

EDUCATION RESOURCE PACK

We're Going on a Bear Hunt



About This Resource Pack

We're delighted to share this resource with you, developed to support and extend the experience of our stage adaptation of the much loved Michael Rosen and Helen Oxenbury classic *We're Going on a Bear Hunt*.

Following the narrative of the book and the 6 different settings the family find themselves in, the pack takes you on a journey with suggestions for fun creative activities for each of the different environments alongside the song lyrics featured in the show.

The pack also contains background information on the book and the author, as well as templates for making your own bear and butterfly puppets.

We hope you enjoy exploring this pack, and don't be scared!



A family go on an expedition of a lifetime – running down the grassy bank, wading through the cold river, squelching over the oozy mud, stumbling into the dark forest, then peering into a cave... what will they find there?

Little Angel Theatre brings Michael Rosen's thrilling and funny adventure to life in this entrancing puppetry production, designed by Lyndie Wright and with original music by Barb Jungr, this production is ideal for brave hunters and bear lovers alike.



Introduction to Little Angel Theatre

Little Angel Theatre, nestled in Islington, London, is a renowned puppet theatre dedicated to captivating young audiences through imaginative performances. Established in 1961 by John and Lyndie Wright, the theatre has evolved into a vibrant hub for puppetry, offering a diverse range of productions, workshops, and educational resources.

The theatre's commitment to education is evident in its comprehensive offerings for schools. Through the Schools Partnership Programme, Little Angel Theatre provides digital and live performances, along with a wealth of online resources, including puppet-making guides and curriculum-linked activities. These resources support cross-curricular learning in subjects such as English, Science, Art, and PSHE.

For educators seeking to integrate puppetry into their teaching, the theatre offers professional development opportunities. Workshops cover various aspects of puppetry, from shadow puppets to table-top puppets, equipping teachers with practical skills to enhance classroom engagement.

Little Angel Theatre's dedication to fostering creativity and imagination makes it an invaluable resource for educators aiming to enrich their students' learning experiences through the art of puppetry.



**"LITTLE ANGEL
IS NOTHING LESS
THAN AN ICON
OF NORTH
LONDON
CHILDHOOD"
TIME OUT.**



Background Information

Michael Rosen is known not only as a writer but for his engaging and fun live poetry and storytelling performances. Long before he wrote *Going on a Bear Hunt* he was performing it! Originally a folk song to be shared around the campfire Michael was spotted presenting his rendition by the editor of Walker Books who asked him to write it down so they could publish it!

The version that Michael had been performing was too short to fill a book, so he added to the wonderful describing words we all know and love, and also the new settings of the forest and the snowstorm.

Helen Oxenbury had been asked to design a record cover for Alison McMorland a Scottish folk singer, who had recorded a version of the Bear Hunt song, so she was already aware of it when Walker Books asked her to illustrate the words that had been written by Michael.

Michael and Helen didn't actually meet until after the book was finished, and the idea of a group of children and their dog going on a bear hunt was not what Michael had been imagining himself when he told the story in his performances but it was a winning combination, and the book has become a children's classic.



Fun Facts About...

Michael Rosen – Interview with the Author

In 2006 we asked Michael some questions about his experiences with puppets as he was writing a puppetry play for us.

How did you become aware of the Little Angel Theatre, and how would you describe it to someone who has never been?

The very first time I heard about the Little Angel came about because I shared a flat with a film editor. He was editing a film about the founder of the Little Angel, John Wright and a visit the company was making to Greece. The flat housed the place where the film was being made – an editing suite, in other words – and so I would wake up in the morning to the sound of Little Angel puppeteers talking about packing their van, or carving the figures.

A few years later I was taking my children to see shows there. It's hard to conjure up what kind of place it is. In one sense it's like being in a miniature or scaled-down theatre. The hall itself is small, it's often full of children and then the figures themselves are smaller than humans. But that said, when you focus in on the stage and start to follow the action, there's a way in which you keep

finding yourself transported into some kind of mental space that is bigger and wider than ordinary theatre. I think that's because when you look at the figures and hear the voices and music you do a lot of what I'd call 'imagination-work'. In other words, you use what you hear and lend the figures a good deal of emotion and feeling.

Have you written for puppets before? What do you enjoy about working in this art form?

