

Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed

STORY-TIME EVENT KIT



Dear Reader,

I've been asked to introduce you to another stellar new character from three-time Caldecott Honor-winning author and illustrator Mo Willems!

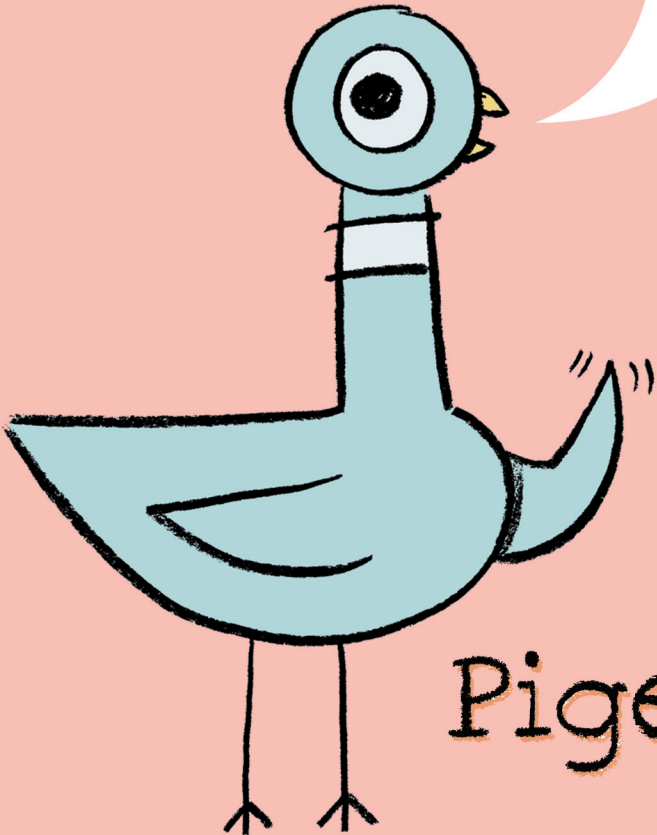
Ok this Wilbur guy may be well dressed, but he is no pigeon. Hrmph.

According to these “publishing people,” Wilbur is “an independent-thinking naked mole rat with a fondness for fashion, despite the raised eyebrows of his friends and neighbors. In his latest book, *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed*, Mo shines a light on these community-minded critters, delivering a winning message about being different and doing what you love.” I’ve been naked for years and no one says that about me.

In this *Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed* Story Time Event Kit, you’ll find great ideas for hosting a get-together featuring Wilbur, along with information about naked mole rats to help you and your audience get familiar with their way of life. Apparently, everyone is thrilled about Wilbur’s debut. What. Ever.

The Pigeon

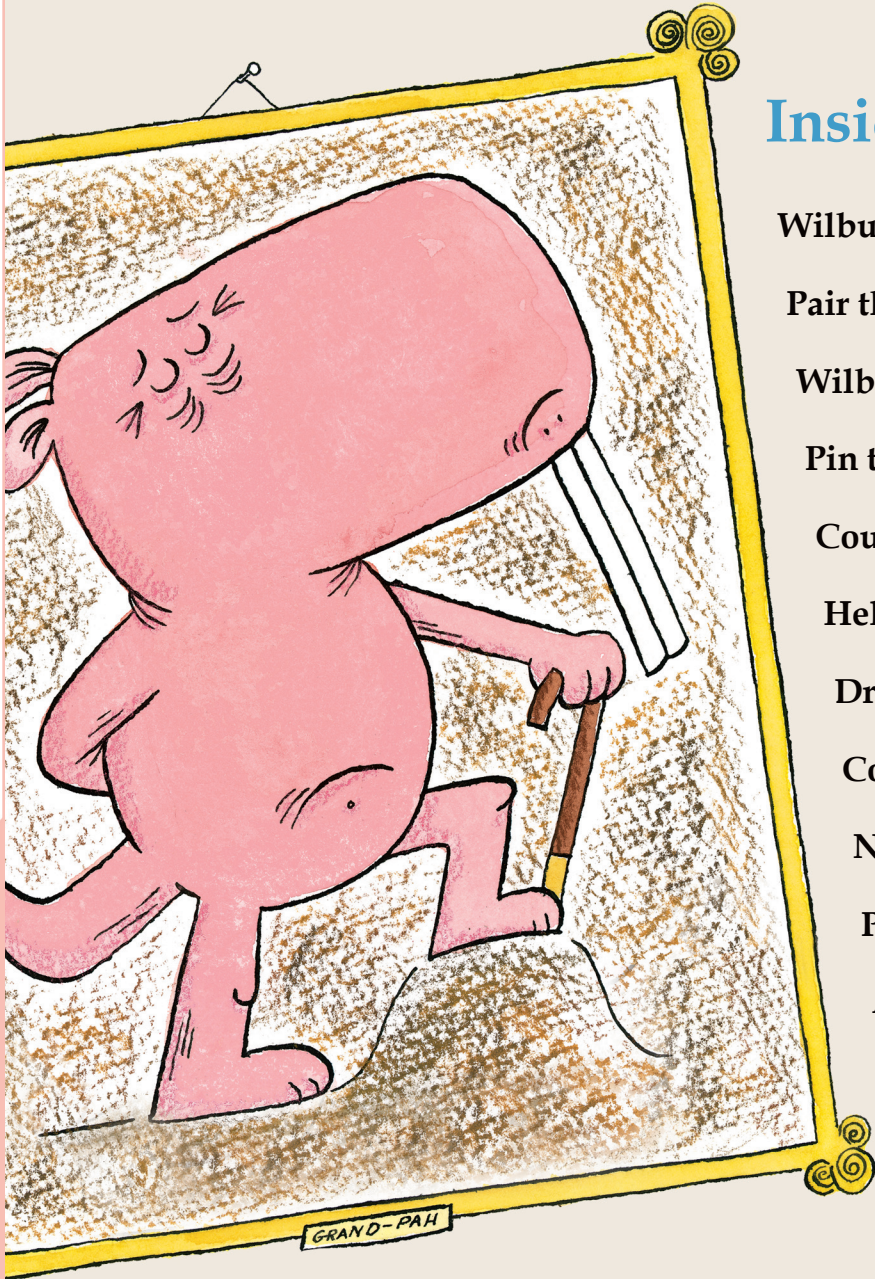
(and all the little birdies at Hyperion Books for Children)



Pigeon

Presents.com

Art © 2009 Mo Willems



Inside This Kit You'll Find:

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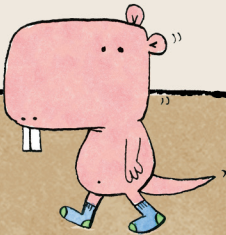
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WILBUR READ-ALoud TIPS

Before You Start Reading

HOST A “GREAT TO BE ME!” COSTUME PARTY

Celebrate individuality by throwing a costume party! Encourage children to come dressed up in costume as a person or character they admire or think is cool. Pass out name tags as they arrive (a name tag sheet is enclosed), and then have a Meet and Greet Parade! Ask them to give their name and what they came dressed as. Take photos and create a Costume Party Book to keep in a special place, so they can look at it whenever they want.

