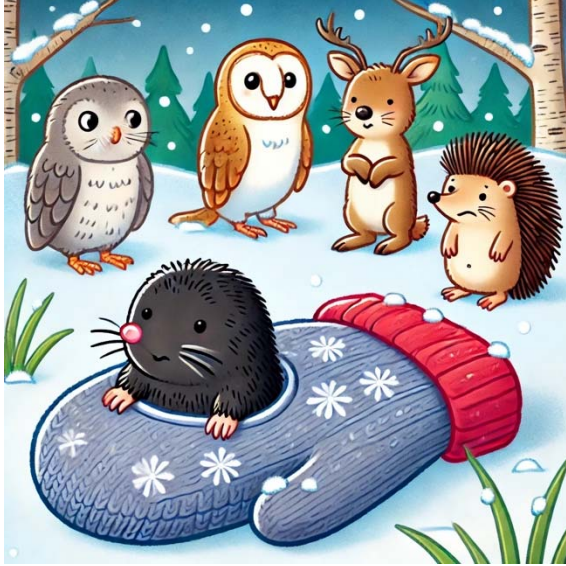


Name \_\_\_\_\_



## No Room

In Jan Brett's *The Mitten*, the animals manage to squeeze into Nicki's lost mitten, sharing the small space despite their differences. But what if one of the animals refused to let others in? How would the story change if the mitten was claimed by a single animal who did not want to share?

Imagine that after the mole crawled into the mitten, he decided that he did not want to share it. When the rabbit arrived, shivering from the cold, the mole refused to

move over. "This mitten is mine," he might have said, "and there's no room for you!" The rabbit, disappointed and still cold, would have had to hop away in search of another warm place.

As the story continued, more animals would have arrived at the mitten, each hoping to find shelter from the freezing weather. The hedgehog, the owl, and even the fox might have pleaded with the mole, but if he stood his ground and kept the mitten to himself, the animals would have been left out in the cold. Without a growing crowd of animals inside, the mitten would never have stretched, and there would be no funny moment of the bear squeezing in or the final sneeze sending everyone flying.

This change in the story would remove an important lesson about kindness and cooperation. In the original version of *The Mitten*, the animals share because they all need warmth, even if it means being squished together. Their willingness to make space—even for creatures very different from themselves—shows that working together benefits everyone.

If the mole had been selfish, the mitten would have remained small and unused by most of the animals. Instead of a humorous and exciting adventure, the story would have been much shorter, with no surprise ending for Nicki when he found his stretched-out mitten. The message of the story would change too. Instead of showing the power of sharing and cooperation, it would show how selfishness can lead to missed opportunities.

*The Mitten* reminds us that sharing often leads to unexpected joys. By making room for others, we can create warmth, friendship, and even a great adventure—just like the animals in the mitten!