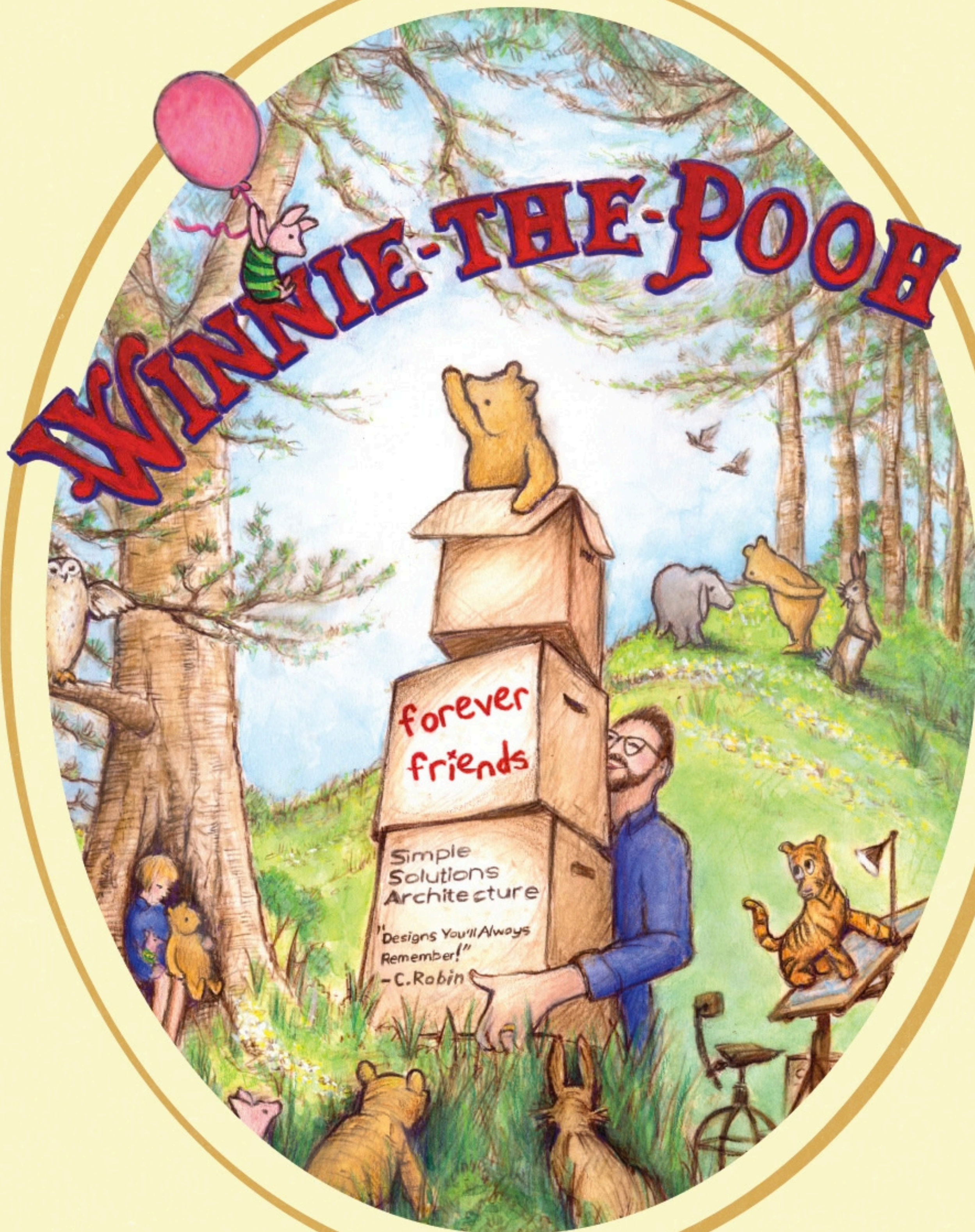


ENRICHMENT GUIDE



Content Advisory

**RECOMMENDED FOR FAMILIES WITH YOUNG PEOPLE AGES 3-8 AND
PLAYFUL PALS OF ALL AGES!**

**EVERY YOUNG PERSON IS DIFFERENT AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE READY FOR
CERTAIN ELEMENTS OF EACH PRODUCTION. READ MORE ABOUT THIS
SHOW'S AGE RECOMMENDATION BELOW.**

Audiences will be charmed by this classic story, filled with
adventure, friendship, and heart.

The performance is expected to run approximately 75 minutes
including a brief intermission — very young audiences may have
difficulty staying connected for the full length of the show.

The show contains tension between family and friends,
heightened weather, and moments of mild peril (like Eeyore
losing his house). Audience may feel uncomfortable or anxious
as the characters experience these things, but in the end will
learn that you can do anything with good friends by your side!

There will be changing lights, and loud music and sounds that
may be overwhelming for those with sensory sensitivities. We
offer sensory friendly performances and sensory kits for patrons
who may need them.





Show Synopsis

Our story begins in a room full of moving boxes, marked with "C.R. Handle With Care." A young person sits in the corner on their tablet, and their Mom enters. Mom asks Alex to put away their tablet, and says that their Grandpa Chris will be there soon. Alex and Mom exit, a wind gust is heard, and a gentle "tap, tap, tap" begins. Pooh appears out of one of the boxes and says that he has been asleep for quite a long time. A buzzing noise draws Pooh out of his box. He knows that buzzing means bees and bees mean honey. He starts to climb up a stack of boxes looking for the beehive. As he climbs, the sound of a car door slamming is heard. Pooh thinks this is the sound of a Heffalump and hides. Grandpa Chris enters with a briefcase and says hello to Mom and Alex. Mom shares that Grandpa Chris's work delivered his boxes and files yesterday and she has been bringing his old things down from the attic to sort. It is revealed that Grandpa Chris has retired and is going to be staying with Mom and Alex. Mom leaves and encourages Alex to take this time to get to know their Grandpa better instead of staying on their tablet. Grandpa Chris asks Alex if they can help unpack the boxes. After some silence, Grandpa Chris asks what Alex is playing on their tablet. Alex shares that in their game they can build their own world. Grandpa Chris shares that it sounds a lot like his former work as an architect and offers to show Alex his old sketches. Alex brightens and shares that they also make sketches. As Grandpa Chris continues to look for his own sketches to share, Alex pulls out a long tube of parchment. As they unravel it, they discover that it is a hand-drawn map of the Hundred-Acre Wood!

Grandpa Chris shares that the Hundred-Acre Wood is a real place to him. Alex begins to open more boxes and pulls out stuffed versions of the following characters: Piglet, Eeyore, Rabbit, Owl, and Tigger. However, Grandpa Chris cannot seem to find Winnie-The-Pooh. Grandpa Chris shares that his house used to be the only one in the neighborhood, so he would spend time building a world of adventures with his stuffed friends. Alex asks if they can go to the Hundred-Acre Wood too! Grandpa Chris says that they can by closing their eyes and imagining the most beautiful forest. As they do, the Blustery Wind Ensemble transforms the space into the Hundred-Acre Wood (CAN YOU IMAGINE). The Hundred-Acre Wood takes shape and the characters come to life to welcome Grandpa Chris and Alex (HERE IN THE HUNDRED ACRE WOOD). The characters are excited and surprised to see Christopher Robin (Grandpa Chris) after all this time. The characters meet Alex and welcome them to the wood. Alex gets overwhelmed by this, but decides to keep exploring with Grandpa Chris. Grandpa Chris asks the characters if they have seen Pooh, and they decide to head off in different directions to search for him. Everyone exits the same direction, and Grandpa Chris and Alex consult the map for which way to go before exiting.



Show Synopsis

A gust of wind is heard again and the Blustery Wind Ensemble reveals a dangling beehive on one of the trees. Pooh enters in pursuit of a bee heading to its hive. Pooh starts to climb and reaches to grab the honey but the bees buzz louder and louder. A swarm of bees emerge from the hive and Pooh climbs down the tree. He grabs his Hunny jar and runs as the swarm chases him offstage. Grandpa Chris and Alex enter holding the map, and they make their way to the tree. A notification sounds from Alex's backpack and they stop to sit on the floor and play on their tablet. They say that they need a break from all of the imagining, and Grandpa Chris encourages them to continue to play. They see Pooh in his chase, until he comes to a stop with the Hunny jar on his head. Alex tries to help Pooh get the Hunny jar off of his head, and Pooh puts the Hunny pot on Alex's head in surprise. Pooh starts to run away but Grandpa Chris comforts him and introduces him to his grandchild. Pooh doesn't understand how Christopher Robin can have a grandchild, and Grandpa Chris says that it's been a while since they've played together. Pooh says that he has been lonely in the Hundred-Acre Wood without Christopher Robin. Pooh and Grandpa Chris help Alex get the Hunny pot off of their head and Alex is introduced to Pooh. Grandpa Chris shares that Pooh's name used to be Edward Bear. Pooh says that the name Edward Bear didn't make him feel special in the way that Winnie-the-Pooh does. Alex says that they feel similar about preferring the name Alex to Alexandria. Grandpa Chris doesn't know if he prefers to go by Grandpa Chris or Christopher Robin in the Hundred-Acre Wood (WHAT'S IN A NAME?). Grandpa Chris says that he has had many names in his life, each one belonging to someone who loves him, but none of those names have to be the whole of who he is.

