

I Spy!

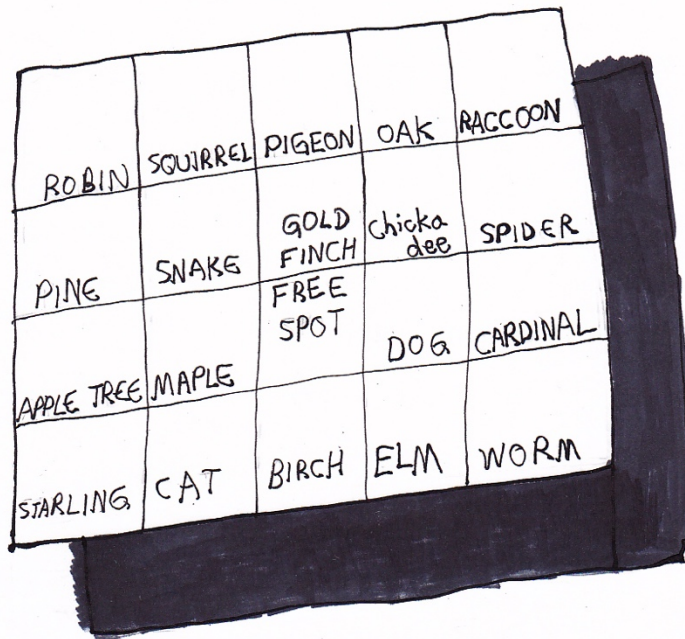
Written By Beth Christie

Illustrated by Colin Smith

“Where will we walk to today?” asked Mona. Mona was staying home from school these days; so were all the kids.

“It is important to stay healthy,” her mom had explained when they first started staying home together. “We need to make sure we get outside for fresh air and exercise every day.”

So, every morning, rain or shine, Mona and her mom go on an ‘I Spy’ walk in their community.



In the morning, after breakfast and before the walk, Mona and her mom fill a bingo card with ‘I Spy’ items.

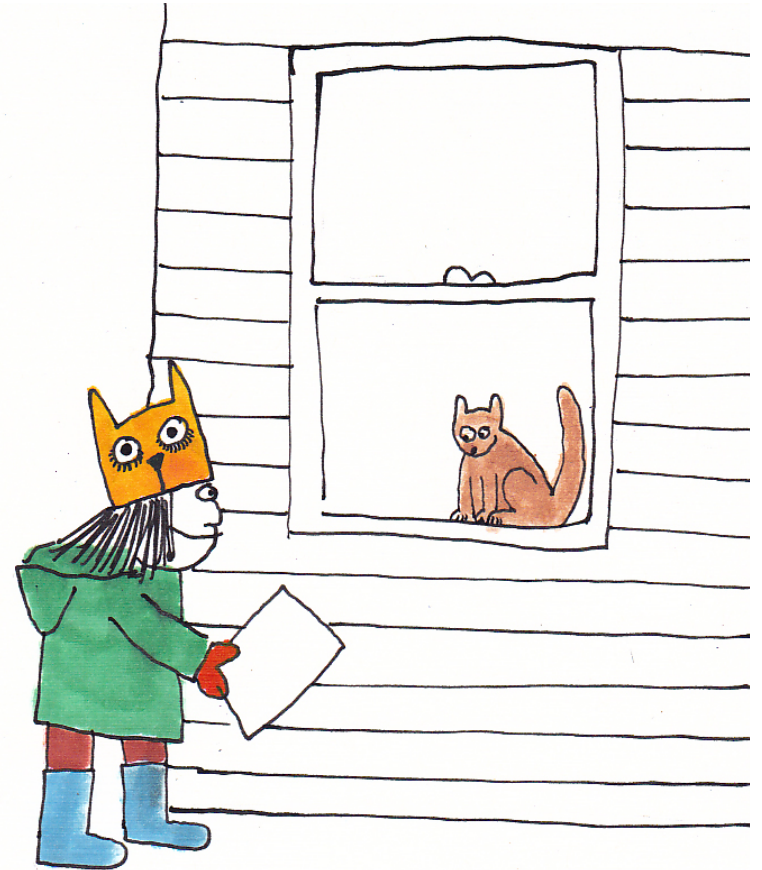
Her mom loves trees, so there are always different types of trees on their chart.

The leaves are not out yet, so they have to be tree detectives, looking at the bark or underneath the tree for acorns or pinecones left over from the fall.



