



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.
- 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

Step into Spring

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.



Flower



Torch



Grain



Grass



Strawberry



Fleece



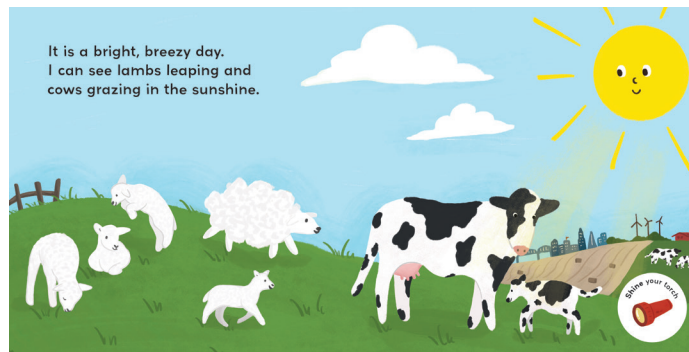
In the story, it says 'I can see lambs leaping and cows grazing in the sunshine'.

Key sensory approach:

- Shine the torch: think carefully about the purpose of doing this.
- Perhaps turn out the lights to add to the sensory sensation.
- You could use foil to reflect the light from the torch, mimicking the sun's rays?
- Shine the torch onto the wall, see what happens when you move the torch closer to the wall or further away.
- If it's a sunny day, go outside and experience the sun shining.

Additional senses:

- Feel a sensory item that is warm on the skin.
- Use heater fans to create a feeling of warmth.
- If it's a sunny day, go outside and feel the warm sun on your skin.



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

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

- bright or dark
- warm or cold

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Turn off the lights and use the torch to create a puppet show. This could be using your hands to create shapes or cut out farm animal stick puppets to create shadows.

Activity 2: Create a tissue paper sun catcher in the shape of a lamb and a cow, for the windows. The reader can rip pieces of tissue paper and glue them onto a clear laminated sheet in the shape of a cow or lamb. Ripping paper is great for fine motor skills and wrist movements. Talk about how they look when the sun shines through the window.

Activity 3: Think about how the cow moves when it is leaping. The reader can practice leaping themselves. Or using a small cow toy enjoy making the cow leap across the pages of the story.

In the story it says **'we can hear the grains scattering across the floor.'**

Key sensory approach:

- Use grains and scatter them on the floor, how does it sound?
- Fill a container with grains and shake it to hear the noise it makes. Can the reader create a loud sound and a quiet sound?
- Explore dropping grains onto the floor from high up and low down. Does it sound different?
- Listen to the soundscape, included free with the book, to hear the sounds of spring.

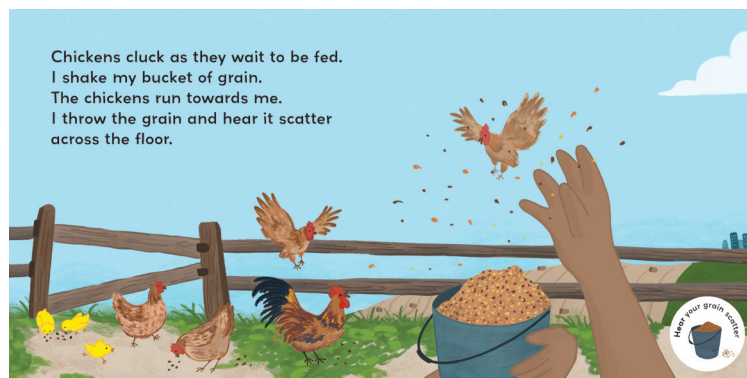
Additional senses

In the story, **'the grains are picked up by hand.'**

- Have a tray full of grains and feel them in your hands.
- Look at how small the grains are. Do they all look the same? What colour are they?

'The chickens are running.'

- Move around like a chicken, thinking about how they would move.



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

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

- soft or hard
- loud or quiet
- big or small

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Use a plastic bottle and grains to create instruments. If you put more grains in a bottle, does it sound different when you shake it?

Activity 2: Use grains to create a farm-themed small world to play and explore in.