Just then, a tummy growling sound is heard. Pooh, Grandpa Chris, and Alex run away from the sound and run into Piglet. The sound is heard again and they all run away, Grandpa Chris trailing behind. Grandpa Chris shouts to the group that he knows what the growling sound is, but is interrupted by Tigger who enters for a musical interlude (I AM OH SO SPECIAL). Tigger sings to the audience about the things that make them special: hide-and-seek, climbing trees, and bouncing! Towards the end of the song, the tummy growling sound grows louder and louder. Alex thinks that the growling sound is Tigger, but Pooh says that it must be a Heffalump. Tigger exits and the Blustery Wind Ensemble transforms the space into Piglet's House. Piglet runs inside and slams the door, leaving Pooh and Alex outside, hollering in fear of the Heffalump. Piglet thinks that Pooh is a Heffalump pretending to be Pooh and Alex says that Pooh is Pooh. Piglet lets the two of them into their house. Another tummy growl coming from inside Piglet's house! Grandpa Chris enters and knocks on Piglet's door. Pooh, Piglet, and Alex are afraid that the Heffalump will be there any second. Another loud tummy growl inside the house! Piglet, Pooh, and Alex run out of Piglet's house. More tummy growls ensue as the group struggles to figure out where the Heffalump is. Grandpa Chris starts to laugh as he shares that the growling is coming from Pooh Bear! Piglet thinks that Pooh is the Heffalump, but it's actually just Pooh's stomach growling (RUMBLY IN MY TUMBLY). Pooh Bear realizes that he's out of Hunny and the group thinks about what to do to find food. The remember that Rabbit tends to the garden and will likely have food. The group sets off in that direction.



Show Synopsis

The Blustery Wind Ensemble transforms the space into Rabbit's Garden. Rabbit enters and sees how the garden has been overrun by weeds in the time that they have been away. Rabbit reflects on how they feel like everyone depends on them and they must always be getting things done. The group finds Rabbit and asks for help with Pooh's rumbly tumbly. Rabbit says that they cannot help because they have so much to do with their garden. Alex wonders if there might be crops growing underneath the weeds and offers to help Rabbit weed the garden. Rabbit agrees but only if the group uses proper weeding technique. Rabbit shows the group how to grip the weeds at the roots and pull them out from the base. Piglet gets distracted by the violets and honeysuckle, and Pooh starts to eat the honeysuckle, thinking that it's honey (RABBIT'S THEME – THE HOPPING SONG). Once all of the weeds have been pulled, Alex collects some carrots, sweet potatoes, and beets for Pooh. Rabbit is upset because those crops came from their garden and Alex negotiates with Rabbit because Pooh is so hungry.

The winds start to pick up, so much so that the Blustery Wind Ensemble picks up Piglet! Tigger bounces onstage and creates a chain with each member of the group to keep Piglet from being carried away by the wind. Rabbit wonders what the wind might be doing to the other friends in the forest and the group decides to go see if anyone else needs help. Rabbit and Tigger head off in the direction of Owl's house and Grandpa Chris, Pooh, Piglet, and Alex head to check on Eeyore. As they leave, Alex's tablet beeps again. Pooh and Piglet think it could be a Heffalump or a Woozle. Alex takes their tablet out and say that it's just Mom checking in. Grandpa Chris offers to let Alex go back home, but Alex says that their new friends need help. They put their tablet away and the group sets off to Eeyore's house (RUMBLY IN MY TUMBLY – REPRISE).

The Blustery Wind Ensemble picks up speed, as the story transitions to Eeyore sitting beside a large pile of sticks. Grandpa Chris, Pooh, Piglet, and Alex enter and greet Eeyore. Eeyore is surprised to see Christopher Robin after all this time. Grandpa Chris says that he had some growing up to do, but life has brought him back tot he Hundred-Acre Wood with his grandchild. Eeyore asks if anyone has seen a house around, and Alex says that his house should be right here. Eeyore says that the wind took bits of his house over time and that no one was there to notice (THANKS FOR NOTICIN').

Grandpa Chris says that he understands what it's like to come back and find that things have changed. Piglet gives Eeyore the flowers they picked from Rabbit's garden. Grandpa Chris invites Eeyore to stay with them, and the group decides to check on Pooh's house. Grandpa Chris and Eeyore exit, but Piglet, Pooh, and Alex stay behind. Alex shares that they have been thinking about Eeyore and how they don't have a place to live anymore. Alex decides that they should build Eeyore a house! Pooh offers for the house to be built on the other side of Pooh's house, out of the wind, and they'll call it Pooh Corner. The group decides to use the pile of sticks to make Eeyore's house in Pooh Corner.



Show Synopsis

The scene changes to show Rabbit and Tigger outside of Owl's house. Rabbit calls into the house and is faced with his echo. Rabbit is startled at first but soon realizes that it's just an echo, until the echo changes its response to tease Rabbit. Tigger bounces into Owl's house to check on her. The wind gets louder and blows Grandpa Chris and Eeyore onstage. Tigger comes out of Owl's house, stating that Owl isn't there and her house is completely destroyed. The wind blows Owl into the scene and she is sad that the house is destroyed. Owl says that the wind kept calling while they were all away and no one answered, and the damage happened slowly over time (A VERY BLUSTERY DAY). Eeyore empathizes with Owl since both of their houses were destroyed over time. Pooh, Alex, and Piglet tell Eeyore that they built him a new house. The group holds hands to stay together as they move through the powerful wind. They arrive at Eeyore's house and notice that the wind has calmed down. Eeyore is thankful for the new house and has an idea for a place for Owl's new house. The Blustery Wind Ensemble transforms the space into Piglet's house. Pooh and Piglet say that this house is perfect for Owl, and that Piglet would be able to move into Pooh's house. Owl is so thankful, especially to Eeyore for noticing their shared challenge (THANKS FOR NOTICIN' TAG) and to Piglet for their sacrifice.

Grandpa Chris's phone chimes and the group thinks it's a Woozle. Grandpa Chris says that it's time for him and Alex to go home since Alex's Mom will be home soon. The group says that the last time Christopher Robin left they didn't know when he would be back. They are so thankful that he came back to visit them and brought Alex to join their group. Eeyore shares a poem to say good-bye to Christopher Robin and Alex and the group sends their love to them. Alex tells Grandpa Chris to tell the characters that they will come back, and Grandpa Chris asks if Alex would like to come back to the Hundred-Acre Wood too. Rabbit and Tigger remind them that friends will always come back. Grandpa Chris says that he is happy to remember how much fun it is to do nothing. Alex says that they weren't doing nothing; they were playing, exploring, imagining, and making friends. Grandpa Chris asks if he can go on a walk with Alex and Pooh before they leave.

On their walk, Grandpa Chris reflects on how lucky he is to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard and asks Pooh what he is thankful for. Pooh replies that he is thankful for friends old and new. Alex says that they are thankful for friends and family that believe in you. Grandpa Chris says that new things can be hard and that he was worried about what would be next for him in retirement, but the Hundred-Acre Wood reminded him that there is peace in doing nothing. Grandpa Chris then asks Pooh if he could be called Grandpa Christopher Robin going forward. Pooh says that he knows they will be back but he's worried about being lonely. Alex says that they're a little scared too because they're worried they won't matter as much in the real world as they do in the Hundred-Acre Wood. Grandpa Christopher Robin says that they all have each other and they matter here, there, and everywhere (ALWAYS REMEMBER). Grandpa Christopher Robin takes Pooh's paw, and Pooh's other paw takes Alex's hand. The wind rustles again, and the Blustery Wind Ensemble shifts the trees into piles of boxes, and replaces Pooh with the original puppet. Mom calls from offstage that dinner is started.

The End.



Rules of the Hundred Acre Wood

Do

STAY PRESENT

Lean in and engage with the story. Observe and listen without distraction to the story being told on stage

OOHS AND AAHS

Reacting is encouraged! Please feel free to laugh, cry, clap, or ooh at appropriate moments.

RESPECT THE SPACE

Please sit nicely in the audience chairs, refrain from eating or drinking, and pick up after yourself.

Don't

BE ON YOUR PHONE

Use of phones is prohibited and is distracting to the actors and audience around you.

Recording any portion of the show is strictly prohibited.

TALK OVER THE STORY

Please refrain from talking over the play. It is distracting to the actors and other audience members, and you'll miss the story!

BE DISRESPECTFUL

Practice the Campsite Rule – leave the theatre better than you find it!

Pre Show Questions

- **In the show, Alex and Grandpa Chris go on adventures with Grandpa Chris's stuffed animal friends.**
 - Do you have a favorite stuffed animal?
 - What adventures have you gone on with your stuffies?
 - What makes a stuffed animal special?
- **Alex is Grandpa Chris's grandchild, and they are getting to know each other.**
 - How do you like to spend time with your family?
 - What are some things you have in common with your family members who are older than you?
- **Winnie the Pooh and his friends try their best to support each other throughout the show.**
 - How can you support your friends?
 - What does it mean to be a good friend?
 - What is something you have done to help a friend in need?

Eeyore's Poetry

AN ELA ACTIVITY

Pooh is usually the resident poet of the Hundred-Acre Wood, but in this show, Eeyore gives poetry a try to express his feelings in a creative way.

Take some time to explore the poems below, and create your own on the next page!

Acrostic Poems

An Acrostic Poem uses a keyword that is stacked vertically (up & down!) This vertical keyword is called a "Spine Word", because it will act as the spine of our poem.

For each letter in your Spine Word, come up with a word or phrase that relates to the Spine Word.

