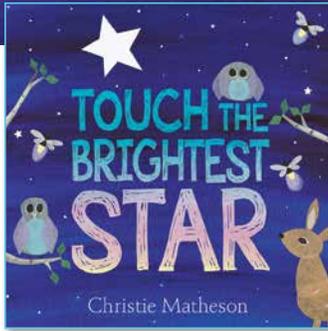


# Story Time Guide for *TOUCH THE BRIGHTEST STAR*

by Christie Matheson



## ABOUT THE BOOK

What happens while you're sleeping? With lush, beautiful watercolors and cut-paper collage, Christie Matheson reveals the magic of the nighttime sky, using the same kinds of toddler-perfect interactive elements as in her acclaimed *Tap the Magic Tree*. Wave good-bye to the sun, gently press the firefly, make a wish on a star, rub the owls on their heads, and . . . *shhhh*. No two readings of this book will be the same.



## INTERACTIVE ACTIVITY SUGGESTIONS

**NOTE:** If you have a small story-time group, let each child have a turn touching and swiping the book as the text instructs, while you read. For a larger story-time group, this activity is easily modified by having everyone touch and swipe the air. This level of activity makes for a very memorable read!

1. In the book, nighttime animals play a starring role. Before your story time or event, print out pictures of different kinds of daytime and nighttime animals. After reading, work with the children to sort these animals. Make sure to include the animals featured in the book: birds, fireflies, deer, owls, and butterflies.
2. Show the pages of the book with the illustrations of the Big and Little Dippers, and then invite children to make their own constellations. Start with a piece of black construction paper for each child. Use either star stickers or paper star cutouts and then have the children draw connecting lines between the stars with white chalk. Make sure to have pictures of real constellations on hand for those wanting or needing inspiration. You can also reproduce the activity page that follows and have children trace the Big and Little Dippers as a warm-up!
3. Make daytime and nighttime observation journals for the children to take home. Be sure to include a spot for illustrations and ruled lines for writing. Ask the children to draw or write down what they observe in the day and during the night. Remind them to use all their senses—do they hear an owl hooting? Can they smell the flowers? What do they see?
4. The illustrations of the sky in *Touch the Brightest Star* are inspiring. Set up a station with photographs of sunsets, sunrises, stars, the Northern Lights, and other sky phenomena. Let the children spend some time looking at real photographs and then allow them to create their own sky drawings using a variety of materials (watercolors, crayons, chalk, etc.).



Photo by Becca Worple

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christie Matheson is the author and illustrator of *Touch the Brightest Star* and *Tap the Magic Tree*. She is also an editor for the *Stroller Traffic* website and has written about lifestyle, design, and green living for many websites and publications, including the *Boston Globe*, Martha Stewart's *Whole Living*, and *Daily Candy*. She lives with her husband and three small children in San Francisco, California.

Activities prepared by Katie Salo, an early-literacy librarian in the Chicago suburbs.