WHAT’S UP WITH NAKED MOLE RATS?

Don’t know anything about naked mole rats? Brush up on your knowledge of the little animals so you can talk about them during the event. An informational fact sheet about naked mole rats is enclosed, along with resources for further information and zoos to visit in your area. See pages 18 and 19 for more information.

After-Reading Themes and Discussion Questions

EXPRESSING YOURSELF

A major theme in the book is doing what you love and being proud of it. What is Wilbur’s favorite outfit—is it fancy or plain? Ask the children if they have a favorite outfit—if so, what is it and when do they wear it? Then talk about expressing yourself. Have they ever liked something, but a family member or friend didn’t like it? Ask if they thought that was okay, and how the difference in opinion made them feel. Talk about whether expressing yourself can have a good effect on others too.

BEING DIFFERENT

Discuss how Wilbur is different from the other naked mole rats. Why do the others make fun of him? Have children ever felt like they’re not part of the crowd? If so, how did they handle it? Then ask the audience members to look around them—is everybody the same, different, or both? How are Wilbur and the other naked mole rats the same and how are they different in the story?

ROLE MODELS

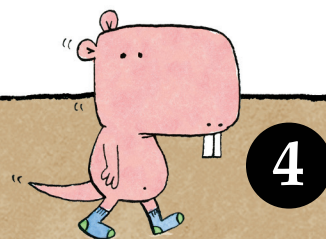
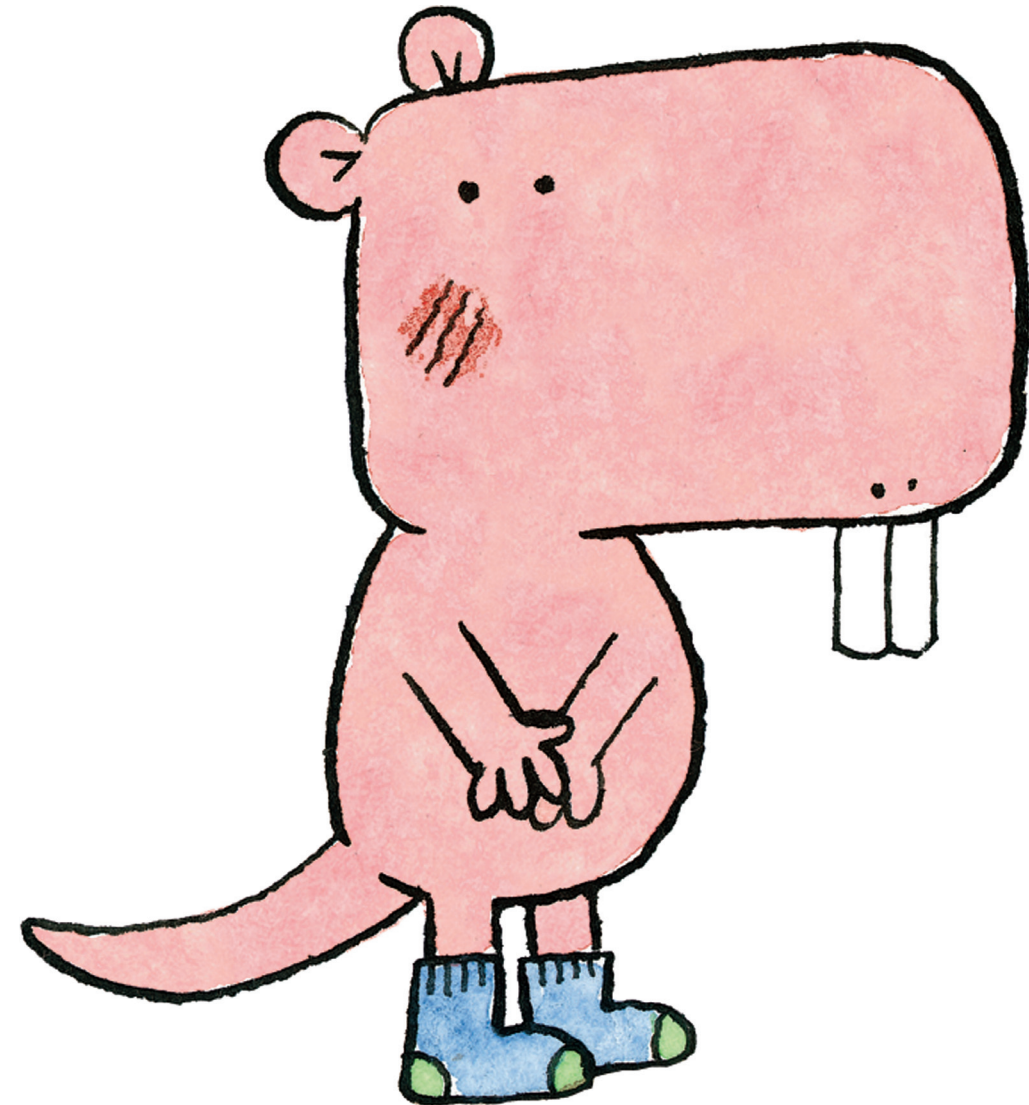
Who helps Wilbur during the story? How does the naked mole rat community feel about Grand-pah? Why do they look up to him? What older people do children have in their lives to help them? Talk about people who the children might admire in life, or fictional characters they look up to.

TAKING CHANCES

Do the children like to try new and different things? Ask what it feels like trying something new—is it fun, exciting, surprising, or scary? Is it okay to try something and then not like it?

COMMUNITY MATTERS

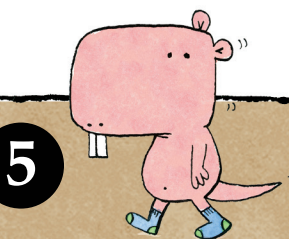
Look at how the naked mole rats live. Is it together or alone? Do the children have lots of neighbors around them at home, or few neighbors? What “community”—family, friends, neighbors, teachers, clergy—do kids have around them?