Here are some examples:

Spine Word: POOH

Playful
Oh Bother!
Optimistic
Honey-loving

Spine Word: OWL

Observant
Wise
Loves to retell stories

Spine Word: PIGLET

Piglet
Is always
Getting scared!
Luckily enough,
Everyone works
Together to cheer
Piglet up!



Eeyore's Poetry

AN ELA ACTIVITY

Use the workspace below to create your own acrostic poems! You can even make one with your own name on another paper!

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A Very Blustery Day

A STEM ACTIVITY

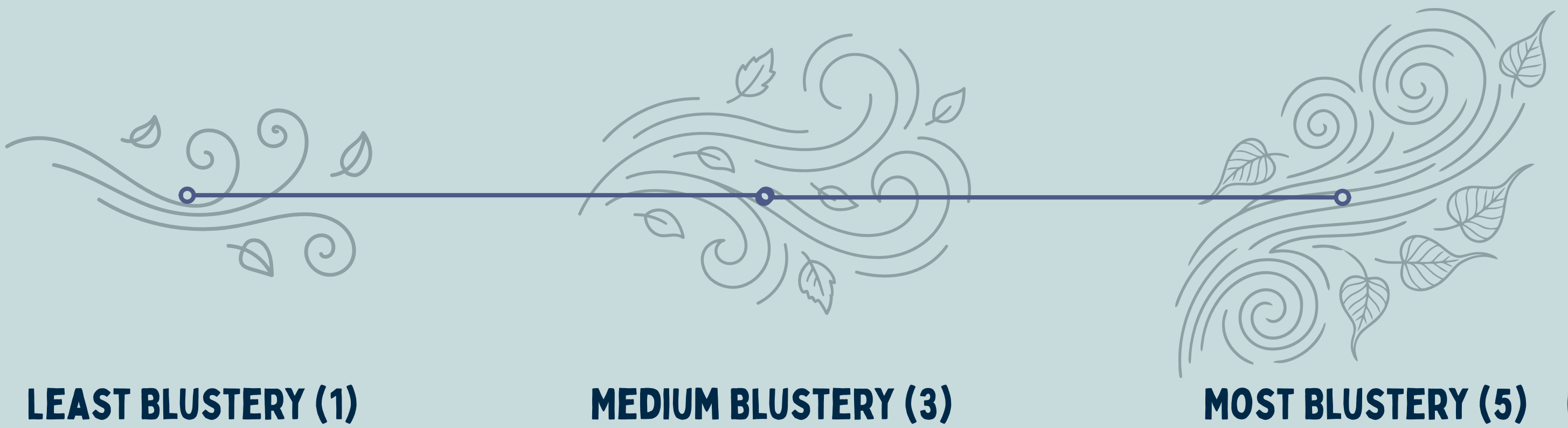
In the Hundred-Acre Wood, the wind has a mind of its own. Some gusts are light and breezy and some are strong enough to lift characters off of the ground! In this activity, you will create your very own "wind-scape" for the Hundred-Acre wood using materials you have around you.

Follow the instructions below for how to test your "blustery-ness"

What You'll need

- 2 sheets of paper (one to write on, one to make wind with)
- Lunch box
- Poster or Piece of Cardboard
- Stuffed animal
- 2 pencils/pens (one to write with, one to make wind with)
- A lab partner (buddy/grown-up) to test the wind gusts on

- **Step 1:** Gather the materials and find an open space to conduct your experiment
- **Step 2:** Using the scratch paper, number your test objects in a scale of 1-5 of which objects you think will be the "most blustery" (strongest gust of wind: 5) to "least blustery" (smallest gust of wind: 1).
- **Step 3:** Have your lab partner stand in front of you. One at a time, you will "fan" each object towards your lab partner, creating a gust of wind. Have your lab partner rate each object's "blustery-ness" on a scale of 1-5
- **Step 4:** Number the other side of your scratch paper 1-5. Put the objects in order of which ones were actually the most/least blustery.
- **Step 5:** Review your results! Which hypotheses (guesses) were correct? Which ones were incorrect? If you were going to make an ensemble (group) of blustery wind, which object would be the best to use?



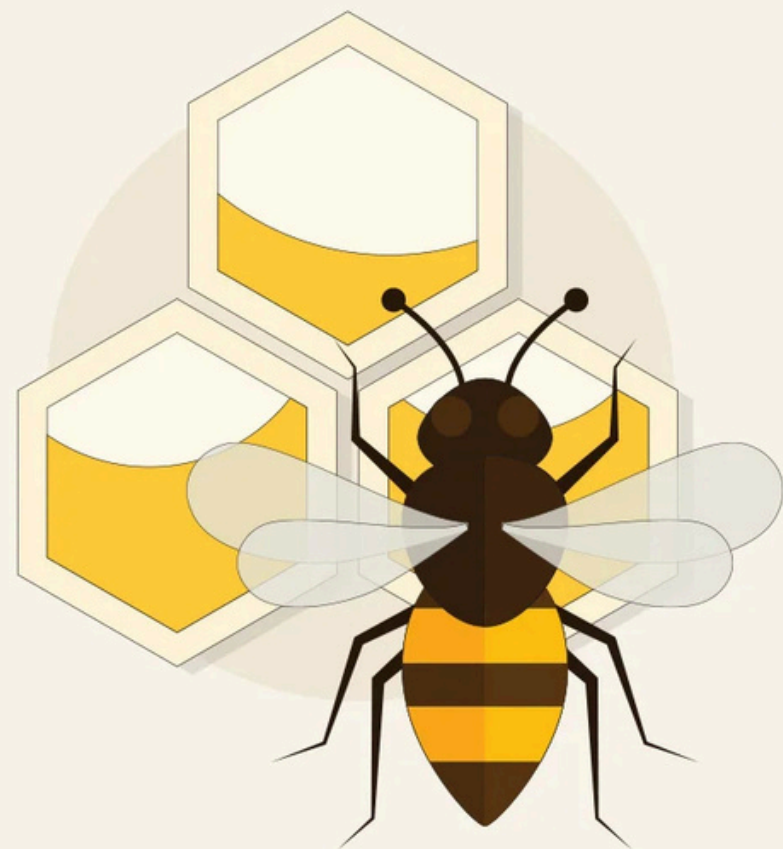


**It's a known fact
that Pooh Bears
love honey, but how
is honey made?**

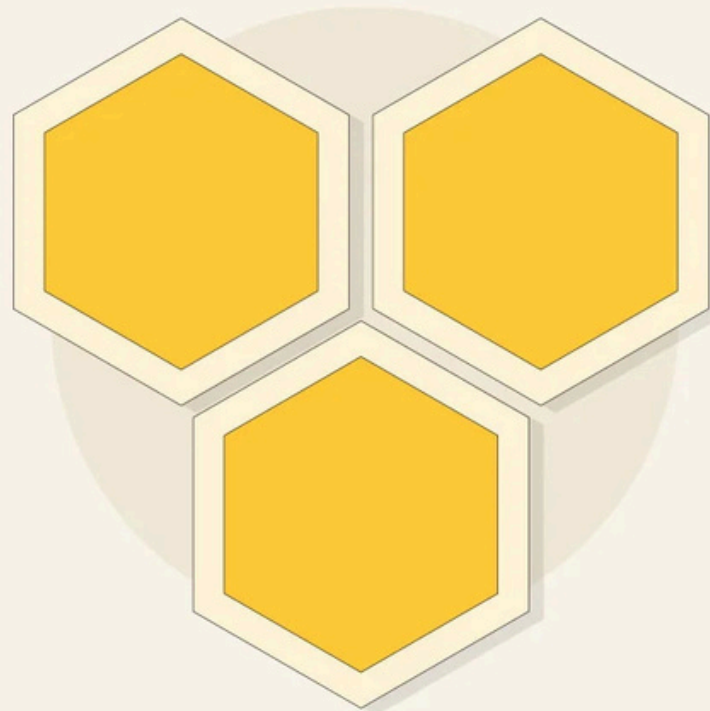
**Take a look at the chart
below to learn how bees
make the honey that Pooh
Bears love so much**

HOW HONEY IS MADE

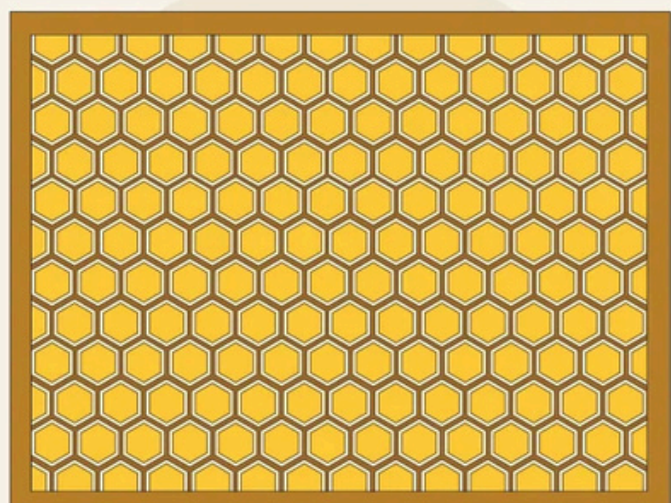
- 1** A bee forages from flowers and collects nectar through a specially evolved tongue called a proboscis.
- 2** To transport the nectar back to the hive, the bee stores it in a special organ called the honey stomach.
- 3** Enzymes in the honey stomach begin to break down the nectar into simpler sugars.



- 4** Back at the hive, forager bees pass the collected nectar to younger house bees.
- 5** The nectar is passed mouth-to-mouth from one house bee to another – this process further breaks down the sugars and begins to reduce the water content of the nectar.
- 6** The nectar is then deposited into hexagonal cells in the honeycomb.

