

Just for Kids!

Complete this activity and bring this page back to the Library to collect a prize. We will hang your drawing up in an art display!

Mona finds a home at Heartwood Hotel. What does "home" mean to you? Draw a picture of your home now OR draw a picture of your imaginary home. Would you have a room full of puppies, a special candy closet, a waterslide, a secret room full of books?

First Name: _____ Grade: _____

I read *Heartwood Hotel* with my _____
(family, classroom, grandmother, parents, dog, etc.)

HEARTWOOD HOTEL FAMILY READING KIT

Heartwood Hotel: A True Home

When Mona the mouse loses her home in a storm, she finds the Heartwood Hotel inside a majestic tree in the heart of Fernwood Forest. There she finds warmth, food, a job, and much more. *A True Home* is first in the Heartwood Hotel series.

Author: Kallie George

Kallie George is a Canadian author, educator, and picture book editor who grew up and lives in British Columbia. She started writing books in her childhood and loves picture books, fairy tales, and baking cookies. *A True Home* was a finalist for the Sheila A. Egoff Children's Literature Prize in 2018 and won the Chocolate Lily Young Readers' Choice Award - Chapter Book in 2019.

Illustrator: Stephanie Graegin

Stephanie Graegin is the illustrator of many books for children. She was born during a blizzard on Groundhog Day in Chicago. She earned her BFA from the Maryland Institute College of Art and her MFA in printmaking from Pratt Institute. She currently lives in Brooklyn, New York.

Historical Context: Written in 2017

Recommended for: ages 6 and up.



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Discussion Questions

Read each question aloud and share your answers. Don't worry about staying on topic! See where the conversation leads you and encourage everyone to ask questions of their own.

- Why does Mr. Heartwood allow Mona to stay at the hotel when there are no rooms available? If you were Mr. Heartwood, would you have done the same thing?

- Mona is a maid in the Heartwood Hotel. Do you notice people in our community who clean? Why is this an important job? What would you like to say to people who clean our schools, libraries, stores, and hotels?

- Tilly is mean to Mona throughout most of the book. Why do you think that is?

- Mona breaks a lot of rules at the hotel. Is it OK to break the rules sometimes? When and why?

- "For a second, Mona didn't feel like a tiny mouse at all, but big as a bear. Maybe big as a tree." (p. 142) When have you ever felt strong and special like this? What has been your proudest or bravest moment?



Sign up for the *Heartwood Hotel: A True Home* Family Reading Kit Book Club to receive more activities, resources, and invites to programs and events right in your inbox!

Register at calgarylibrary.ca/family-reading-kits

An Activity for your Family to Do Together

Using a small box, make a diorama of a scene from the Heartwood Hotel.

Can you create some of the characters and the objects that might be used there? For example, a mouse made of clay or an upside-down dandelion for a broom. Dioramas often have painted backgrounds, so you might want to paint or draw the room or place they are in on the inside of the box. Share a photo of your diorama with the Library on social media [@calgarylibrary](https://twitter.com/calgarylibrary).

Diorama: a scenic representation where sculptured figures and lifelike details are displayed, usually in miniature, blending into a realistic painted background.

Scene: the place where an action or event occurs; a sequence of actions in a play, movie, opera, or book.

- Materials Required:**
- shoebox
 - glue
 - scissors
 - paint or crayons
 - building materials such as string, pipe cleaners, fabric scraps, modeling clay, pinecones and sticks, etc.