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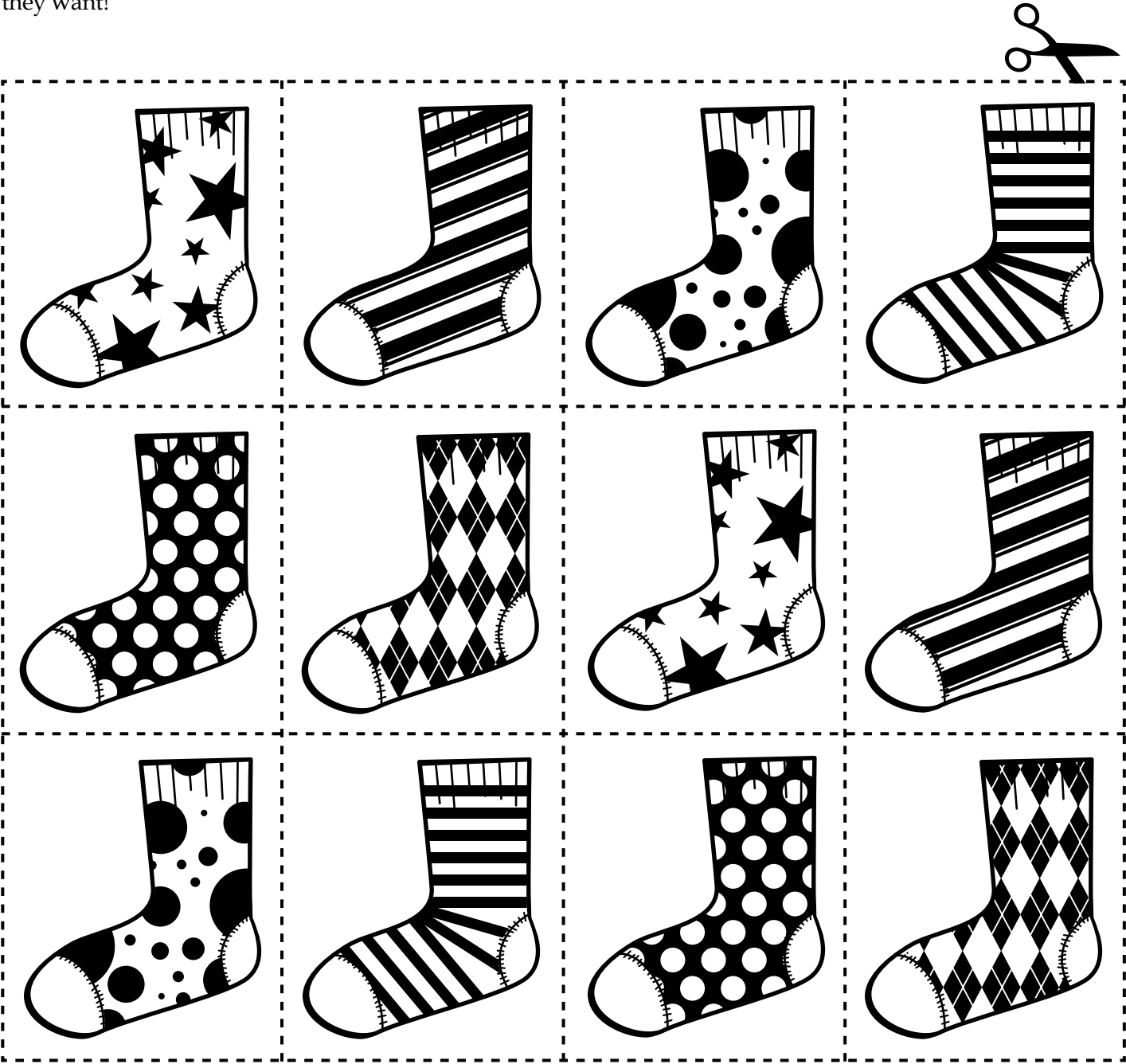


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Pair the Socks Memory Game

One sock always seems to get lost – have children keep them paired up with this fun memory game for partners!

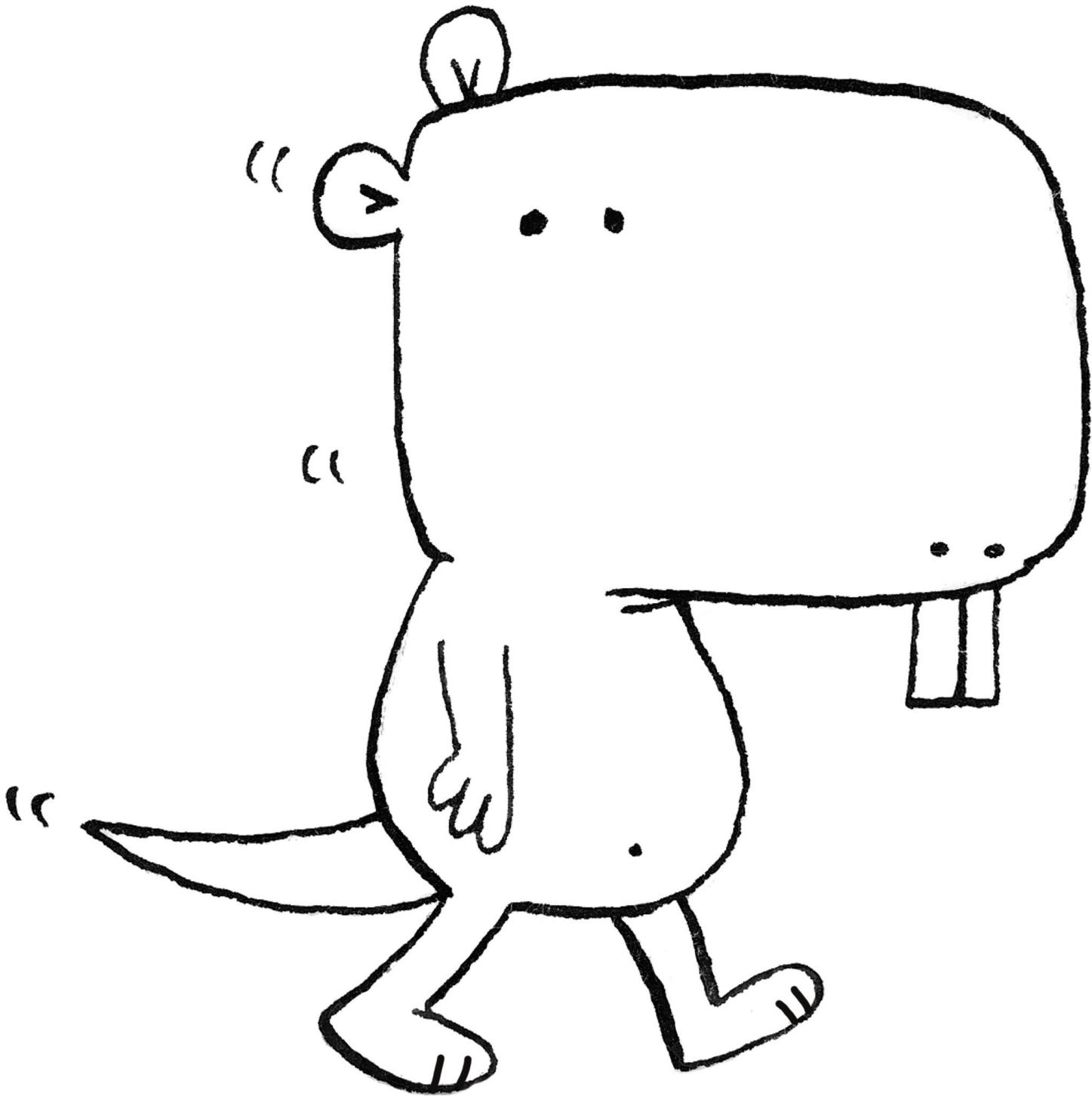
Divide the kids into partners and give each team a sheet of socks. Have them cut apart the sheet along the dotted lines. After they're done, have them mix up the squares and place all the socks facing down. Then, each partner gets a chance to turn over two socks. Do they match? If so, the socks get taken out of the game and the player gets to go again. If they don't match, the socks get turned back over, and the other player gets a turn at finding matching socks. The winner of the game has the most matches – and they can play as many times as they want!



