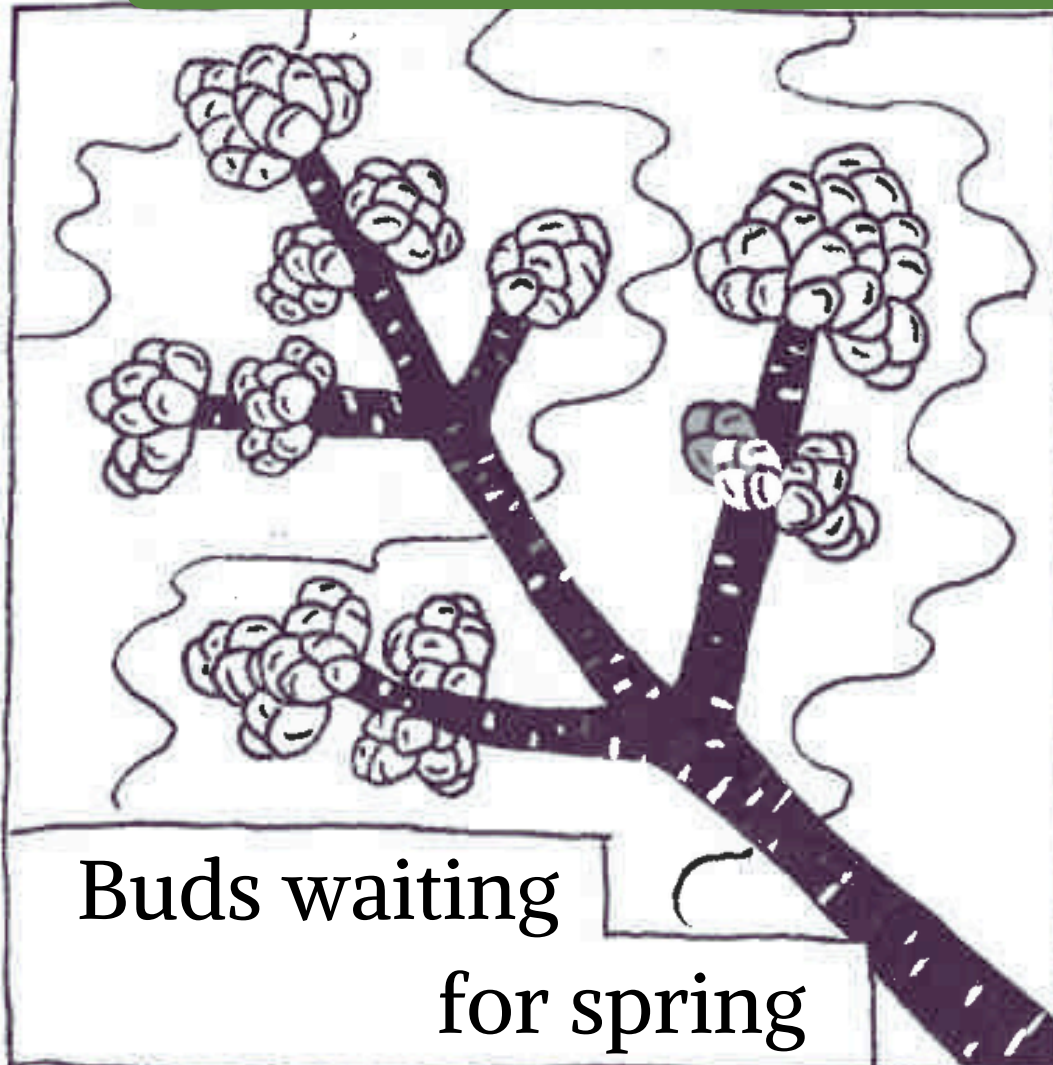


Winter scavenger hunt

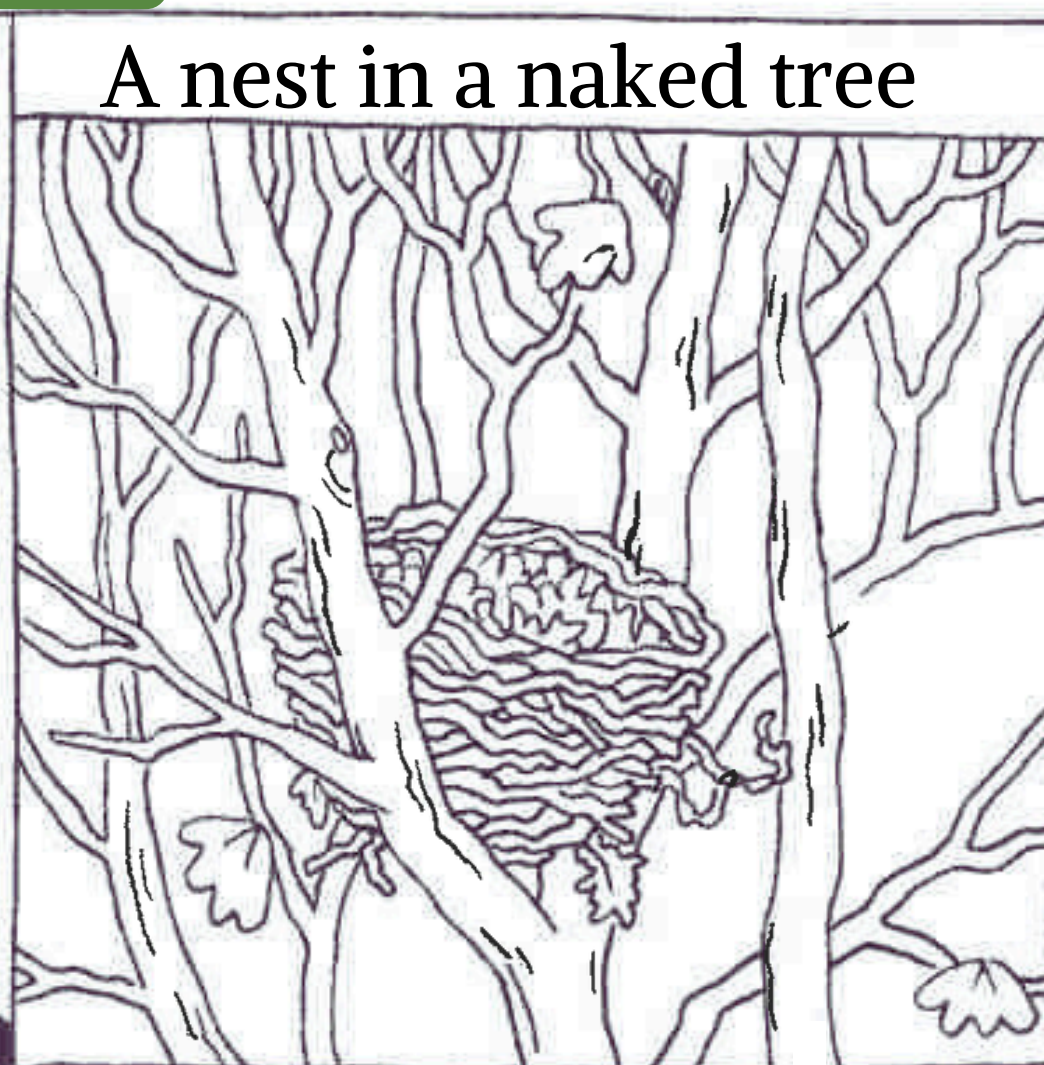
GARFIELD PARK
CONSERVATORY
