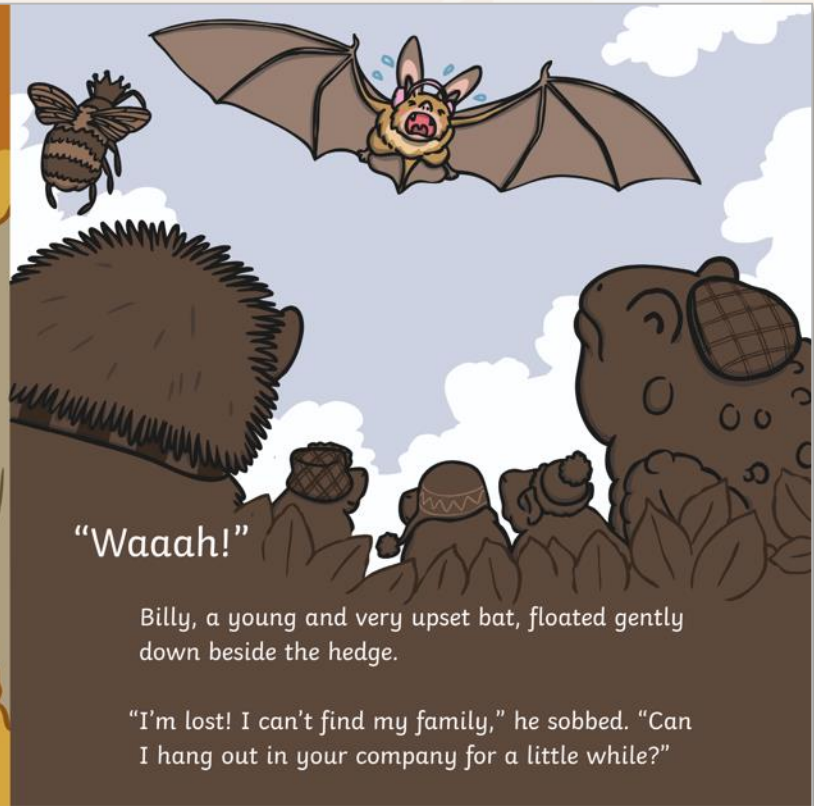
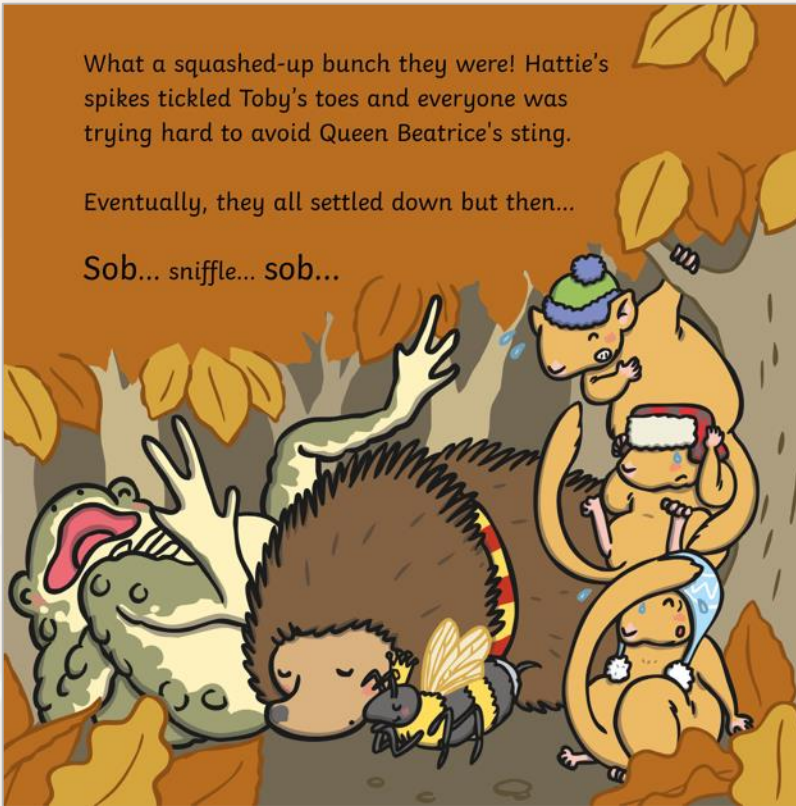
Which verb on this page tells us that Hattie is in a happy mood?