Wilbur's Clothes

YOU WILL NEED: crayons, markers, colored pencils

Wilbur is naked and wants new clothes! Help him by drawing on clothes you think he will like.

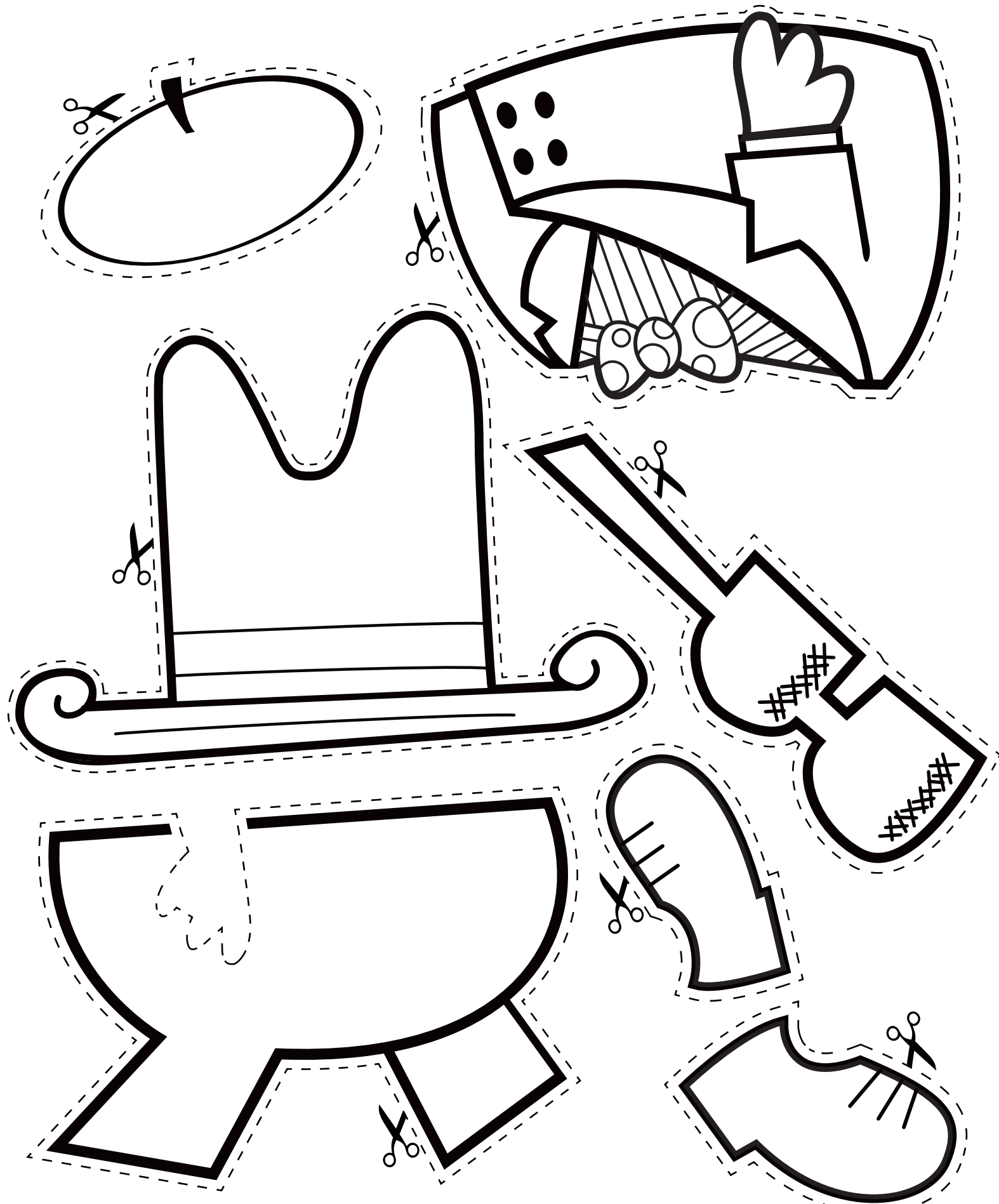
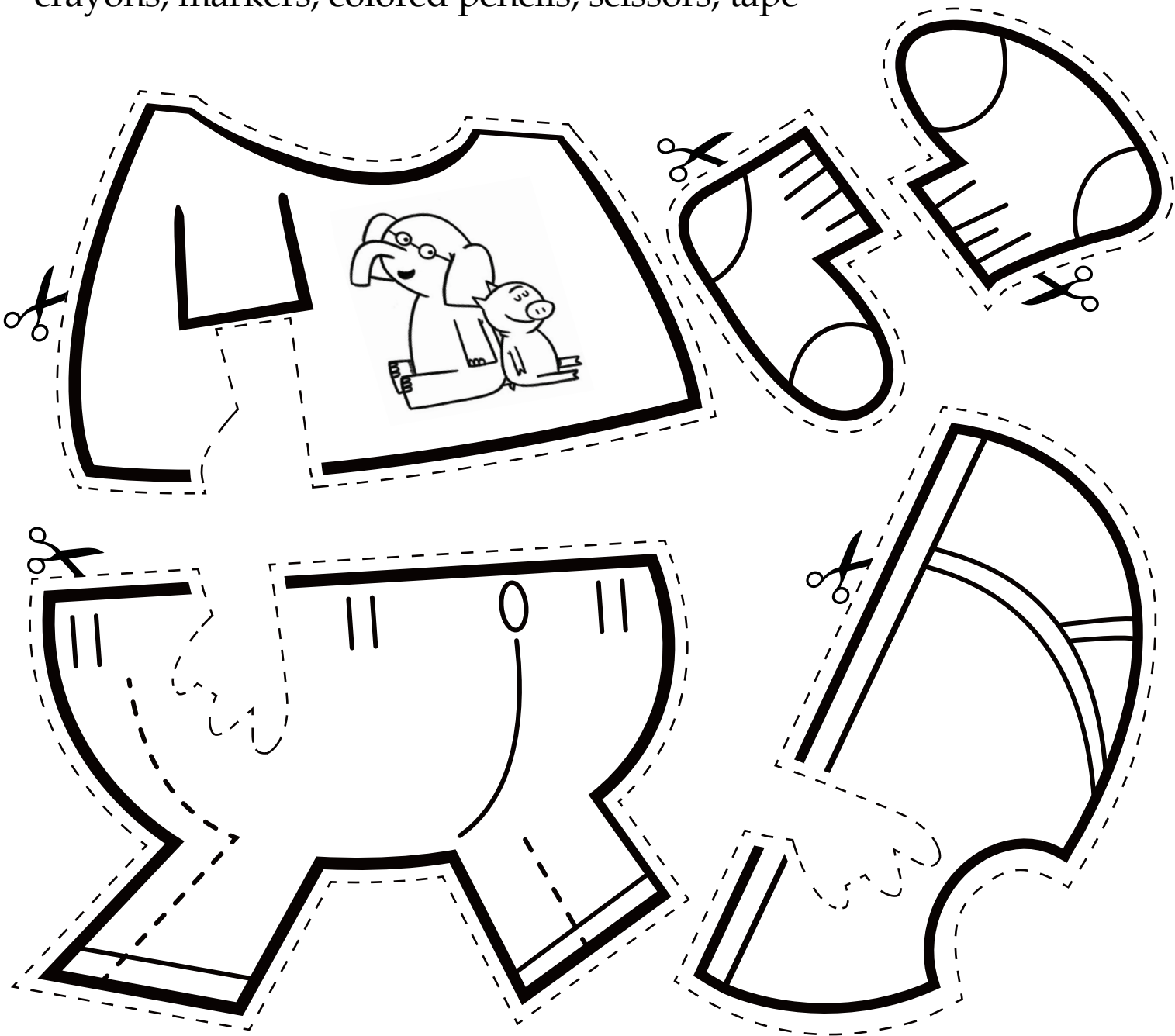


