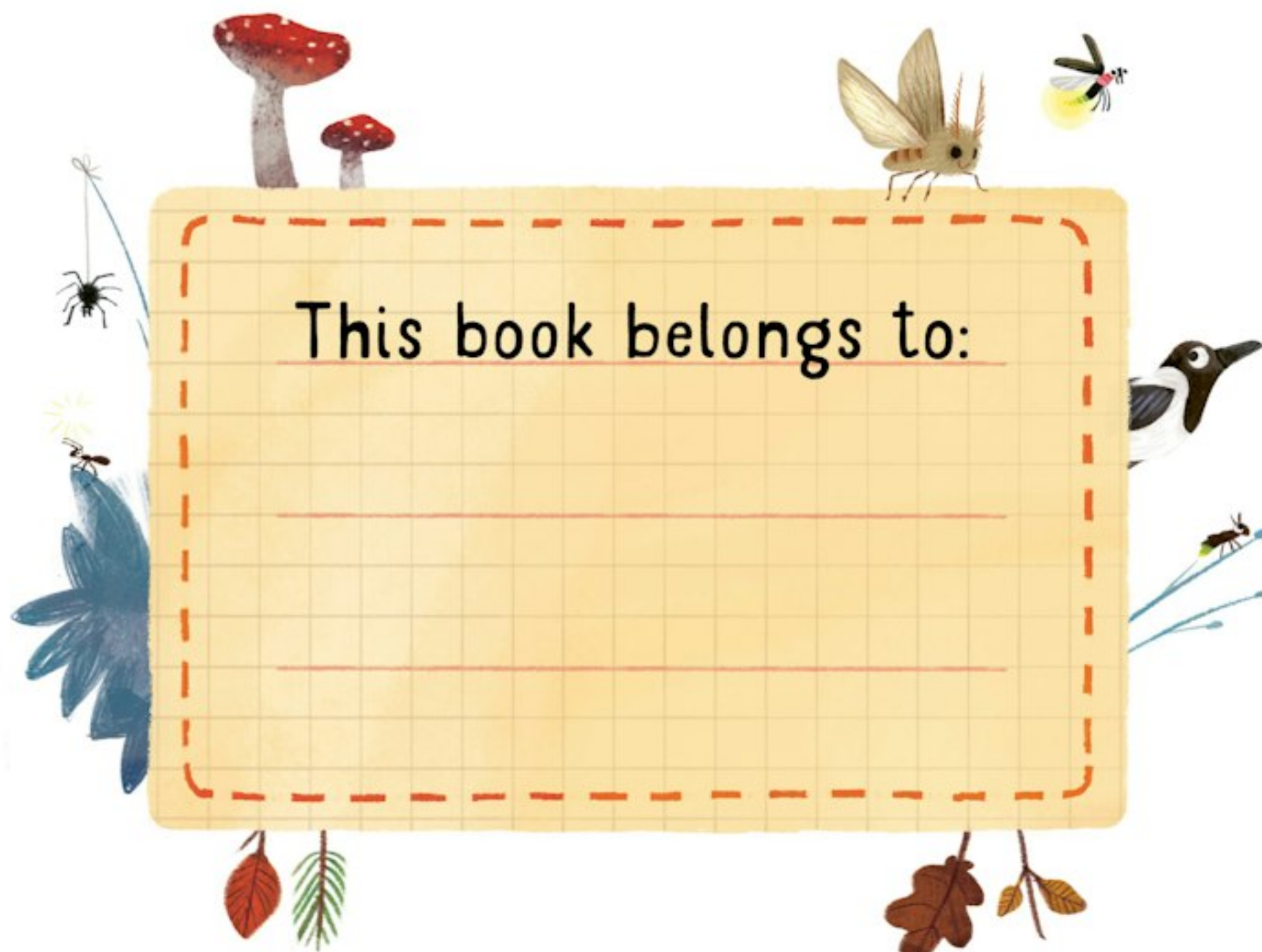


★ Mrs Owl's ★
FOREST SCHOOL
THE MOONLIT CAMPOUT



Illustrated by **Seb Braun**

A story
to share &
activities
to try!