In the story it says *'the flowers smell sweet and fresh.'*

Key sensory approach:

- Try smelling different flowers.
- Rub lavender between your fingers before smelling them.
- Spray floral scents around the room to get an immersive experience.

Additional senses:

In the story, it says *'the flowers are beginning to bloom.'*

- Look at different flowers and think about how they are the same and how they are different.
- Gently feel the petals of a flower and feel how smooth they are.



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

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

- good or bad
- smooth or rough
- soft or bumpy

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Smell different flowers then have readers vote for their favourite scent.

Activity 2: Create a blind smell test with different tubs of smells. Can the reader find the floral smells amongst other household smells?

Please note: ensure readers do not have allergies when smelling and touching flowers.

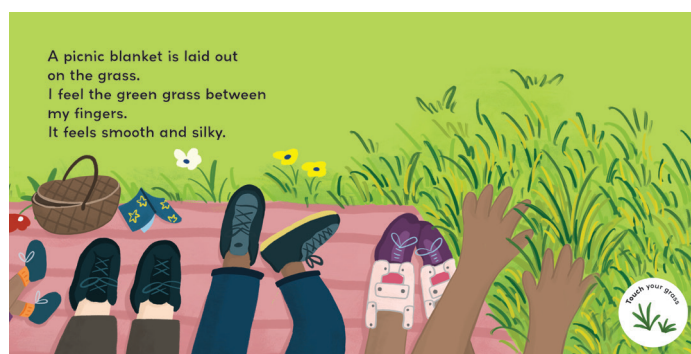
In the story, it says 'I feel the green grass between my fingers. It feels smooth and silky'.

Key sensory approach:

- Touch the grass: think carefully about how to build up this stimulus.
- Perhaps rub the grass on the skin.
- You could put cut grass in a tray and allow your reader to put their hands in the grass.
- You could go outside and feel the fresh grass.
- Is the grass wet or dry?

Additional senses:

- Smell the grass. Does the reader think it smells good or bad?



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

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

- smooth or rough
- wet or dry
- good or bad

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Explore how the grass feels outside. Then practice fine motor cutting skills by cutting the grass with scissors to collect and bring indoors.

Activity 2: Option 1: Using grass and glue, create a picture of the reader's design.

Option 2: Take a photograph of the reader playing in the grass. After it has been printed, using glue, stick grass on top of the printed photograph to create a sensory touch photograph.

In the story it says *'the strawberry tastes sweet and refreshing'*.

Key sensory approach:

- Eat a strawberry.
- Lick mashed-up strawberry off a spoon.
- Mash up a strawberry and use a thickening agent to make it easier to taste.

In the story it says *'there are a lot of foods to try'*.

- Taste the other fruits and foods in the story.

Additional senses:

- Look at the strawberries and all the seeds in them. Cut them in half to look at the pattern inside.



Every Symbol communication opportunities:

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

- slippery or bumpy
- warm or cold
- dry or wet
- smooth or rough
- good or bad

Additional Activities to Explore the Text

Activity 1: Make your own strawberry ice lollies and taste them.

Activity 2: Practice fine motor skills by cutting up strawberries and other fruit to make a fruit salad.

