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## The Magical Mitten

In Jan Brett's *The Mitten*, a simple piece of clothing takes on a much deeper meaning. At first, the mitten is nothing more than a gift from Nicki's grandmother. She warns him that because it is white, it might get lost in the snow. But as the story unfolds, the mitten transforms into something much more than just a lost object—it becomes a symbol of warmth, kindness, and the unexpected ways in which we share the world with others.

The mitten's journey begins when Nicki accidentally drops it in the snow. A small mole, seeking warmth from the winter chill, finds the mitten and crawls inside. This sets off a chain reaction: more and more animals squeeze into the mitten, each one desperate for a cozy place to rest. Even though the mitten was made for only one hand, it stretches to fit creatures of all shapes and sizes. In this way, the mitten comes to symbolize generosity. Though the animals do not speak, they silently agree to share this tiny space, proving that there is always room for kindness.

As the mitten stretches, it also becomes a symbol of resilience. It does not tear or break, despite the growing number of animals inside. This suggests that even small things can be stronger than they appear. Just as the mitten holds together against all odds, people can also find strength when faced with challenges.

The mitten also represents balance and limits. At first, the mitten holds every new visitor. But when a tiny mouse climbs onto the bear's nose, the balance is broken. The bear sneezes, sending all the animals flying in different directions. This moment reminds us that there are limits to what something—or someone—can handle.

When Nicki finally finds his mitten at the end of the story, he has no idea of the adventure it has been through. But the reader knows that the mitten has become much more than an ordinary piece of clothing. It has been a shelter, a test of strength, and a lesson in sharing. Through this simple object, Jan Brett teaches us that even the smallest things can carry big meanings.