

Name _____



Working Together

Jan Brett's *The Mitten* is a story that teaches an important lesson about teamwork and community. When a small, lost mitten becomes a refuge for a growing group of animals, they must work together to share the tiny space. Although they come from different backgrounds and have different needs, the animals find a way to cooperate—at least for a little while!

The story begins when Nicki, a young boy, loses one of his mittens in the snow. A small mole is the first to find it and crawls inside to keep warm. Soon, a rabbit arrives, asking for space. If the mole had refused to share, the story might have ended there, but instead, the animals begin to work together in an unspoken agreement. One by one, new animals arrive—a hedgehog, an owl, a badger, and even a fox. Each one is different in size and personality, yet they all find a way to squeeze inside the mitten.

At first, the mitten seems much too small for so many animals. But because they all need warmth, they learn to make space for one another. Without teamwork, they would have been left out in the cold. Their cooperation shows how, even in unexpected situations, working together can benefit everyone.

The most surprising moment happens when a large bear arrives. Even though he is much bigger than the others, the mitten stretches once more to fit him inside. But the balance of their teamwork is finally broken when a tiny mouse climbs onto the bear's nose. The bear sneezes, sending all the animals flying into the snow!

Even though their time in the mitten was short, the animals' cooperation teaches a powerful lesson: teamwork and community can help in difficult situations. The mitten became a shared space where animals that might normally avoid each other found a way to get along. This idea can be applied to real life—whether in families, schools, or communities, working together can make things better for everyone.

By the end of the story, Nicki retrieves his mitten, stretched out from the adventure he never saw. But the lesson remains: when people (or animals!) support one another, they can overcome challenges—even if it means squeezing into a tiny mitten!