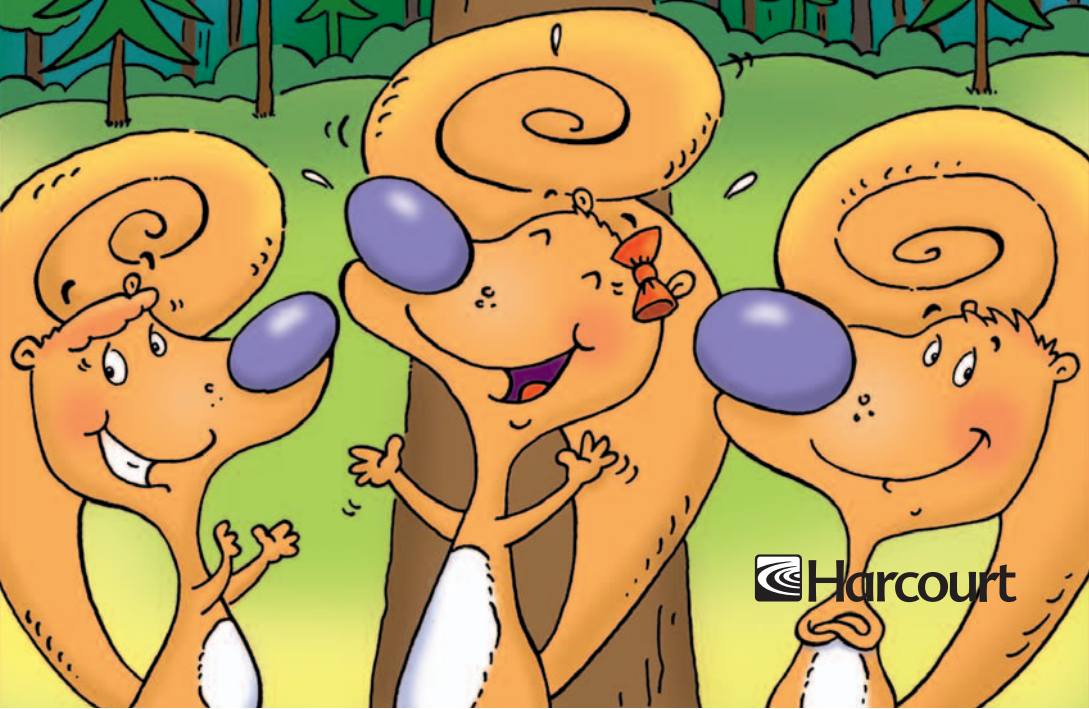


# The Giant's Sock

by Susan Blackaby  
illustrated by Sarah Beise



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🔊 Kick, Holly, and Sid lived in a big tree. It was a pretty nice home for three squirrels. Best of all, from the top of the tree they could see the whole world.





“I see the creek!” said Kick.

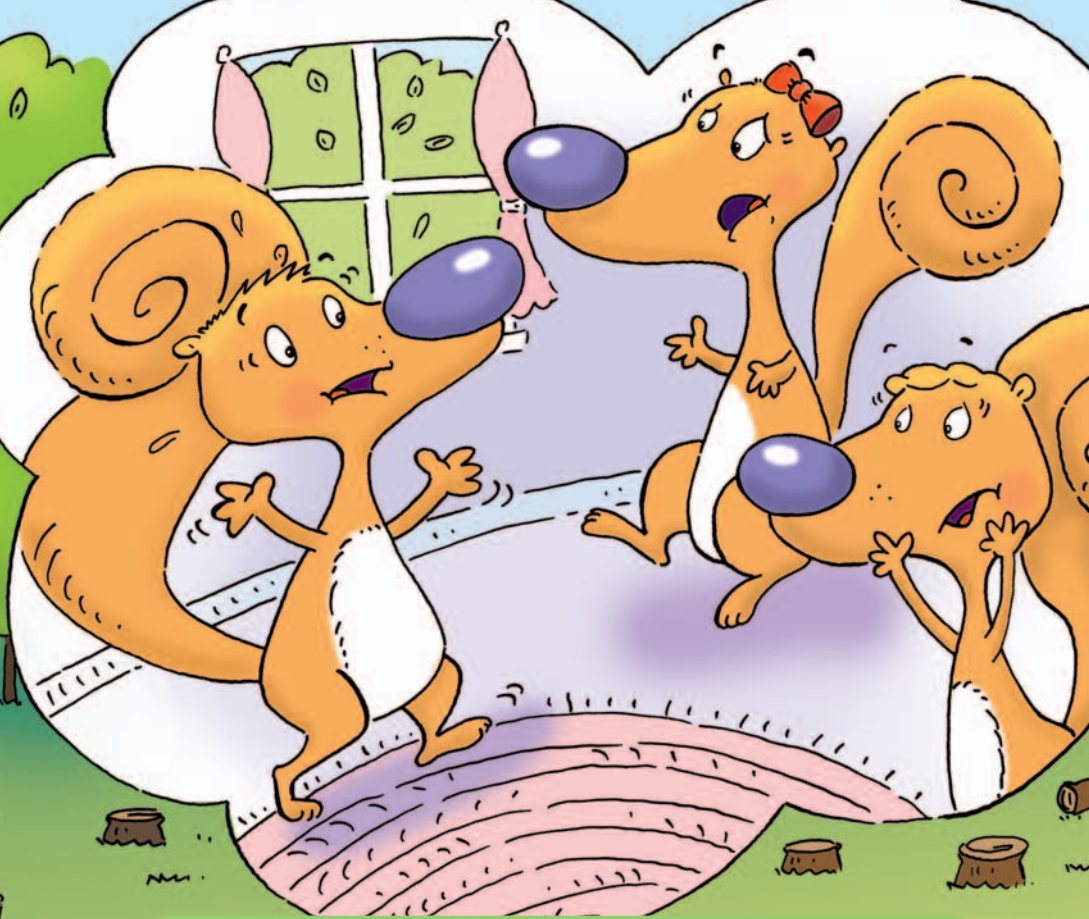
“I see the rooftops in town!”  
said Holly.