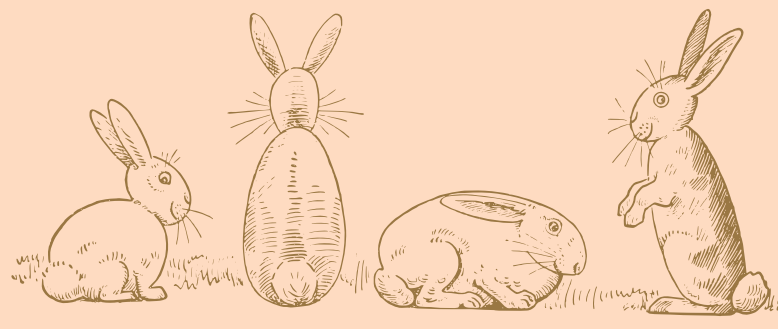


- 7** To reduce the water content of the nectar further, the bees fan their wings to evaporate it.
- 8** When the water content gets below 20%, the honey is ready or “ripe”.



- 9** Once the honey is the correct consistency, the bees seal the honeycomb cell with a wax capping.
- 10** The honey is now preserved indefinitely!





Here in the Hundred-Acre Wood

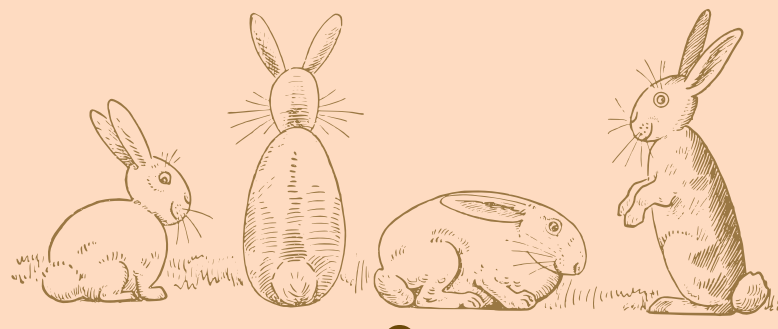
A SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITY

The Hundred-Acre Wood is a land of whimsy, imagination, and adventure. In the show, Grandpa Christopher Robin shows his grandchild, Alex, his map of the Hundred-Acre Wood that he made when he was a child. Following the steps on the next page, you can make your own map of what is in the Hundred-Acre Wood!

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

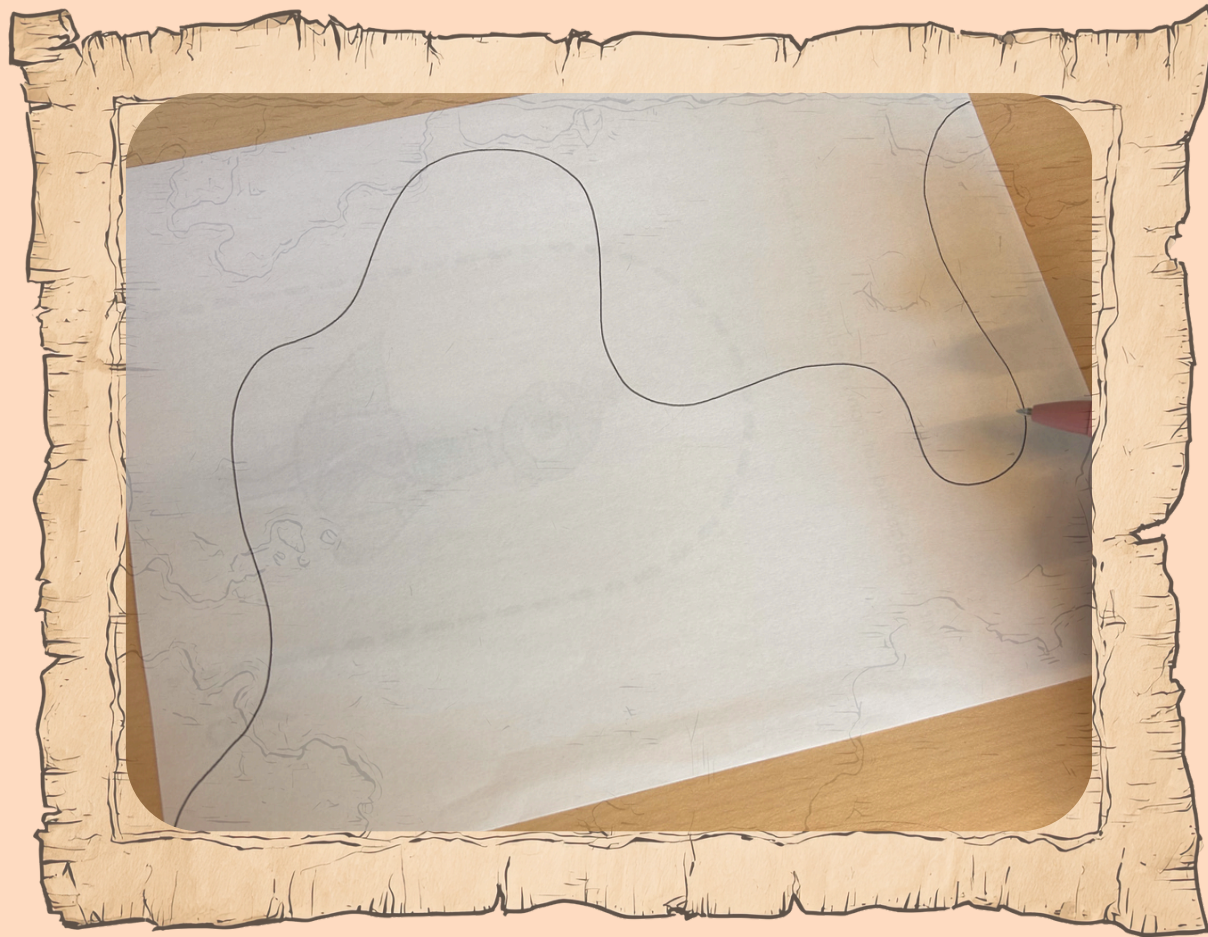
- **SHEET OF PAPER**
- **PEN OR PENCIL**
- **AN ACTIVE IMAGINATION!**





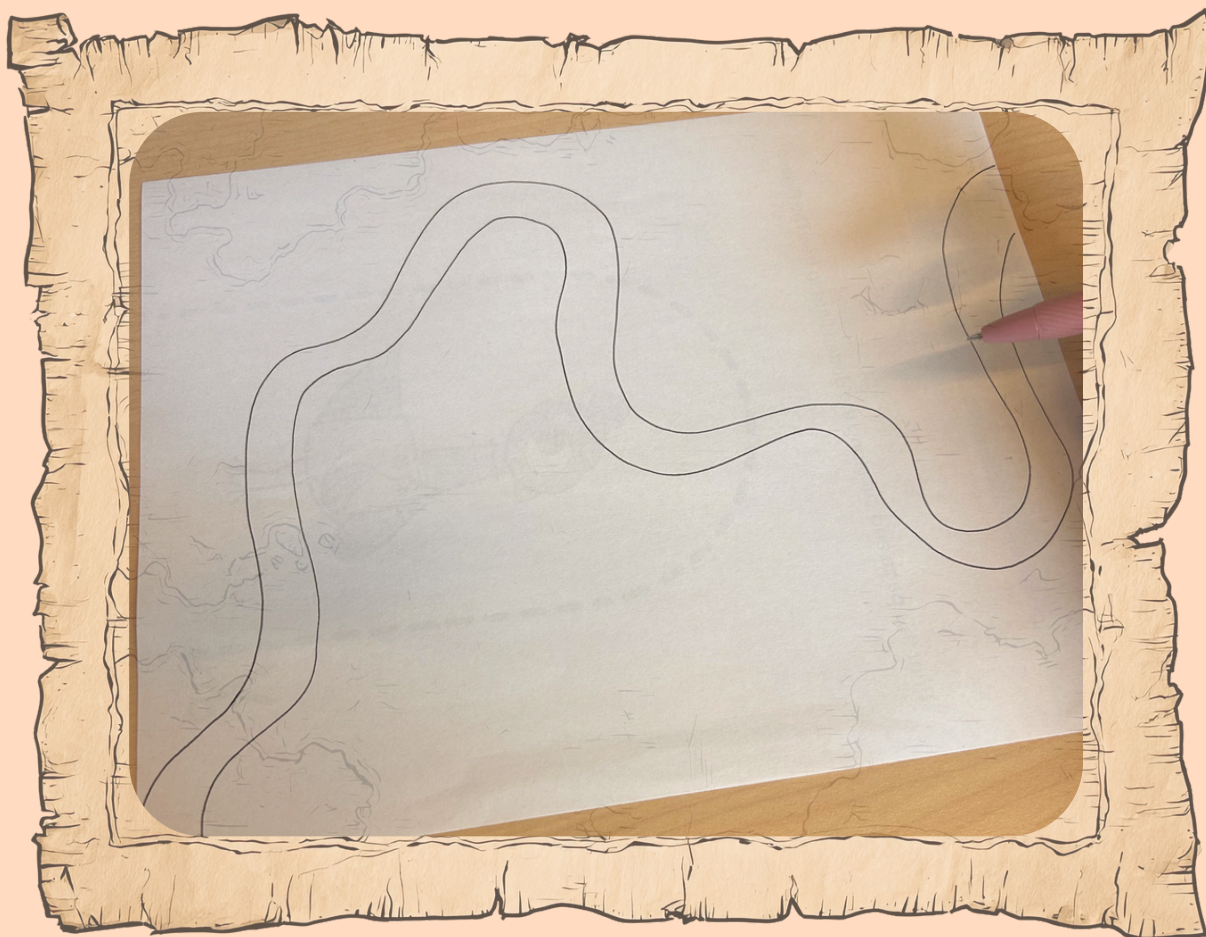
Here in the Hundred-Acre Wood

A SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITY



Step 1:

