



Big stories, fewer barriers.

Stories for your Senses

Sensory storytelling is a tactile approach to exploring stories. Through the use of sensory stimuli, people are able to experience a story through their five senses.

This can be a fun, engaging and interactive experience for all. Sensory storytelling provides an approach to telling stories in a unique way but also enhances cognitive development, communication, memory and wellbeing.

The best way to approach accessing Every Cherry's sensory stories is through these 3 steps:

Preparation

- Use the book prompts to collect the sensory items you need.
- Perhaps you could collect additional items to engage the senses further?
- Familiarise yourself with the text.

Sharing the Story

- Read each sentence clearly.
- Use the sensory items in relation to each sentence or key sensory-themed word.
- Build the impact of stimuli over time, for example use sound quietly at first then increase the volume.
- Repeat the sensory story and its use of stimuli. This can be beneficial for cognitive development, communication opportunities and enjoyment.

Approach Sensory Storytelling Depending on Who You're Working With

- Get to know who you are working with.
- Some people may prefer a gradual approach to stimuli.
- Listen to the person you are working with and be guided by their reactions.
- Interact with the person you are working with. Use a range of communication approaches, such as AAC devices, signing etc, to find out preferences and to initiate interaction.
- Repeating the story and allowing it to become predictable may also be beneficial.

For the purposes of this resource, the child, young person or user will be referred to as the 'reader'.



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Stories for your Senses

Autumn is Awesome

Teaching and Learning Resources

Collecting Your Items

On the first page of the text you will be asked to collect the items you need.

Ensure you have each item to hand before you begin reading.

Perhaps you could make this into an activity through:

- Visiting the shops to collect the items.
- Going on a scavenger hunt around your home / school with your reader to collect what you need.



Leaves



Soup



Blanket



Apple and cinnamon



Sticks



Water

In the story, it says 'Red, brown and golden leaves fall from the trees. I see them glide gently to the ground.'

Key sensory approach:

- Look at leaves up close to see their details.
- Look at all the different colours and sort the leaves into colour groups.
- Put the leaves in order of size.

Additional senses:

- Feel the leaves, do they all feel the same or are some bumpy?
- Can you hear them rustling?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- big or small
- green or brown
- crunchy or soft

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Use the leaves to create artwork. Can the leaves be glued to paper to create a hedgehog picture?

Activity 2: Create a leaf rubbing by putting paper over the top of the leaf and rubbing gently with a crayon. Cut the different rubbings out to create a display or decorate a window.

Activity 3: Use a hole punch to create leaf confetti.

In the story, it says 'Puddles splash around me. Raindrops patter on my skin. They feel cold and wet.'

Key sensory approach:

- Go outside and splash in puddles or splash a bowl of water.
- Explore putting your feet into different bowls of water, some cold and some warm. Which feels nicer?
- Use watering cans to sprinkle water slowly on your legs or arms.

Additional senses:

- Use different containers to pour water from and listen to the different sounds they make.
- Use food colouring to change the colour of the water. Can you match the correct coloured items with the correct coloured water?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- warm or cold
- dry or wet
- smooth or rough

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Create a water wall using pipes and bottles. Tip the water into the top and watch it pour down into a bucket at the bottom.

Activity 2: Set up a water tray with different items that you would find in Autumn. These could be objects or laminated photographs.

In the story it says 'I hear the wind rustling through the branches. Sticks and dried leaves cover the ground. I hear them snap and crunch as I move over them.'

Key sensory approach:

- Go on a walk to collect sticks, listen out for the sounds of the branches.
- Walk over sticks and dried leaves, listen to the noises they make.
- Listen to the book's free soundscape, to hear the woodland sounds.

Additional senses:

- Feel the different sticks and how some are bumpy and some are smooth. Can you sort them into groups?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- smooth or rough
- long or short

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Use the sticks to create music. Hit them on different objects to listen to the different sounds they make. Can you beat the sticks to the rhythm of a known nursery rhyme?

Activity 2: Paint the sticks different colours and use string to create a rainbow wall hanging.

In the story it says 'the soup tastes tangy and sweet'.

