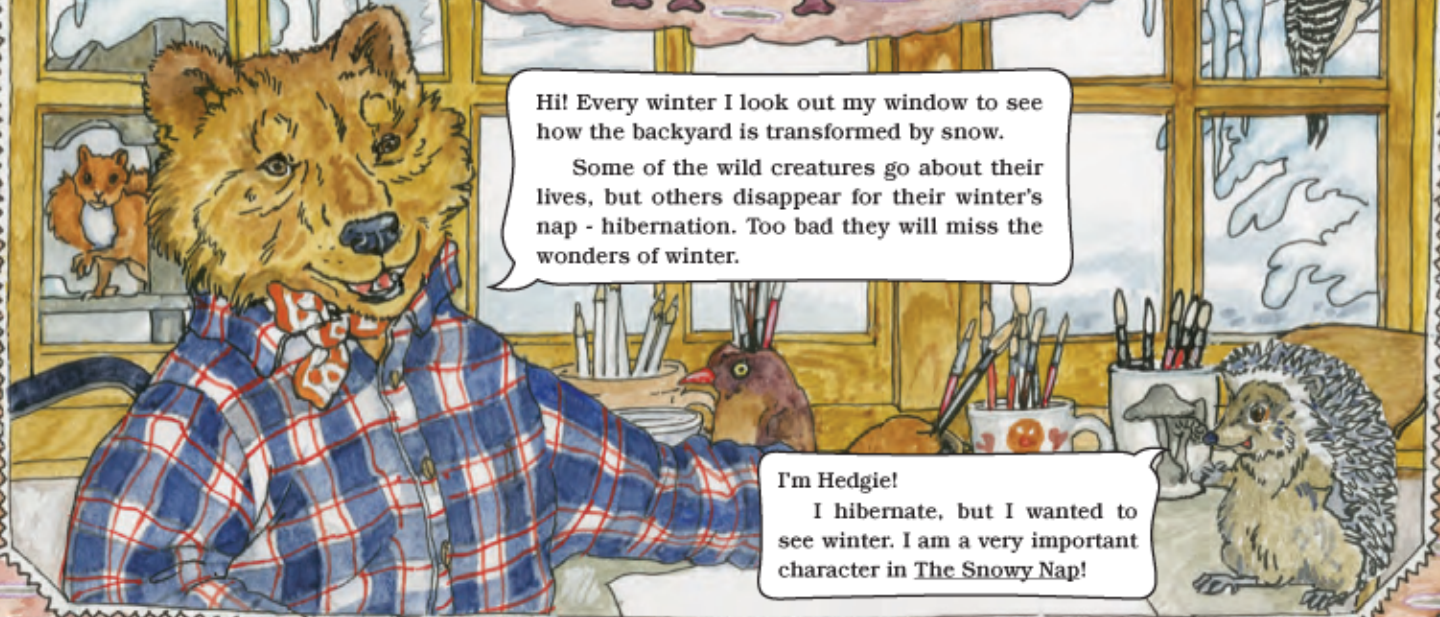


JAN BRETT

The SNOWY NAP



Hi! Every winter I look out my window to see how the backyard is transformed by snow.

Some of the wild creatures go about their lives, but others disappear for their winter's nap - hibernation. Too bad they will miss the wonders of winter.

I'm Hedgie!

I hibernate, but I wanted to see winter. I am a very important character in *The Snowy Nap*!

BIRCHBARK

People use the bark from birch trees to make containers, ornate boxes, canoes and even shoes.

I've used birchbark in many of my books, *The Mitten*, *Home For Christmas*, and *The Snowy Nap*.

I think the white bark with black decorations is stunning but I also love the pink underside I used in the borders.



Russian birchbark shoes called *lapti*.



We traveled to Denmark to find ideas for the setting of my 1997 book, The Hat.

I turned back the clock for it's prequel, The Snowy Nap and painted the same Danish Farm. It is much like the traditional inn we stayed in on the island of Funen (or Fyn in Danish).

The thatched roofs, orangey walls and colorful trims of the houses captured my imagination and took my story back in time.

Hans Christian Anderson, the famous author of fairy tales, lived on Funen.



In the olden days, paint was made from water, salt, and lime called "whitewash". Rusty iron nails were mixed into the paint to make beautiful colors.

My granddaughter (barnebarn in Danish), Torynn, inspired my creation of the little girl in The Snowy Nap, much as her mother, Lia, inspired Lisa in The Hat.

Putting family members in my books make the characters more multifaceted. The bear in Berlioz was modeled after my husband, Joe.



Little Snow, our bunny, gave me the idea for the border story.

One summer day I was painting when I heard a big bang. It was Little Snow's warning foot thump. I didn't discover the cause until I looked out Snow's window. I was face to face with a curious black bear!



The first time I saw a real, live hedgehog was at the wildlife sanctuary and hospital, St. Tiggy-Winkle's in England.

I wanted to meet a real hedgehog ever since reading Beatrix Potter's The Tale of Miss Tiggy-Winkle. I also liked reading about the hedgehogs in another favorite book, Lewis Carroll's Alice in Wonderland.

