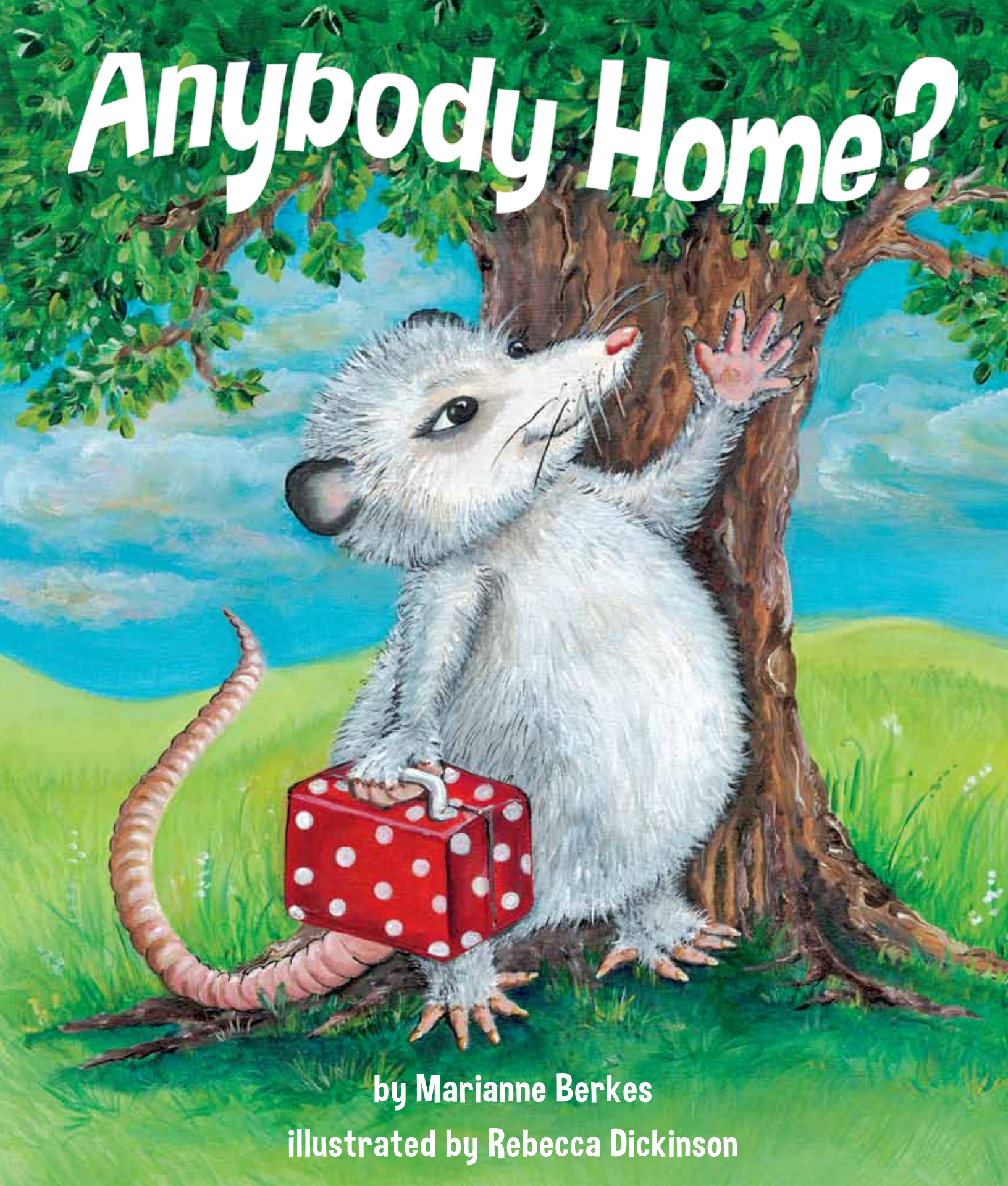


Anybody Home?



by Marianne Berkes

illustrated by Rebecca Dickinson

Anybody Home?

Polly 'Possum is looking for a new home to raise her expected babies. Along the way, she meets a wide variety of diurnal and nocturnal animals. She learns how they build and live in webs, nests, hives, shells, burrows, lodges, dens, caves, dreys, and even hollows. While those homes are perfect for those animals, they aren't right for her. How does Polly find a home and will she find it in time?

Animals in this book include: bat, beaver, bee, fox, mole, opossum, robin, spider, squirrel, turtle, and woodpecker.