What a squashed-up bunch they were! Hattie's spikes tickled Toby's toes and everyone was trying hard to avoid Queen Beatrice's sting.

Eventually, they all settled down but then...

Sob... snuffle... sob...



"Waaah!"

Billy, a young and very upset bat, floated gently down beside the hedge.

"I'm lost! I can't find my family," he sobbed. "Can I hang out in your company for a little while?"



Can you spot the exclamation sentence on this page?



Why do you think the author has used the phrase 'hang out' in the bat's speech?



Hattie looked around at her cramped little shelter.

"I don't think there's any hedge left to hog!" she said. "We simply cannot all fit in."



But then, she did something totally unexpected...

"You can have my space," Hattie offered.

She stepped out of the hedge to make room for the lost little bat.



But then, her friends did something even more unexpected...

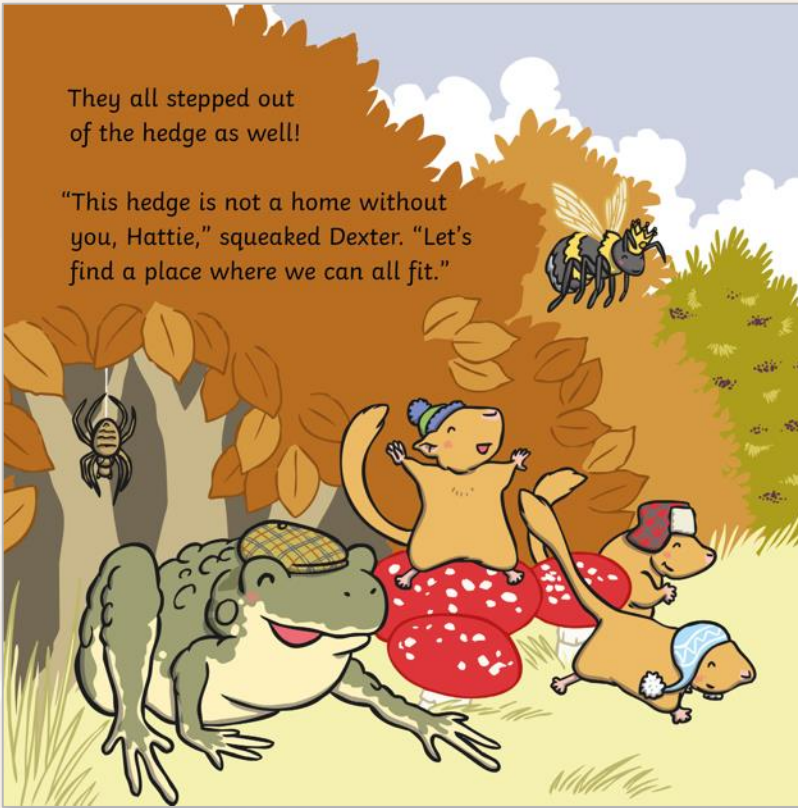


What do you think will happen next?



They all stepped out  
of the hedge as well!

"This hedge is not a home without  
you, Hattie," squeaked Dexter. "Let's  
find a place where we can all fit."