Pin the Clothes on Wilbur

Wilbur likes to get dressed so much! Ask children to help him out with this spin on the popular party game.

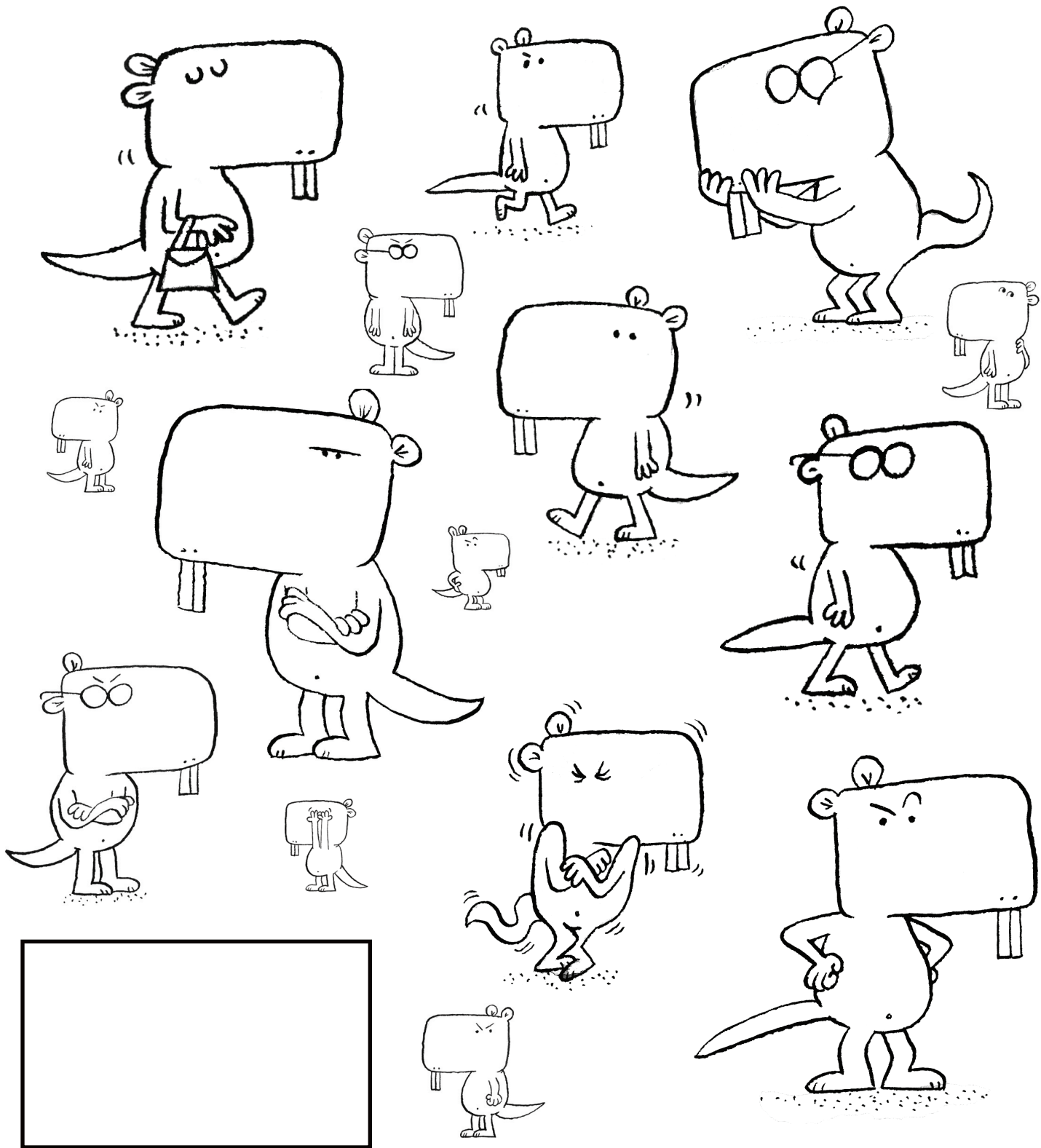
Have children color in the outfits below, cut out the outfits, and attach reproducible tape to the back. Post the “Pin the Clothes on Wilbur Poster” in a central location. Then, blindfold each child, spin him or her around, point them in the right direction, and challenge them to attach the clothes to Wilbur’s body!