The only way I've written for puppets before is when I've written some little shows for what are known as 'paper' theatres. These are made of paper and cardboard, and you move the characters on the end of horizontal wires operated from the side. Traditionally these were made by a company called *Pollocks* and both Charles Dickens and Robert Louis Stevenson talked about loving them when they were children. The shows I wrote weren't for the public. They were for my children. I think what's enjoyable about writing for them, is the thought that the words will be contributing to a strange kind of magic. There is something so odd and amazing about the way humans are so willing to 'suspend disbelief' and enjoy this particular kind of spectacle. We know it's not real, we know we're looking at objects made of wood, paint, metal or whatever and yet, because we want to enjoy ourselves and give ourselves over to the experience of wonder, we go along with it.



Michael Rosen with some of Little Angel Theatre's puppets.

Portrait by Lee Fether.

Swishy Swashy

Swishy Swashy Grass

Swishy swashy swishy swashy
Look at the wavy grass in the sun
Butterflies flit flutterby for fun
And our bear hunt adventure has begun
In the swishy swashy grasses blowing softly in the wind
Swishy swashy swishy swashy
Lizzie is dancing lighter than air
Grasses and ladybirds in her hair
In the summery sunshine warm and fair
And the swishy swashy grasses blowing softly in the wind
Swishy swashy swishy swashy
Sometimes they're running sometimes they hide
But wherever they are they're side by side
In the swishy swashy grasses blowing softly in the wind
Swishy swashy swishy swashy