“I see a man on the path,” said Sid.  
“I will discover what he is up to.”

▶ Sid leaped from branch to branch. He sneaked up to the man and hid by a log.

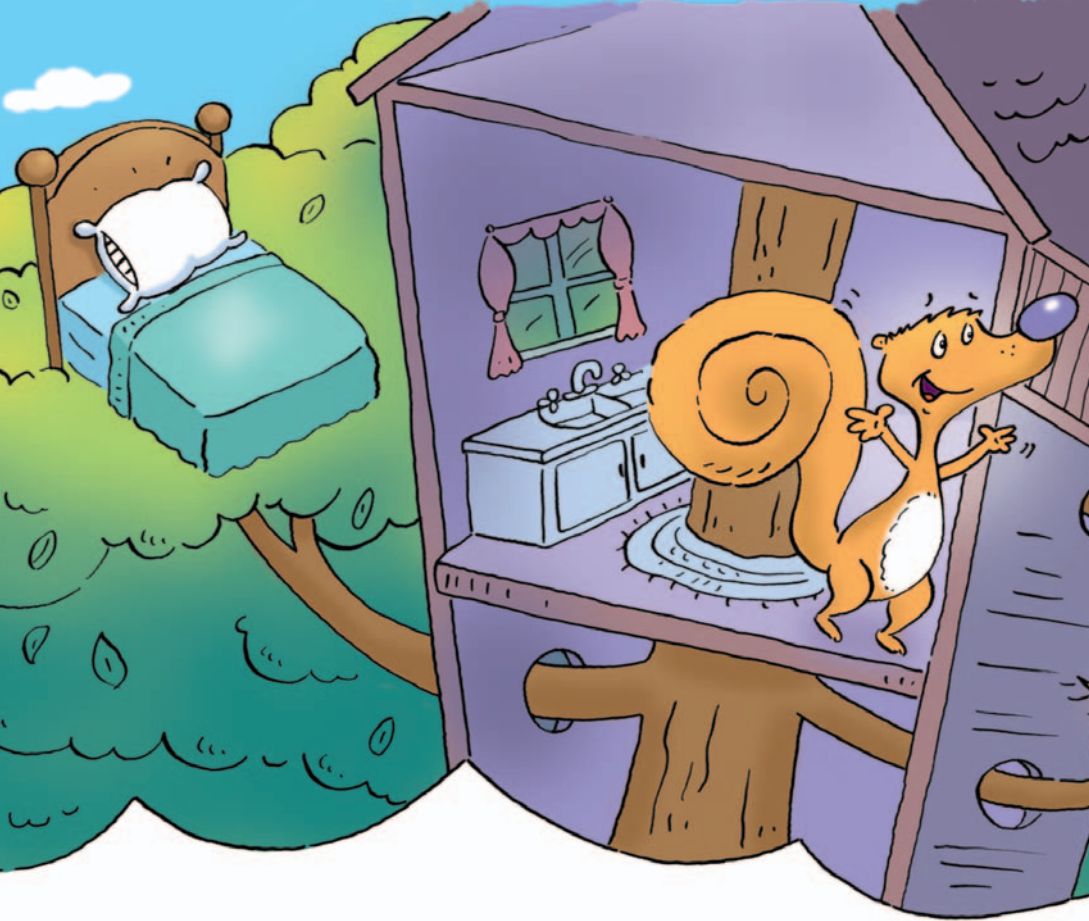
▶ The man shed his coat and turned up his sleeves. Then he picked up an ax with a sharp blade. Chop! Chop! Boom! He cut down a tree.





