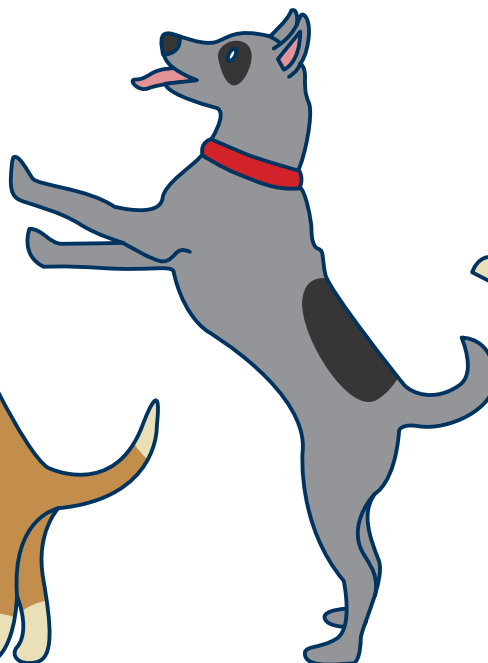
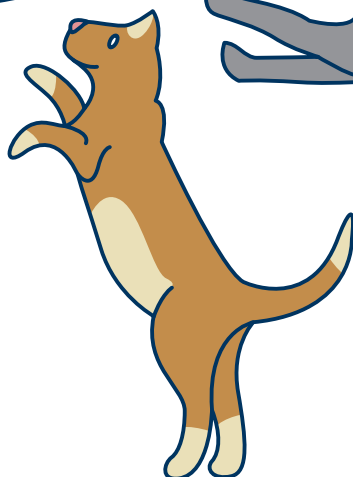
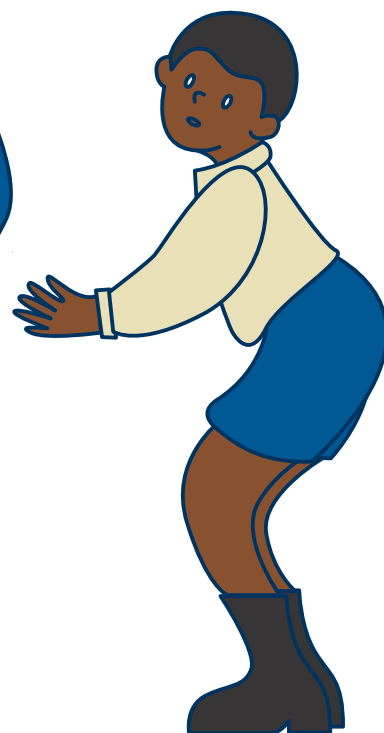
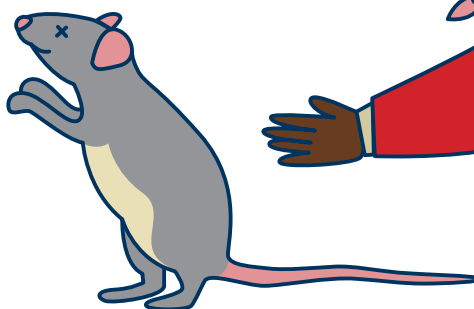
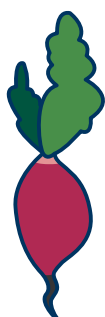
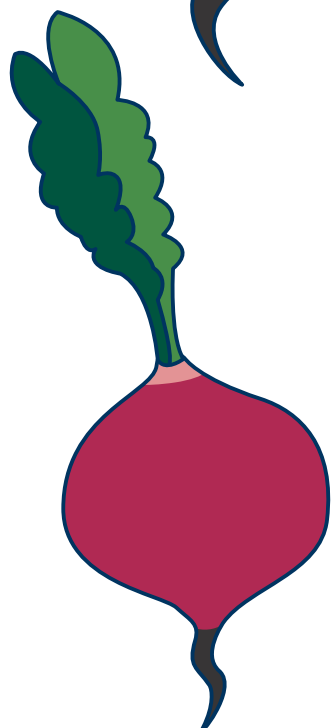
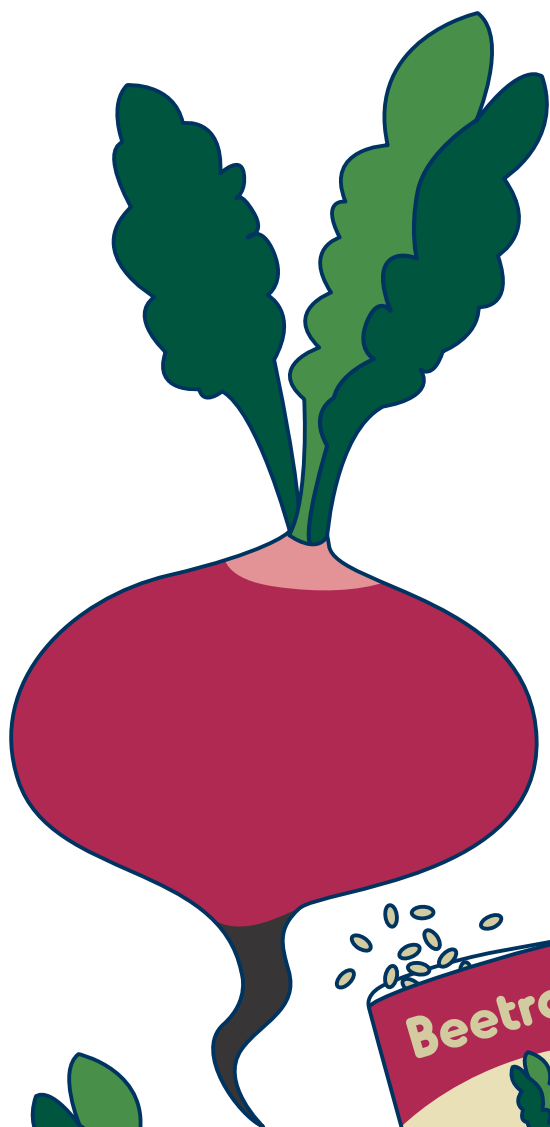