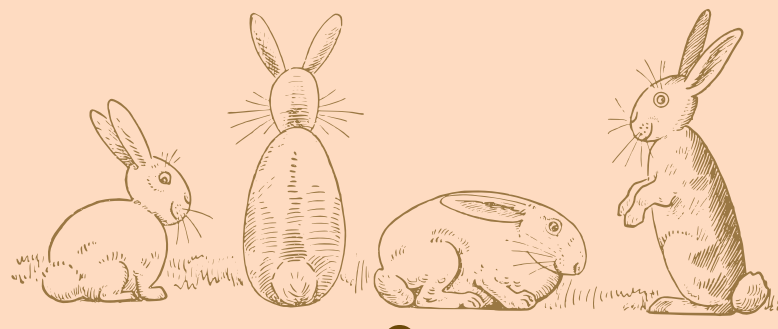
**Draw a squiggly line from
one side of the paper to
the other**



Step 2:

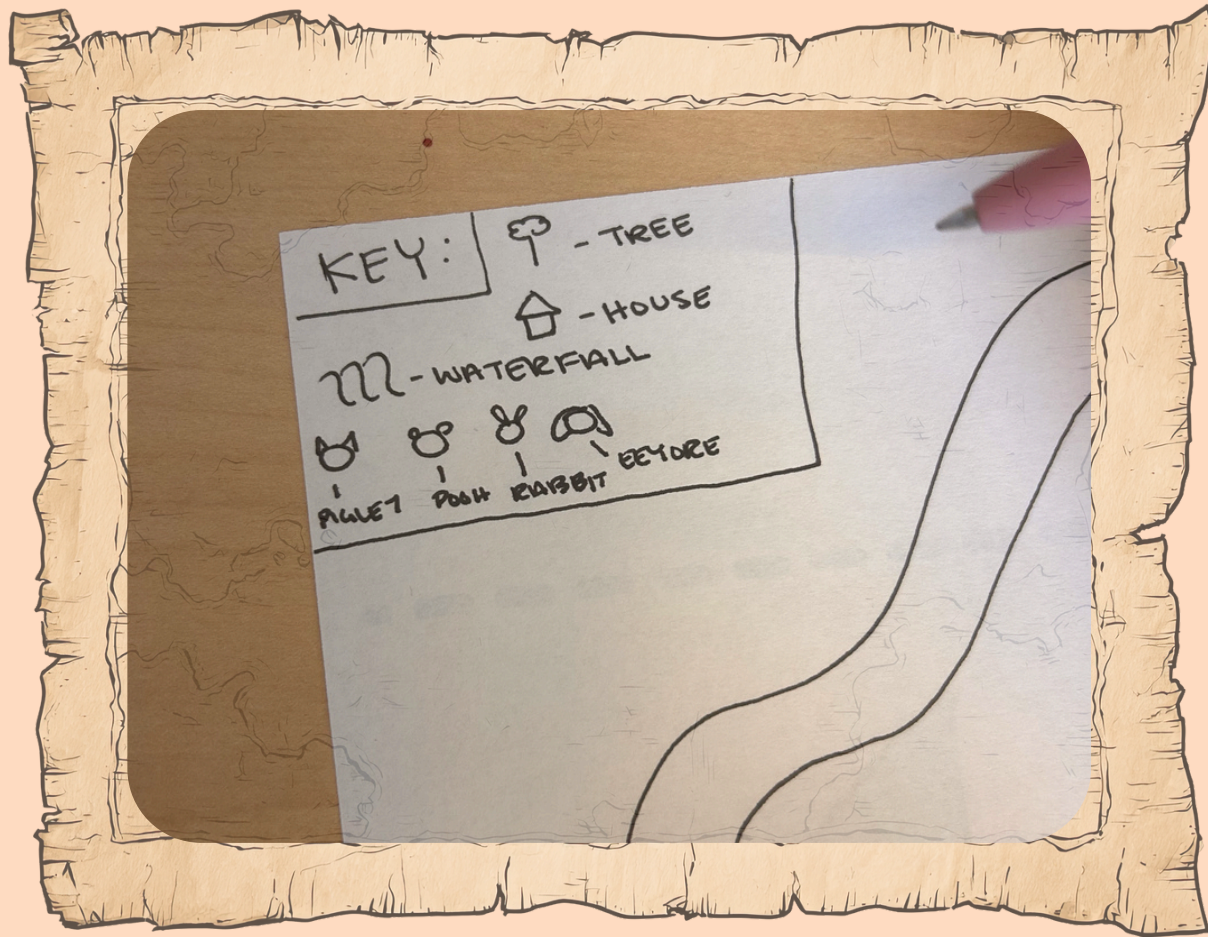
**Draw a second squiggly
line that copies the first
one you drew – this will be
the path through the
woods**





Here in the Hundred-Acre Wood

A SOCIAL STUDIES ACTIVITY



Step 3:

Write a Key in the top corner of the page –this will help the reader know what the pictures on your map mean



Step 4:

Start to fill in the space around your path! You can include trees, hills, lakes, rivers, character houses, beehives and bees, and so much more! Let your imagination run wild!



Add a Tree to the Hundred Acre Wood

A STEM ACTIVITY

In the show, Christopher Robin's boxes transform their space into the Hundred Acre Wood. In this activity, you can repurpose a cardboard box to create a tree to add to the Hundred Acre Wood!

Follow the directions below and use the pictures on the next page as a guide to create your tree

**ALL YOU NEED IS
CARDBOARD,
SCISSORS, AND
MARKERS!**

Directions

- 1. Draw the shape of one tree onto your cardboard.**
 - i. Tip: use a green marker to draw the tree so the marker lines will blend in when you color the tree later!
- 2. Cut out the tree you drew**
- 3. Trace the tree's outline onto another piece of cardboard and cut it out to create an identically sized tree.**
- 4. Cut a notch in the middle of both trees- one starting from the bottom of the tree, one starting from the top. They should be about two thirds of the way through the tree.**
 - i. Tip: You might have to put the tree together a few times to cut the notches evenly, to make sure both tree's trunks touch the ground at the same time. This will help your tree stand up on its own.
- 5. Color both sides of each cardboard piece in whatever color you want your tree to be.**
 - i. Tip: if you use different shades of the same color on top of each other, the tree's leaves will look more realistic!
- 6. Assemble your 3D tree by sliding the tree with the bottom notch into the top notch of the other tree.**

FOLLOW ALONG WITH THESE PROCESS PHOTOS TO MAKE YOUR OWN TREE!

Step 1



Steps 2 & 3



Step 4



Step 5



Step 6



“Build A Bear” Sewing Activity



HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN SOCK BEAR FROM THERESA COTTONE ON YOUTUBE

Chrisotpher Robin and Pooh Bear are the best of friends. Now it’s your turn to create your very own stuffed bear!

Follow along with the instructions and example images on the next few pages to learn how to make your very own sock bear

What You’ll need

- **A pair of ankle socks**
- **Clear elastics**
- **String**
- **Cotton balls**
- **Permanent marker or fabric marker**
- **Ribbon(optional)**

Instructions

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN SOCK BEAR

FROM THERESA COTTONE ON YOUTUBE



Part 1: The Ears

- Rip one cotton ball in half
- Put one half inside each side of the toe of one sock, wherever you want the ears to be on your bear's head
- Wrap a clear elastic band underneath the cotton ball, on the outside of the sock



Part 2: The Body

- Stuff the inside of the sock with cotton balls until you reach your desired cuddliness.
- Take the excess fabric at the opening of the sock and push it to the back of the body, tying it off with an elastic.



Part 3: The Head

- Take a string a little less than halfway down the body and tie it tightly around the body. This will create the bear's round head.

Instructions

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN SOCK BEAR

FROM THERESA COTTONE ON YOUTUBE



Part 4: The Legs

- With the second sock, repeat the first steps we did to create the bear's ears.
- Flip the sock upside down and put it on the bear like a pair of pants.
- Trim off any excess fabric that goes over the bear's face- it should come past his neck like a turtleneck.



Part 5: The Tail

- Keeping the second sock over the body of the bear, find the lump in the back where you tied off the excess fabric from the body.
- Put an elastic around the excess fabric to create the tail.