This is so much more than a picture book! This fun-to-read story is a launch pad for learning and discussion, at home or in the classroom. We encourage adults and children together to explore the activities in the back of the book and on the book's homepage. Free online resources and support at ArbordalePublishing.com include:

- For Creative Minds as seen in the book (in English & Spanish):
 - Animal Homes
 - Name the Animal Home
 - Diurnal or Nocturnal?
 - Polly's Map
- Teaching Activities (to do at home or school):
 - Reading Questions
 - Language Arts
 - Math
 - Science
- Interactive Quizzes: Reading Comprehension, For Creative Minds, and Math Word Problems
- English and Spanish Audiobooks
- Related Websites
- Aligned to State and Core Standards
- Accelerated Reader and Reading Counts! Quizzes
- Lexile and Fountas & Pinnell Reading Levels

eBooks with Auto-Flip, Auto-Read, and selectable English and Spanish text and audio available for purchase online.

Thanks to Jaclyn Stallard, Manager of Education Programs at Project Learning Tree (www.plt.org) for reviewing the accuracy of the animal-home information in this book.

Award-winning author **Marianne Berkes** (pronounced Ber-kess with two syllables) is a retired teacher and librarian who turned her love of nature and teaching into writing informational picture books. In addition to *Anybody Home?*, *The Tree That Bear Climbed*, and *Animalogy* for Arbordale, some of Marianne's other recent and award-winning titles include: *Going Home*, *The Mystery of Animal Migration*; *Over in the Ocean, in a Coral Reef*; *Over in the Jungle, a Rainforest Rhyme*; *Going Around the Sun*, *Some Planetary Fun*, and *What's in the Garden?*. Visit her website at MarianneBerkes.com.

Rebecca Dickinson's award-winning art and illustrations grace not only *Anybody Home?*, but many other books as well, including *Wee-Sing Nursery Rhymes*, *Boo! A Halloween Sticker Book and Story*, and *The Dirty Pond*. She is the author and illustrator of *The 13 Nights of Halloween & Monster Cake*, and wrote *Over in the Hollow*. Rebecca is a member of the Society of Children's Book Writers and Illustrators. She paints the "old fashioned way," with acrylic and gouache, from her home studio in Seattle, WA. Ms. Dickinson shares her Gothic Victorian home with 3 lovely children, a brilliant corgi, named Napoleon Bonaparte, and Stella Fluffanella the studio muse cat. Visit her website at rebeccadickinson.com.