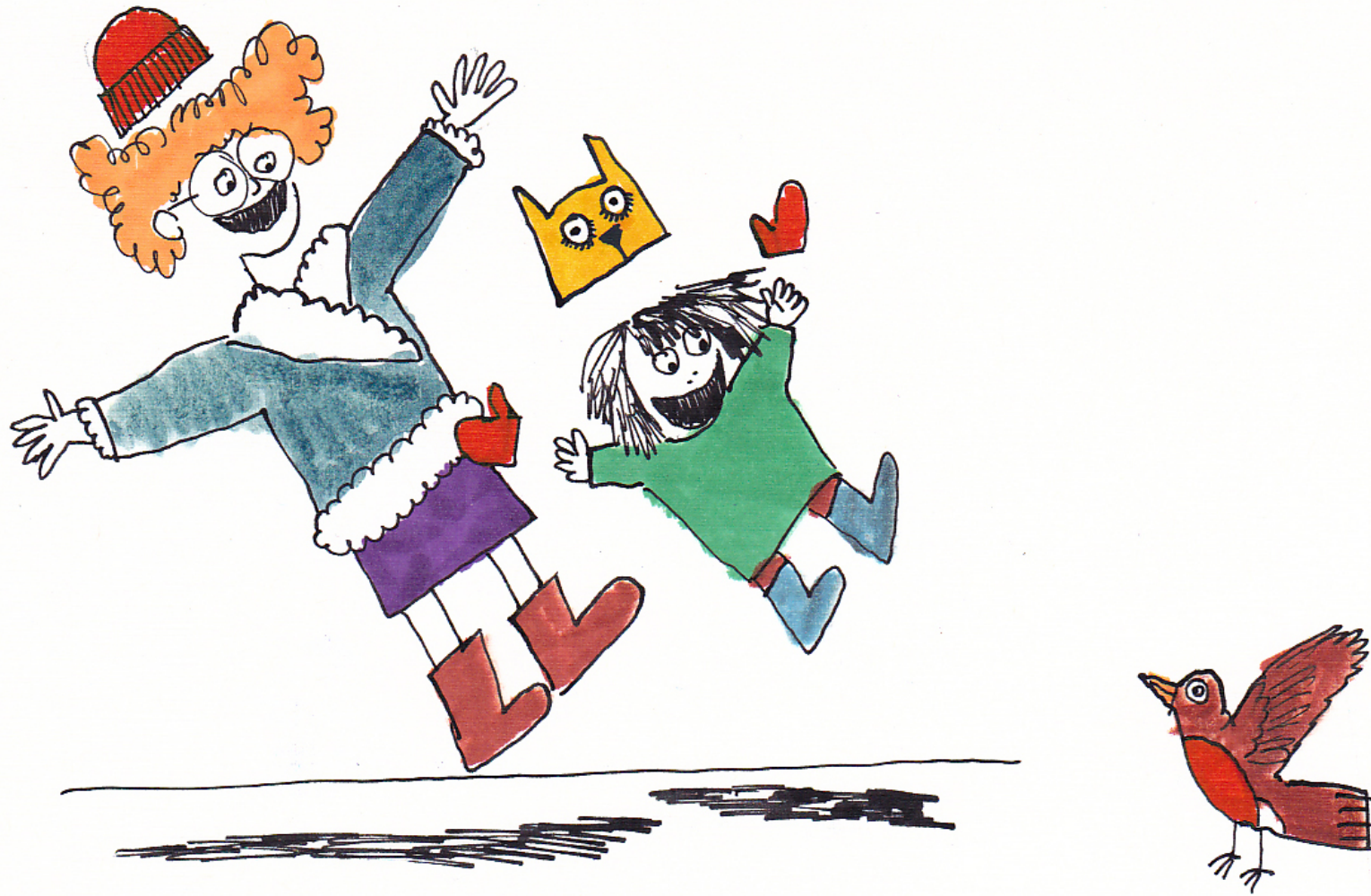
Mona loves animals.

She always makes sure she has squirrels, cats and dogs on their chart.



Not all the animals are outside.

She has to pay attention, because cats and dogs are sometimes peeking out the window, and she might miss them.



And then yesterday, Mona and her mom saw a robin - the first robin of spring!

Mona had asked her mom to add a robin to today's 'I Spy' chart.

