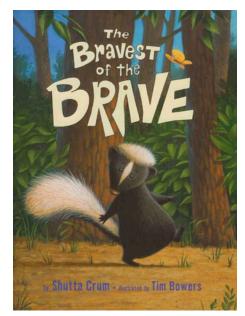
# BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE

A young skunk heads home through the woods—alone. Or maybe not . . . . Could there be robbers, or pirates, or ghosts, or trappers hiding in the dark? And is our hero brave enough to keep them away?

Children will delight in counting the nighttime creatures flitting across each page. And the bouncy rhymes and surprise ending are sure to entertain and reassure any child who's ever been afraid.

... audiences—be they storytime or bedtime—will enjoy tiny skunk's bold story.

*— Kirkus Reviews* © 2004



Written by Shutta Crum Illustrated by Tim Bowers Alfred A. Knopf, © 2005 ISBN 0-375-82637-8 *for ages 2-7* 

## **CLASSROOM EXTENSION IDEAS**

### ANIMALS

The animals in BRAVEST OF THE BRAVE are nighttime animals. Have young students point out the animals in the illustrations and discuss how and why some animals are more active at night. Did they spy the shadow of the owls on the tree? And how are flying squirrels different from the red, grey, or fox squirrels commonly seen during the day? Discuss why skunks spray. What are the defense mechanisms of other animals?

#### **DAILY LIFE**

People have defense mechanisms as well—such as looking both ways before we cross a street. What others can your students think of? Skunk is very brave. What are some of the brave things people in your community do? The firemen? The police officers?

### LANGUAGE ARTS

This book relies upon a sequential building up of suspense in which Skunk progressively does bolder and bolder things to keep his courage sustained. A lot of adverbs are used to describe those activities. Define "adverb," and let your students find examples in the story. Then write a story in which the suspense/humor/pathos builds, using adverbs.

Activity Guide © 2005 by Shutta Crum. May be reprinted freely for classroom use. For more information about Shutta's books, school visits, and upcoming events, visit Shutta's website: <u>www.shuttacrum.com</u>.