

The Sloth and the Dinglewot
• Teaching Notes

The Sloth and the Dinglewot

Synopsis

When Samuel the Sloth feels brave enough to leave his cosy hut, he meets the mysterious Dinglewot.

Together they discover incredible places, and Samuel will learn that overcoming fears and doubts means more adventures, friendships and happiness.

About the Author

Nicole was born in Sri Lanka and came to England when she was 3 months old. She is currently working as a primary school teacher in London. As a child, she never craved the adrenaline rush, and was quite nervous. Once she found a comfort zone, she would remain there, where she felt safe. As a primary school teacher, she often sees that fear of the unknown in the children she teaches. Sometimes all we need is someone to pull us out of our comfort zone, for if we don't actually try something new, how will we ever truly know how we feel about it? This became the inspiration for her first book.

The aim of *The Sloth and the Dinglewot* is to motivate and encourage children to find that

inner strength to try new things. Her love for creative writing started when she was a child and her dream for so long was to publish a book. Now that dream is coming true!

About the Illustrator

Amanda completed a BA in Graphic Design at Camberwell college and an MA in animation at the Royal college of Art. She worked in the greeting card and animation industry for several years before going freelance. She lives with her family in West Sussex and works in her garden studio on a vast range of projects, many of which are children's books and products.



Discussion Topics and Activities

Discussion Topics

1. Show the children the front cover of the book and ask if they can read the title. Looking at the title and the cover illustration, can they guess what the story might be about?
2. Show the children the first page spread and ask them if they can work out which sloth is Samuel.
3. Do they think Samuel is strange for wanting to explore? Ask them to think of reasons for their answer.
4. What are their first impressions of the Dinglewot? What do they think about her full name?
5. Can they guess what kind of animal the Dinglewot's 'sharp-toothed friends' might be?
6. Look at Samuel's expression each time he tries something new (first swinging on a vine to meet the dancing baboon, second into the deep ravine to visit the bats and finally making his way to Dinglewotville). Point out the differences between Samuel's nervous features in the first two instances and Samuel's excited expression when is going to visit Dinglewotville.
7. After finishing the story, ask the children what they thought about The Sloth and the Dinglewot. Who was their favourite character and why?

Activities

Sloth Research Report - help the children research sloths so that they can fill in the blank report on the next page.

Reading Comprehension - in the box are a list of ten words used to describe either Samuel the Sloth or the Dinglewot. Read through the book once more and sort the words into the correct boxes. Remember, some words are used to describe both Samuel and the Dinglewot and can be placed in both columns.

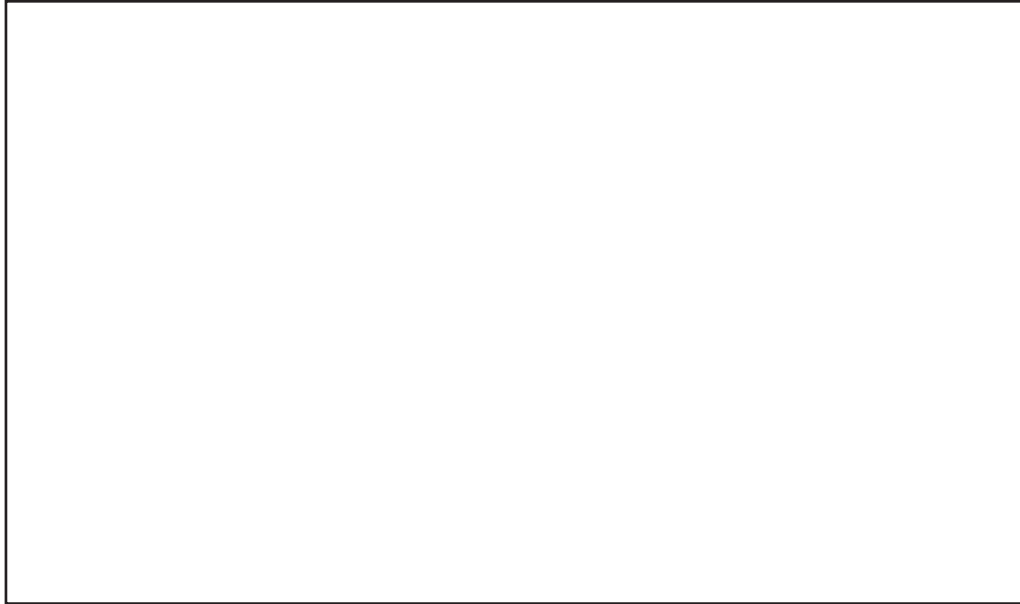
Colouring Activity - colour in the outline of the jungle flower provided on page 5.

Memory Game - The pictures on page 6 show different moments within the story, but they are jumbled up. Help the children to cut them out and arrange them in the correct order. Ask them to describe what is happening in the different pictures to help them retell sections of the story in their own words.