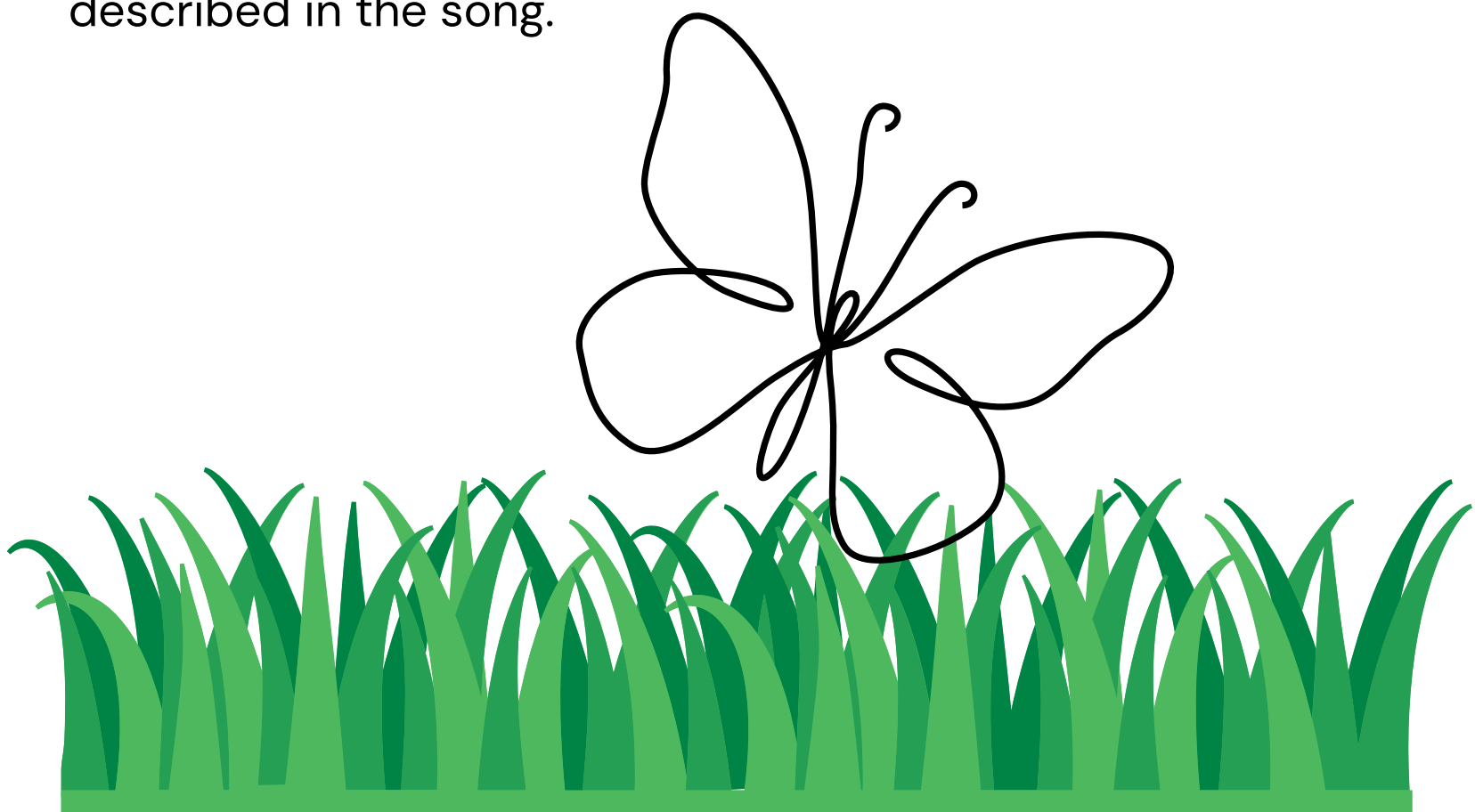
Music and Lyrics by Barb Jungr



Swishy Swashy

Activity Idea

- · Make the sound of Swishy Swashy grass using your voice.
- · Make the sound by rubbing the palms of your hands together.
- · How else can you make the sound of swishy swashy grass? Which percussion instruments make the best swishy swashy sounds?
- · Can you design and make an instrument that would make this sound?
- · What other sounds might you hear in a country field?
- · Make a butterfly puppet (template in this pack). Put your finger through the slot and flap your wings!
- · What other animals might live in a country field amongst the grass?
- Read the words of the song and draw a picture to set the scene described in the song.



Splash Splosh

Are We On The Other Side Yet?

Trickling splashing water running
Faster than a wheel is turning,
Standing on the bank and wobbling,
Looking at the merry burbling
If I hitch up my dress
Roll my sleeves, now I'm set,
Trickling splashing water running
Faster than a wheel is turning,
Standing on the bank and wobbling,
Looking at the merry burbling
When our feet feel the stones
Underneath the cold cold wet we can wade bravely through
Are we on the other side yet?
If our arms go right up
If we had a fishing net
Newts and fish swim in between us
Are we on the other side yet?

Trickling splashing water running
Faster than a wheel is turning,
Standing on the bank and wobbling,
Looking at the merry burbling
Trickling splashing water running,
Faster than a wheel is turning,
Standing on the bank and wobbling,
Looking at the merry burbling

