Midge's Bridge

written by Cynthia Benjamin
illustrated by Laura Rader

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Midge the fox's home was under a large bridge. "I like to lounge here," said Midge.

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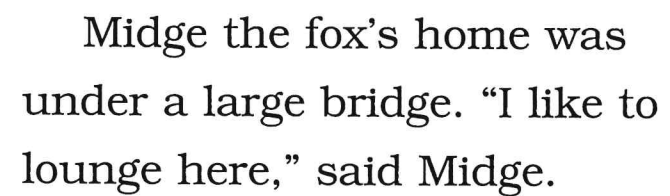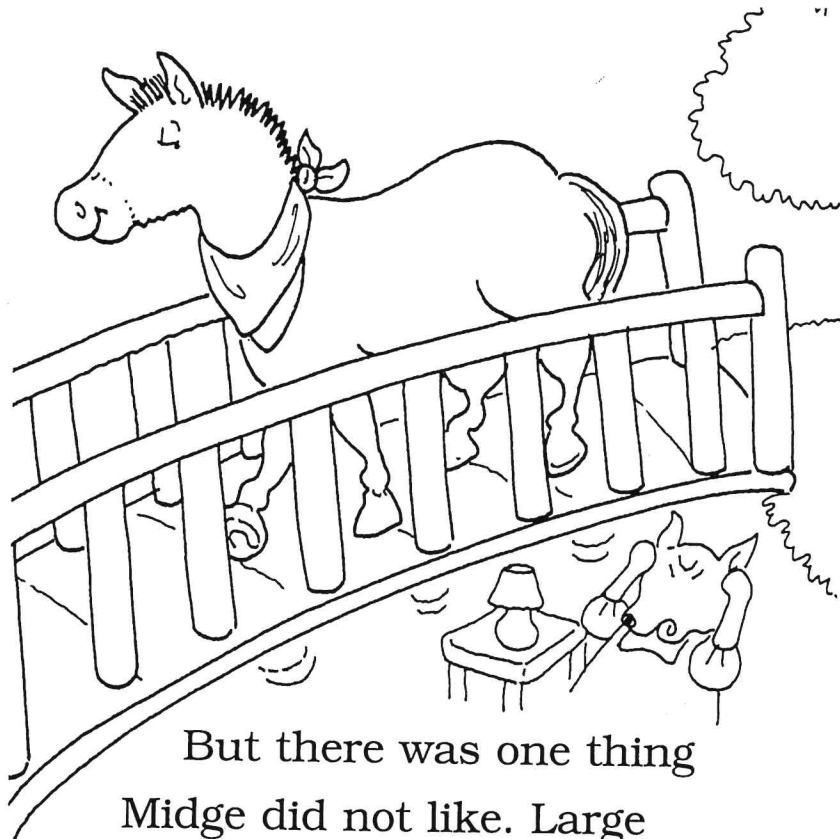
But there was one thing Midge did not like. Large animals would trudge over the bridge. Midge did not like their loud clop-clop sounds.
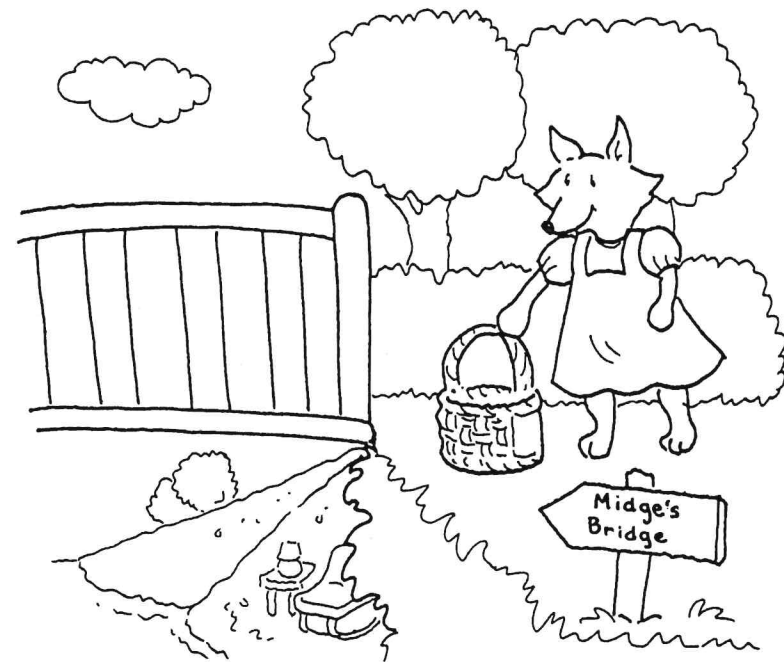
Midge came up with a crafty plan.