Marianne Berkes

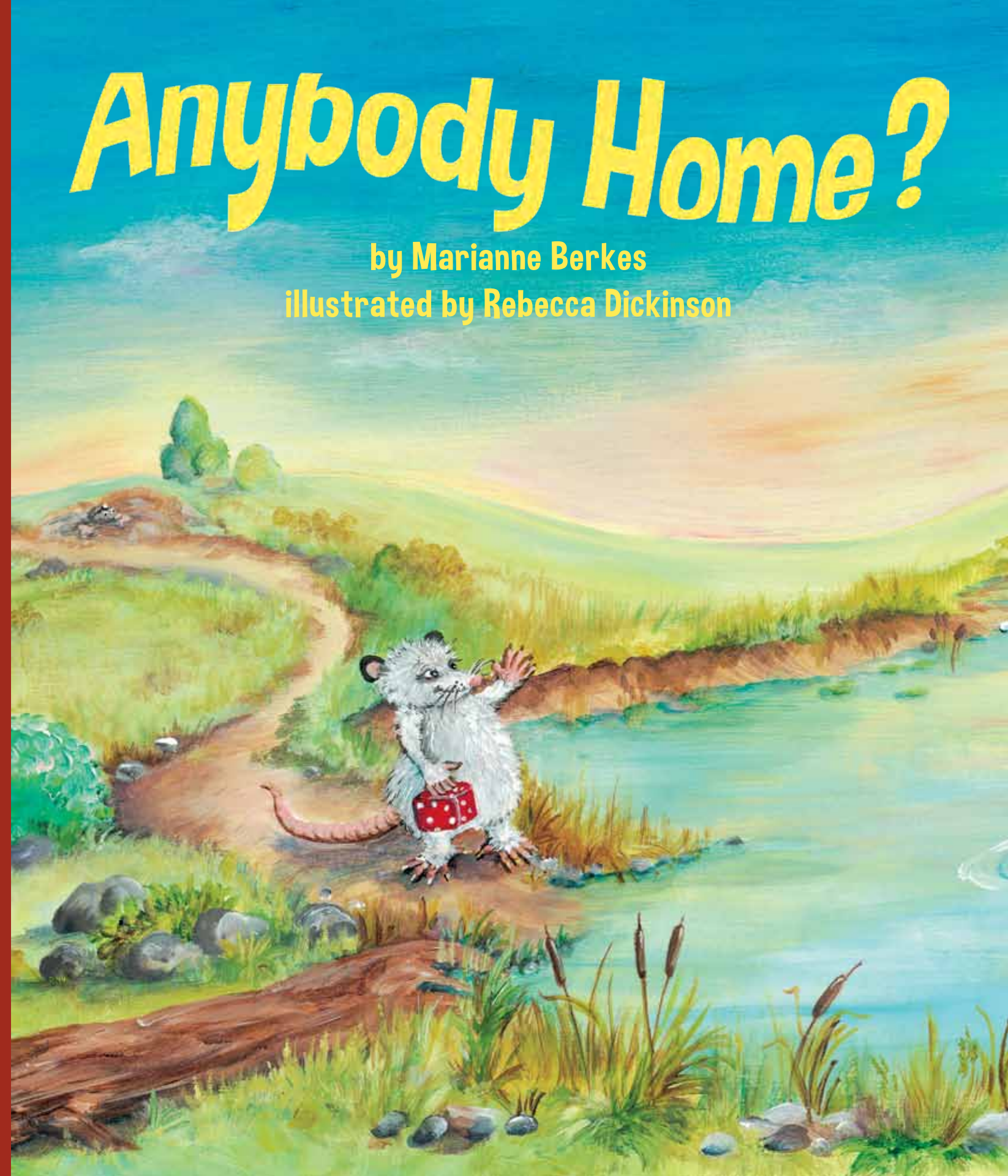


Rebecca Dickinson

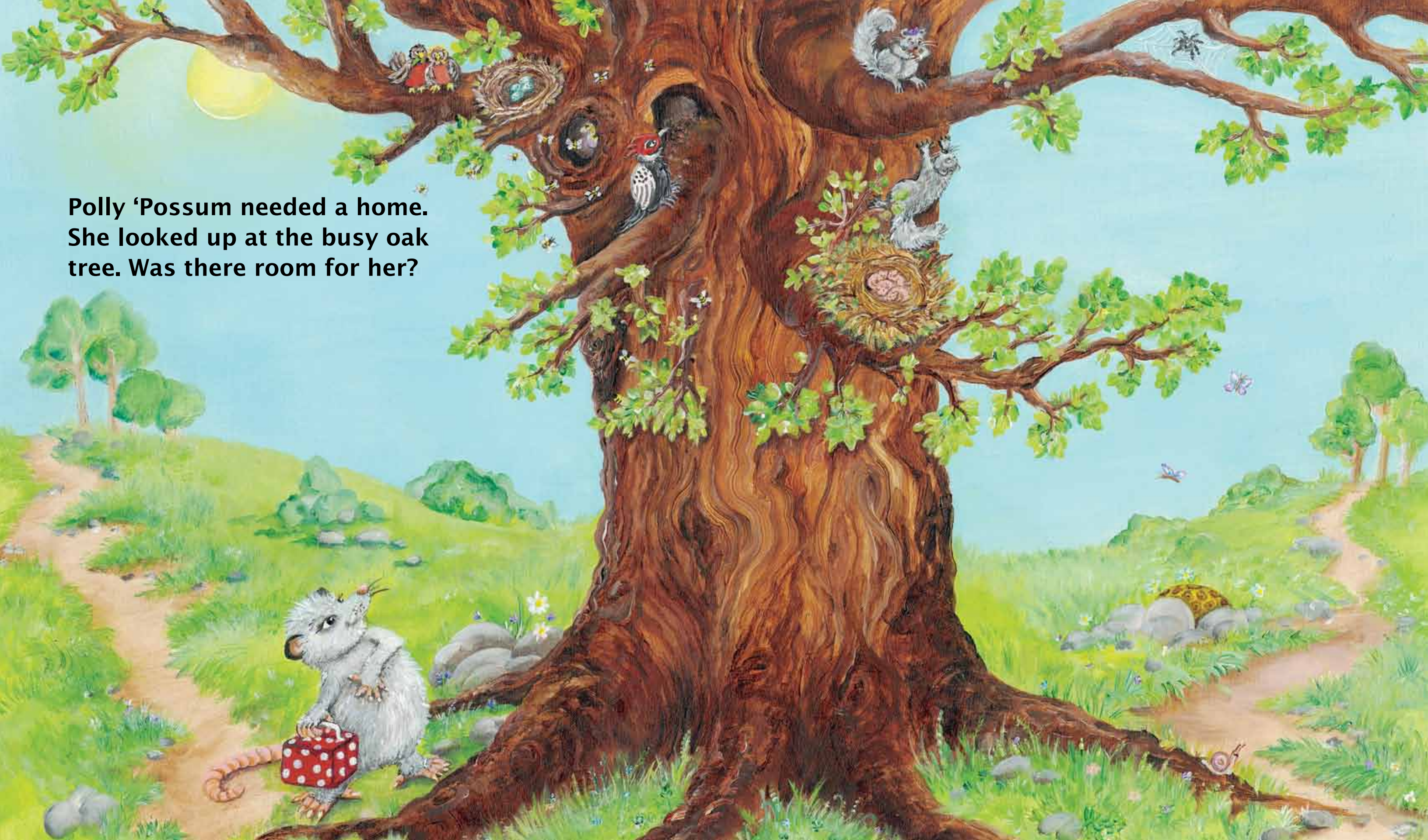