Music and Lyrics by Barb Jungr



Splash Splosh

Activity Idea

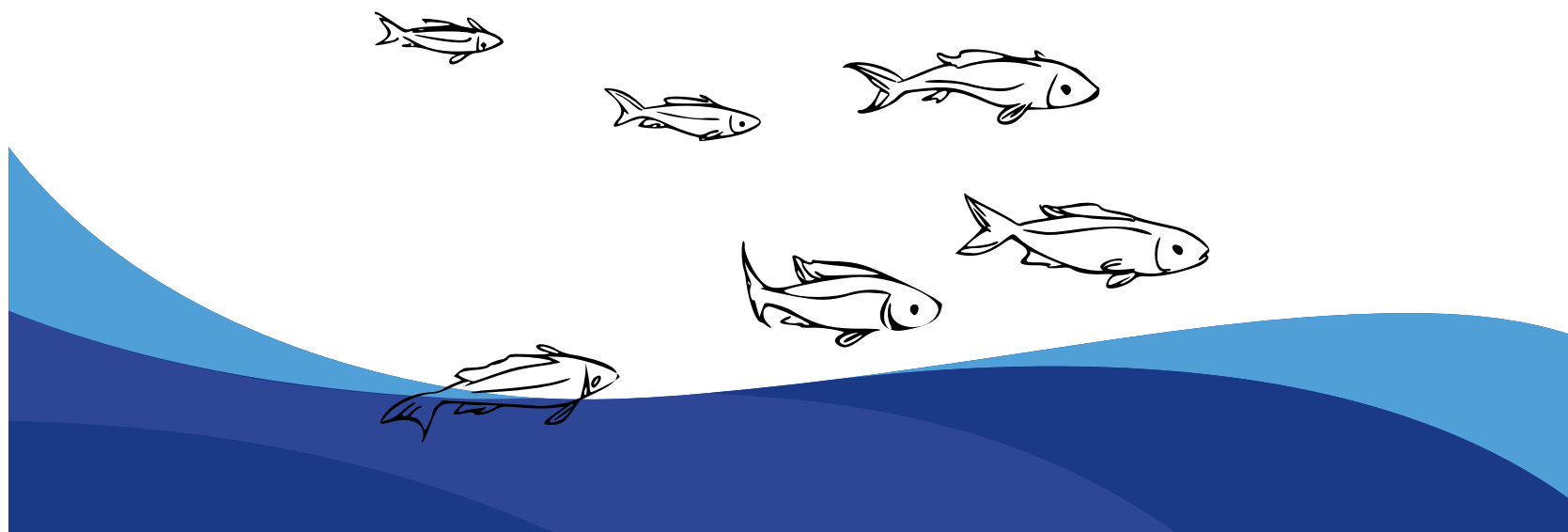
Pond Dipping

Find the nearest place where you can go pond dipping. Maybe you have a pond at school or a local community farm, park or nature reserve?

Top Tips for Pond Dipping

Only go pond dipping with a grown up!

1. Half fill your container with water from the pond before you dip.
2. Stand at the edge of the pond, sideways, with your feet shoulder width apart for the best balance. If it's not wet you can kneel and lean over, but don't lean too far!
3. Sweep your net in a figure of 8 motion for the best catch!
4. To empty your net, turn it inside out into a container. Use a spoon and a magnifying glass to examine and sketch what you have found (or take photographs and sketch later).
5. Carefully return everything you found back into the pond in the same place.
6. Try dipping at different spots around the same pond to find new specimens.



Squelch Squerch

Mud Mud slimy and good to touch

mud mud love it so very much

I know what I want to see

mud on every part of me

mud mud mud

mud mud cover my face in mud

mud mud so very tasty mud

mud is sticky mud is glue

you've got mud all over you

mud mud mud

mud mud up to our knees in mud

mud mud cover us please in mud

mud is mucky mud is mud

mud is very very good

mud mud mud

Squelch squerch squelch squerch

Music and Lyrics by Barb Jungr



Squelch Squerch

Activity Idea

Make a Wormery

Worms are important in the garden as they turn plant waste (dead leaves etc.) into soil for new plants to grow! Set up a wormery inside to observe how they do this.

What you will need

- a large, clean, glass jar
 - moist soil
 - sand
 - earthworms
 - old leaves
 - vegetable peelings, tea leaves, overripe grapes
- some black paper and a cool, dark cupboard

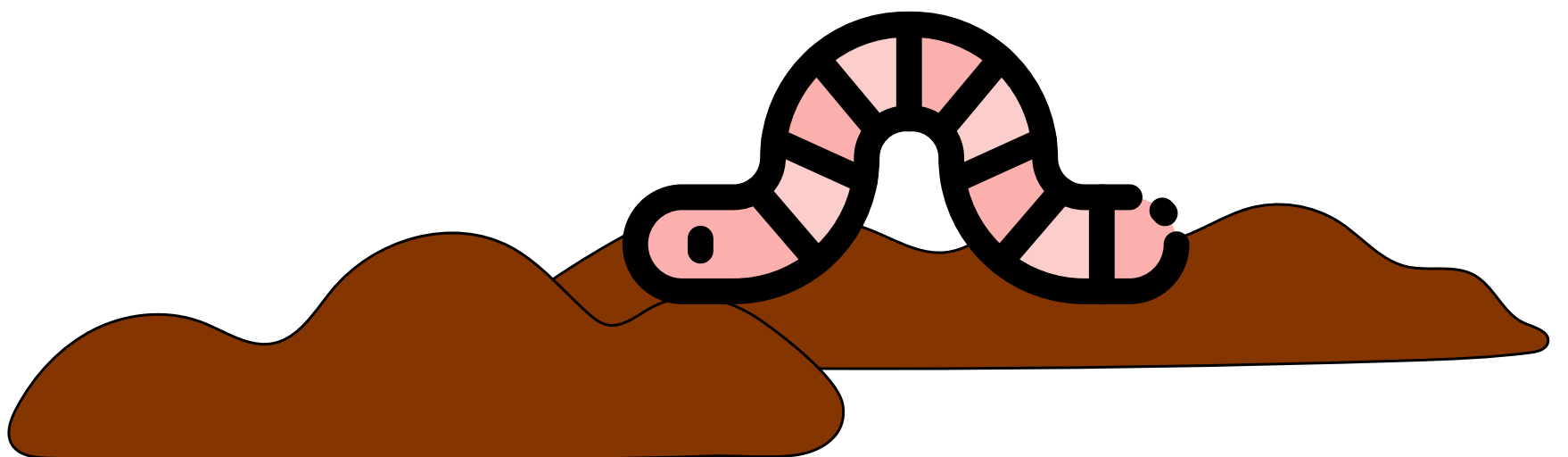
1 Wash the jar and put a layer of sand at the bottom (about 1cm (0.4in) deep).