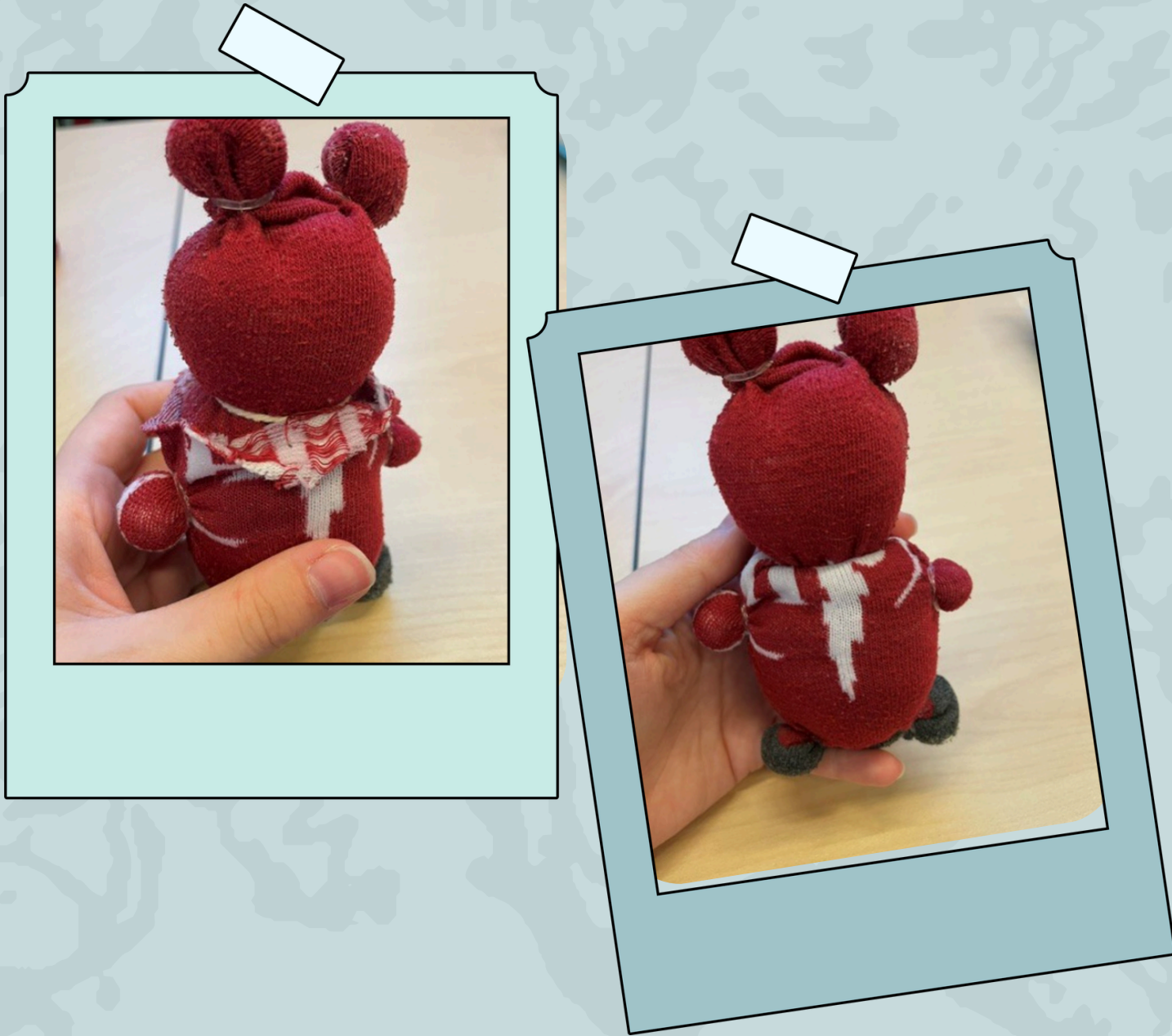
Part 6: The Arms

- Put half of a cotton ball inside each side of the second sock, where you want the arms to be.
- Tie off with an elastic

Instructions

HOW TO MAKE YOUR OWN SOCK BEAR

FROM THERESA COTTONE ON YOUTUBE



Part 7: The Neck

- Tuck the excess “turtleneck” fabric from the second sock into the string we tied to create the head.
- Take a ribbon and tie around the bear’s neck for a fashionable scarf that hides any rough edges or excess string.
- If you don’t have a ribbon, you can create one by cutting a strip of fabric from the excess fabric you trimmed off the sock!



Part 8: The Face

- Taking your permanent or fabric marker, draw a friendly face on your bear! You can customize it however you want.
- Enjoy your new friend and have fun going on adventures together!

Post Show Questions

- **In Winnie-The-Pooh Forever Friends, we learn about the importance of family, friendship, and chosen community.**
 - What qualities do you look for in a friend?
 - What kinds of communities do you belong to?
- **In Winnie-The-Pooh Forever Friends, Grandpa Chris returns to the Hundred Acre Wood after several years of being away.**
 - How did the friends of the Hundred Acre Wood react when they saw Grandpa Chris again after such a long time?
 - Have you ever returned to a place you hadn't been to for a long time? What was it like?
- **In Winnie-The-Pooh Forever Friends, Pooh and friends navigate their feelings about change.**
 - How did Eeyore and Friends express their feelings about Grandpa Chris and Alex going away?
 - How do you navigate Big Feelings when you are experiencing change?

Who Said It?

1. **"Ah, my old friend Piglet. I haven't seen you in quite a while."**
2. **"I can see the honey. I can smell the honey...but I cannot quite reach the honey."**
3. **"C'mon everyone bounce with me!"**
4. **"Oh, it's just going to be one of those captain-ish sort of days."**
5. **"But we need to find something to help Pooh's rumbly tumbly."**
6. **"Oh, dear. I wouldn't want to spoil the violets."**
7. **"The east wind is trading places with the west wind. Whether we are here or away, the seasons change."**
8. **"Thanks for noticin'."**
9. **"It certainly is a blustery day."**
10. **"We were away for so long. And while I was gone, the wind kept calling...and no one answered."**
11. **"Well, friends, you have all helped me remember how much fun it is to do nothing."**



Who Said It?

ANSWER KEY

1. **Grandpa Chris**
2. **Pooh**
3. **Tigger**
4. **Rabbit**
5. **Alex**
6. **Piglet**
7. **Rabbit**
8. **Eeyore**
9. **Eeyore**
10. **Owl**
11. **Grandpa Chris**



Learn to play Poohsticks!



In "The House at Pooh Corner" Pooh, Christopher Robin, Eeyore, and Tigger first play the game Poohsticks. Poohsticks is a game based on one that author A.A. Milne and his son (the real Christopher Robin) played.

Today you can visit Poohsticks Bridge near Ashdown Forest in South East England, where A.A. Milne and Christopher Robin invented the game, or participate in The World Poohsticks Championship in Oxfordshire, England! You can even play Poohsticks near your home!

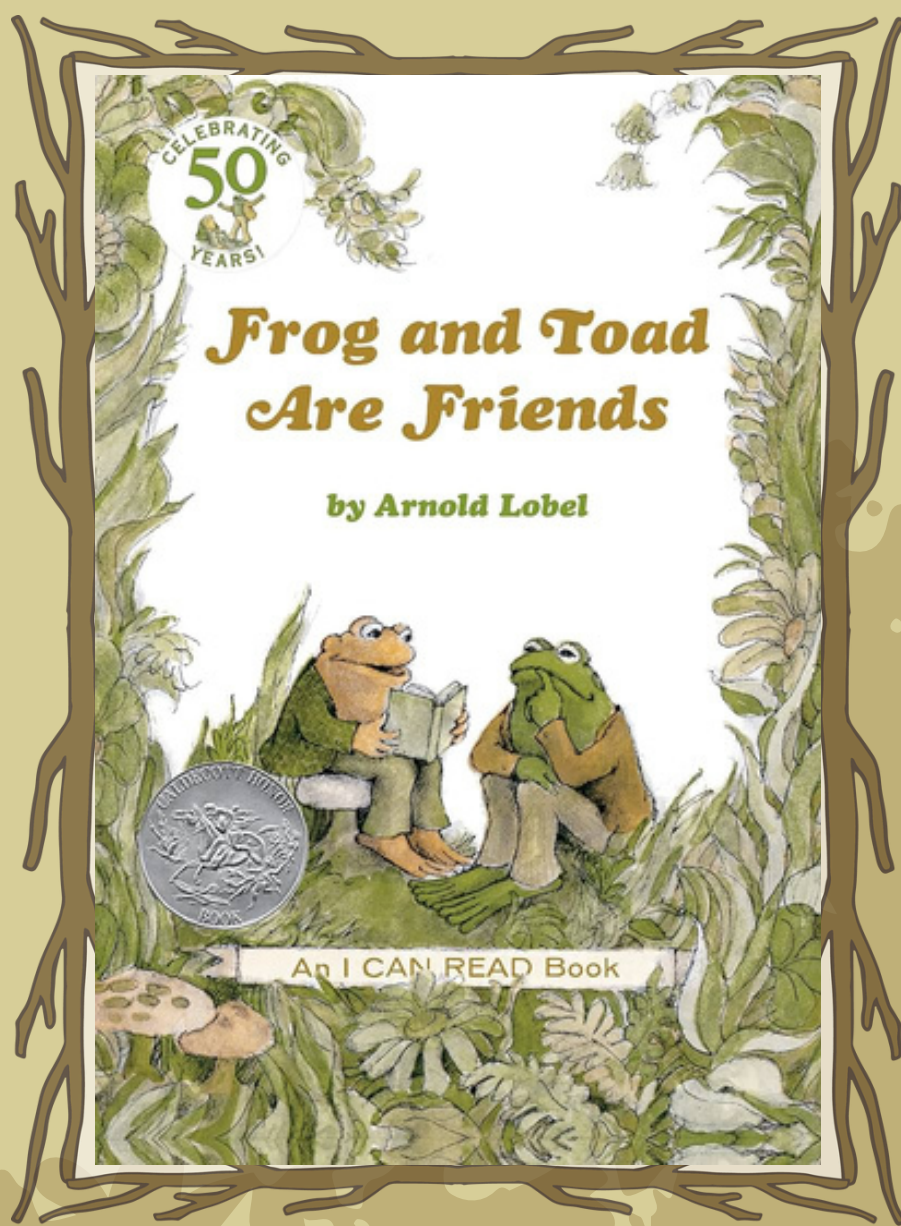
YOU'LL NEED...