"I will ask every animal to pay a toll," she said. "Soon I will be rich!"

"I'll write each animal's name
on this large page," said Midge.
"Then I'll charge them a toll."

Ginny the hedgehog ducked
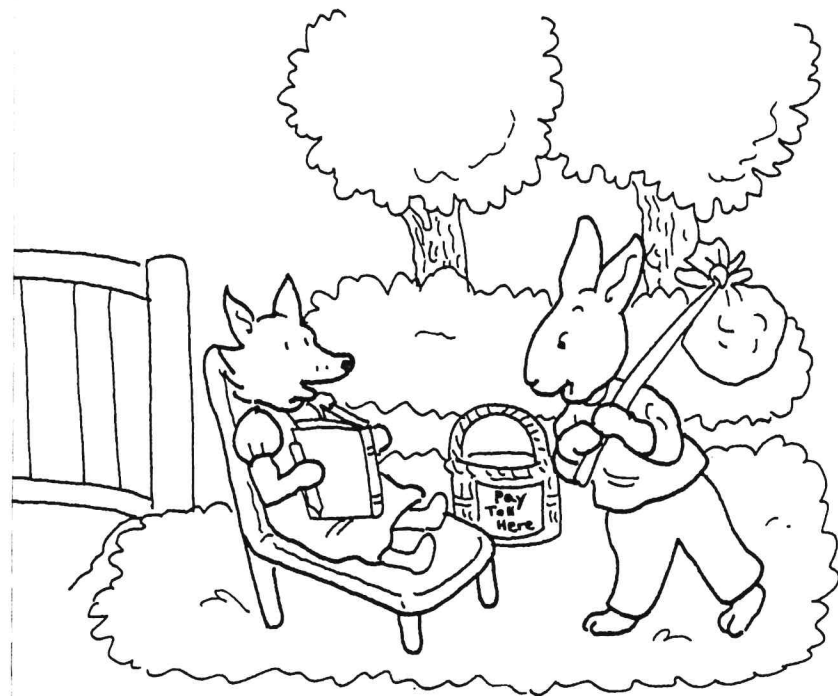under her hedge. She wanted to
cross the bridge.

"You must pay me a toll first!"
said Midge.

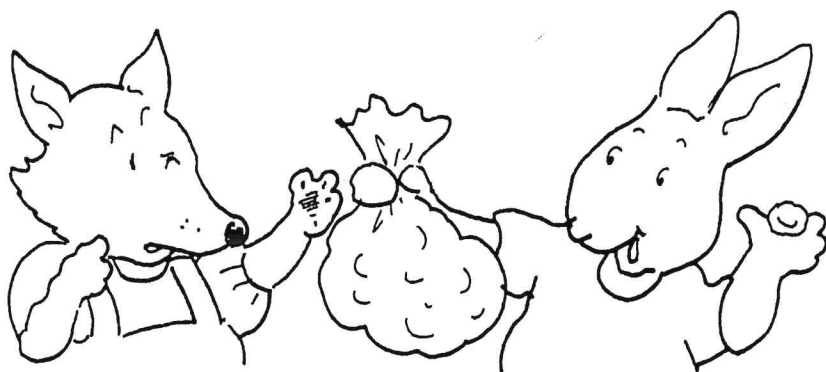"A toll?" said Ginny. "This is
an outrage!"

Ginny told her friends what
Midge had said.

"We must put a stop to this,"
said Ralph the rabbit. "I know
what I can do!"

At the bridge Ralph asked,
"May I cross? I have a sack full
of priceless gems."

Midge said, "You can hand
me the gems as a toll."

"That gem looks like a plain old stone to me," said Midge. But Ralph insisted it was one of a kind and handed Midge the sack. Midge let Ralph and his friends cross the bridge.

And that is how a smart rabbit tricked a greedy fox!

The End

Understanding the Story

Questions are to be read aloud by a teacher or parent.

1. Where does Midge the fox live?

2. Why must each animal pay a toll?

3. Who refuses to pay?

4. What does Midge want to believe is in the sack?

Answers: 1. under a large bridge 2. to cross the bridge 3. Ginny the hedgehog 4. priceless gems