2 Add a thick layer of soil, then add another thin layer of sand, then another thick layer of soil. Ensure there is about 5cm (2in) of space at the top.

3 Find some worms! Before you put them in the jar have a good look at them. Can you tell which end is which? How? Can you guess how a worm moves? Can you see the hairs on the worms skin?

4 Put the worms in the jar, then add some old leaves, vegetable peelings, tea leaves and overripe fruit if you have any.

5 Carefully make holes in the lid then replace. Put black paper around the jar and put it into a cool, dark cupboard. Leave for a couple of weeks and then observe what the worms are doing. What has happened to the vegetable peelings? What patterns have the worms made in the earth?



Stumble Trip

Into the forest deep and still
Ancient oak are here
Quiet home of deer
Ferns and moss veneer

Into the forest deep and still
Foxgloves gently tease
Murmuring of breeze
In the tallest trees

The gentle singing of a lark
I walk like an angel through the dark
The needle carpet soft beneath my feet (deer exits)

Into the forest deep and still
Where I can't be seen
In the brown and green
I'm the forest queen

I'm the forest queen

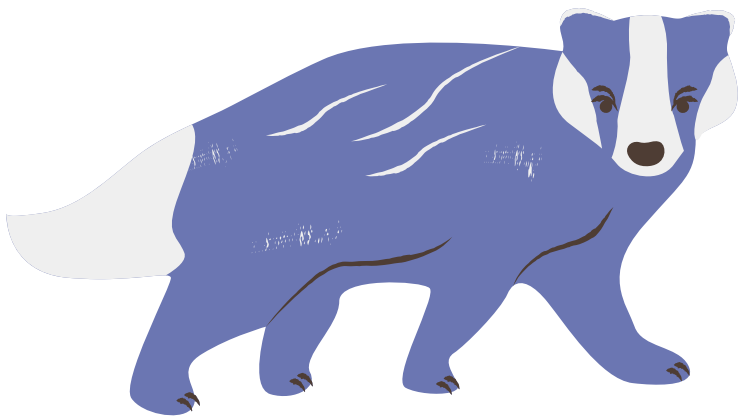
Music and Lyrics by Barb Jungr



Stumble Trip

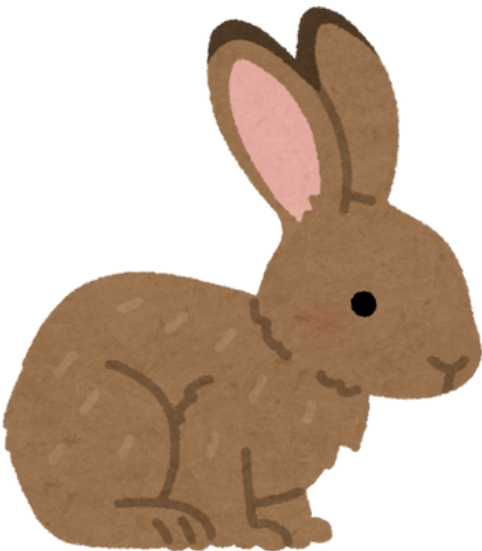
The family meet an owl and a deer in the forest. Which other animals might you see in the woods?

Can you name these woodland animals?



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.....