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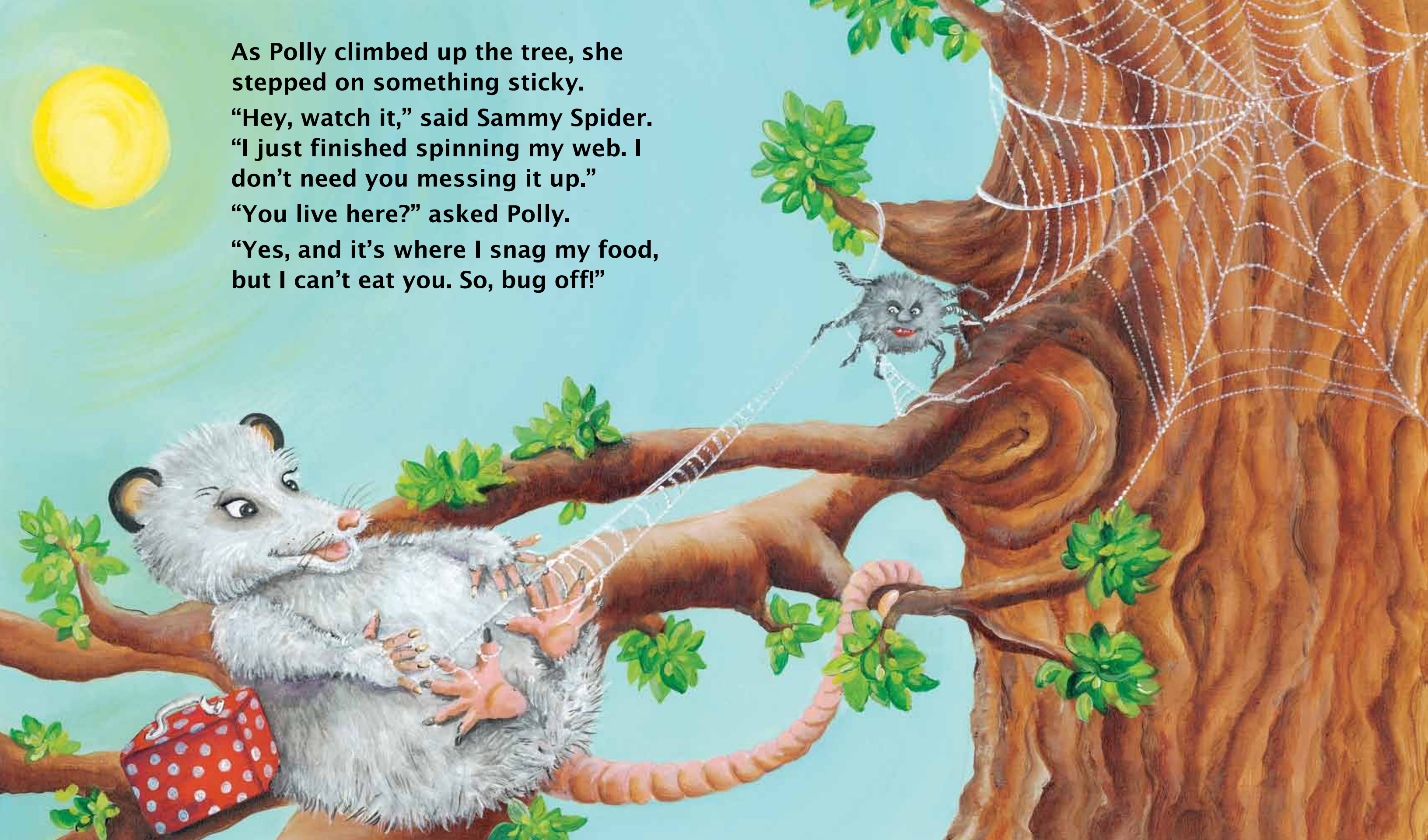
illustrated by Rebecca Dickinson