**A BRIDGE OVER RUNNING WATER
& SOME STICKS!**

How to play:

1. Find a stick, any stick lying on the ground will do.
2. Line up on the bridge with your fellow competitors facing up stream.
3. All competitors must drop their sticks into the water at the same time.
4. Run to the other side of the bridge and wait for the sticks to appear.
5. Whoever's stick appears first from under the bridge is the winner!

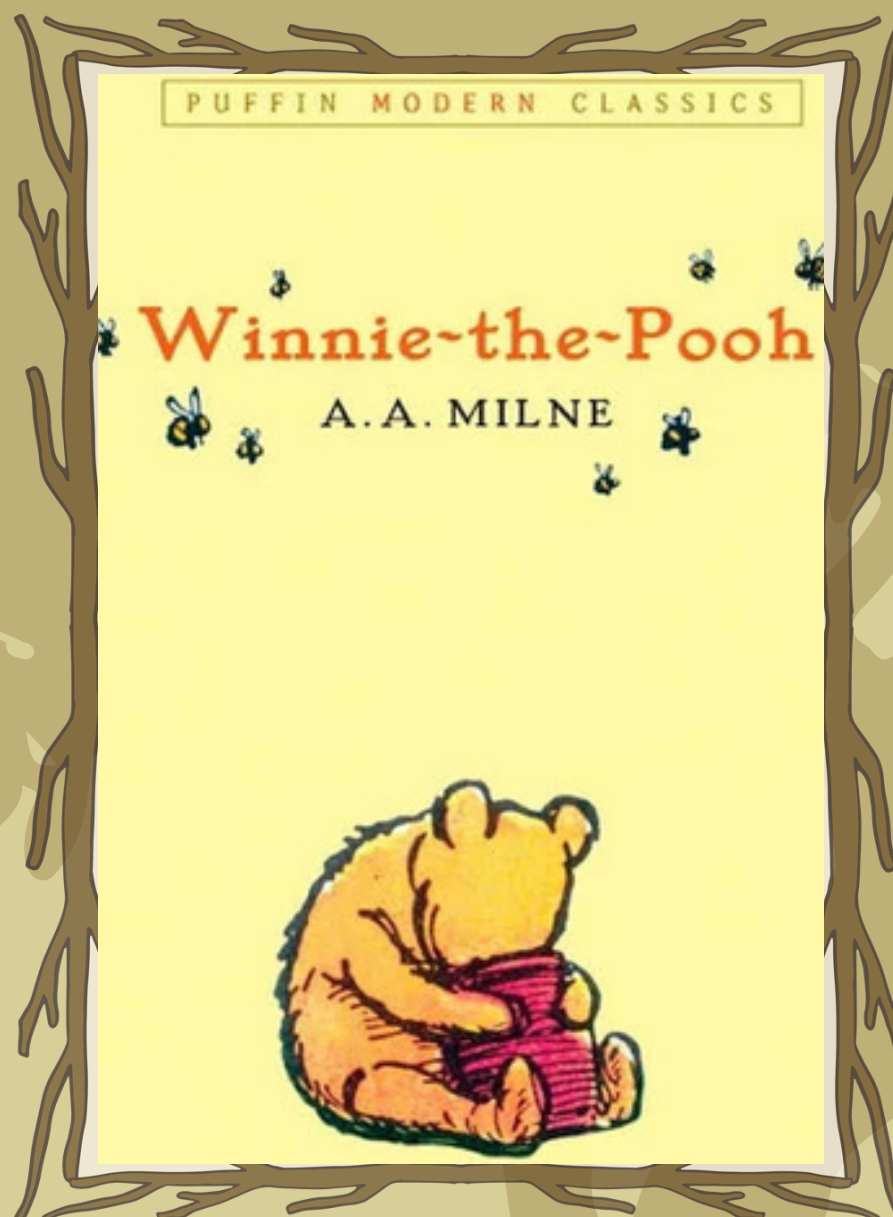
Recommended Reading



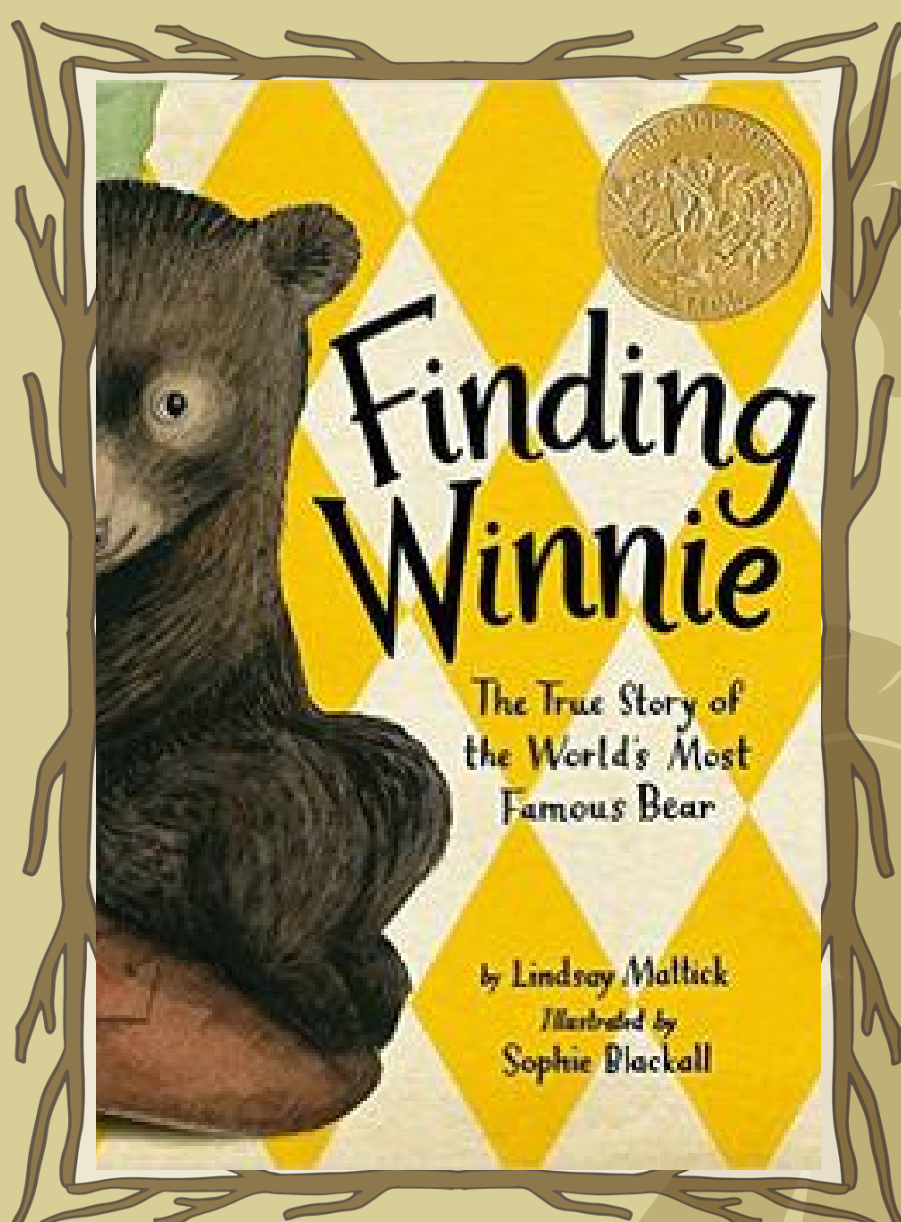
FROG AND TOAD BOOKS
by Arnold Lobel



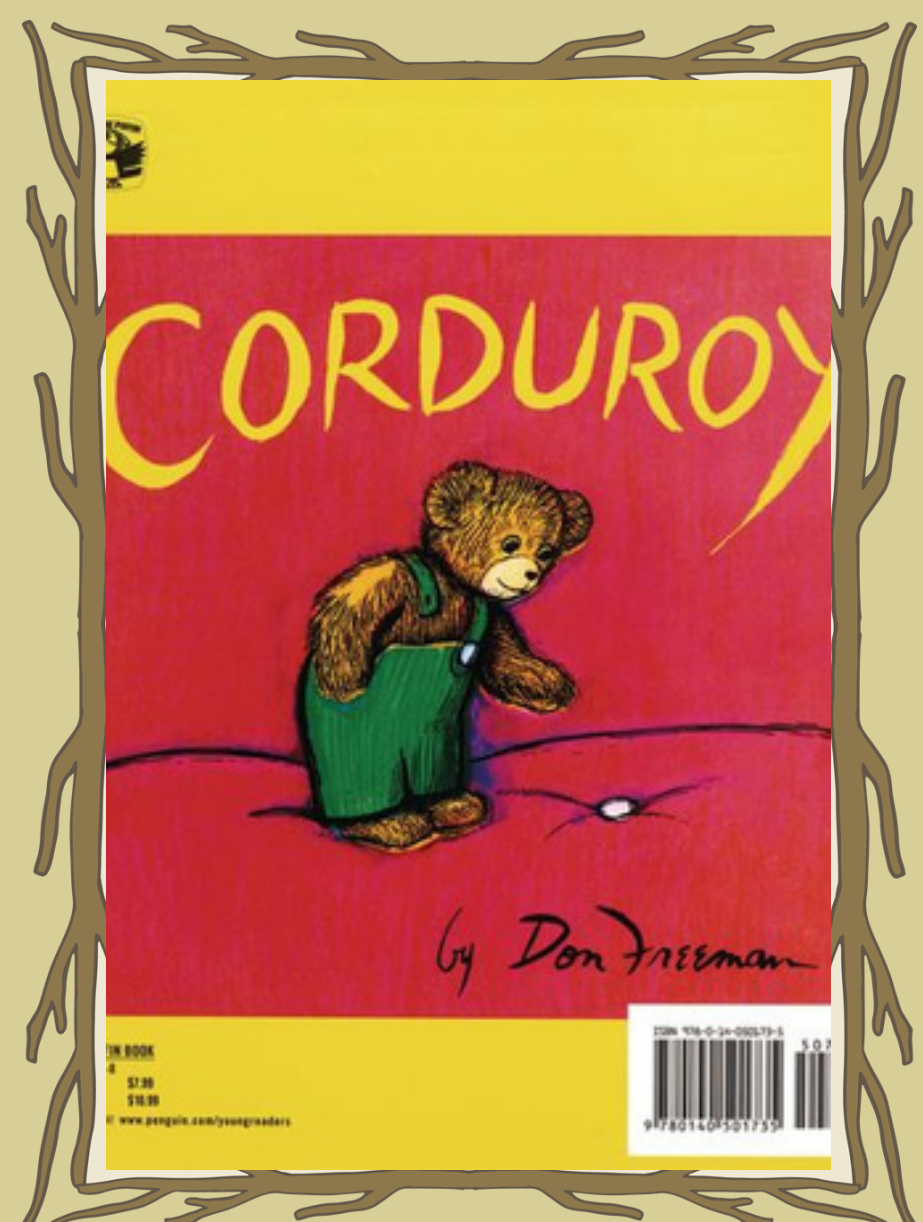
KNUFFLE BUNNY BOOKS
by Mo Willems



WINNIE THE POOH
by A. A. Milne



FINDING WINNIE
by Lindsay Mattick



CORDUROY
by Don Freeman



Step into the wonder of the Hundred-Acre Wood with this special show playlist!

This playlist aims to capture the magic of Winnie-the-Pooh through music that can be enjoyed by audience members of all ages.

You can shuffle the playlist to add to the joy or listen to it in order to go through the story chronologically, as each section of the show has a song that evokes a similar feeling.

No matter how you choose to listen, we hope you enjoy this special playlist!



Thank You to our Donors

Philanthropy is giving (time, money, goods, or talents) to make the world a better place.

At First Stage we are so thankful to our donors, sponsors, volunteers, families, students and staff who help transform lives through theater!

FIRST STAGE'S CURRENT DONORS:



How Can You Get Involved?

**VOLUNTEER FRONT
OF HOUSE FOR A
PRODUCTION**

**ATTEND A
PERFORMANCE**

**MAKE A
MONETARY
DONATION**

**BRING FIRST
STAGE TO YOUR
SCHOOL**

**TAKE AN
ACADEMY CLASS**

**TELL YOUR
FRIENDS ABOUT
FIRST STAGE**

Connecting with Other Generations

In Winnie the Pooh, Alex and Grandpa Chris have fun getting to know each other and finding common ground despite their generational differences.

Take a look at the following resources in the Milwaukee Area for ways that you can foster intergenerational connections!

Kids Impact Community (KIC) currently has three locations that offer Intergenerational Playgroups: Saint John's On The Lake (Eastside of Milwaukee), Hamilton House (Cedarburg), and Harland Terrace (Hartland)



St. Ann Center for Intergenerational Care provides care for people of all ages, allowing all generations to connect and positively impact each other.





GET TO KNOW JEFF FRANK & MARION FRANK!



JEFF SAYS:

- **What do you do here at First Stage, and how long have you been involved with this organization?**
 - I am currently the Executive Artistic Director. I started working at First Stage in 1996 as the Education and Academy Director. I became Artistic Director in 2003 and then Executive Artistic Director in the spring of 2025. As the EAD, I set the vision for the organization and then with our incredible team map out the artistic and educational programming while also working to ensure the business of First Stage stays on track as well. So my days can vary from being in rehearsal, to observing a new teacher, to reviewing budgets or new program proposals, to connecting with donors who support First Stage. It is a full life but also one that is rich with rewards. The key reward being privileged to be witness to the amazing journeys of so many young people through the years – my own children included.
- **What is your favorite family memory you've made at First Stage?**
 - That is tough to answer after 31 years, so here are a few. Taking Marion to her first play – The Magic Mrs. Piggie Wiggle and watching her be enchanted by the production. Opening night of Matilda the Musical – our first full-length production which also included my youngest Lilly in the cast. Working with my wife Sarah who is an amazing set designer on the production of A MIDNIGHT CRY – perhaps the most powerful and meaningful show I've been privileged to be a part of. Working with Harry Connick Jr on The Happy Elf, with Lois Lowry on Gossamer, with Donald Driver on Dream, Quickie, Dream!, and with Stephen Schwarz as we re-wrote My Son Pinocchio for the holiday season. There have also been countless smaller moments that perhaps have even more meaning: watching a young person find the confidence to share their voice in a classroom or rehearsal process, witnessing an academy student stand up in front of a group of 200 and acknowledge the work of a peer, feeling the joy of a student from our Next Steps program sharing what they have learned in a presentation for their family. I've been truly blessed, and I continue to be blessed.
- **What is it like to work with your family at your job?**