ALLIANCE



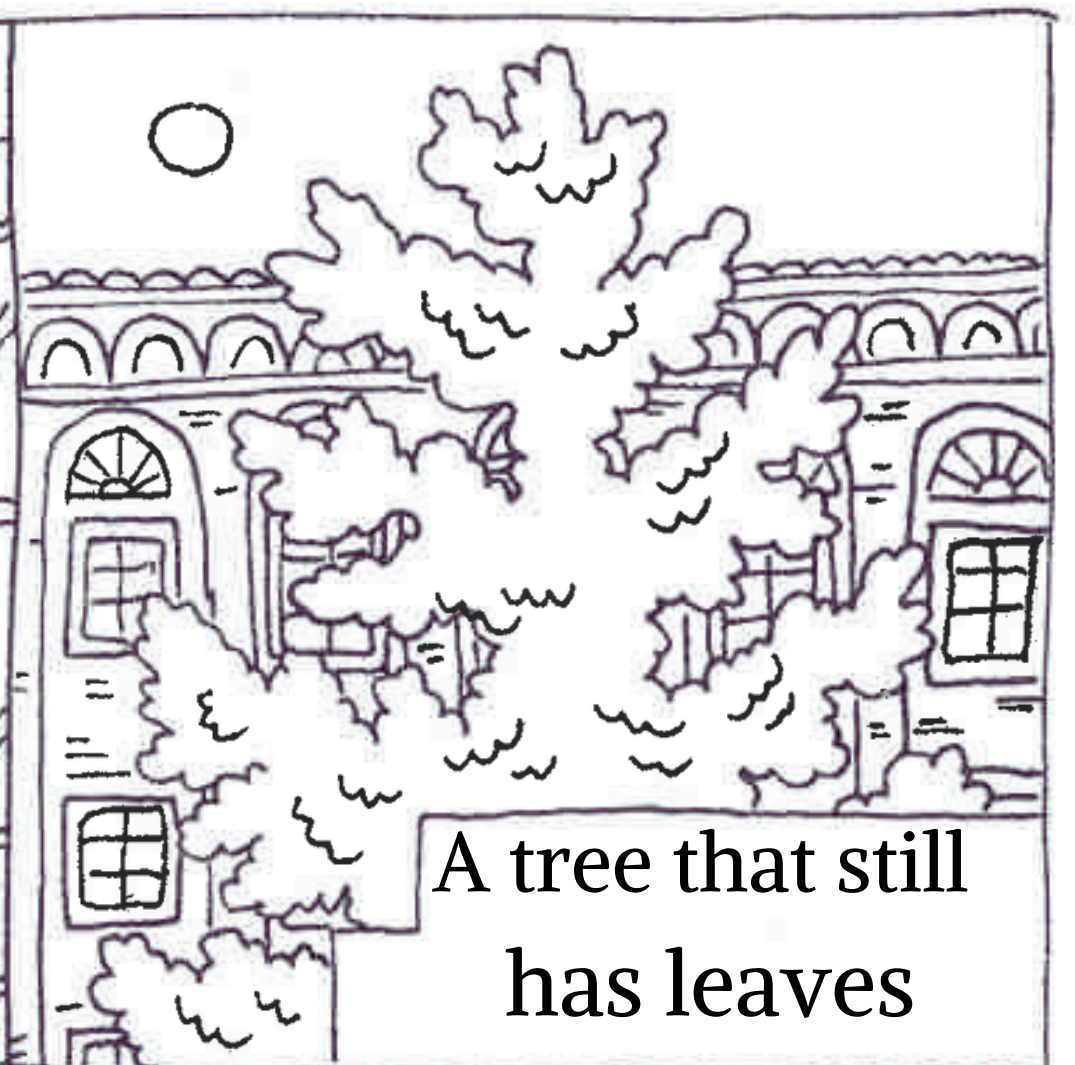
Take a nature walk and look for signs of life! It's easy to think that in