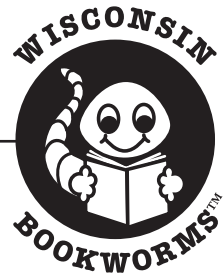


# Activity Sheet



## ***Too Tall Houses***

by Gianna Marino

Owl and Rabbit are good friends and live in two small houses next to each other. They are perfectly happy ... until Rabbit's garden gets in the way of Owl's view. So Owl builds his house a little taller. But that blocks the sun from Rabbit's vegetables. So Rabbit builds his house taller. And soon it's a house-building frenzy and the two now not-so-good friends have the two tallest houses in the world! All it takes is a gust of wind to remind them that maybe living smaller and together is a much better way to remain friends.

**Before you read this book:** Familiarize yourself with the story's elements (setting, characters, problem and solution).

- Know where to pause to draw attention to points in the story, as well as which words or phrases you are going to read together. This skill models reading for comprehension.
- Think about planning a performance with voices and gestures. Which characters' voices will speak to the audience?

**While you read this book:** After you read the book, go back and talk about the fact and fiction in *Too Tall Houses*. Can they really build houses that tall? Use blocks to make two houses. Each time Owl and Rabbit make their houses taller, add more blocks.

**After you read this book:** Owl and Rabbit are friends who love to be together until they disagree on who should have a taller house. In the end, they agree to be friends again. Make a friendship chain with your kids using different colors of construction paper. The children can cut out strips and work together to link the strips together into a chain to decorate the classroom.

**At home:** Rabbit and Owl live side by side but experience a feud that endangers their homes and their friendship. Talk about ways they might have solved the conflict. You can help your children learn problem-solving skills that can be used in challenging social situations. As they interact with siblings and other peers, children can be helped to negotiate, bargain, and compromise with each other.

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