Key sensory approach:

- Taste different flavours of soup.
- Taste some tangy foods.
- Taste some sweet foods.

Additional senses:

In the story, it says 'it is time to warm up'.

- Drink warm drinks under a blanket in a cosy room. How does it feel?
- Smell some tangy and sweet foods. Which smell do you prefer?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- warm or cold
- dry or wet
- smooth or rough
- sweet or tangy

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Taste a variety of soups and vote for your favourite soup.

Activity 2: Make your own soup. Practice chopping or grating different ingredients to add to the soup.

Please note: ensure readers do not have allergies when tasting foods.

In the story it says 'I smell apples and cinnamon.'

Key sensory approach:

- Cut up apples to smell
- Sprinkle cinnamon onto an apple
- Spray apple and cinnamon spray around the room

Additional senses:

In the story, it says 'There are toasted marshmallows and warm drinks.'

- Taste marshmallows
- Toast some marshmallows
- Drink hot chocolate



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

Use Every Symbol cue cards to extend vocabulary. Readers could choose from:

- warm or cold
- dry or wet
- sweet or tangy

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Create a blind smell test with different tubs of smells. Can the reader find the cinnamon and apple amongst other smells?

Activity 2: Bake apple and cinnamon cupcakes. Recipes can be found easily online.

Please note: ensure readers do not have allergies when using different foods.

Finishing the Story

We end our story with a sensory hug, using the blanket, to symbolise the story being over. Use a blanket to make this sensory hug feel more impactful. Place the blanket over shoulders and feel its weight.