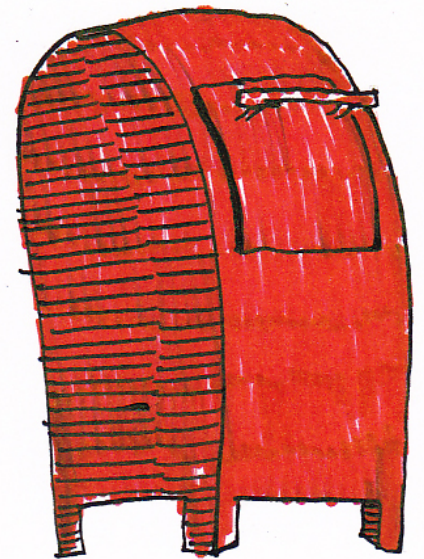


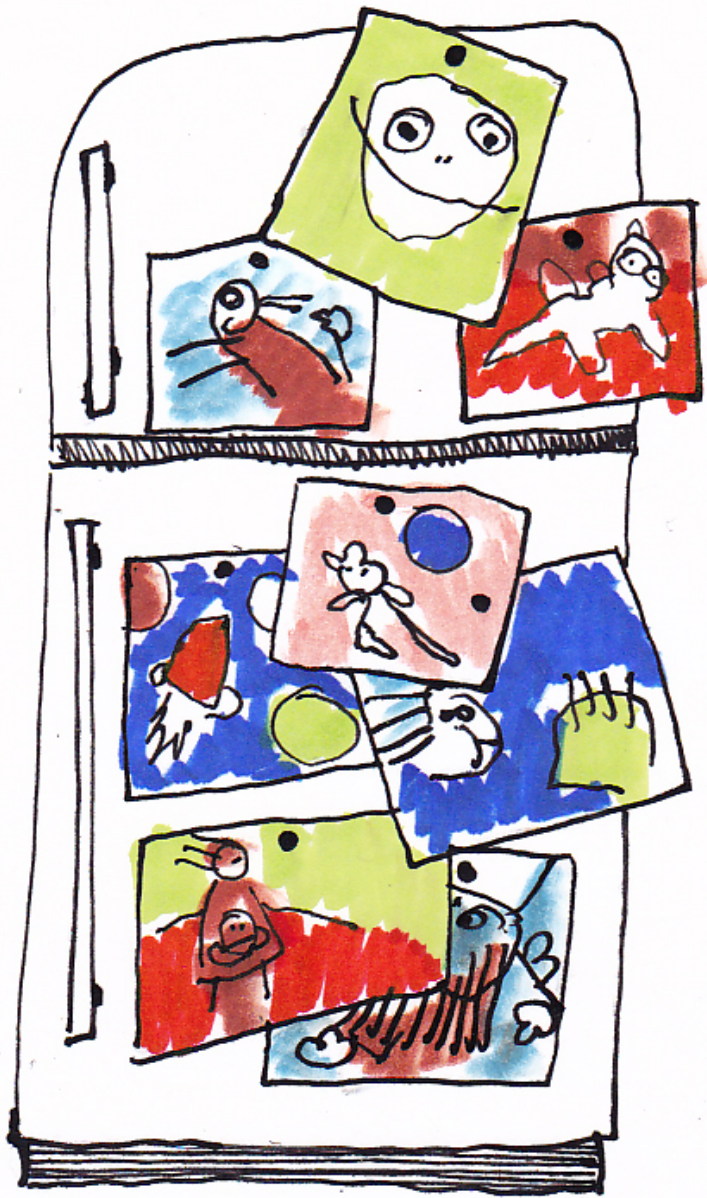
Last week Mona was talking to Grandpa.

He said he used to love playing 'I Spy' with Mona's mom when she was little.

He is retired now, but he used to be a postal worker delivering the mail every day.

He said he hoped they would look for red mailboxes, and that maybe Mona would send him a new drawing for his art gallery.





Mona had giggled because Grandma and Grandpa's art gallery is their fridge, and all the artists in that gallery are their grandkids.

So this morning, before their 'I Spy' walk, Mona put the finishing touches on her picture of a robin.

It had a big fat worm in its beak.

She signed her name at the bottom and put it in the envelope her mom had addressed to Grandpa.