**Polly 'Possum needed a home.
She looked up at the busy oak
tree. Was there room for her?**



As Polly climbed up the tree, she stepped on something sticky.
“Hey, watch it,” said Sammy Spider.
“I just finished spinning my web. I don’t need you messing it up.”
“You live here?” asked Polly.
“Yes, and it’s where I snag my food, but I can’t eat you. So, bug off!”



“I need a room,” said Polly.

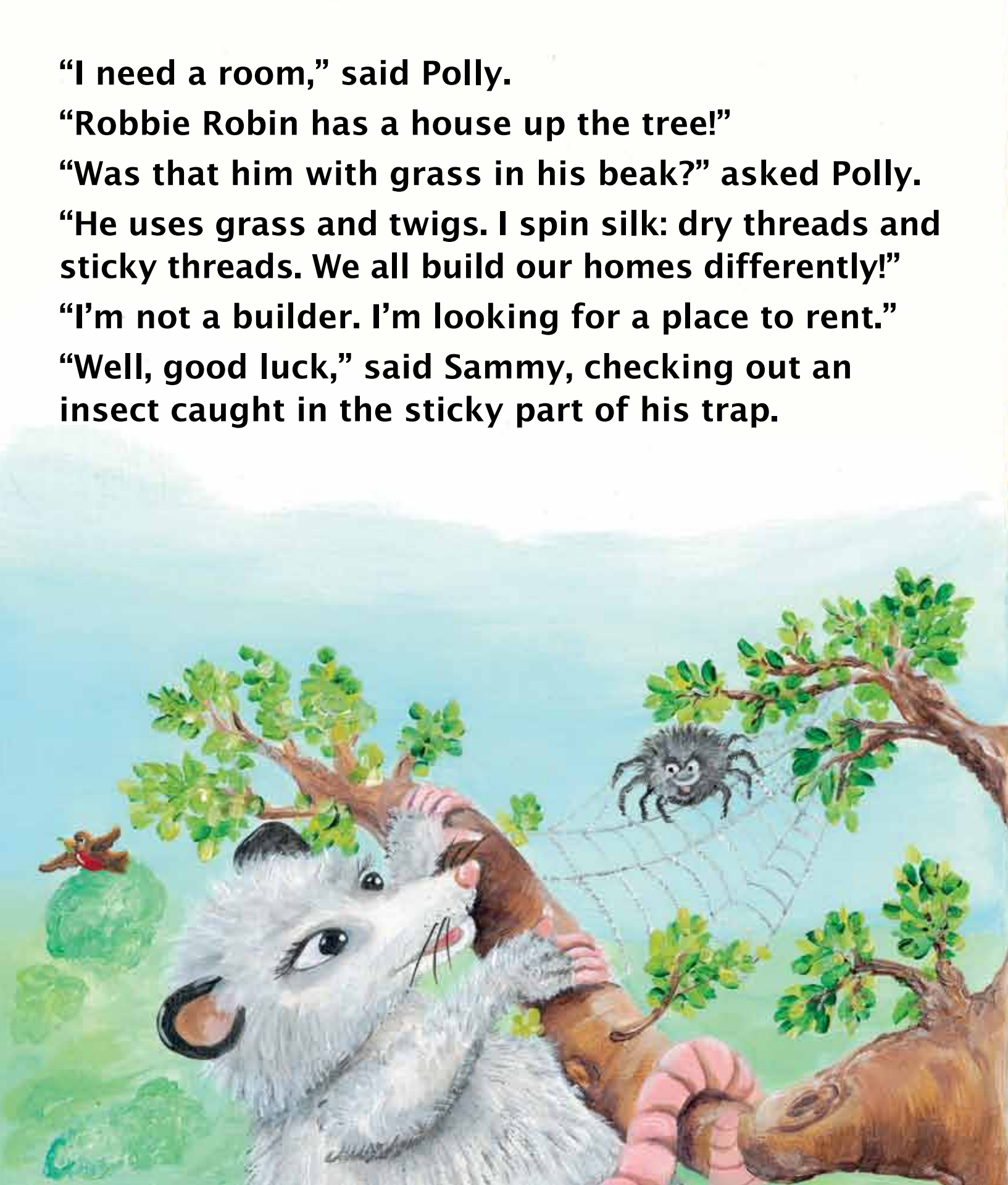
“Robbie Robin has a house up the tree!”

