

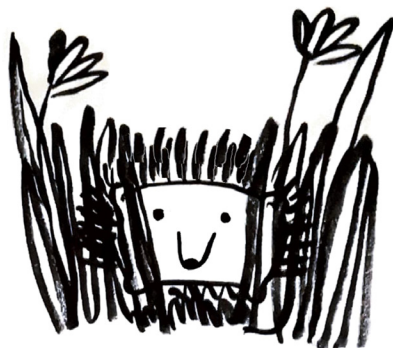
Hayden the Hedgehog

Story
Trail



**Rodden Meadow
from 12th November**

Join Hayden on an exciting adventure as they meet new friends, explore new places and find a new home. Look out for the wooden painted trail stops!

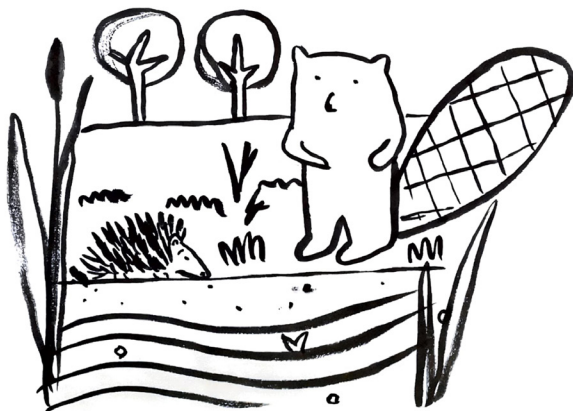


Hayden the hedgehog awoke one late winter's day
Crawled out of their nest, wriggling through sticks, grass and hay
'Oh my, is it not April?' they exclaimed through the dawn
As they breathed in the fresh air, and let out a yawn

'I've woken up too early this year it does seem'
'Each year does get hotter, disturbing my dreams'
'But no matter!' Hayden said, heading out for a walk
Only to see a new sight, at which Hayden did gawk

'A road, a ROAD! Those pesky humans again'
'With this great big road my nest's gone down the drain!'
Hayden sighed, woken up much too early
Disturbed by the road, too big strong and burly

'I have no choice but to seek a new place'
'I'll walk and I'll walk, with a smile on my face'
Hayden the Hedgehog packed their things in a sack
And set on their way, stretching the spines on their back



Approaching the river, Hayden heard a loud grumble
And saw a big tree that was beginning to tumble
Beside the big tree was a very toothy beaver
Who gave Hayden a wave as they took a quick breather

‘Hello mate, I’m Bernie’ he said with a wink
‘I’m just building a dam here, what do you think?’
‘I’m Hayden’ said Hayden, ‘and that looks amazing’
‘But my home has gone, the humans gave it a razing’

Bernie gave it a thought, and started to speak
‘You know that I live here, down in this creek?’
Beckoning Hayden, Bernie offered a place
In his logpile house, with plenty of space

‘Thank you’ said Hayden, with a suspicious glug
The house was on water, as cold as it was snug
‘Sadly I cannot swim so I’ll be on my way’
So on Hayden went, to find where to stay

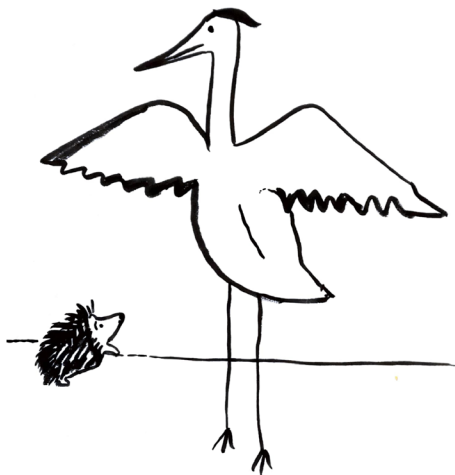


On Hayden went, seeking cover from trees
When up came a snout, with a startling sneeze
Freya the Fox came bounding out and said
'Good to see you hedgehog, this is early, sleepyhead?'

Hayden was frank and explained their dilemma
Freya nodded to agree, times had been much better
But Freya knew what to do, she had the solution
Hayden could live with her, where soil had been loosened

Down and down through a burrow they climbed
Freya bounded on, Hayden struggled behind
The tunnels were big, and Freya's legs were long
But Hayden was less sprightly, and fell down headlong!

'Freya, your burrow is magnificent and vast
But my legs are too short, I'd just never last'
Freya helped carry Hayden back up to the ground
Where, after goodbye, Hayden set off to look around



Hayden explored marshlands, to find their new place
When out popped a heron, with poise and with grace
'Welcome to Rodden, it's cold but it's calming
With a view over water, there's little so charming'

Hazel the Heron took Hayden under her wing
'Don't worry hedgehog, you're safe from all things'
But shrieking a shriek, Hazel tore out the huddle
Hayden's pines were too spiky to cuddle

'I'm sorry little one, but this will not do
I'm too big and skinny to put my wing over you'
Hayden understood, and sadly trudged off
As the light started to fade, and the air became soft



Determined not to quit, Hayden kept marching on
The sun fell away to night, and the full moon shone
'What can I do?' Hayden cried in blind confusion
'I'll help you' came a voice, was it a night-time illusion?

'I'm Pippin' it said 'the pipistrelle bat'
'Finding a home is easy, just place down your hat'
The voice floated all over, from above and around
And Pippin picked up Hayden, clean right off the ground!