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

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



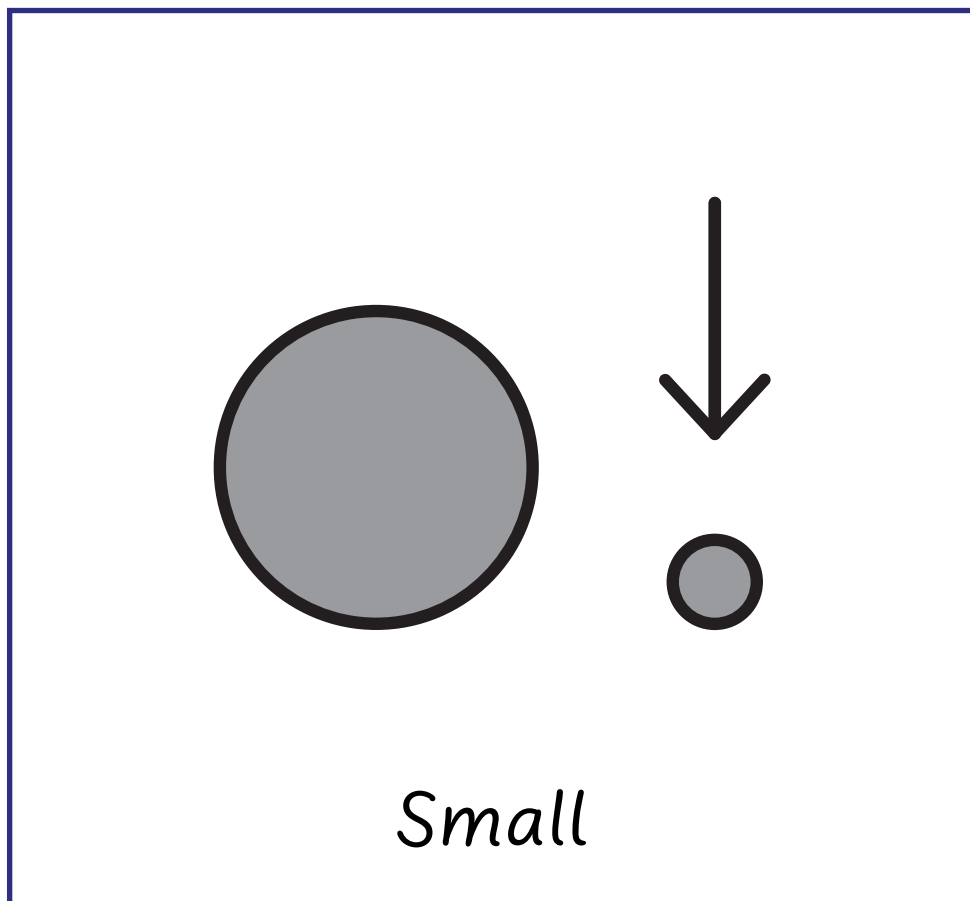
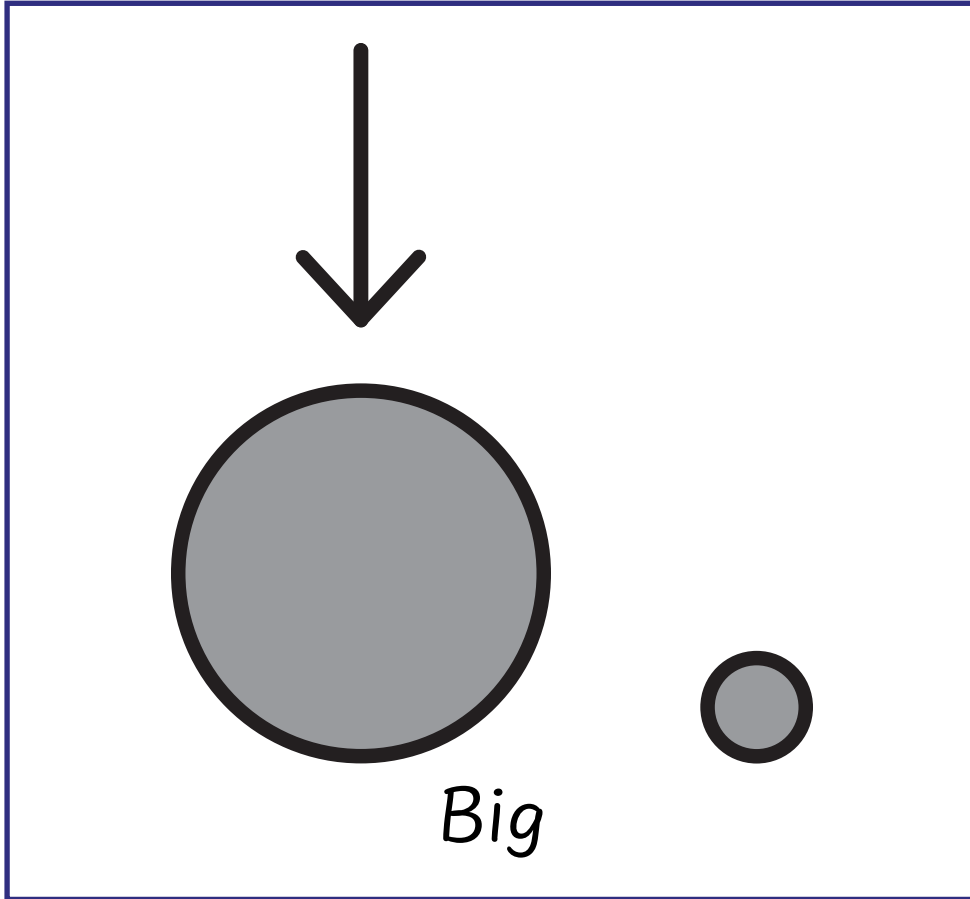
Every Symbol communication opportunity:

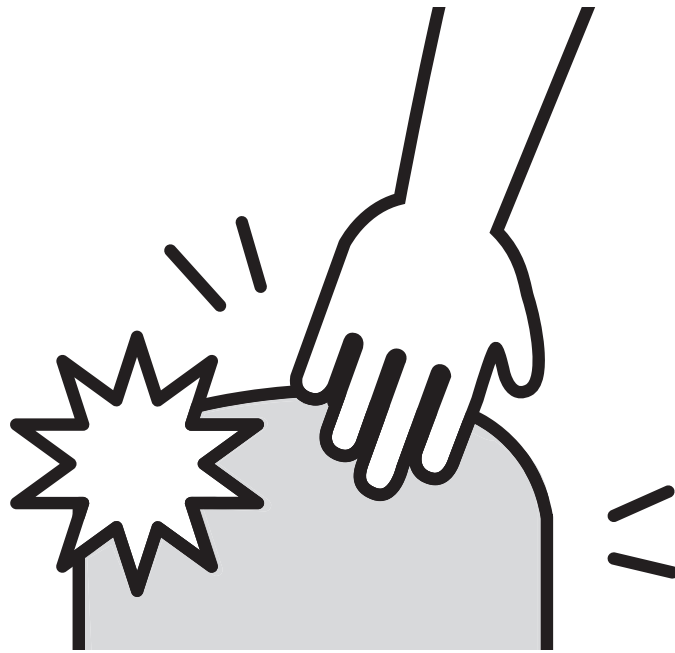
Use Every Symbol cue card to extend vocabulary.

● finished

Extra ideas:

- Create a role play area or tuff tray for readers to explore. Include farm animals, flowers, grass and fruit.
- Go outside for a picnic.
- Learn themed songs such as 'Old McDonald had a farm'.
- Create several types of artwork. You could use grains for a farm theme, flower petals and cut grass.