“Was that him with grass in his beak?” asked Polly.

“He uses grass and twigs. I spin silk: dry threads and sticky threads. We all build our homes differently!”

“I’m not a builder. I’m looking for a place to rent.”

“Well, good luck,” said Sammy, checking out an insect caught in the sticky part of his trap.



For Creative Minds

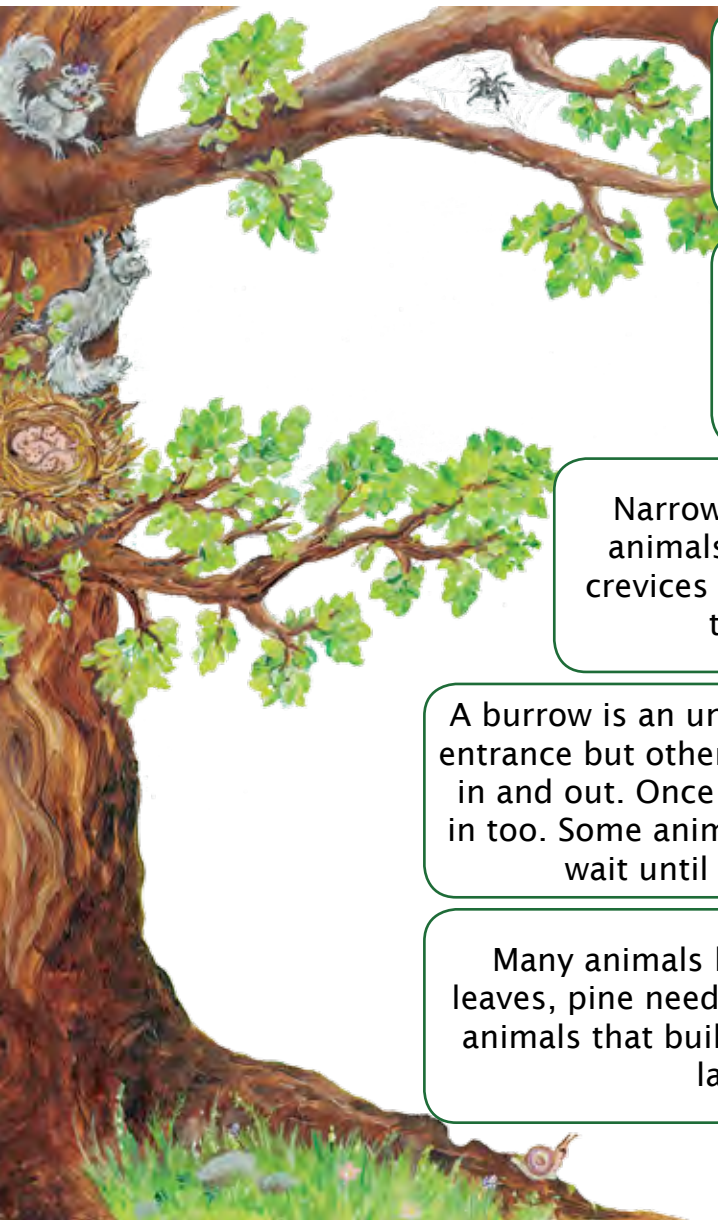
The For Creative Minds educational section may be photocopied or printed from our website by the owner of this book for educational, non-commercial uses. Cross-curricular teaching activities, interactive quizzes, and more are available online. Go to www.ArbordalePublishing.com and click on the book's cover to explore all the links.

Animal Homes

Animals use homes to sleep, to hide from predators, to raise their young, to store food, and even to hide from weather (heat, cold, rain, or snow).

All animals find shelter in or around things that are found in the habitat where they live—living (plants or even other animals) or non-living (water, rocks, or soil).

Some animals stay in one location for long periods of time while other animals might make a home for short periods of time—as long as it takes to raise young or when travelling.



Animals use dens as nurseries to raise their young. Dens can be burrows, caves, holes, or even small areas under bushes and trees.

Caves protect animals from the hot sun during the day. They also provide shelter from wind and cold weather. Some caves are so deep underground that there is no sunlight at the bottom!

Narrow cracks in rocks (crevices) and tree holes protect animals from larger predators. Most animals can't make crevices bigger but many animals make holes bigger. Once they have a hole big enough, they move in.

