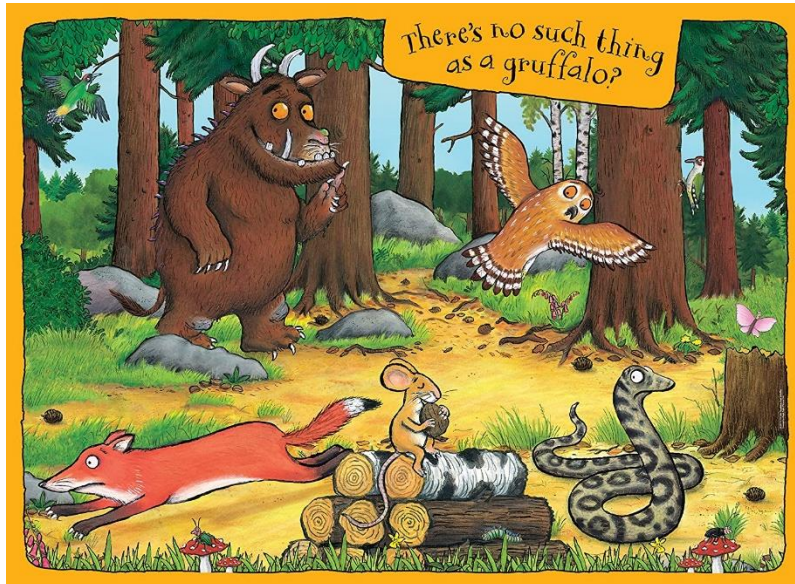


FOUNDATION STAGE

THE GRUFFALO

Activity suggestions



Using one of our favourite core books, *The Gruffalo*, as a starting point we have put together a range of activities that you can enjoy with your child. They should last around a week. Where possible, your child should write by themselves, using their phonic knowledge. For the younger children, we suggest that your child “writes” and then you can scribe underneath what they have said.

The most important thing is to talk, listen and have fun!

***“A mouse took a stroll through the deep dark wood.
A fox saw the mouse and the mouse looked good....”***

Puppets:

Make your own puppets of the Gruffalo and the mouse. Don't forget the fox, owl and snake!

You can cut them out of paper and stick them on a stick or straw. You may be able to use socks to make the puppets, or paper bags, or fold a larger piece of paper over if you don't have paper bags.

Now use the puppets to retell the story of the Gruffalo.

But what happened afterwards? At the end of the book, the Gruffalo runs away scared and the mouse settles down to eat his nut.

I wonder what happened next?

Maybe the mouse said sorry to the Gruffalo for tricking him? Maybe the Gruffalo realised he had been tricked and was cross? Or perhaps he thought it was funny? What if the Gruffalo and mouse became friends? Perhaps all of the other mice thought the mouse was a hero and gave him an award?

Be as imaginative and creative as you want. You can make up lots of different endings.

Use your puppets to tell your new story.

Now try writing it down in your book.

Wanted!

Let's pretend the Gruffalo realises he has been tricked by the mouse. He wants to find him and catch him! Can you design a "Wanted" poster that the Gruffalo can put up around the wood?

You'll need to describe the mouse – what he looks like, how big he is – and explain why he has to be caught.



Escape Route:

Oh no! The Gruffalo is coming towards us! He is getting nearer and nearer... how will we escape?

Pretend you are in the forest and the Gruffalo is coming to find you. Can you design a map showing how you can escape?

You'll also need to show where the fox, owl and snake live so that they don't catch you either.

You could create your map on paper. Or using lego bricks and other toys. Maybe you can collect some twigs, leaves and other natural materials to help design your map.

Bravery:

I think the mouse was very brave. He tricked the Gruffalo as well as the fox, owl and snake. He didn't fight them and wasn't mean. He was just very clever!

Maybe the mouse deserves an award for being brave. Can you design a medal or trophy for the mouse?

How big is it? What colour? Does it have some writing on it saying who it is for and why?