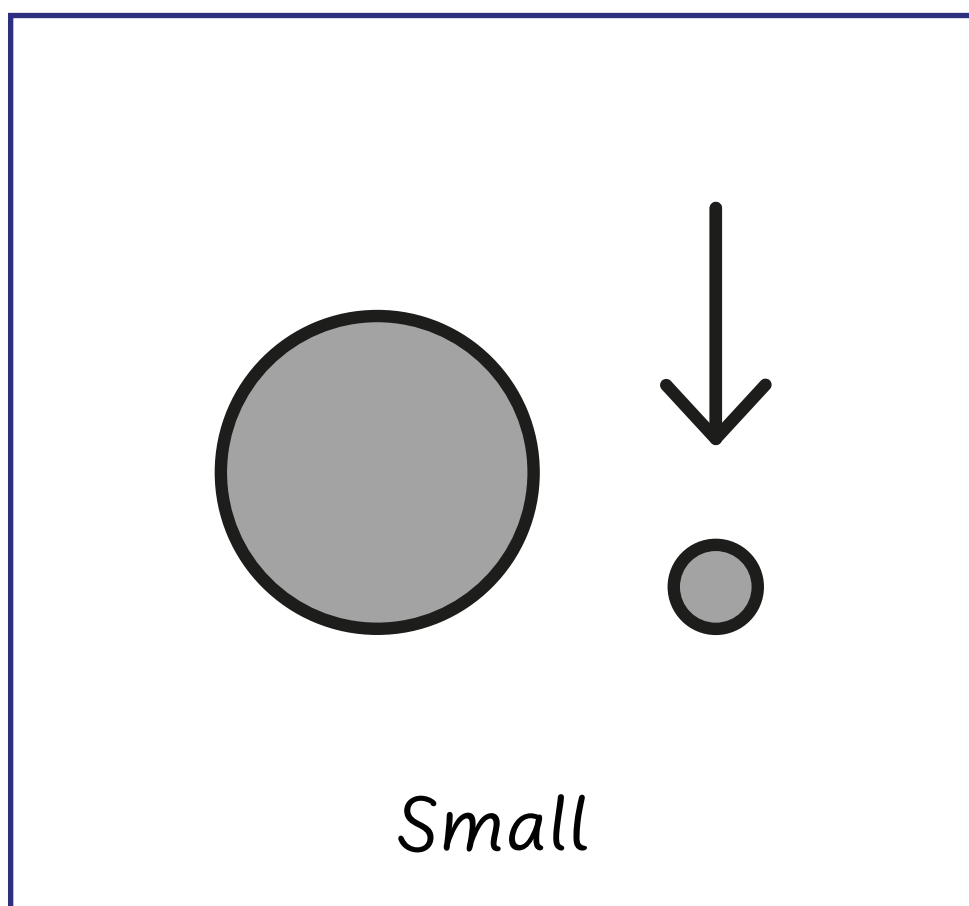
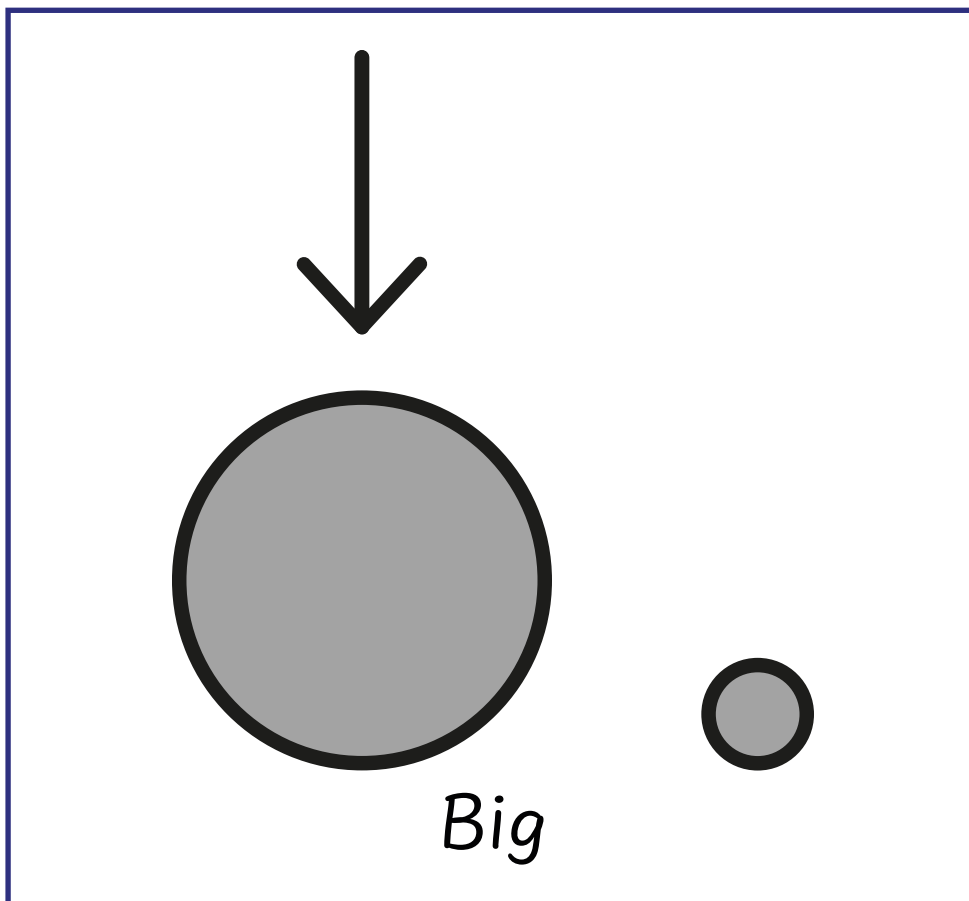
Every Symbol communication opportunity:

Use Every Symbol cue card to extend vocabulary.

● finished

Extra ideas:

- Create a role play area or tray with an autumn theme.
- Go on a trip to a wooded area to search for signs of autumn.
- Go on an autumn walk and take photos for a display.
- Use autumn objects such as leaves, pine cones and acorns to create a piece of group artwork.
- Use playdough to make hedgehogs and learn about them.