Sloth Research Report

The sloth is a/an: amphibian reptile fish bird mammal

Draw a Sloth



Length:

Width:

Colour:

What it eats:

Where it lives:

Predators:

Draw a Sloth's Habitat



Three Interesting Sloth Facts

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Reading Comprehension

Look at the list of words below. They describe how either Samuel the Sloth or the Dinglewot were feeling at various points during the story. Ask the children to sort the words into either the column for Samuel or for the Dinglewot. Remember, some words might describe both characters!

excited

friendly

calm

nervous

encouraging

brave

adventurous

scared

happy

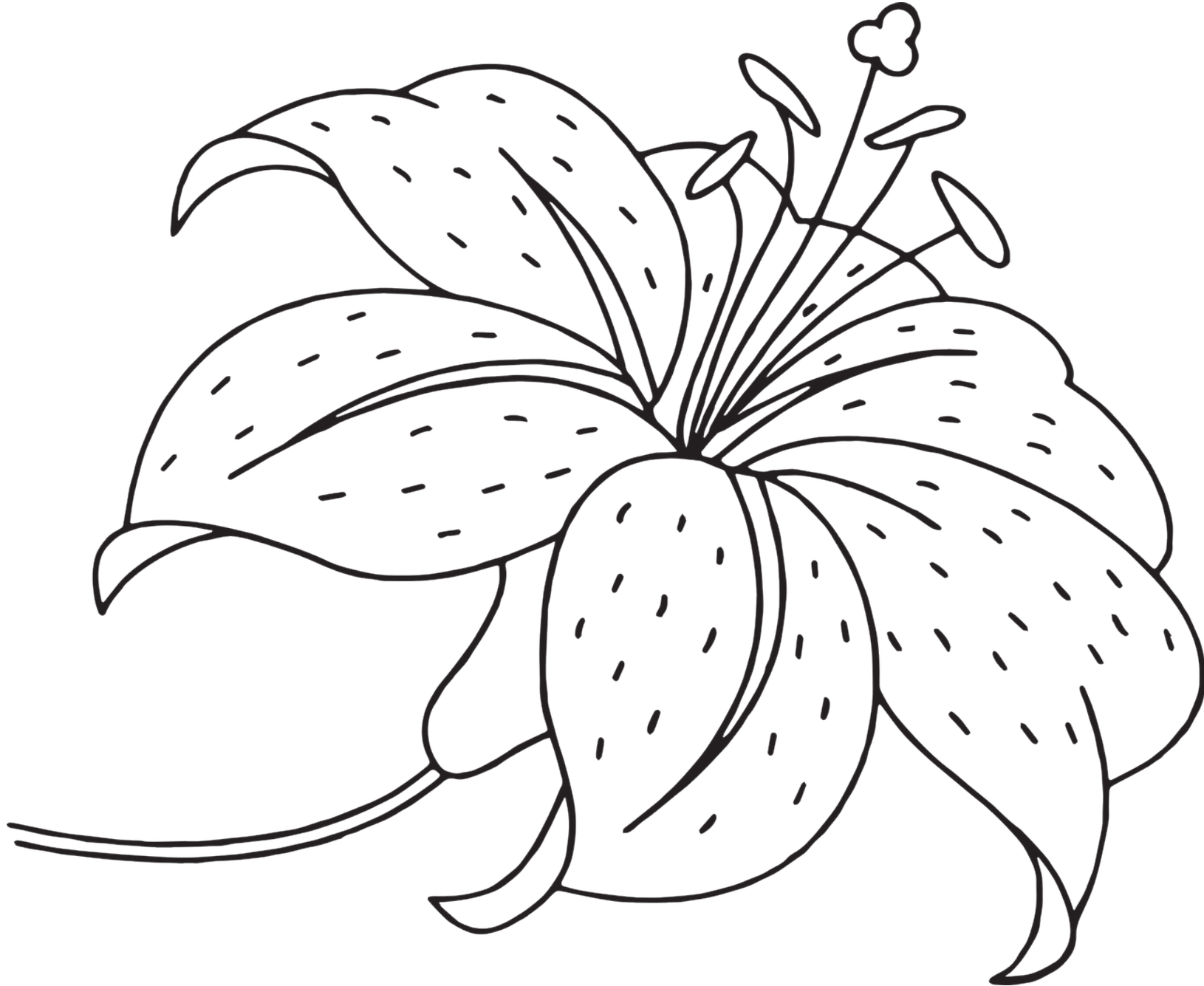
curious

Samuel the Sloth

The Dinglewot

Colouring In

You've seen the beautiful flowers that bloom across Samuel's jungle home. Now use your brightest colouring pencils to colour in the flower below.



Memory Game