YOU WILL NEED:
crayons, markers, colored pencils, scissors, tape



Count the Naked Mole Rats

Here is a group of naked mole rats! How many are there?
Write the number in the box in the bottom corner.



Help Wilbur Get to His Closet

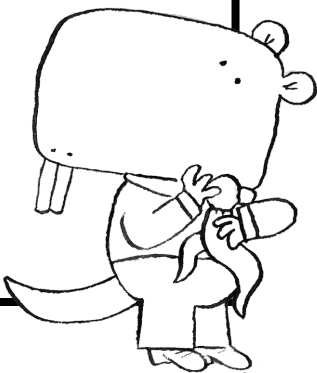
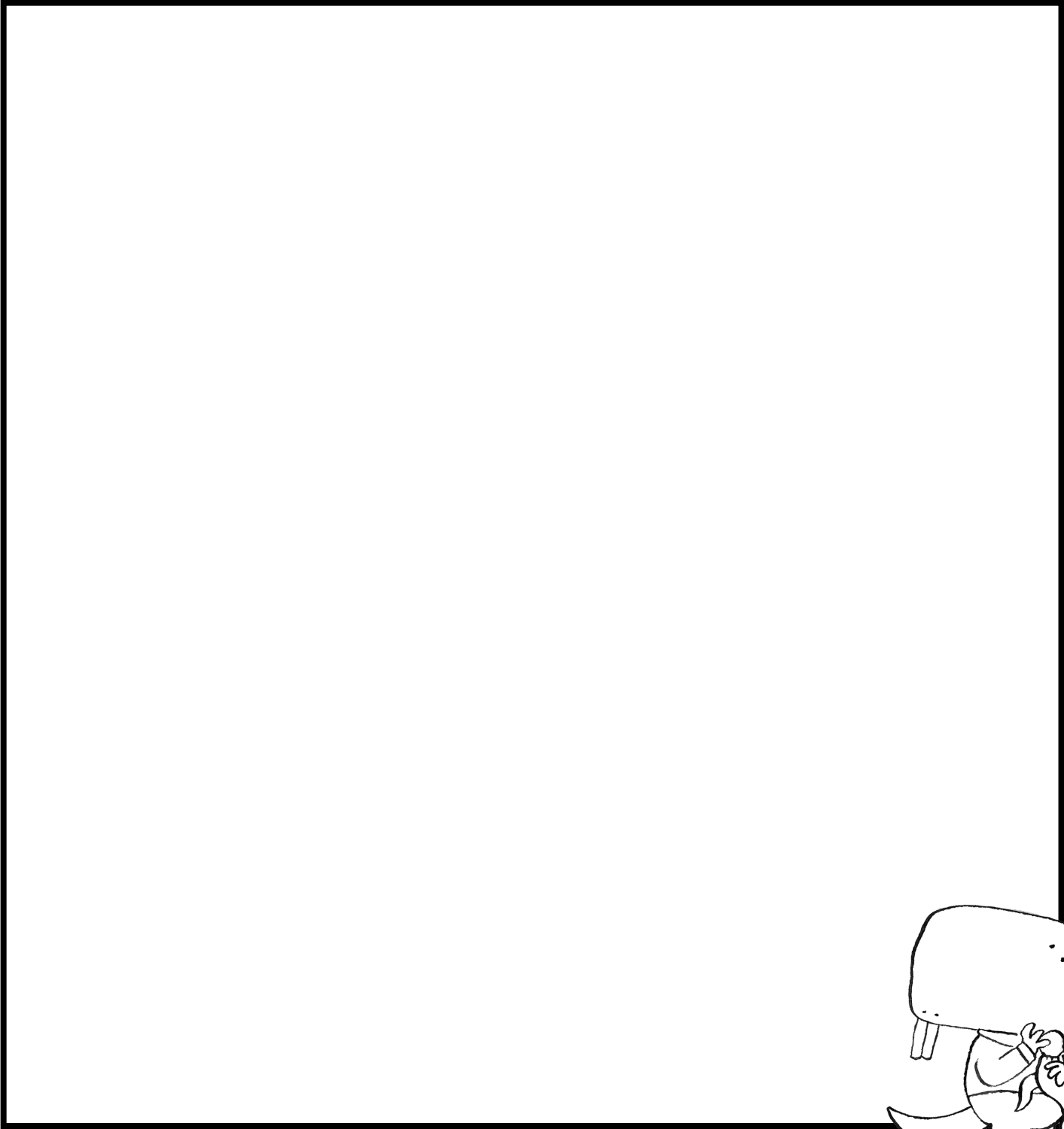
Wilbur needs to get to his closet. Can you help him?

Draw a line through the maze from Wilbur to his closet and have him pick up clothes along the way. Be careful – not all of the clothes lead to Wilbur’s closet.