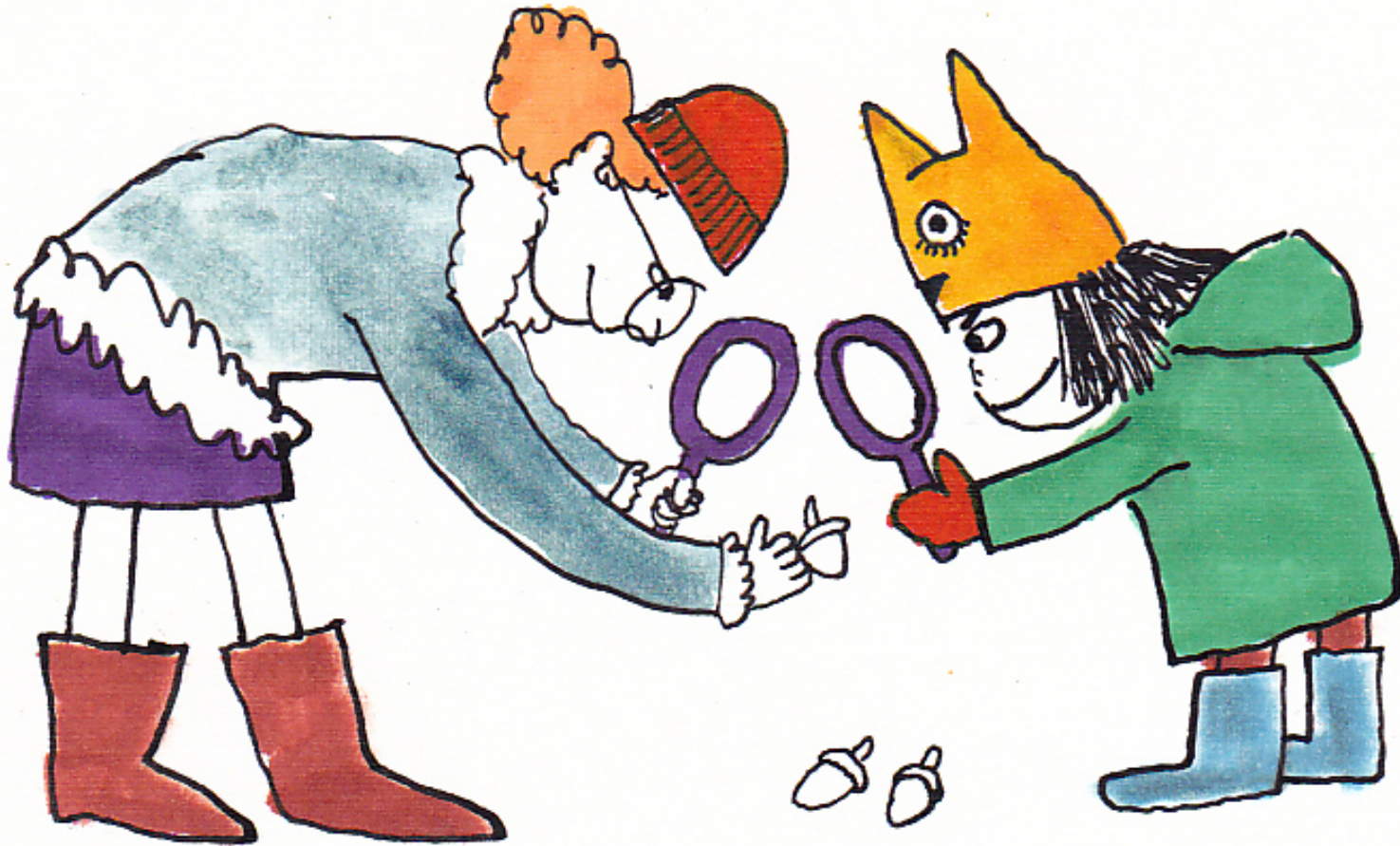




“Where will we go today?”
asked Mona.

“Let’s walk toward the river,”
replied her mom. “We had
better get going if we are
going to spy a robin again!”





Mona grabbed the envelope and skipped to the door to put on her boots and coat.

We hope you have enjoyed *I Spy*. A PowerPoint version is available. Please contact Beth Christie if you would like to have a copy (Beth.Christie@nbed.nb.ca).

We are also working on a cross-curricular activity document to accompany this text. In the meantime, please feel free to dive in with your own ideas. We'd love to hear what you are doing.