They flew up and up, to the bat's treetop home
At the top of the forest, on the night-time throne
But Hayden did not like it, they'd never been higher
So Pippin took them down, Hayden wasn't a flyer

Hayden was sad, everyone had been so kind
But now they were unsure what they'd ever find
They curled up to nap, cold, sad and alone
This was the worst day Hayden had ever known



The very next morning Hayden sensed something odd
They followed the path, the earth was pre-trod
A row of houses all with a hole in the fence
Each garden more exciting, the trail more intense

Finally, they reached the fifth garden in a row
A garden lush with green - a perfect new home!
All of their new friends cheered their arrival
Surrounded by things to help with Hayden's survival

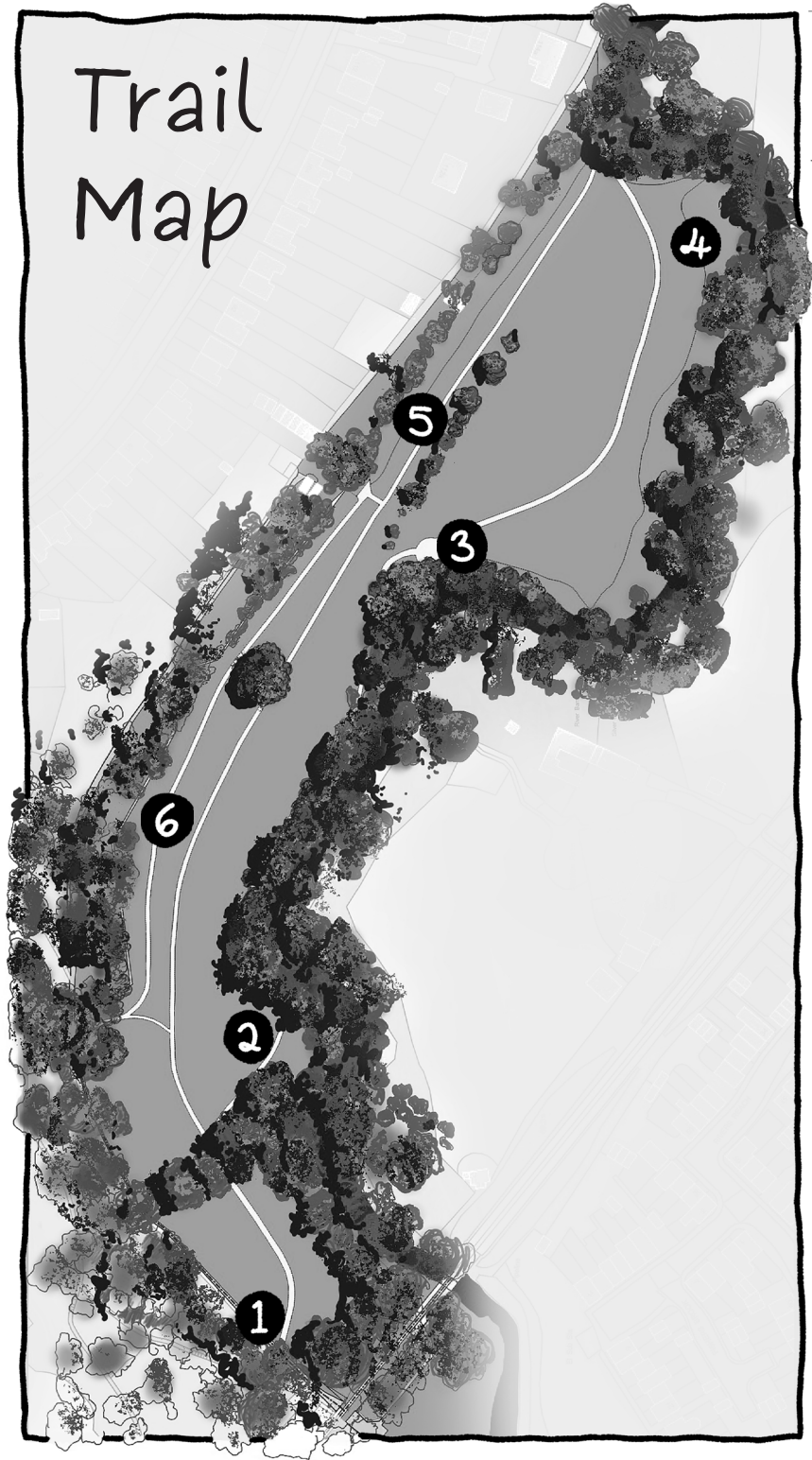
Bernie the Beaver had nibbled some sticks
For Hayden to use for their new house, like bricks
Freya the Fox had dug a shallow hole
For Hayden to shelter from wind, rain and cold

Hazel the Heron offered some feathers
To help Hayden sleep, regardless of weather
And Pippin the Bat collected leaves in a pile
So nothing would see Hayden, for miles and miles

The animals partied through all of the night
To welcome Hayden's new home, it was simply polite!
Then Hazel and Pippin flew up so much higher,
Freya scampered, and Bernie retired

Hayden the Hedgehog fell asleep one late winter's day
Tucked into their nest, warmed by feathers, leaves and hay
'I'll wake up in April' they exclaimed through the dawn
As they breathed in the fresh air, and let out a yawn

Trail Map



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Written by Alex Nettle with illustrations from Donna Sarah

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