▶ Sid ran home. The other squirrels had heard the tree fall. It did not take long for Holly and Kick to discover the source of the sound. “Do you think he’ll chop down our tree?” asked Holly. “I hope not,” Kick said.





“We need to hide it,” said Holly.

“It’s too big!” said Sid.

Kick sat on a branch to think.

“I have it,” she said. “Sid, go and tell the man that a giant lives nearby. The giant will be very angry when he sees all his trees chopped down.”





■ “Tell him it’s not smart to make the giant angry,” said Holly. “The giant eats little men like him for lunch.”

■ “Is there really a giant?” asked Sid.

■ “No, silly,” said Kick, “I made it up. Hurry now, Sid! Holly and I will get to work.”

▶ Sid ran and found the man resting on a fallen tree.

▶ “Did you cut all these trees?” asked Sid. “You must have a lot of energy.”

▶ “I did, and I do,” said the man. “I’m going to cut down that big one next.”





“The giant will be in a bad mood if you do,” said Sid. “He has a nasty temper. When he discovers what you’ve done, he’ll blow his top.”

“I don’t let things like that worry me,” said the woodcutter.





“You are strong and brave,” said Sid.

“Still, the giant can crush you in one step. His boot can flatten you like a pancake.”

“No one has feet that big,” The man chuckled. “I’m going home now, but I will be back to chop down that tree.”

- Holly and Kick had made a plan.
- “Grab some needles!” Kick said to Sid. “We’ll show you what to do.”
- The squirrels worked and worked. They did not eat any food. They did not see the moon rise. They did not sleep a wink.



At noon, the squirrels saw the woodcutter. Kick and Holly hid while Sid ran down the path to meet him.

“Are you here to cut down this big tree?” asked Sid.

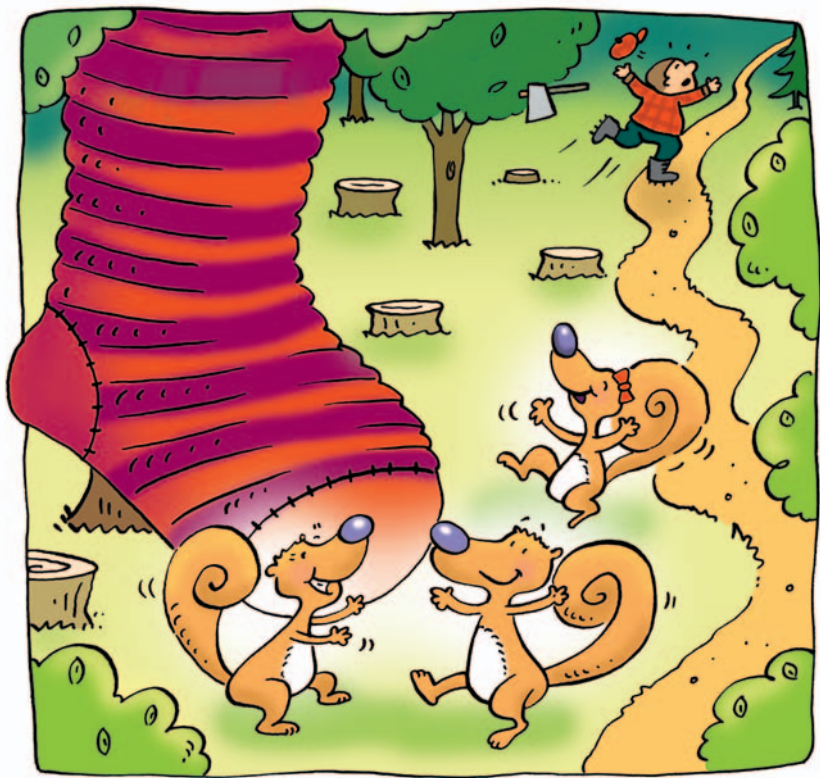




“Yes, I am,” the man said. “Why? Is the giant here to stop me?” he laughed.

“I think so,” said Sid. “Most days, his steps sound like thunder. Today he has taken off his boots to sneak up on you. He has lost a sock, as you can see.”





When the woodcutter saw the sock, he gasped and turned pale with fear. Then he ran home.

The squirrels danced and whooped.

“We fooled him!” they hooted.









▶ The squirrels added a room to their house. They keep the giant's sock there, just in case they need it again.





🔊 The woodcutter never went back to cut more trees. When a storm is forecast and he hears thunder, he hides under his bed.

## **Think and Respond**

-  **1** Where does this story take place?
-  **2** What part of this story could be true?
-  **3** What is this story mostly about?
-  **4** Why do you think the man doesn't worry about the giant's temper at first?
-  **5** How does the squirrels' home change at the end?
-  **6** If you had known the squirrels lived in the tree, what would you have done?



**Make a Poster** Find facts about different kinds of squirrels. What habitats do they live in? What do they eat? Make a poster to show what you learn.



**School-Home Connection** Make a diagram of your home. Label the places where you eat, talk, and sleep.