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Hooo Woooo

A cloud a mass
A billowing vortex
Matter dense and grey
A wind of ice
That eats the bones
And takes the breath away
Now no sound except the spirits
Of unquiet hale
Here we stand each one of us
Small and cold and frail

From my nose a bead of water
Freezes like a pearl
All around my feet small jewels
Whirr and spin and swirl
Hold on tight
Grip my fingers
Keep us safe and warm
Will we make it through the valley
Safely through the storm

Music and Lyrics by Barb Jungr



Hoooo Woooo

Activity Idea

Some of the snowstorm scene is behind a painted sheet to create the effect of thick snow. The blue colour and the dark silhouettes help to show that it is cold and dark and the swirling decoration shows the snow is being blown around.

Setting the Scene with Shadow Effects

- Make shadow puppet scenes to represent the 6 settings in the story.

The summer field of grass

- Use your wiggly fingers behind a shadow screen to make swishy swashy grass. Cut out butterflies and flowers and a glowing yellow sun. Use yellow cellophane to create the sun's warm glow.

The flowing river

- Use an OHP projector to light your screen. Fill a clear plastic or glass container with water. Colour the water with blue food colouring and place carefully on the OHP. Gently swish the water and watch the screen turn into a pool. Make shimmering fish shadow puppets using clear sweet wrappers to swim in your pool.

The muddy shore

- Using the OHP and a clear plastic container, splat blobs of soggy clay into it. Swirl shapes with your fingers and squelch and squirch.

The woodland

- Cut out black card into twisty branches that stretch into different directions and make different shapes, or use your arms as tree trunks and fingers as branches to make trees behind the screen.

The snowstorm

- Learn how make snowflakes by folding and cutting a square of paper (see useful resources page for link). Attach a rod and fly them across the screen to show off the beautiful patterns.

The cave

- Use torches to light the screen. Move the torch light as if the characters are searching in the cave. Light up little flashes of rocks, bats and maybe a bear with big coloured eyes flashing in the dark!



Tiptoe

Dripping water
In the cave
Can you hear the sound?
Dripping water
In the cave
Echoing around and round

Dripping water
In the cave
Slippery rocks and stone
Dripping water in the cave
Chills me to the bone

Whispers carry like we're shouting
We are deep inside the mountain
Like the middle of the night
Take my hand and hold on tight

Dripping water
In the cave
What's behind that, there? where?
Dripping water in the cave
Could it be a bear?

All the rising walls around us
Like the very earth has found us
Smell of damp and dark decay
Home seems very very far away

Dripping water
In the cave
What's behind that, there? where?
Dripping water in the cave
Could it be a
BEAR!

Music and Lyrics by Barb Jung



Activity Idea

Feeling Scared

Bring a torch for the Bear Hunt.

Turn out the lights and turn on your torches.

Pretend to be the children creeping into the cave.

- .How do you feel?
- · What do you see?
- · What do you hear?
- · How does it smell?
- · How does your body change?
- · What does it feel like under your feet?
- · How does it feel if you touch the wall?
- · Does anything make you jump?
- · Why do you need to be careful?
- · How did you feel when you saw the bear?
- What did you do?

Imagine you are one of the children.

Write about what it felt like to creep into the cave.

What happened when you saw the bear?

How Does the Bear Feel?

- When he hears people coming into his cave?
- When he sees them?
- When they run away?

Why do you think he chases them?

What advice would you give to the bear next time he has visitors?

Write a letter to the bear to tell him what to do next time he has visitors and to help cheer him up.



We're Not Going on a Bear Hunt Any More

We're all safe
Behind our locked front door
We're not going on a bear hunt anymore

We're all snug
Beneath our bedding shore
And we're not going on a bear hunt anymore

Hip hip hip hip hip hip hooray
Here we are under our duvet
Hip hip hip hip hip hip hooray
Our bear hunt's over for today la la la

We all heard him shout his mighty roar
And we're not going on a bear hunt anymore

Hip hip hip hip hip hip hooray
Soon the moon will kiss away the day
Hip hip hip hip hip hip hooray
Safe and sound and here is where we'll stay la la la
We're all here
Happy and secure
And we're not going on a bear Hunt Any More!

Music and Lyrics by Barb Jungr



Where Would You Go?

Activity Idea

Where would you go on a Bear Hunt?

