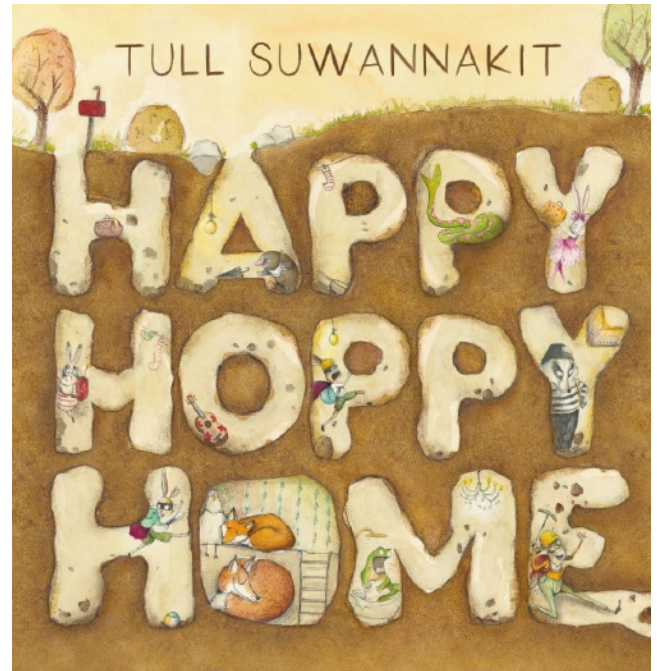


Happy Hoppy Home

Author/Illustrator
Tull Suwannakit



Synopsis

Papa Hare and his four children all live packed together in a tiny burrow. Tired of being crammed together with no room for anyone to play or sleep or be alone, Papa Hare comes up with a plan to move to a much larger home. So the five of them pack their belongings and tunnel their way through the earth until they find a lovely large home to move in to, with plenty of space for each of them to be alone. But sometimes, being alone can be lonely, and so when the owner of their new home turns out to be unhappy to find them there, they are all relieved to be able to move right back into their original home, which no longer seems quite so small and crowded, but is just the right size for them all to be together.

About the Author/Illustrator

Tull Suwannakit is originally from Thailand and has written and illustrated over a dozen books in his native language. His books have won numerous awards in his home country and been translated into Korean, Slovenian, Chinese and Danish. When Tull is not writing and illustrating his books, he runs art classes and workshops for children and adults at his art school in Melbourne, Malvern School of Art.

Themes

Key Themes include: family, changes, sharing space, expectations, moving house, loneliness, comfort, love, support.

Writing Style

Written in the third-person omniscient throughout, the story follows the family as a whole, sharing each character's feelings in turn. The language used is simple and direct, with sentences short and clear, making it highly accessible to the youngest of readers. Descriptions are crafted to show the changing feelings of the characters to their different homes, and onomatopoeic actions help bring their deeds to life. Suwannakit uses character dialogue to share each character's emotional state and reaction to events as they occur, and to develop character traits and viewpoints. The narrative structure is chronologically straightforward, and the story is well suited to reading aloud.

Illustration Style

Created using watercolours and pencils, Suwannakit's artwork is crafted with a palette of soft, natural earth-tones with contrasting pinks, greens, and brighter yellow-orange shades. Characters are depicted anthropomorphically, and are shown wearing clothes, engaging in human hobbies and activities, and living in well-furnished burrows. The visual narrative directly parallels the text throughout, expanding upon mentioned details, and providing the reader with a more complete image of the world that is inhabited by the Hare family. Illustrations are a combination of full-page spreads, half-page spreads, and map-like combinations of two- and three-dimensional vignette representations of activity and movement sequences. Figures are consistently given depth and dimension through the use of shading and tone, while backgrounds incorporate larger washes of flatter colour and make good use of white space to break up the narrative and depict the separation and loneliness alluded to in the text.

TEACHER NOTES

- 1) Before reading the story, as a class look closely at the cover and title, and discuss what you can learn about the book from them. Some things you might wish to include in your discussion could be:
 - What can you see happening on the front cover?
 - Where do you think this story might be set?
 - What are the characters shown on the cover doing, and where are they?
 - Who do you think might the story be about, and why do you think this?
 - Why do you think the author might have chosen this title for the story, and what does it tell you about the characters and the events within the book?
- 2) At the beginning of the story, the burrow where Mr Hare and his children live is described as being *very small, and very crowded*. At the end of the story, how is the burrow described? What are some other words that you can think of which might be used to describe a very small and crowded home that the inhabitants consider to be perfect for them just the way it is?
- 3) What noises does they make when the Hare family dig their way to a new home (and back to their old home again)? What do you think might be making the two different noises, and why? Can you think of some other onomatopoeic words which could be used to describe the sounds of digging?
- 4) Looking carefully at the pictures of the Hare family in the new home, why do you think that Dot felt lonely?
- 5) Who did the new home really belong to? How do you think they might have felt when they came home to find the Hare family living there? Why do you think they felt this way, and what did they do?
- 6) How would you feel if you came home and found a different family living in your home? What might you say and do?
- 7) Draw or paint a picture-map of your own home in a similar style to the pictures of the Hare family living in the new large home (that actually wasn't theirs).
- 8) As a class, discuss the good points and bad points that the Hare family discovered about living in a very small home as compared to living in a very large home.
 - Make a list of the pros (good points) and cons (bad points) mentioned in the story for both the large home and their original small home.
 - Can you think of any other pros and cons to living in either a small or a large home that aren't mentioned in the story?

- In pairs or small groups make as long a list of pros and cons as you can, and then as a class share everyone's lists to make a whole class list.
 - Individually, vote on whether you would prefer to live in a very large home or a very small home if you had to choose.
 - Display the results of your vote using a pie chart.
 - Draw a picture of your preferred home, and caption it with a description of why you chose it.
- 9) What are some of the similarities and differences between the homes in the story, and the homes in your local community? Where in Australia are people's homes the most similar to the homes in the story? What might be some of the advantages and disadvantages to living underground like the Hare family?
- 10) Can you think of a solution to the Hare family's problem of crowding that doesn't involve moving to a new home, and makes their current home less crowded? Why do you think Mr Hare might have chosen not to implement this solution?
- 11) Look carefully at the picture where Mr Hare has drawn a *New Home Plan*. What rooms can you see included in his plan of their new home? Are there any rooms that your home has that his plan doesn't? If you were drawing a *New Home Plan* for you and your family, what rooms would you like to include? As a class discuss what you consider to be the rooms and facilities necessary for a comfortable family home, and what features you consider optional or luxuries. Does everyone in your class agree on these definitions of necessary/optional? Why/why not?
- 12) If you were to dig an underground burrow to live in, how many rooms would you like it to have, and what would they look like? Design your ideal underground burrow-home and draw a detailed coloured picture of it. Be sure to clearly explain and label all the different rooms and features that you would like to include in it.
- 13) Who are all the different creatures that the Hare family encounter on their journey to and from the new home? Look carefully at the pictures and as a class discuss who all the different characters are and what they seem to be doing when the Hare family run into them. What does this tell us about where this story might be set?
- 14) Which of the four Hare children do you feel is most like you and why? Draw a picture of yourself as a Hare living in a burrow.
- 15) What animals live underground in your local region? As a class, discuss which animals burrow or den underground in your local region, and whether they are native animals, or introduced species. Why might some animals prefer to live underground? Choose one animal that lives underground in your local region, and in small groups research it and its habitat and home. Create an informative illustrated poster to share your findings about the animal. Include information about how its underground home looks, where the home is located, and how many of the animal normally live in a single one.