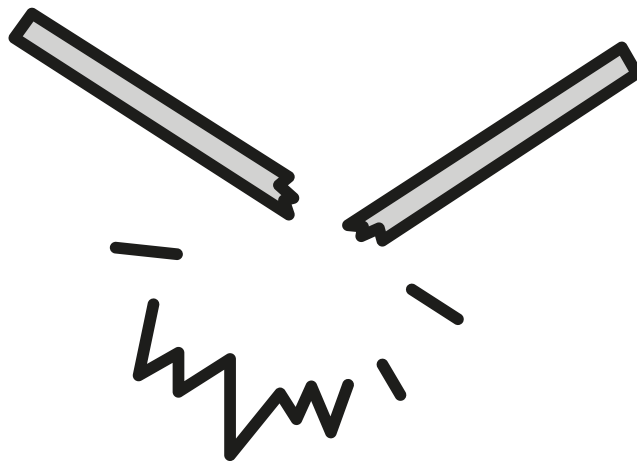




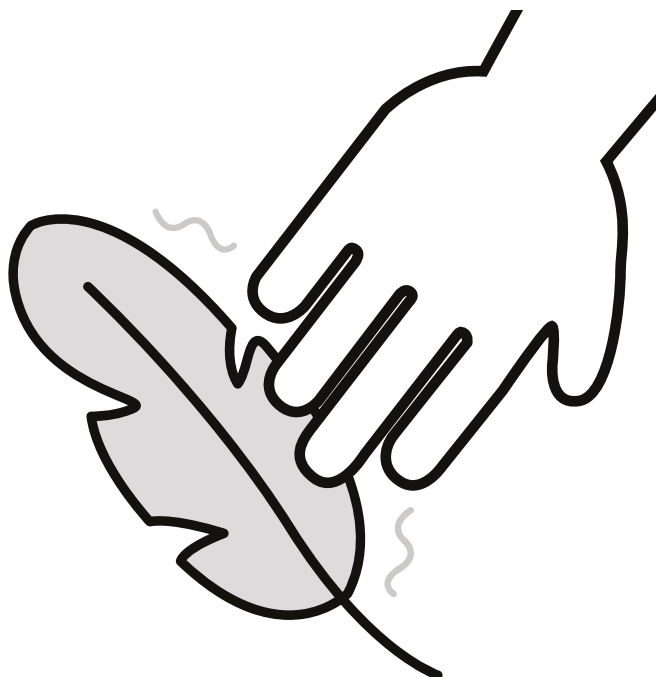
Green



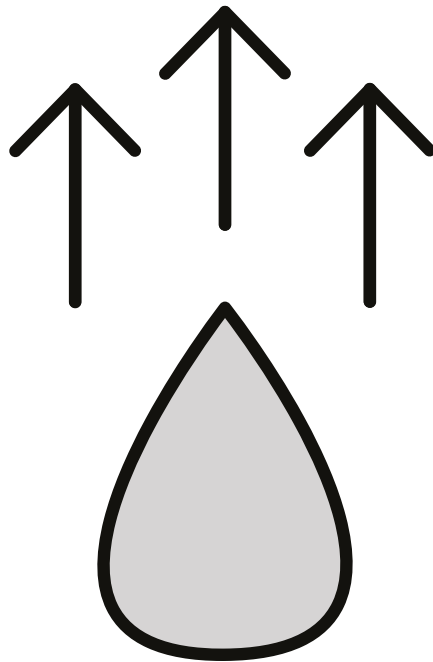
Brown



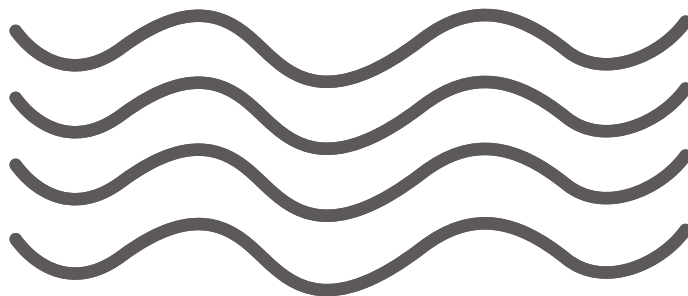
Crunchy



Soft



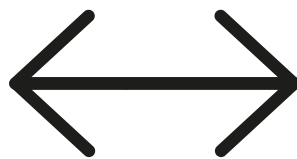
Dry



Wet