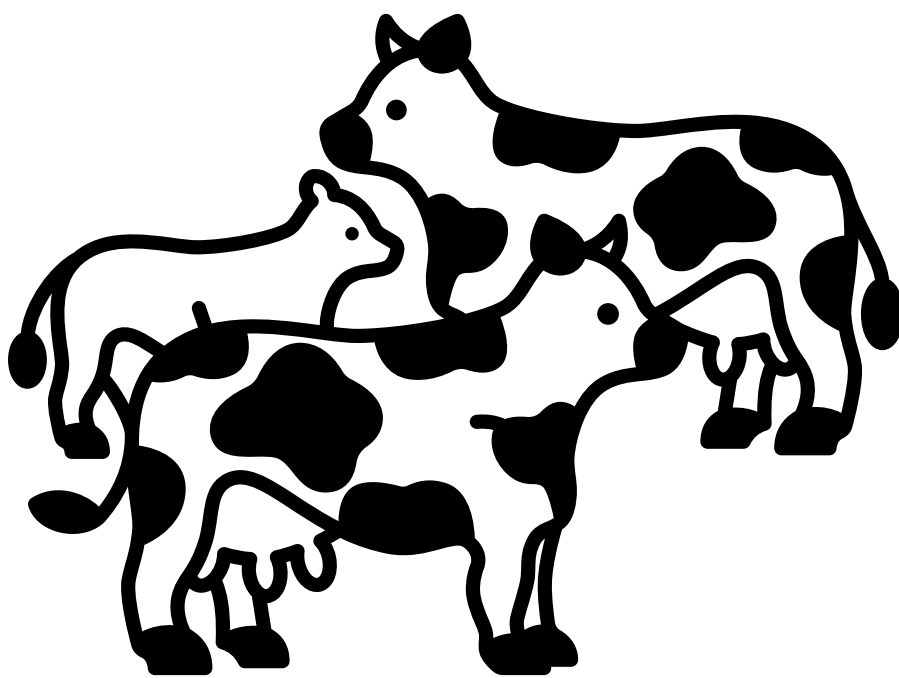
Think of some more settings.

Write a description in the same style as Bear Hunt:

Uh-uh! A crowd!
A cheering, singing crowd.
We can't go over it.
We can't go under it.
Oh no!
We've got to go through it!



Push squeeeeeze!
Push squeeeeeze!
Push squeeeeeze!



Uh-uh! Some cows!
A mooing field of cows.
We can't go over it.
We can't go under it.
Oh no!
We've got to go through it!

Munch crunch!
Munch crunch!
Munch crunch!



Template Cut Out



Colour and decorate the bear. Cut out the parts. Carefully push split pins through the holes in the head legs and paws and attach them to the body. Attach a rod or stick to the back of the bears head using self-adhesive Velcro. Put the rough Velcro on the puppet and the soft Velcro on the end of the stick. Add an extra one to the back of one of the paws for extra movement.