A burrow is an underground hole or tunnel. Some burrows have one entrance but other burrows may have many "rooms" and several ways in and out. Once an animal digs a burrow, other animals may move in too. Some animals move in with the burrow-digger. Other animals wait until the burrow is abandoned before moving in.

Many animals build nests with pieces of plants: twigs, grasses, leaves, pine needles, or even mud or pebbles. Birds are not the only animals that build nests. Some reptiles and fish also build nests to lay eggs and to care for their young.

Name the Animal Home



burrow



cave



den



drey



hive

Many spiders weave their homes out of different kinds of thread. Some threads are sticky and will trap prey. The spider knows which threads are sticky and which ones are safe for it to walk on without getting caught in its own trap.

Beavers use their strong, sharp teeth to cut down trees to build dome-shaped homes. To keep large predators away, their homes are often surrounded by water. If the water is not deep enough, the beavers will build dams to raise the water level.

Moles use their sharp claws to dig underground homes with many rooms. The tunnels have several entrances and exits so they won't get trapped by a predator.

Worker bees' bodies make the wax that they use to build small hexagon-shaped cells. The bees attach these cells together to build a home for the bee colony.

When foxes have young, they move into small caves or abandoned burrows. If the old burrow is too small for the fox family, the fox will dig it out to make their new home bigger.

Birds build homes from many different materials. Besides mud, grass and twigs, you might find pine needles, yarn or even a gum wrapper.

Bats live in dark homes that shelter them from light. As they hang from the ceiling, they are out of reach from other predators.

Gray squirrels usually use dry leaves and twigs to make their home in the forks of trees.

Box turtles like to bask in the sun, but sometimes hide in cool, wooded areas where they are better hidden from predators. Their home is a permanent part of their body and helps hide and shelter them from attack.

'Possums use the abandoned homes of other animals as their shelter.



hole



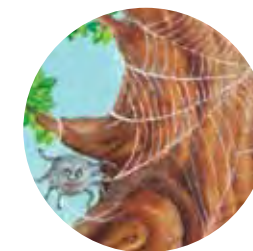
lodge



nest



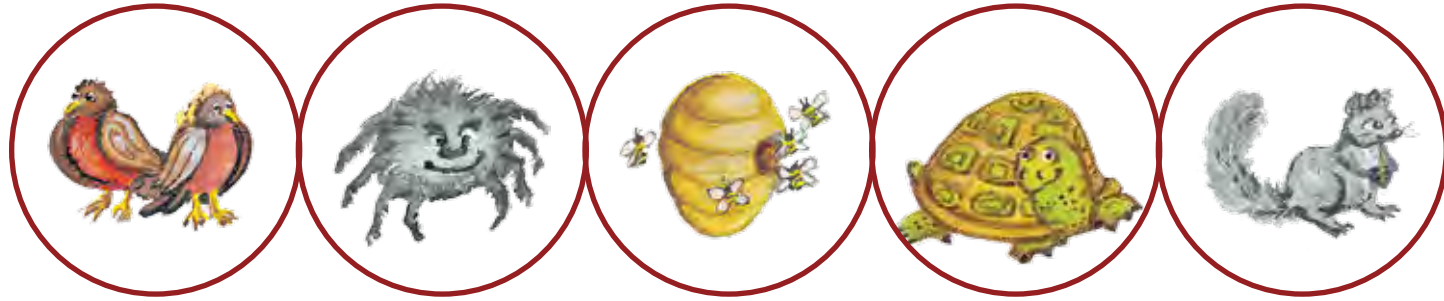
shell



web

Answers: spider web, beaver lodge, mole burrow, bee hive, fox den, bird nest, bat cave, squirrel lodge, turtle shell, 'possum hole

Diurnal or Nocturnal?



Some animals are active during the day and sleep at night (diurnal). Other animals sleep during the day, and are up at night (nocturnal). Sometimes animals that are nocturnal might be seen during the day. For example, Polly 'Possum, carrying her young, had to spend more time looking for food and searching for a new home. Which animals are diurnal and which are nocturnal? Are any animals both?

Robbie Robin gathered twigs and grass for his nest during the day.

Sammy Spider sat in his web all afternoon and into the late hours of the night waiting to catch his prey.

Becky Bee searched all day for flowers rich with nectar and pollen.

Timmy Turtle basked on a log in the warm sunshine.

After scurrying through the trees, Suzy Squirrel returned to her drey before dark.

Milton Mole was busy burrowing both day and night before it got too cold outside.