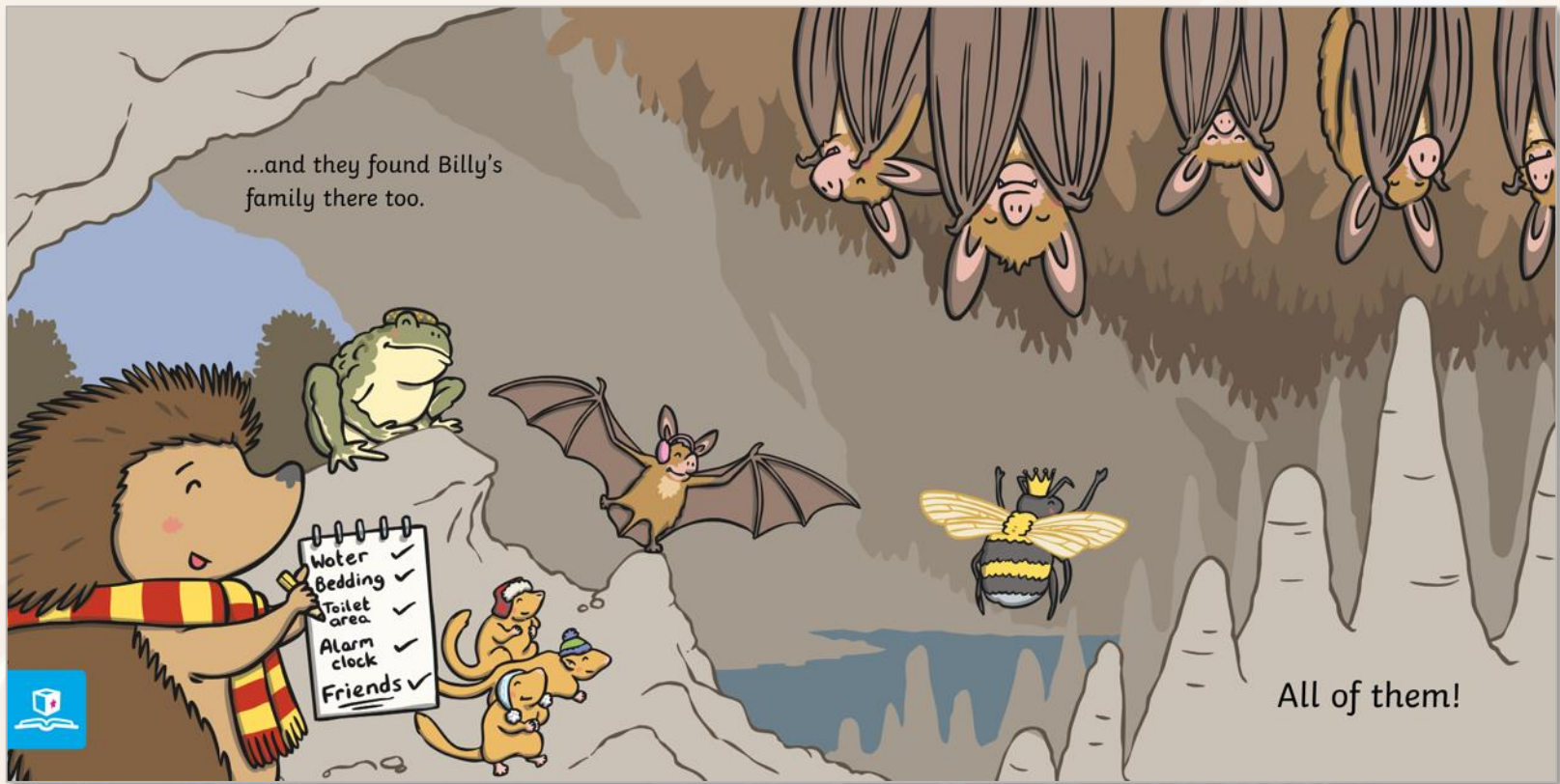


Hattie felt warm and fuzzy inside, even though it  
was freezing outside!

So, they set off and soon found a new, more perfect  
spot for their big and well-deserved sleep...



The author describes Hattie as feeling 'warm and fuzzy inside'.  
What does the author mean?



Where are Hattie and her friends now?



Hattie has added 'Friends' to the list of things she needs. Why do you think this is?





Where is the story set?



What season is it? How do you know?



Who is the main character in this story?



**Queen Beatrice**



**Hattie**



**Billy**





Who is first to visit  
Hattie's hedge?



**Toby**



**Queen Beatrice**



**Dylan, Dexter  
and Doris**

Hattie is a little bit cross with the other animals. She tells them, "You really should have sorted out a place to stay sooner!"



Do you think it is fair that the animals get to share Hattie's hedge?





cranky  
generous  
selfish  
lonely  
happy

friendly  
grumpy  
busy  
kind  
cross



Which adjectives  
would you use to  
describe Hattie at the  
start of the story?



Which adjectives  
would you use to  
describe Hattie at the  
start of the story?



Do you think there is a message in this story? What do you think it might be?