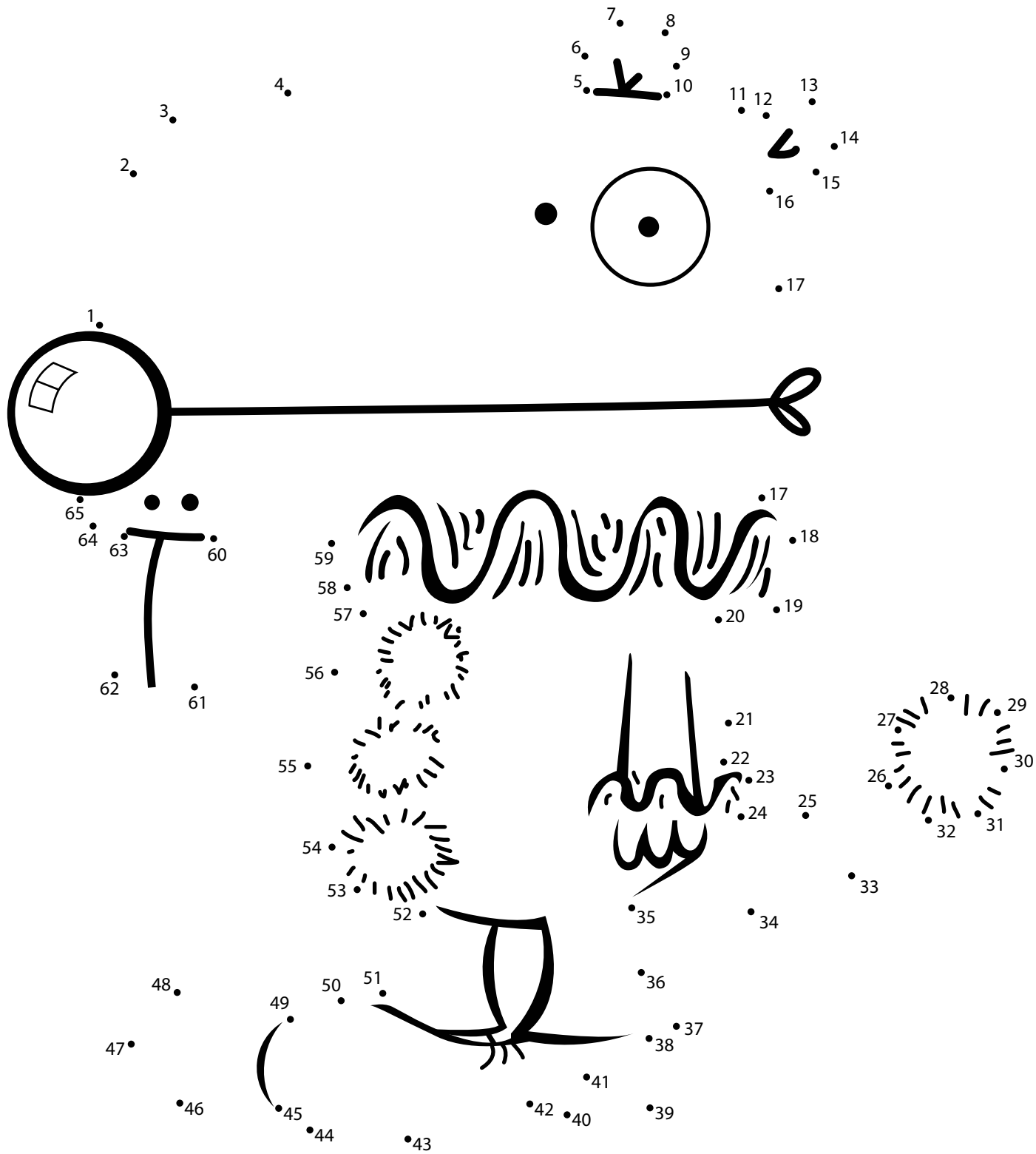
Draw Your Own Naked Mole Rat!

Show off your artistic skills! Draw your own naked mole rat in the space below!



Connect the Dots

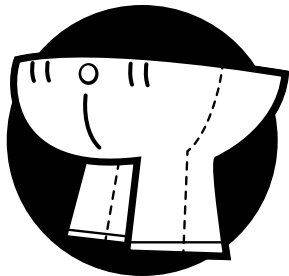
Connect the dots in the picture below!



Name Those Clothes!

Draw a line to match the name on the left to the piece of clothing on the right.

SHIRT



SOCKS



PANTS



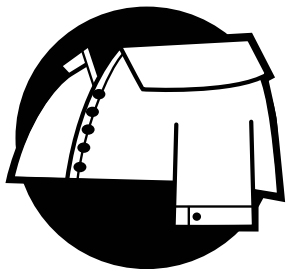
SHOES



TIE



HAT




Party Name Tag Sheet




I'M NOT A NAKED MOLE RAT!

I'm _____



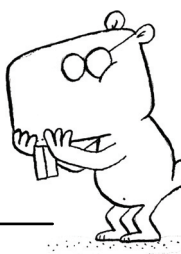
I'M NOT A NAKED MOLE RAT!

I'm _____




I'M NOT A NAKED MOLE RAT!

I'm _____




I'M NOT A NAKED MOLE RAT!

I'm _____




I'M NOT A NAKED MOLE RAT!

I'm _____




I'M NOT A NAKED MOLE RAT!

I'm _____



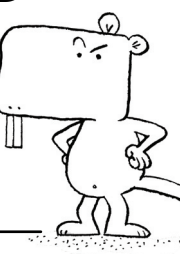
I'M NOT A NAKED MOLE RAT!

I'm _____



I'M NOT A NAKED MOLE RAT!

I'm _____



ANSWER KEY

PAGE 10: Count the Naked Mole Rats
ANSWER: 15

PAGE 11: Help Wilbur Get to His Closet



PAGE 14: Name Those Clothes!

SHIRT	
SOCKS	
PANTS	
SHOES	
TIE	
HAT	

Grab Your Party Clothes!

You're invited to a special event featuring
NAKED MOLE RAT GETS DRESSED,
an all-new adventure from Caldecott Honor-winning author and illustrator
Mo Willems

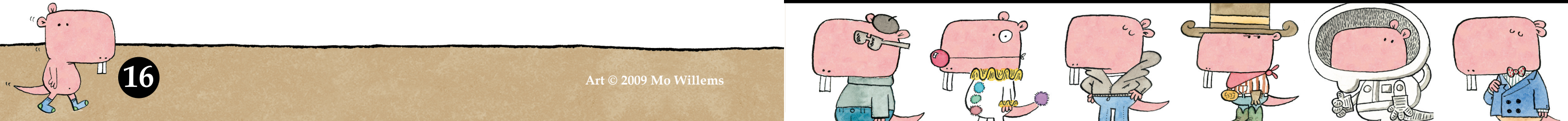


DATE: _____

TIME: _____

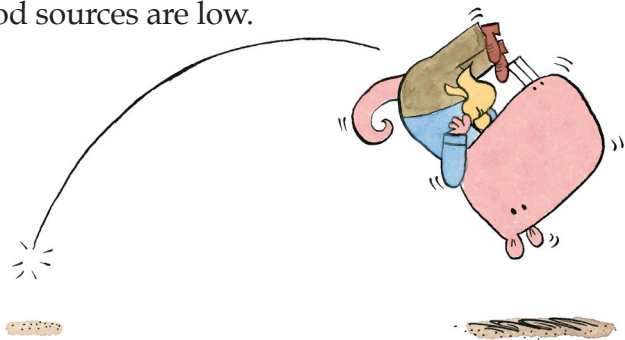
PLACE: _____

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Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About NAKED MOLE RATS!

- Naked mole rats live in East Africa.
- They live in dark underground communities composed of tunnels and chambers.
- They continually dig narrow tunnels with their sharp front teeth in search of food and to avoid snakes, which are their natural predators.
- Their main source of food is the underground roots and tubers of large plants.
- Similar to bees and ants, naked mole rats live in hierarchical colonies with one queen, a select group of mates, soldiers for defense, and lots of workers.
- A typical naked mole rat colony has eighty members. Sometimes a colony can live in an area the size of twenty football fields.
- Mole rats started the trend of being naked. Though they are not often given proper credit.*
- Naked mole rats are generally three inches long and have hardly any hair on their bodies.
- They are the only known cold-blooded mammals.
- Their sharp front teeth are used to dig tunnels. Their teeth can move independently or spread apart.
- Since they live in a dark environment, naked mole rats are nearly blind and usually move through tunnels with their eyes closed.
- Whiskers on their cheeks and tail help guide them through tunnels.
- Naked mole rats can live over twenty-five years — ten times longer than a mouse. This is because they are able to slow down their metabolism when food sources are low.