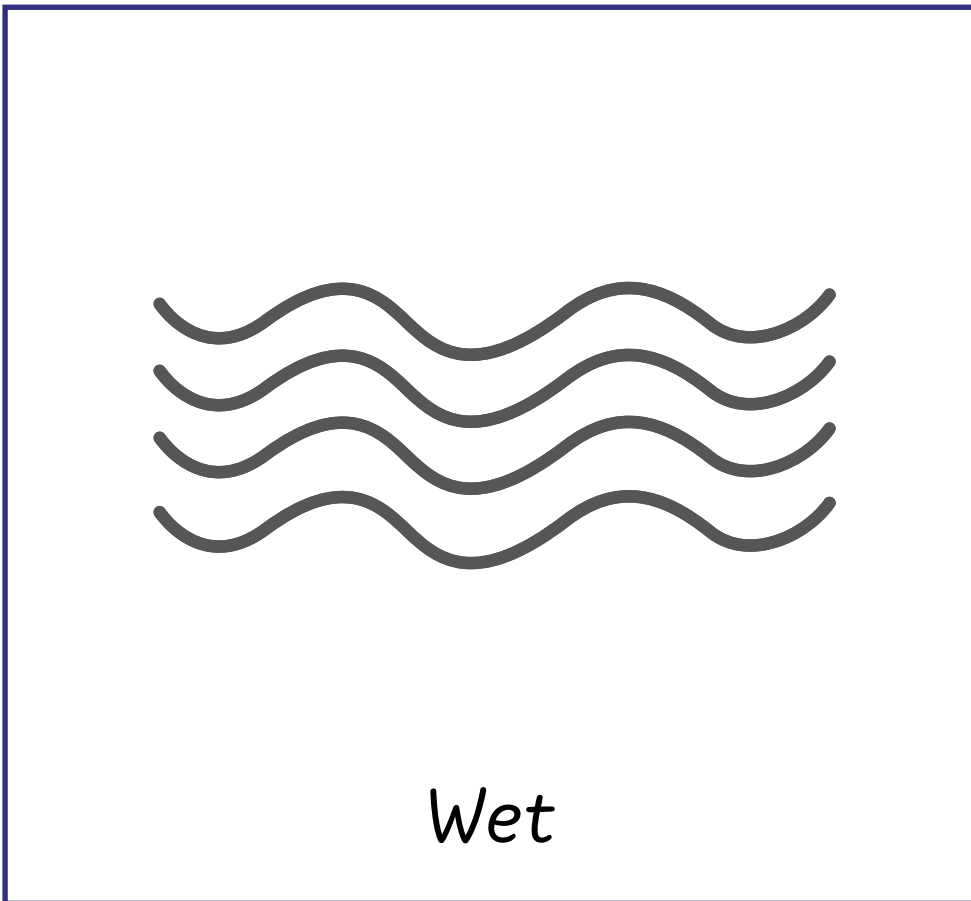
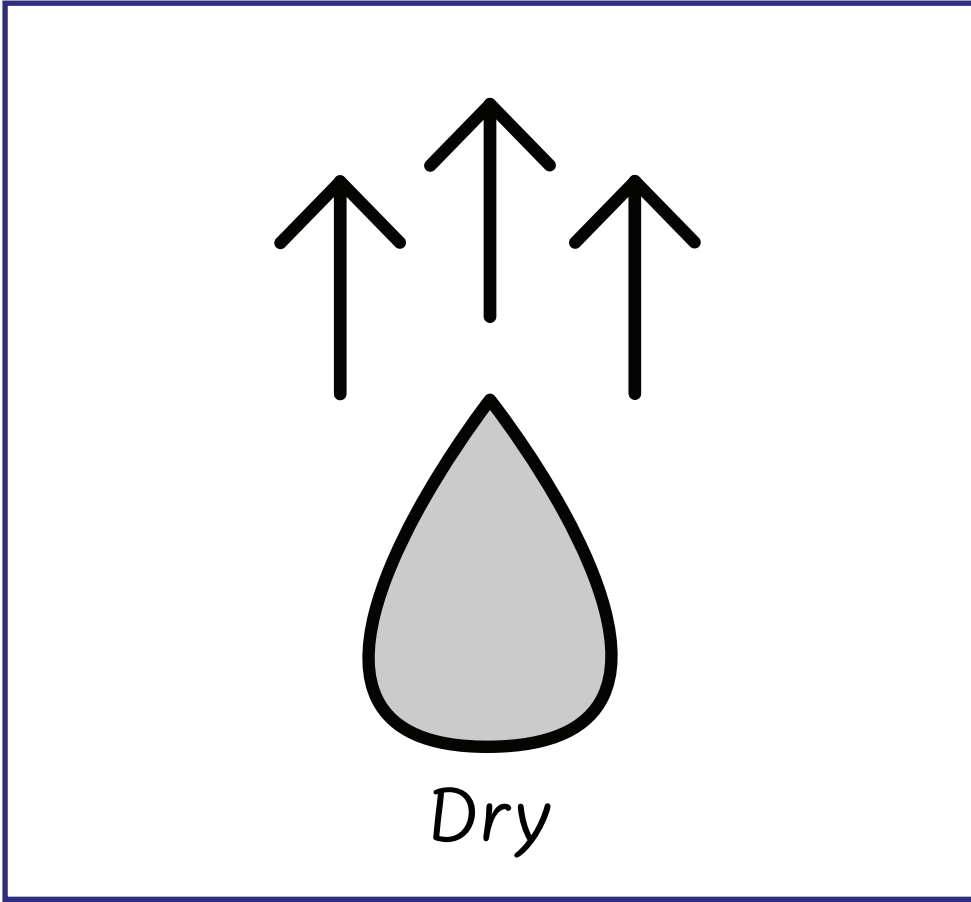