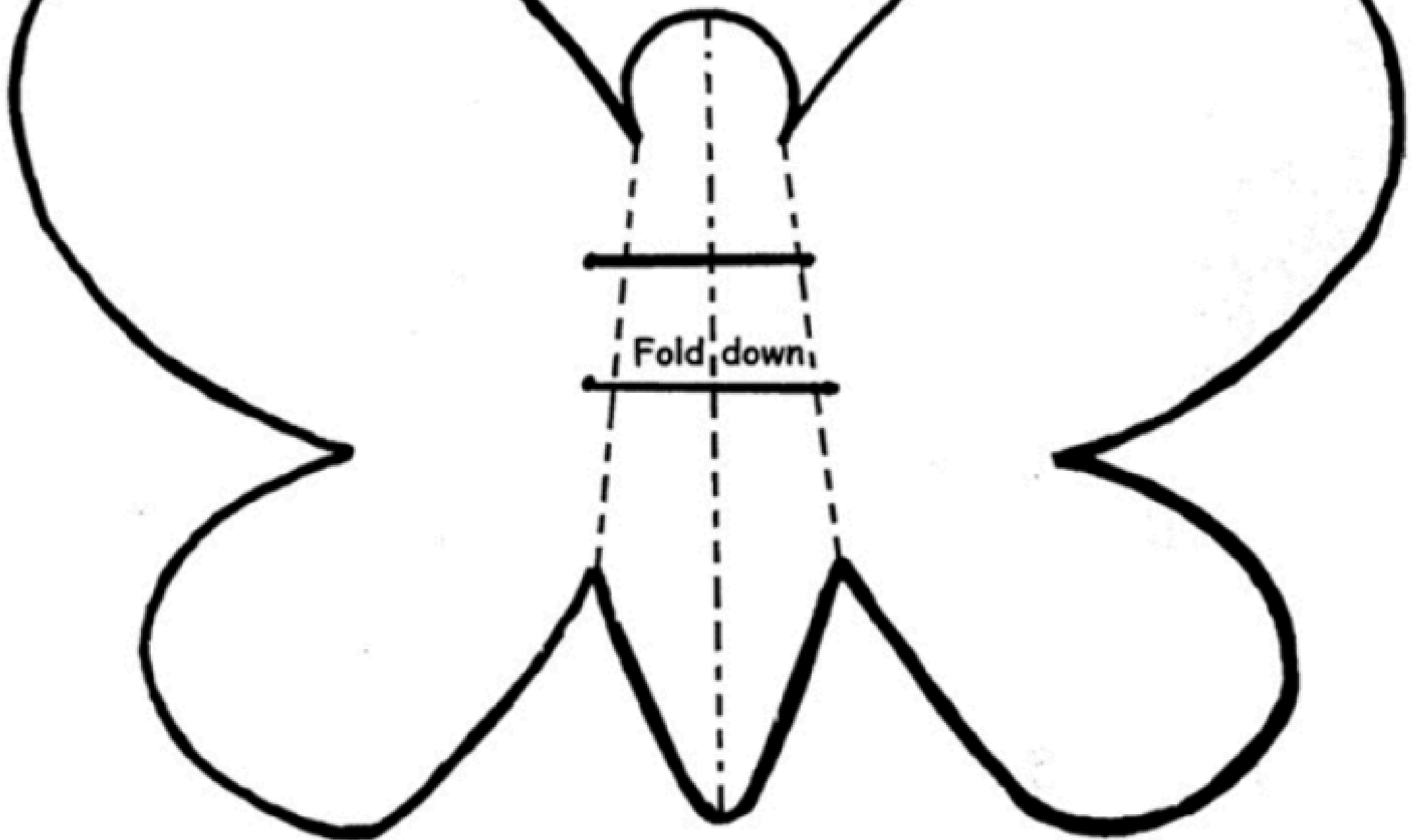
This template could also be used as a shadow puppet.

Follow the instructions as above but instead of colouring use black card, and cut holes to show the eyes, nose and mouth.



Template Cut Out

Color as desired.
Cut on heavy lines.
Fold wings up on dotted lines.
Fold body section up
and belly down.



Useful Resources and Links



Little Angel Theatre

Little Angel Website:

<https://littleangeltheatre.com>

<https://www.littleangeltheatre.com/for-schools/>

Workshops, shows on tour and digitally and our National School Partnership

[Lhttp://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yticOU2Waz4s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yticOU2Waz4s)
Michael Rosen performs 'We're Going on a Bear Hunt'

<http://www.michaelrosen.co.uk/>
Michael Rosen website featuring some of his poems

<http://www.walker.co.uk/contributors/Helen-Oxenbury-3152.aspx>
Walker Books website with information about Helen Oxenbury, Michael Rosen and different versions of the book available to buy (play-script, with DVD or CD).

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/helping-nature/what-you-can-do/activities/making-a-minipond>
Build a mini pond

<https://www.rspb.org.uk/get-involved/activities/nature-on-your-doorstep/garden-activities/how-to-start-composting/>
RSPB composting with worms

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YeR5p8OocUE>
How to make paper snowflakes

Credits

Adapted by Peter Glanville and Barb Jungr

Directed by Peter Glanville

Music and lyrics by Barb Jungr

Set designed by Simon Plumridge

Puppets designed and made by Lyndie Wright

Lighting designed by David Duffy

This play is based on the original book *We're Going on a Bear Hunt* by Michael Rosen and illustrated by Helen Oxenbury. Illustrations from the book copyright © 1989 Helen Oxenbury. By permission of Walker Books Ltd, London.