# The Enormous Beetroot



Cut out each of these characters and paste them onto a toilet roll inner to help them stand upright.



# The Enormous Beetroot

retold by  
Nadia Lubowski

READ  
OUT  
ALoud

Once upon a time there lived an old man in a small village, on a tiny farm that was his own. He lived with his wife, his grandson, one little grey dog and one medium-sized brown dog, a small ginger cat, and a sweet pink-nosed mouse with only one eye. One day, during dinner, he told the whole household, including the animals, "Dear Family, I am going to plant a beetroot seed. When it grows and is ready for harvest, we are going to make the best beetroot soup you have ever tasted. And we will even make pink icing for a cake with the juice we cook it in." He took a few tiny seeds and a spade and started to dig little holes all around his farm. He put the seeds inside the holes and then sprinkled water over them. He watered the seeds every single day, and then he would sit and wait for the beetroot to grow. He waited and waited and waited.

One night, the rain came. The rain turned into a huge storm. First the raindrops danced over the soil, gently sprinkling the seeds with water, but then the soft rain turned into a storm with thunder and lightning. The next morning the sunbeams dazzled and began to warm the good brown earth again. However, a few seeds must have swept away, and only a few small shoots began to grow.

A few weeks later the shoots had grown further. One shoot had begun to grow leaves, and the leaves had turned into a bush, and the soil was showing a beetroot was growing beneath. The old man was so happy! He walked to his wife sitting on the stoep immediately and told her "My dear wife, we will have the best beetroot soup in no time at all." That night there was another big storm.

The next day the farmer started his morning by putting a huge pot of water on the boil. He had decided to harvest his beetroot today. He stepped outside and saw the leaves from the one beetroot had grown bigger than him. He said "yhooh such an enormous beetroot, how am I going to pull it out". He tried pulling it out. He pulled and pulled but he could not pull out the beetroot.

He called his dear wife to please help him. The man pulled and the wife held onto her husband who was holding onto the shoots. Together they pulled and they pulled and they pulled, but the enormous beetroot would not unroot.

They decided to ask their dearest grandson. "Dear grandson, would you come and help us pull the beetroot?" So the grandson held onto grandma, who held onto grandpa, who held onto the shoots and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled, but still the beetroot stayed stuck. The grandson decided to call the medium sized grey dog and the little brown dog. The little brown dog held onto the grey dog, who held onto the grandson, who held onto grandma, who held onto grandpa, who held onto the shoots, and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled, but still they couldn't pull out the enormous beetroot.

Soon the dogs called the ginger cat, and she held onto the little brown dog, who held onto the medium sized grey dog, who held onto the grandson, who held onto grandma, who held onto grandpa, who held onto the shoots, and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled, but they couldn't pull the enormous beetroot. They all began getting really tired.

So, the tiny ginger cat called to the sweet pink-nosed mouse and he held onto the tiny ginger cat, who held onto the little brown dog, who held onto the grey dog, who held onto the grandson, who held onto grandma, who help onto grandpa, who held onto the shoots and they pulled and they pulled and they pulled. Finally the beetroot got unstuck and it fell onto grandpa.

The beetroot fell on top of grandpa, who fell on top of grandma, who fell on top of her grandson, who fell on top of the little brown dog, who fell on top of the medium sized grey dog, who fell on top of the tiny ginger cat, who almost nearly squashed the sweet pink-nosed mouse with one eye. It was a giant beetroot! Grandpa stood up and dusted himself off, and then each one helped the other get up.

The grandfather was so happy that he had such an enormous beetroot he invited the whole village for soup on his farm. They cut and cooked the beetroot, they baked bread and cake and even made pink icing for their cake. They chatted while they cooked and were merry together all day long. Towards the late afternoon the villagers came to eat all the wonderful food they had prepared, and everyone went home happy with their tummies sore from eating such yummy and plentiful soup, bread and cake. Even the little pink-nosed mouse passed out from enjoying so much food!

Don't forget to use the puppets to help tell the story! Line them up in a row to show how they pull together.