Dedicated to
To Suzie and Damien

A TEMPLAR BOOK

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Written and edited by Ruth Symons
Designed by Ted Jennings
Production by Neil Randles
Consultant: Lizzie Noble,
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Stay safe!

It's important to stay
safe while you play outside.
This symbol will warn you when
you need to take extra care.



Forest School kit list:



Water
bottle



Waterproofs



Sturdy
shoes



Something
to eat

Extras for a campout:



Warm
clothes



Sleeping bag



Torch

Mrs Owl's FOREST SCHOOL THE MOONLIT CAMPOUT

Illustrated by Seb Braun



Deep in the woods, beneath the trees, the animals are gathering. It's time for Mrs Owl's Forest School!

Mouse, Squirrel, Fox and Rabbit sit in a circle. Dusk is approaching, and the sky glimmers pink with the last of the day's light.



Mouse, Squirrel, Fox and Rabbit watch the sunset with their bright eyes.

Have you ever been out to watch the sunset? What do you notice? Are the birds noisier or quieter than normal? What else can you hear, feel or sense?

"Tonight, we're going to have a special moonlit campout!" says Mrs Owl.

It's a bit different to what the friends normally do at forest school. They are all very excited.



"Wow, are these our tents?" says Fox, bounding into the glade.

"Yes, but it's not time for bed just yet," laughs Mrs Owl. "We've got lots to do before it gets dark. And I need your help to do the most important job of all..."



"... making a fire!"

A fire will keep the animals warm,
give them light, and they can
use it for cooking, too.

First they choose a spot
that is away from trees,
roots and their tents.

They place logs in a circle to
make a boundary around the
fire, and clear any dried grass.



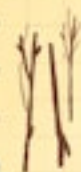
Then they head back into the woods.
Squirrel looks around uncertainly.
It is shadowy under the trees.
She wishes it wasn't quite so dark...

The friends will need to find lots of wood -
but not all wood is the same! Mrs Owl explains
the three types they need to look out for.

Tinder is what you use to start your
fire - it can be anything that burns
quickly, like dry leaves, grass or bark.



Kindling is small sticks that make the
shape of your campfire. Kindling should
look like the tail of a witch's broom.



Logs are the fuel you can pile on
your campfire once it is burning!



"Make sure the wood is all dry and dead," says Mrs Owl.
"You can tell by whether it looks green on the inside."





Together the friends ball the
tinder into a scrunched up 'nest'
in the middle of the fire.



Then they pile the kindling on top
like a teepee. Fires need air to burn,
so they leave a little gap.



Finally, Mrs Owl lights a match and drops
it carefully into the middle of the fire.



The first flames leap up,
orange and yellow. The animals
watch the flickering light.



Only light a fire with
a responsible adult
who knows what they're
doing. Make sure someone stays
with the campfire until it has
gone out. Don't touch it, even
when the flames have gone out –
it can stay hot for a long time!

Once the fire is burning,
they pile logs on. The flames
warm everyone's faces.

Squirrel glances over her
shoulder, where the shadows
leap higher. She shifts a little
closer to her friends.

"Who's hungry?" asks Mrs Owl.

All the friends are feeling peckish after their busy evening.



Then the animals take it in turns to hold the stick-sieve over the fire. The heat makes the corn start to pop.



When the popping stops, the popcorn is ready to eat.

Delicious!



There are lots of other ways to cook on a fire.
Why not try Mrs Owl's campfire recipes?

MRS OWL'S CAMPFIRE RECIPE!

You will need:



Bananas



Tongs



Knife



Tin Foil



Toppings

1. Take an unpeeled banana. Very carefully cut a slit down the centre lengthways.



3. Place the banana in the embers of the fire – this is best when the fire is dying down. Leave it for 1-2 minutes.



2. Put in some tasty toppings, like chocolate, marshmallows or strawberries. Wrap the banana tightly in tin foil.



4. Using tongs, remove the banana from the fire. If it's squishy, it's cooked! Carefully unwrap and enjoy!



For a savoury treat, you can bake potatoes in a campfire. Wrap them in tin foil and leave for 30-60 minutes. YUM!