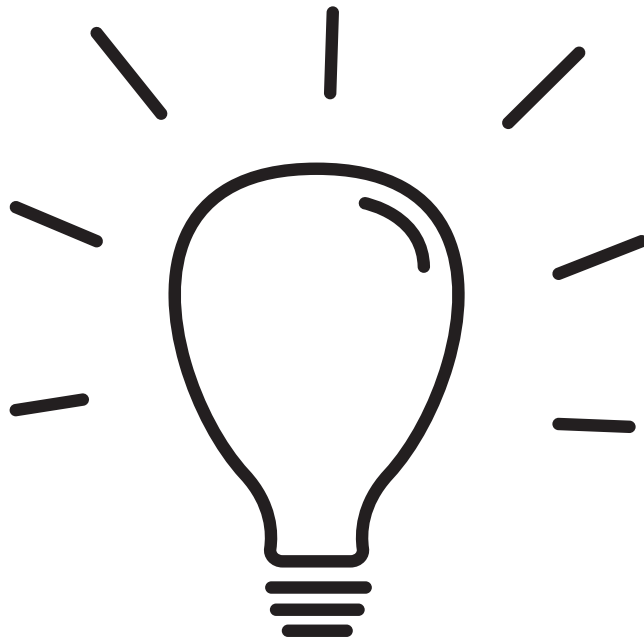


Hard



Soft





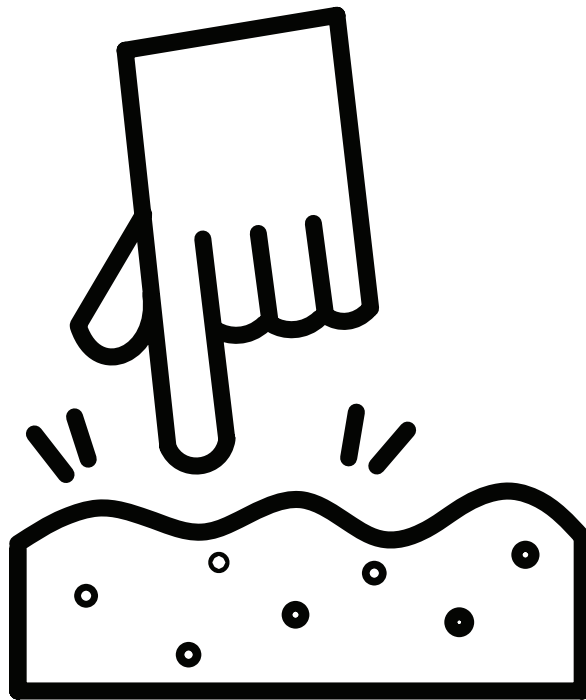
Bright



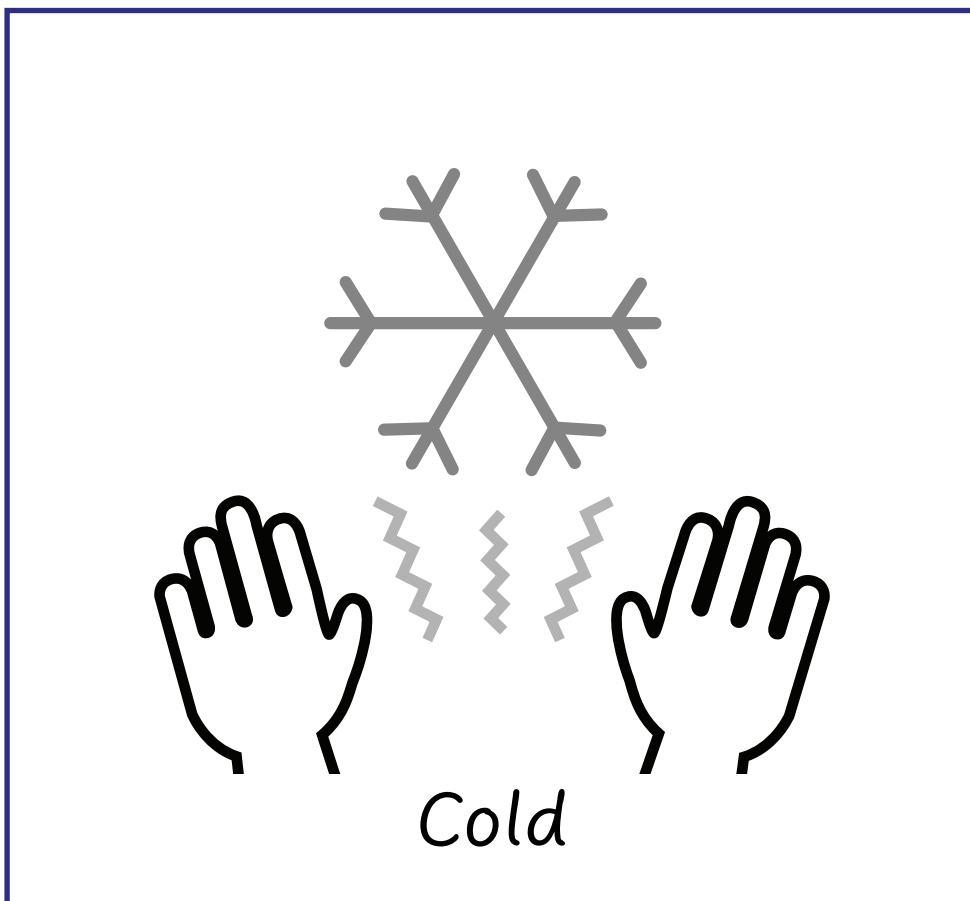
Dark



Smooth

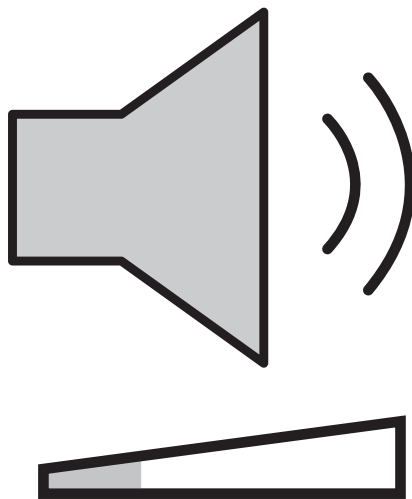


Rough