Hedgehogs are so attractive! And unique. They appear in my books, The Mitten, The Hat, Hedgie's Surprise, Hedgie Blasts Off, Christmas Trolls as well as cameo roles in my other books.



We sponsored hedgehogs at St. Tiggy-Winkle's: Ryeship, Julie, and Mowgli.

THE HEDGEHOG



In my make believe story, Hedgie wants to stay up and experience winter. It all works out because Lisa brings him in out of the cold.

In real life, hedgehogs hibernate in cold climates. Hibernation is a process when an animal goes into a deep sleep during winter.

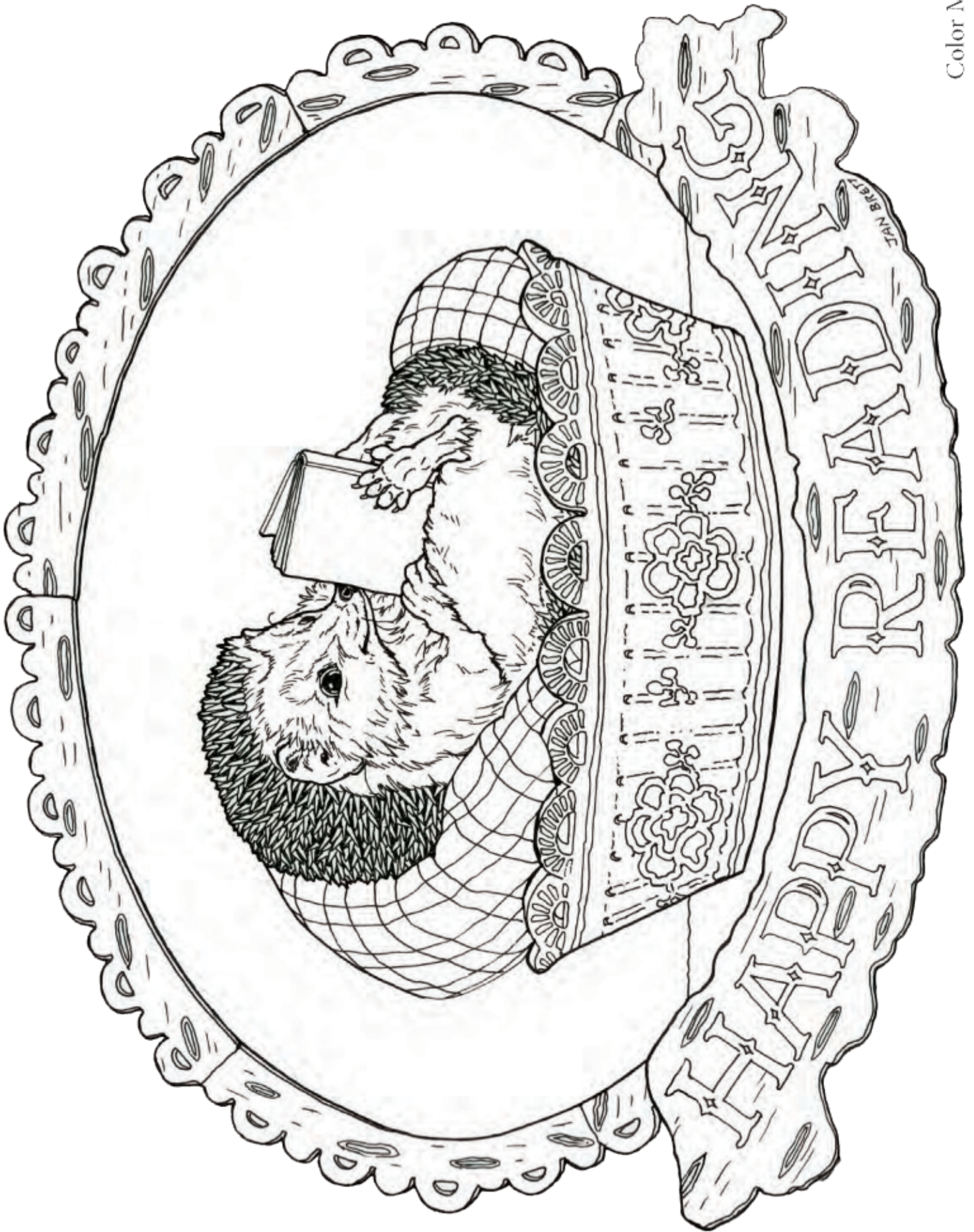
Hedgehogs are nocturnal animals that live in Europe, Asia and Africa. they belong to the *erinaceinae* family and are not porcupines.

They are welcome in gardens because they eat destructive bugs and snails.

About the size of a guinea pig, hedgehogs are armored with modified hair that forms stiff, sharp prickles. To protect themselves, they roll into a ball, hiding their head and legs. Babies are called hoglets.

If a hedgehog smells something appealing it behaves oddly (to us) by "self-anointing". The hedgehog makes a frothy foam and gives itself a spritzing.





Color Me!