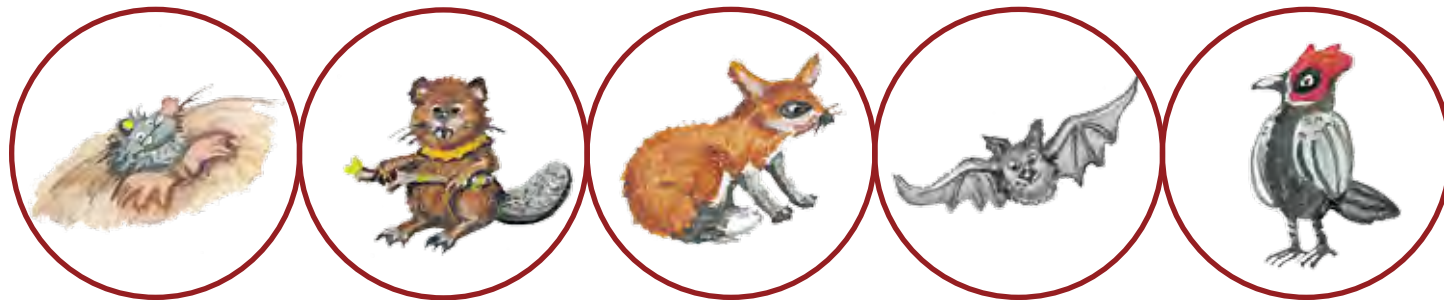
Betty Beaver piled branches on her lodge in the moonlight.

After hunting all night, Freddy Fox brought food to his family.

Billy Bat returned to the cave to sleep just before the sunrise.

Woody Woodpecker flew away from the hole in the tree before dark.

Polly 'Possum slept in the abandoned hollow all day.

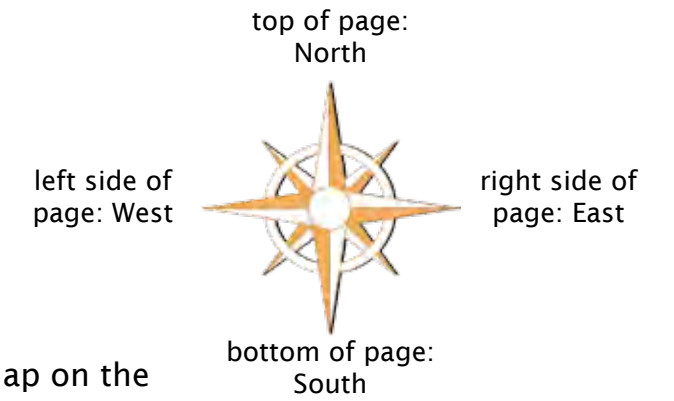


Answers: Diurnal: robin, bee, turtle, squirrel, woodpecker Nocturnal: beaver, fox, bat, 'possum Both: mole, spider

Polly's Map

Maps help us to "see" and understand where things are relative to each other. In this story, Polly 'Possum walks around her habitat looking for a new home. She meets different animals and sees their homes. To help us see and understand where Polly went, we can look at a map of the area where she lives.

A compass rose shows directions on a map. Usually maps show the top of the page as north. South is always the opposite of north, so south would be on the bottom of the page. If you look north, east is the direction to your right and west is on your left. Using these direction words helps describe how Polly travels.



Grids give locations on a map. If you look at the map on the next page, you can see that there are red lines crisscrossing over the map. The rows are labeled with letters on the side and the columns are labeled with numbers on the bottom. It's easier to tell someone where something is by using grid coordinates than it is by trying to describe where something is on a map. Using the two maps below, how would you tell someone to find the turtle?



It's easier and more accurate to describe that the turtle is in grid G-10 than to say that the turtle is a little way up the path from the tree, behind the rocks.

Use the map on the next page to:

- Describe the location of the animals and their homes. For example, the turtle is located in grid G-10.
- Describe the directions and number of grids that Polly traveled from one place to another. For example, Polly left the "X" at the tree and has travelled three grids to the east (right).
- Describe the relative location of one home to another. For example, the bats' cave is about 12 grids west (left) of the beavers' lodge.

A

B

C

D

E

F

G

H

I

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16



X

With love for the Boyd, Couch, Gainer, Godsoe, Karspeck, McAdam, Meyer, Silware, Vanderslice and Williams families, where I have always felt at home—MB

For Michael Dickinson, thank you for years & years of steadfast friendship and support—RD

Thanks to Jaclyn Stallard, Manager of Education Programs at Project Learning Tree (www.plt.org) for reviewing the accuracy of the animal-home information in this book.

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