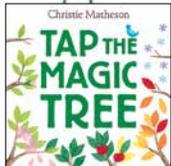
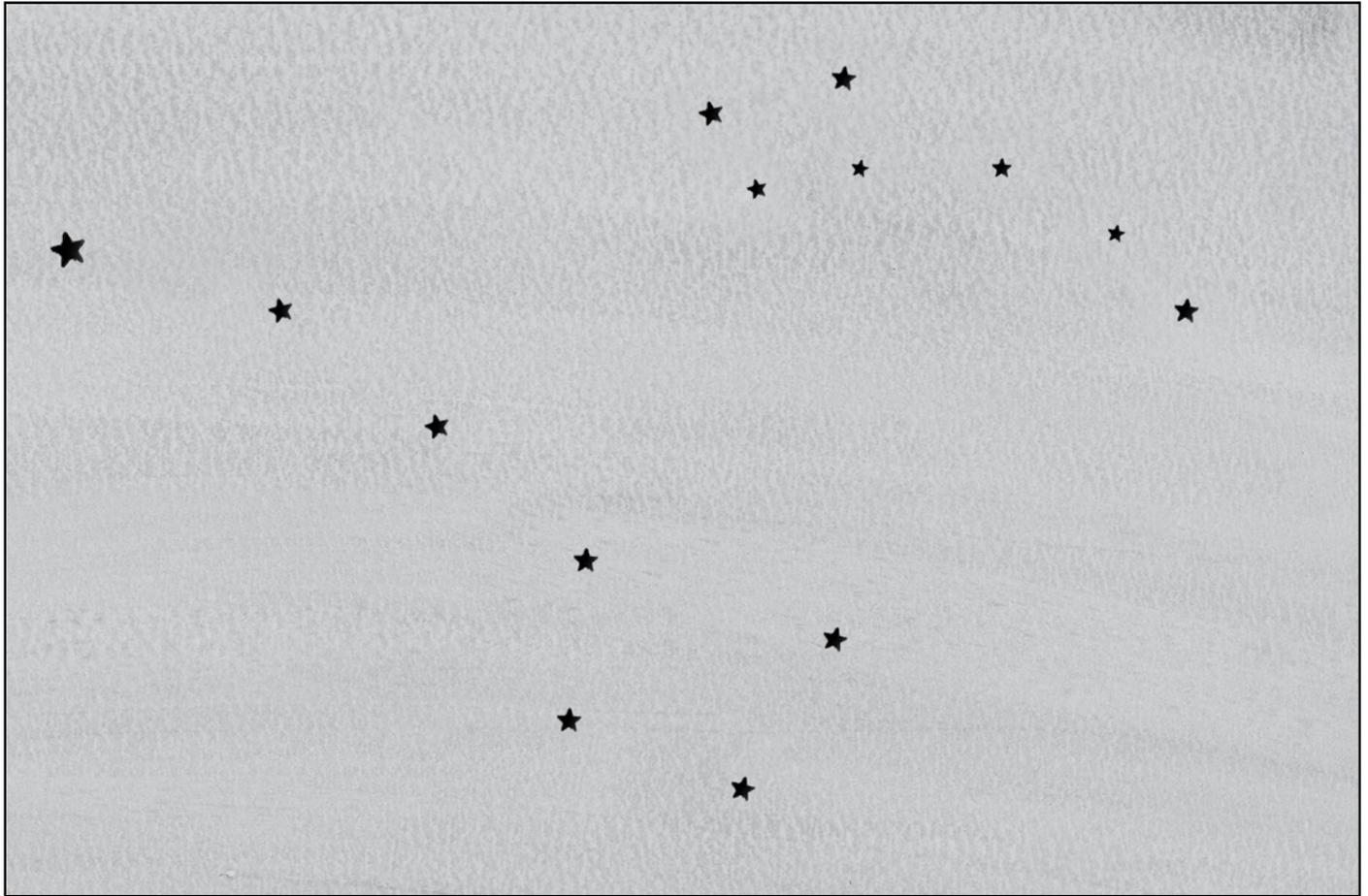


# Touch the Brightest Star

by Christie Matheson

## BIG DIPPER, LITTLE DIPPER

In *Touch the Brightest Star*, you traced the picture of the dipper with your finger. Now you can draw both the dippers yourself! Draw lines between the big stars to outline the Big Dipper, and draw lines between the small stars to outline the Little Dipper. When they're finished, they'll look like spoons!



Find even more fun in Christie Matheson's *Touch the Brightest Star* and *Tap the Magic Tree*, available wherever books are sold.