"Can we have a story now?" asks Fox,
rubbing his nice full tummy.



"What a brilliant idea!" says Mrs Owl.
Everyone snuggles down to listen to Mrs Owl's tale.


But Squirrel can't enjoy the story.
Squirrel is looking anxiously at the
dark. Suddenly there is a loud
rustling behind them.



"EEEEEEPP!"


squeaks Squirrel,
leaping into the air!






"It's just a bird," says Mrs Owl. "Lots of small animals come out at night."

"I don't like it," says Squirrel. "I don't like the dark. I know it's silly, but I just don't like it."



What can you hear? Would it feel frightening if it was dark? Sometimes the sounds we hear at night can seem scary – but maybe you're listening harder at night when you can see less.



"It's not silly," says Rabbit. "I'm scared of heights, but you're not!"

"And I'm scared of broccoli!" says Fox.

"We're all scared of something," squeaks Mouse.

"But sometimes a thing you think is scary is actually amazing!" says Mrs Owl. "And do you know what's best about the dark? it means we get to see..."

...the stars!"

"What can you see?" says Mrs Owl.
"Can you see shapes in the stars?"
"They're called constellations."

They all look upwards.
Now the sun has set, the
night sky is glittering with
hundreds of sparkling stars.

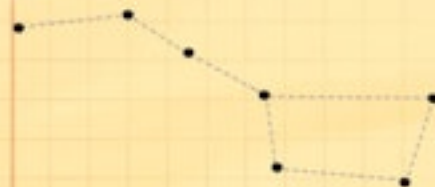
"Oh wow," says Squirrel. "I can see lots
of shapes. They're beautiful!"

Squirrel is so mesmerised that she has
forgotten to be scared of the dark.

MRS OWL'S GUIDE TO CONSTELLATIONS

The Plough (Big Dipper)

This constellation is the shape of an
old-fashioned plough, but is sometimes
called 'the saucepan'.



Orion

Orion is the name of an ancient
hunter. Can you see his belt
and his bow and arrow?



"It doesn't look so dark anymore," says Rabbit.

"I can see all the way to our tents," says Fox. "I couldn't before."

"It's called night vision," says Mrs Owl.

"Your eyes adjust to the dark,
and you can see much more."



MRS OWL'S GUIDE TO NIGHT VISION

Cover one eye with your hand, and stare towards a light for 15 minutes
(not directly at a light or fire, as this can hurt your eyes).