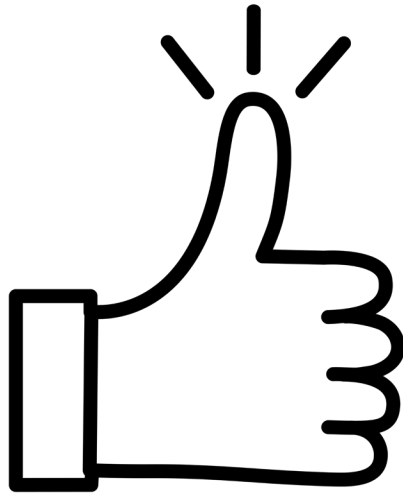




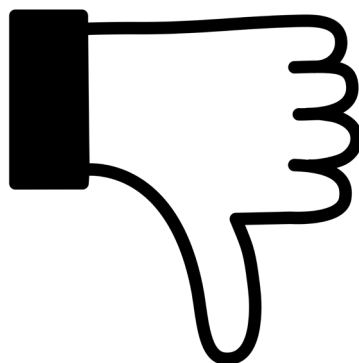
Loud



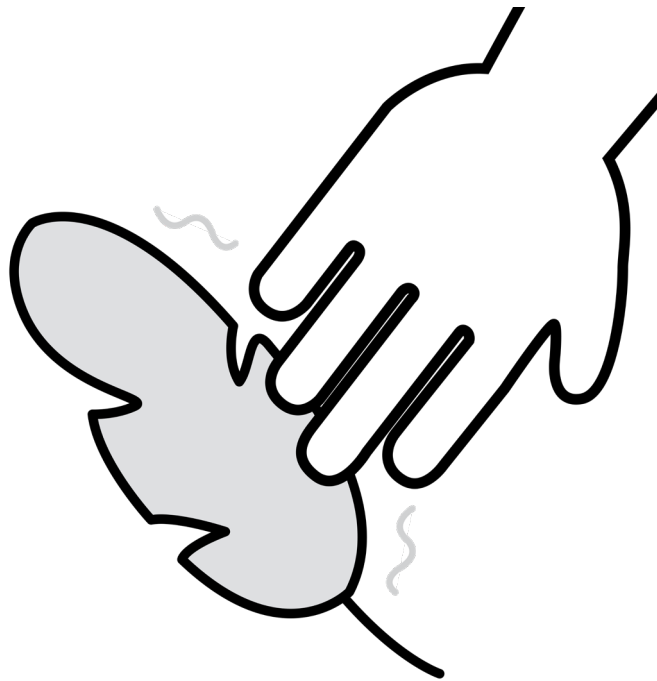
Quiet



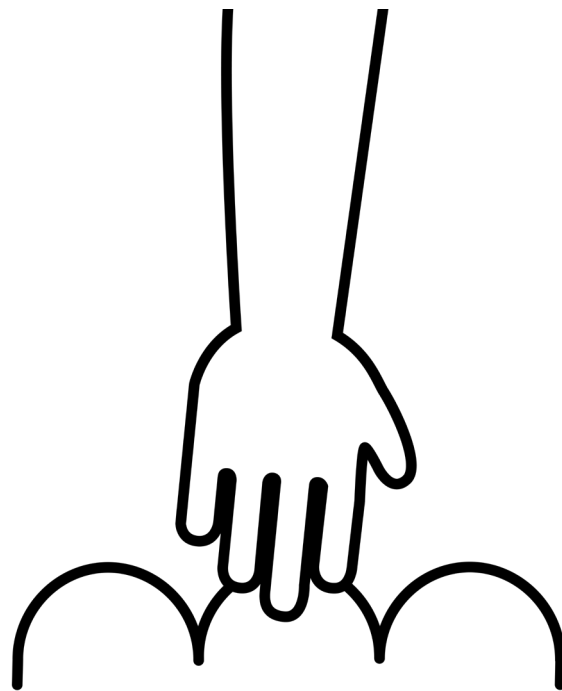
Good



Bad