*This is not true.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CHECK OUT:

Smithsonian National Zoological Park
<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Publications/ZooGoer/2002/3/nakedmolerats.cfm>

National Geographic Online
<http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/mammals/naked-mole-rat.html>

Oregon Zoo Animals
<http://www.oregonzoo.org/Cards/Savanna/nakedmolerat.htm>

University of Michigan's Museum of Zoology
http://animaldiversity.ummz.umich.edu/site/accounts/information/Heterocephalus_glaber.html



List of U.S. Zoos with Naked Mole Rats

ALABAMA Birmingham Zoo	GEORGIA Zoo Atlanta	NEW YORK Bronx Zoo/Wildlife Conservation Society	TENNESSEE Memphis Zoo
ARIZONA Wildlife World Zoo	ILLINOIS Lincoln Park Zoological Gardens	Rosamond Gifford Zoo at Burnet Park	Knoxville Zoological Gardens
ARKANSAS Little Rock Zoological Gardens	Chicago Zoological Park	OHIO Cincinnati Zoo & Botanical Garden	TEXAS Houston Zoo, Inc.
CALIFORNIA San Diego Zoo	KENTUCKY Louisville Zoological Garden	Toledo Zoological Gardens	Dallas Zoo
COLORADO Pueblo Zoo	MISSOURI Saint Louis Zoological Park	OREGON Oregon Zoo	San Antonio Zoological Gardens & Aquarium
FLORIDA Tampa's Lowry Park Zoo	NEBRASKA Omaha's Henry Doorly Zoo	PENNSYLVANIA Erie Zoological Gardens	WEST VIRGINIA Oglebay's Good Children's Zoo
Brevard Zoo	Lincoln Childrens Zoo (Fmr. Folsom)	The Philadelphia Zoo	
Disney's Animal Kingdom	Riverside Zoo	Pittsburgh Zoo & Aquarium	
Jacksonville Zoo and Gardens	NEW MEXICO Albuquerque Biological Park	SOUTH CAROLINA Riverbanks Zoo and Garden	
Palm Beach Zoo at Dreher Park			



Photo Credit: MARTY DUMAS

Mo Willems is a #1 *New York Times* best-selling author and illustrator who started his career on *Sesame Street*, where he garnered six Emmy Awards for his writing before changing the face of children's literature with his groundbreaking picture books. Mo has been awarded a Caldecott Honor on three occasions (for *Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!*, *Knuffle Bunny: A Cautionary Tale*, and *Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity*), and his acclaimed Elephant & Piggie early reader series received the Theodor Seuss Geisel Medal in 2008.



The Pigeon Has Feelings, Too!
978-0-7868-3650-5
\$6.99 US / \$9.99 CAN



The Pigeon Loves Things That Go!
978-0-7868-3651-2
\$6.99 US / \$9.99 CAN



The Pigeon Wants a Puppy!
978-1-4231-0960-0
\$14.99 US / \$17.25 CAN



Don't Let the Pigeon Drive the Bus!
978-0-7868-1988-1
\$14.99 US / \$16.99 CAN



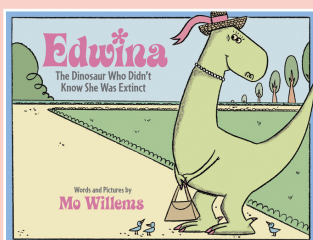
The Pigeon Finds a Hot Dog!
978-0-7868-1869-3
\$14.99 US / \$16.99 CAN



Don't Let the Pigeon Stay Up Late!
978-0-7868-3746-5
\$14.99 US / \$16.99 CAN



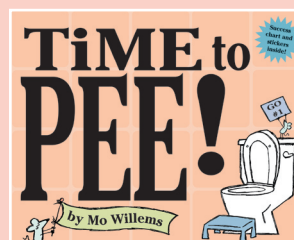
Leonardo the Terrible Monster
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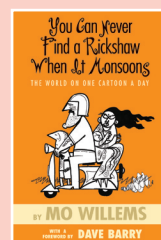
Edwina
978-0-7868-3748-9
\$16.99 US / \$22.99 CAN



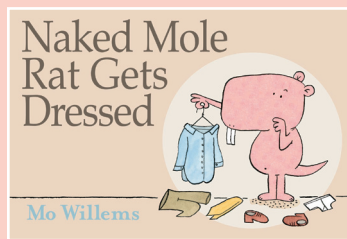
Time to Say "Please!"
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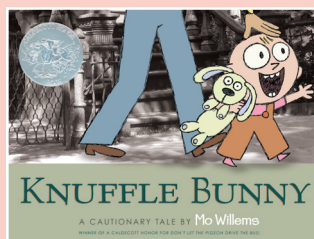
Time to Pee!
978-0-7868-1868-6
\$12.99 US / \$19.99 CAN



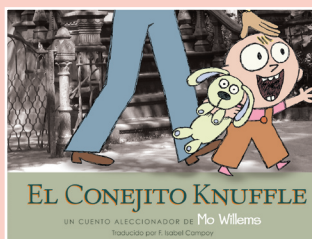
You Can Never Find a Rickshaw When It Monsoons
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\$12.99 US / \$17.99 CAN



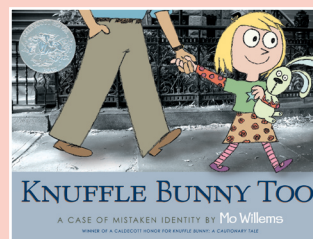
Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed
978-1-4231-1437-6
\$16.99 US / \$18.99 CAN



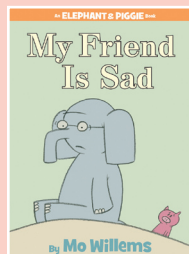
Knuffle Bunny
978-0-7868-1870-9
\$15.99 US / \$19.99 CAN



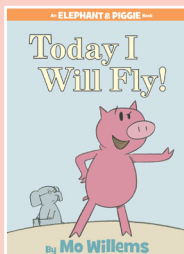
El Conejito Knuffle
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Knuffle Bunny Too
978-1-4231-0299-1
\$16.99 US / \$21.50 CAN



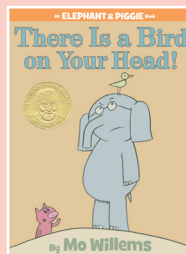
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Today I Will Fly!
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