

# The Underneath

By **Kathi Appelt**

WITH DRAWINGS BY **DAVID SMALL**



*Newbery Honor Book | National Book Award Finalist*

CELEBRATING 10 YEARS IN 2018

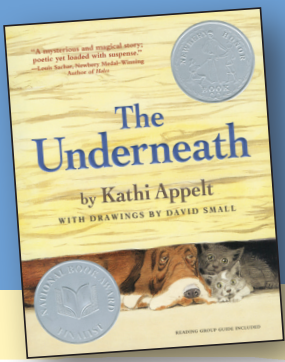
## CHARACTER WORD SEARCH

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

ALLIGATOR KING  
GAR FACE  
GRANDMOTHER

HAWK MAN  
MAMA  
NIGHT SONG

PUCK  
RANGER  
SABINE



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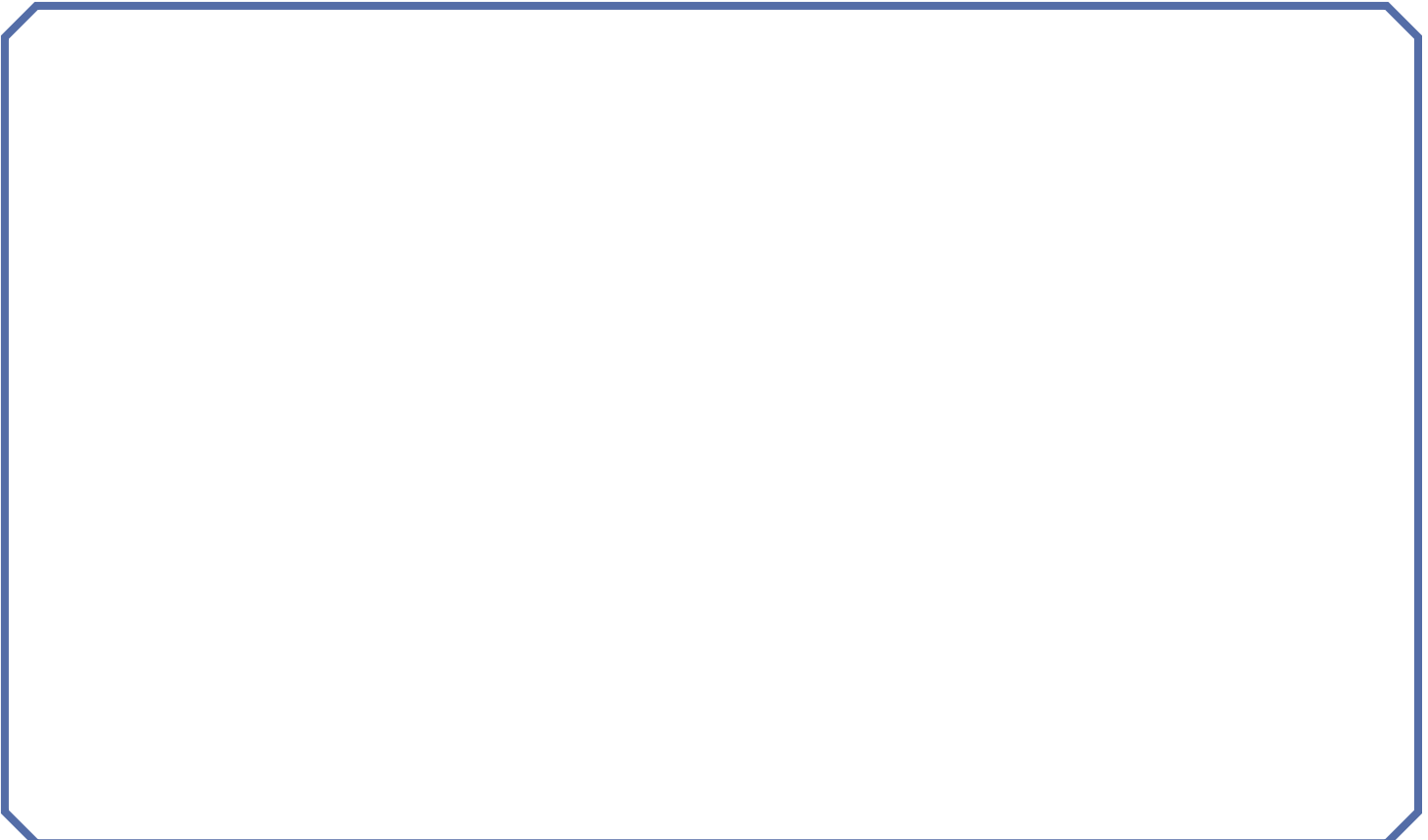
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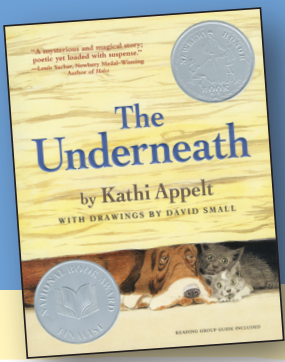
## PICTURE THE SCENE

Grandmother Moccasin is a lamia—a creature of enchantment, a shape-shifter, who has lived for thousands of years, most of it in her snake form. Read the passage from *The Underneath* that describes when Grandmother Moccasin finds her home in the piney woods along the Bayou Tartine. Can you draw the scene?

*She is cousin to the mermaids, the ondines, the great seafolk known as selkies, perhaps the very last of her kind. Clothed in her serpent shape, she swam up the great river to the east, the silver Sabine. She swam in her scaly skin, so black it looked blue. So sleek it gleamed. For ten thousand years she had swam the seven seas, floated on the great Sargasso, sailed along the mighty currents. And oh, how she loved the open oceans.*

*But once she found the great pine forest, this pine forest, she slipped out of the brackish water and slithered onto the boggy ground. She looked around at the deep and lazy bayous filled with turtles and fish, the giant palmettos, an abundance of rodents, perfect for hunting. She loved the darkness provided by the welcoming trees, the oaks and cedars, the shumards and willow. And the snakes! Here were millions of her reptilian relatives, the small and deadly corals, the bronze-colored copperheads, the massasaugas and their cousin rattlers.*





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## FAMILY TIES

Ranger the bloodhound loves the cats who share The Underneath with him. And the cats, Mama, Puck, and Sabine, love Ranger. They depend on each other, like families do. This old hound dog and these cats aren't blood related, but they are a family nonetheless. Think about the people and animals in your life—those whom you consider family. Write a paragraph describing your relationship with one person or animal in your family. How do you depend on each other?

Series of horizontal blue lines for writing a paragraph.