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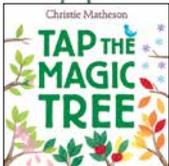
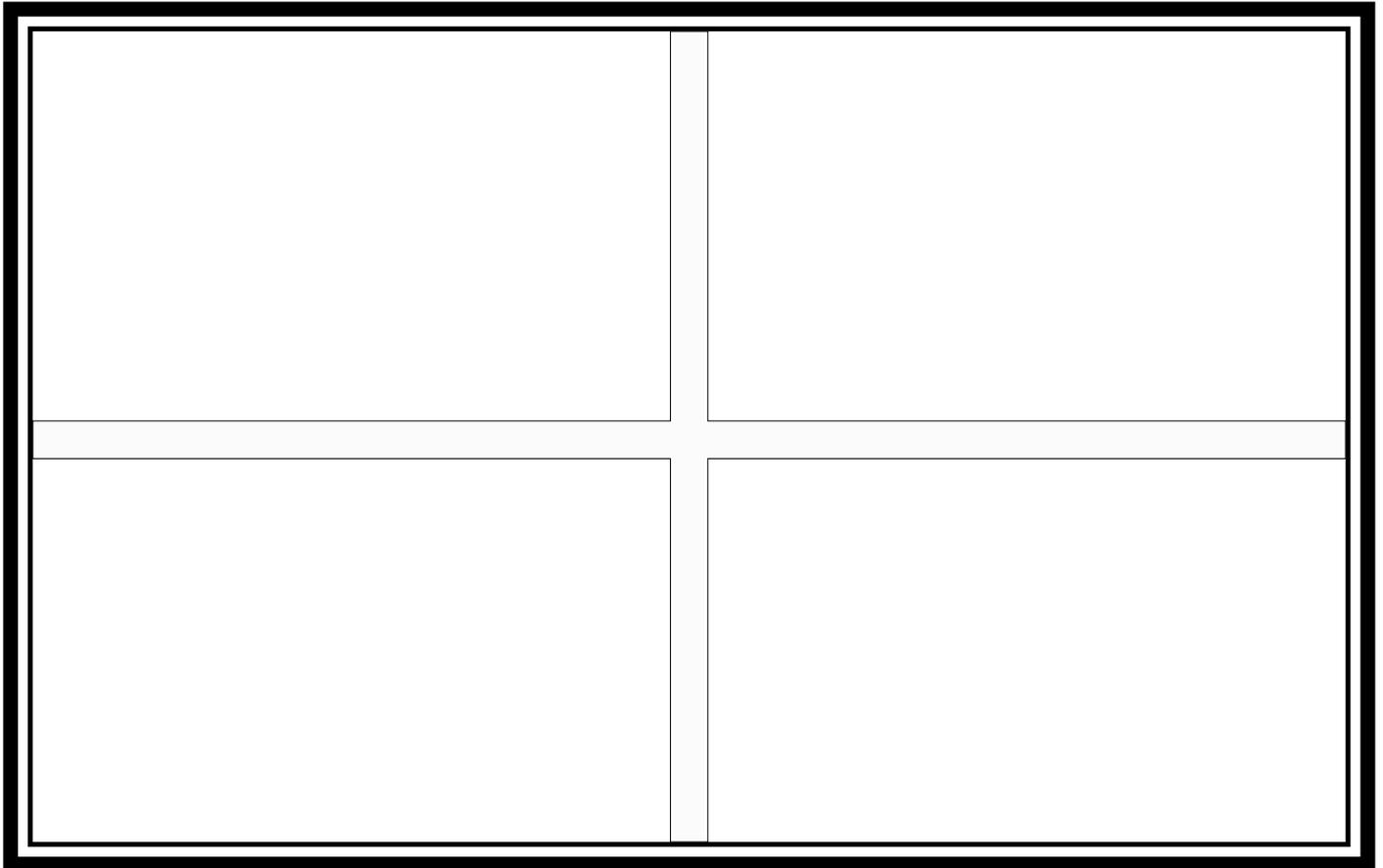
# Touch the Brightest Star

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## WHAT DO YOU SEE AT NIGHT?

When you look out your window before you go to bed, what do you see? Are there a lot of trees? Or buildings? Can you see any animals? Maybe you see your neighbors walking their dogs! Use the frame below to draw what you see out your window in the nighttime.



Find even more fun in Christie Matheson's *Touch the Brightest Star* and *Tap the Magic Tree*, available wherever books are sold.





# Touch the Brightest Star

by Christie Matheson



## NIGHT WORDS

Nighttime brings all kinds of wonders—nocturnal animals, glowing insects, stars and constellations, the moon. How many nighttime words can you find in the puzzle below? Circle each word in the puzzle, then cross it off the list.

R	L	S	S	E	G	D	Z	F
Q	I	N	M	T	N	E	J	I
M	O	O	N	B	A	E	C	R
E	D	H	G	K	O	R	P	E
T	S	V	C	U	R	P	D	F
E	M	F	J	I	R	O	W	L
O	N	K	L	E	U	B	Q	Y
R	D	I	P	P	E	R	F	X
H	G	E	R	W	K	T	J	P

DEER

DIPPER

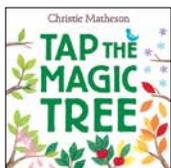
FIREFLY

METEOR

MOON

OWL

STAR



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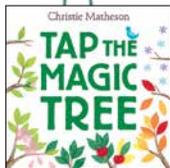
# Touch the Brightest Star

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## GOOD NIGHT, CREATURES!

Cut out these animals and insects and make your own nighttime scene!



Find even more fun in Christie Matheson's *Touch the Brightest Star* and *Tap the Magic Tree*, available wherever books are sold.



# Tap the Magic Tree

by Christie Matheson



## TREE MAGIC

Think about what season it is right now. Then, starting with this tree, draw what the season looks like. If it's spring, you can draw in green leaves and flowers. If it's summer, you can draw fruit in the tree and the hot sun in the sky (and maybe there are even some kids sitting under your tree reading). Use your imagination! Just like in *Tap the Magic Tree*, the way your tree looks will depend on what season it is.



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