Have YOU ever been brave? When? Has anyone else in your family been brave?

Can you design medals or trophies for them as well?

Maybe write about the bravery in your book if you can.

Let's Get Moving:

This activity is ideal for outside, but you can still move about inside – just be careful!

Can you move around like a mouse? Now try the fox, the owl and the snake. Finally let's move like a Gruffalo.

Do they have big or small movements? Noisy or quiet? What parts of your body do you need to move?

Counting and Sorting:

How many characters are there in the book?

Now count how many legs there are altogether. How many eyes Ears? Noses?

Compare the sizes of the characters – can you order the characters from the biggest to the smallest?

Now sort them into different categories:

Legs / No legs

Feathers / Fur

Big / Small

Maybe you can think of some different ways to sort them?

Fact Finding:

Use the computer (under adult supervision) to investigate and find out more information about the creatures.

Where do mice live? Foxes, owls, snakes?

What do they eat?

What other interesting information can you find out about them?

Maybe you can write down what you discover in your book?

Emotions and Thinking:

I wonder how the mouse felt when he first saw the Gruffalo? Or when he realised the fox, owl and snake all wanted to eat him?

I wonder how the mouse felt when he had tricked the Gruffalo and other characters? Or when he sat down to eat his nut at last?

Happy? Scared? Worried? Sad? Brave? Excited?

Show how the characters were feeling using your best facial expressions.

You can also play a game where you have to guess how the other person is feeling, just by looking at their face.

Philosophy for Children question:

Was the mouse right to trick the Gruffalo? Is it every okay to trick someone?

Talking points as you read the book:

As you read the story with your child, try these discussion points.

We start with the mouse. Where is he going? Why? How can you describe the mouse? Where does he live? What does he do?

How is feeling? Why do you think that?

Repeat the last two questions with the new characters as you meet them.

Why do you think the mouse uses the idea of a Gruffalo to scare the other characters? Does he know him already? Did he make him up?

How does the mouse feel as he walks away from the characters each time?

How does the mouse feel when he eventually meets the Gruffalo?

Let's look at the other characters. How do the snake, owl and fox feel when they the mouse again but this time with the Gruffalo?

How do you think the Gruffalo feels when they run away?

Does he realise that they are really scared of him and not the mouse?