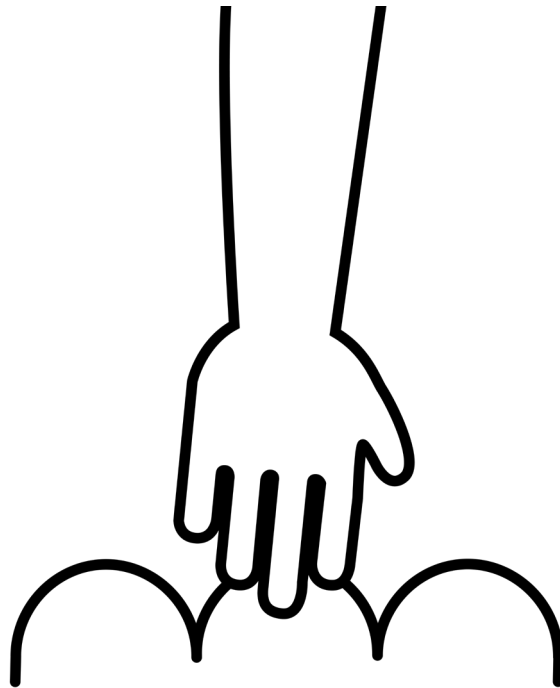
Soft



Bumpy



Slippery



Bumpy



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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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