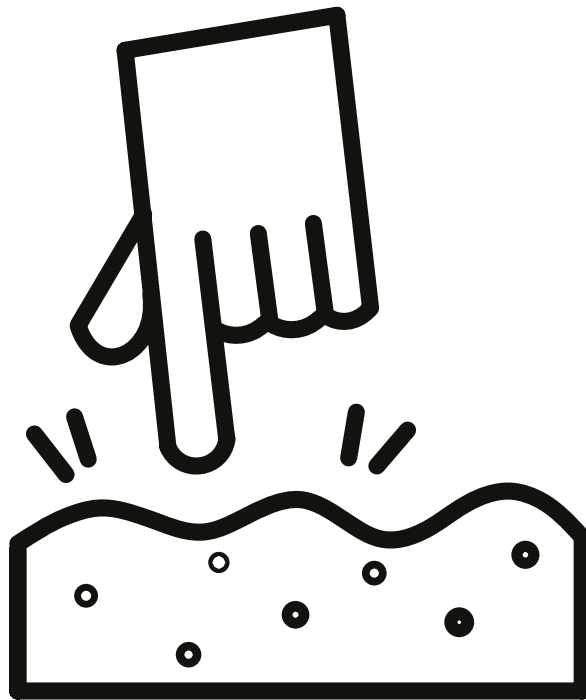
Long



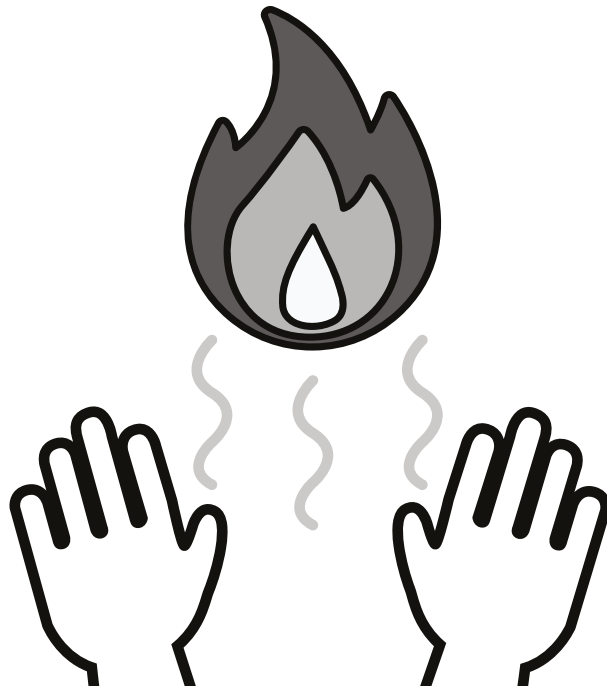
Short



Smooth



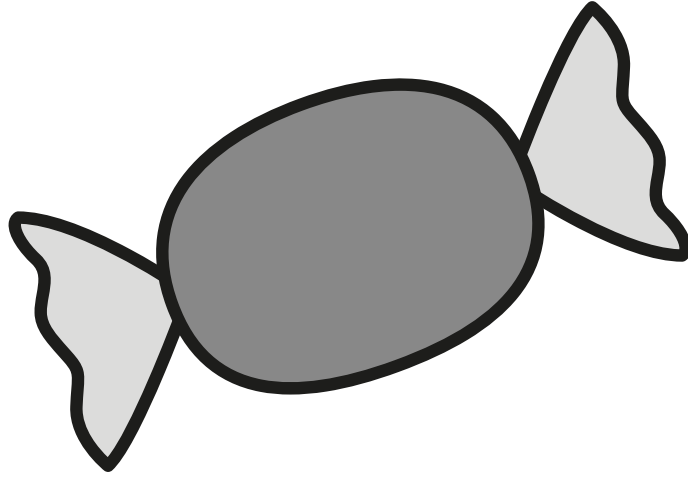
Rough



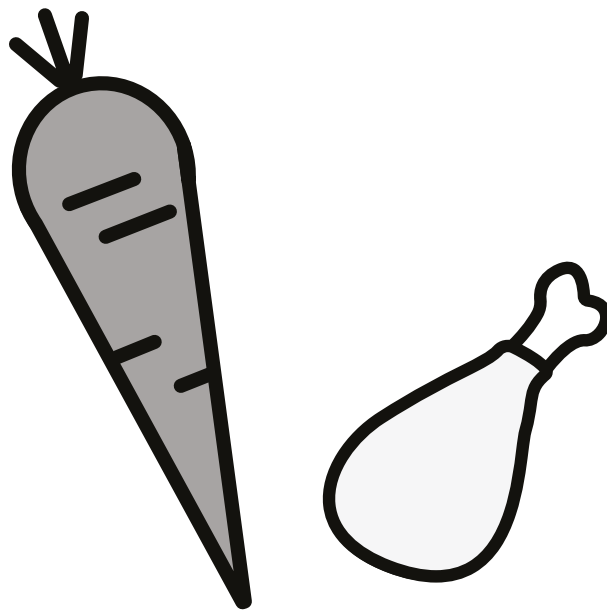
Warm



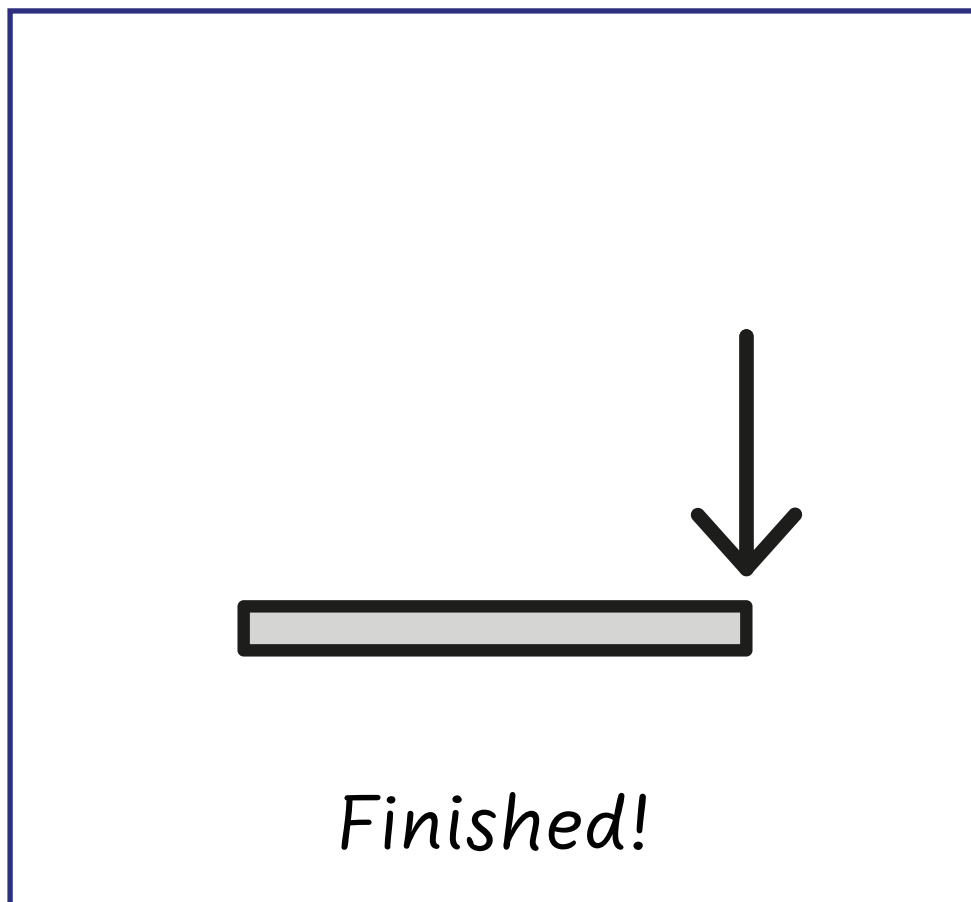
Cold



Sweet



Savoury





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*This Teaching and Learning Resource has been written by
Katie Corrigan as part of Every Cherry Publishing.*

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<https://www.everycherry.com/resources>*