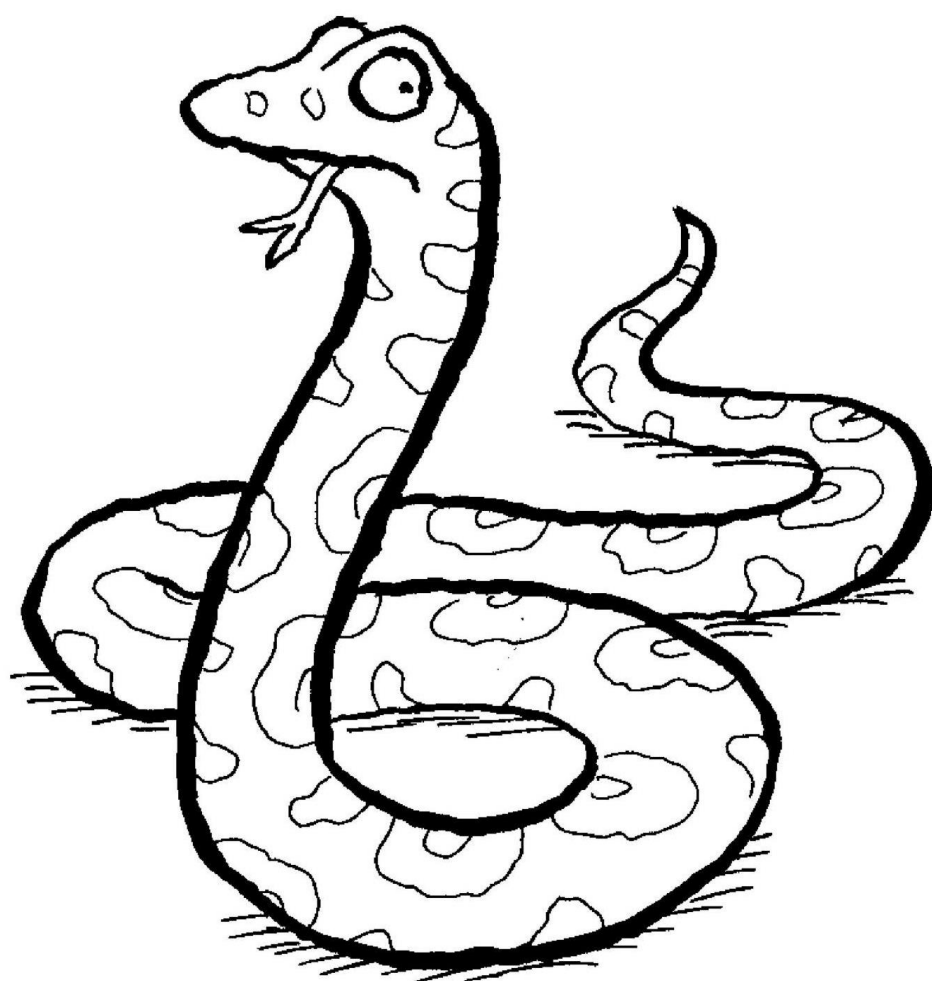
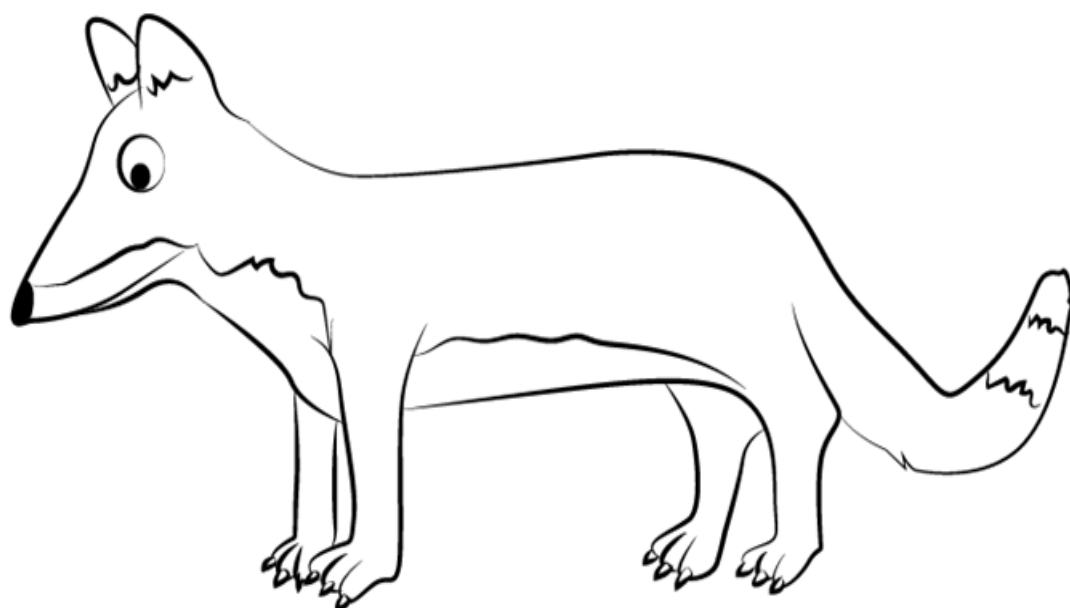
After reading the book a few times, talk about your favourite part of the book. Why do you like that so much? And now your least favourite?

Ask your child to retell the story. Encourage them to use language such as "First... Next... Then... After that... Finally...."

Usual website: www.gruffalo.com/join-in/activities









WANTED



Name: _____

Description: _____

Crime: _____

Reward: _____

If found, please call _____

I feel



happy



excited



frightened



cross



upset



sad



tired



calm