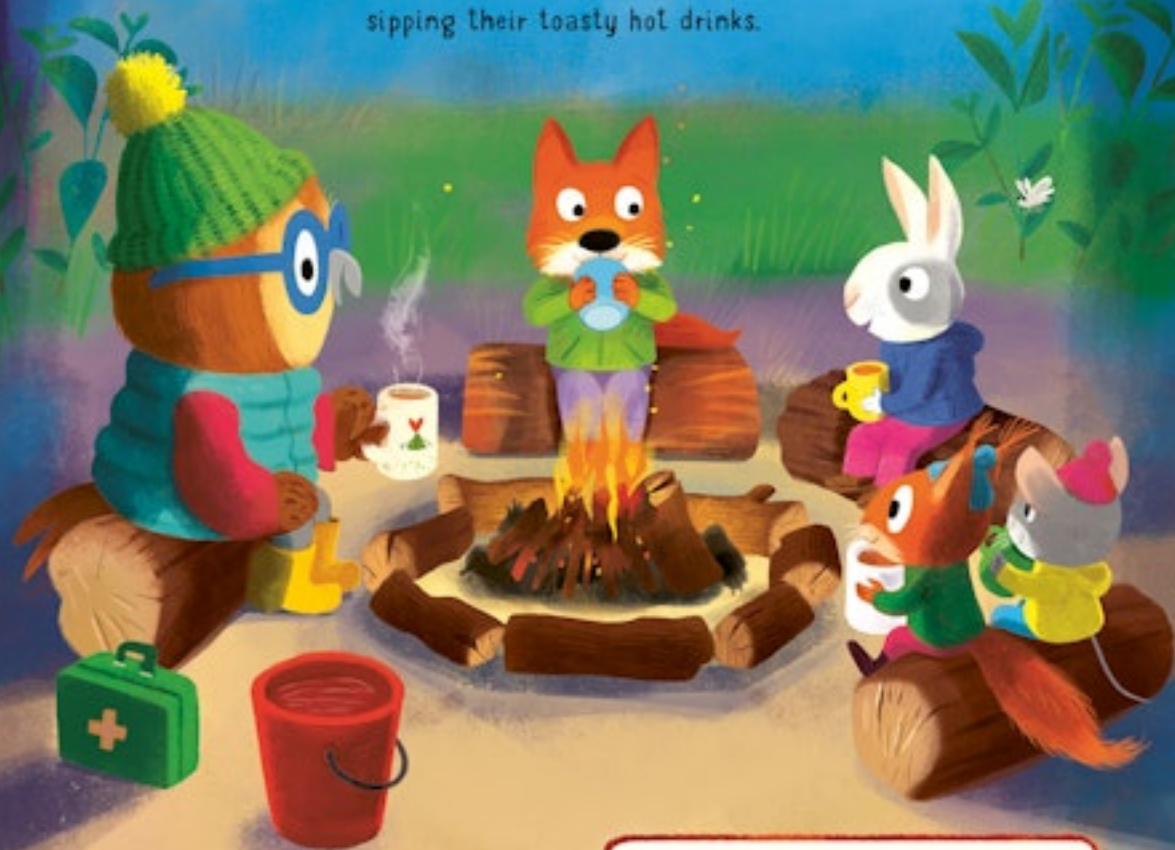
Cover the eye that had been open, and uncover the eye that was kept
in the dark. Notice how much more you can see with that eye!

Now everyone feels much braver, but they're getting a bit chilly.
They snuggle into their extra layers.



"Well done, everyone," says Mrs Owl. "You all worked together to build a fire
and cook a tasty snack. And Squirrel discovered that the night sky
is beautiful! But I think there's still time for one last thing ..."

It's hot chocolate round the fire!
Every day at Mrs Owl's Forest School ends the same way.
The animals sit around the campfire,
sipping their toasty hot drinks.



Gazing at the crackling fire,
they all feel very sleepy now.

Fires can be dangerous!
Only light a fire with
a supervising adult.
Never leave it unattended,
and don't get too close.



Mrs Owl puts out the fire. Then the sleepy animals
all brush their teeth, climb inside their cosy tents
and crawl into their sleeping bags.



"It's bedtime now," says Mrs Owl.
"Goodnight little ones, sleep tight!"

Everyone can enjoy what Forest School has to offer. It doesn't matter if you go to Forest School or if you've never heard of it! Whether you live in the countryside or the city, you can try some of these activities...



TORCH WALK

A torch is an essential bit of equipment for any night-time outing. But it can also be useful for exploring or for playing games!

Try taking your torch to the park, the woods or just into your garden at night...



Lots of insect are attracted to light. Try shining a torch at a fence or wall and see what happens. Look at the insects that gather there.



Turn off the light on your walk. What can you see and hear now? Can you hear a croaking frog or hooting owl? You might even see a bat!



Animals' eyes will reflect light back at night. When you're waking with your torch, look for yellow cat's eyes and red fox's eyes.



Try torchlight tag! The person holding the torch is 'it'. They shine the torch to find their friends. If the light falls on you, you're 'it'!

MOON DIARY

Have you ever noticed how the Moon seems to change shape through the month?

That's because the Moon is orbiting (circling) the Earth - so different bits of it are lit up at different times.

Try drawing the Moon every day for a month to see how it changes.



You can try camping, whatever equipment you have and wherever you live. Why not sleep in your garden, or set up camp in your sitting room?

So long as you have a torch and are sleeping on the floor, it's sure to feel like an adventure!



Never go anywhere without a responsible adult. If you go into the woods, make sure an adult has a fully charged phone with them in case of emergency.



See you next time you come to

Mrs Owl's FOREST SCHOOL