 - It's interesting having worked with both my wife and with my daughter. Certainly there is a family shorthand when working on projects which helps us communicate and craft productions with a lot of specificity. The first few years Marion worked at the academy and even in productions, a lot of folks didn't realize that she was my daughter, and in a lot of ways that was good. She blazed her own path. Now that she has earned the respect of her theater peers, we embrace the relationship a bit more publicly – which has also made working together more relaxed
- **How has First Stage impacted your family?**
 - First Stage has profoundly impacted all of us. We are a First Stage family through and through. We've shared a lot over the years and all grown through our First Stage experiences. I'm thankful that Sarah and both my children – Marion and Lilly – were involved over the years. To be honest, the job takes a lot of my time and there were moments I missed as my kids grew up, but there were also amazing moments together at First Stage that helped make up for those moments I missed along the way.



GET TO KNOW JEFF FRANK & MARION FRANK!



MARION SAYS:

• What do you do here at First Stage, and how long have you been involved with this organization?

- I have been at First Stage since before I was born! When my mom was pregnant with me, she was the Scenic Artist at First Stage, and she's continued to do many set designs here (my personal favorite being A YEAR WITH FROG AND TOAD). I took every academy class available to me as a young person; I did four weeks every summer and was a member of Young Company for three years. I was also in a number of mainstage shows as a young performer. My first performance (at age 6) was Girl Scout #3 in RAMONA QUIMBY. Throughout college, I returned to First Stage Summer Academy, first as a TA, working my way through lead teaching and, this summer, directing the Classical Company Class, which had been a dream of mine for many years. After graduating, I moved back to Milwaukee and began designing lighting for the Young Company shows in the newly renovated Goodman Mainstage Theater. Last year, I made my professional directing debut at First Stage with LOVABYE DRAGON, which was incredibly meaningful to me.

• What is your favorite family memory you've made at First Stage?

- It's hard to pick just one! But I think one of the most significant moments for me was being in THE SNOW in 2016, directed by my dad. I was in high school, and up until that point had not really considered theatre as a career. I remember distinctly standing next to another YP, waiting for our entrance in rehearsal, and just being struck with this clarity: I couldn't imagine my life without theatre. That was the moment, for me, when things changed and I committed to pursuing theatre in every capacity.

• What is it like to work with your family at your job?

- It's really fun! Because we're all so involved in theatre, our family get-togethers often devolve into work talk. I really love our collective brainstorming though, we're always asking each other how we should handle a specific moment in a play (could this bird be represented by a piece of fabric, or a sound cue, or can the ensemble come together to form a flock of birds, etc). There's so much trust there and room to fail, which makes it so much easier to throw the metaphorical spaghetti at the wall. My dad and I got together a few months before LOVABYE DRAGON last year to just explore the Dragon puppet, taking turns operating and observing each other and establishing a movement vocabulary that became our baseline in rehearsals. Those collaborations are so fulfilling to me as an artist, and I feel so grateful to be able to rely on my family for them.

• How has First Stage impacted your family?

- It cannot be understated how much First Stage has impacted us. I've said before that First Stage has made me who I am today, and that still holds true. Having a place as a young person where your voice is not only heard, but respected, and learning to be confident in leading a space; it's irreplaceable. First Stage was so integrated into my childhood, it's hard to fathom the whole scope of its impact. I remember my dad playing (what I now know as Story Drama) with me and Lilly when we were very young, maybe I was 4? We would walk through the story and act out each part. I remember (quite often) my dad handing me a book to read, asking me what I thought, so that I could tell him if we should make it into a play. I remember our family gathering to listen to my dad read chapter books to us in silly character voices, like Peter and the Starcatchers. I remember listening to showtunes, but not the classic Broadway musicals, we were listening to U:BUG:ME and SEUSSICAL and BIG FISH as dad did research on season selection.
- As First Stage celebrates its 40th season, I feel blessed to have been present for 27 of those years. First Stage has become a home to so many, and it holds a large place in my heart.