winter everything is dead or dying, but this scavenger hunt focuses on finding signs of life even in the gloomiest months.



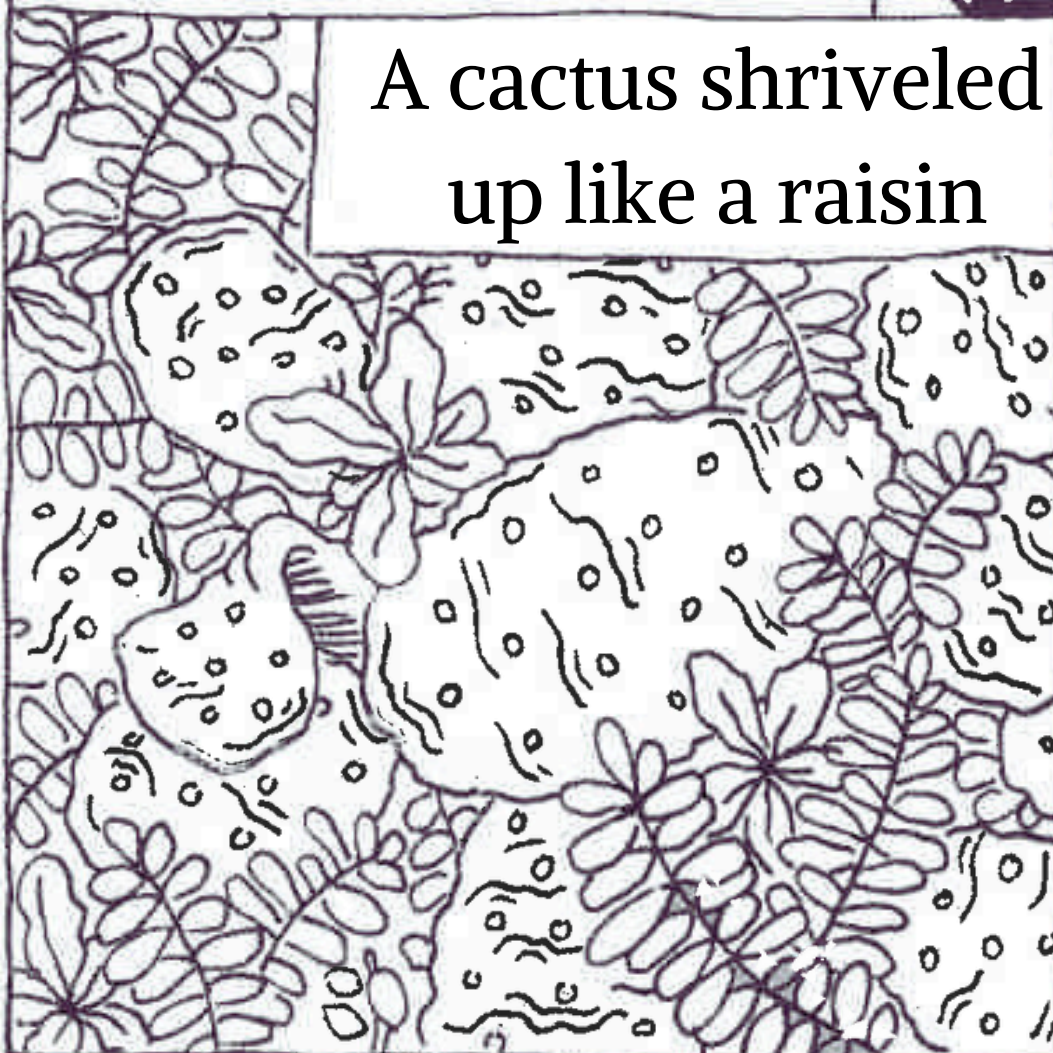
Buds waiting for spring



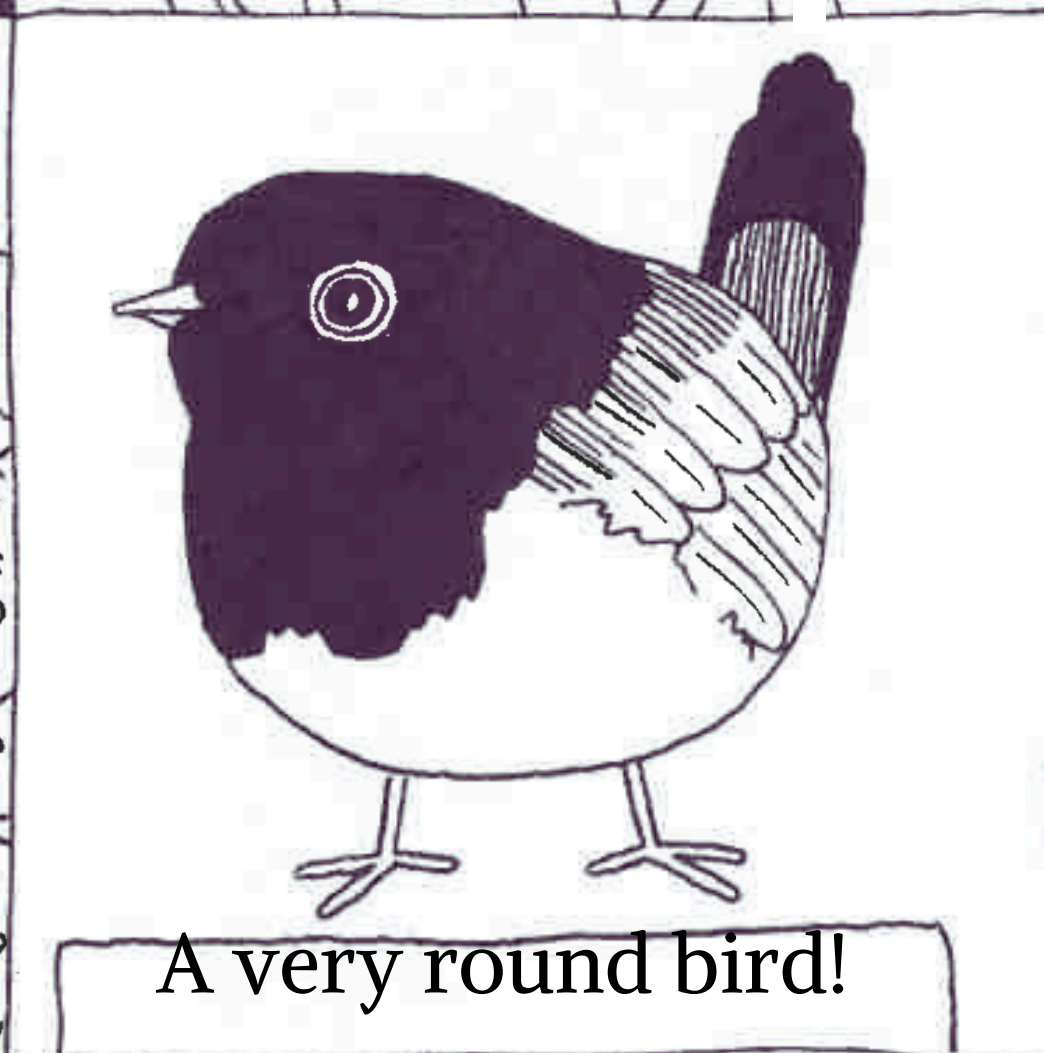
A nest in a naked tree



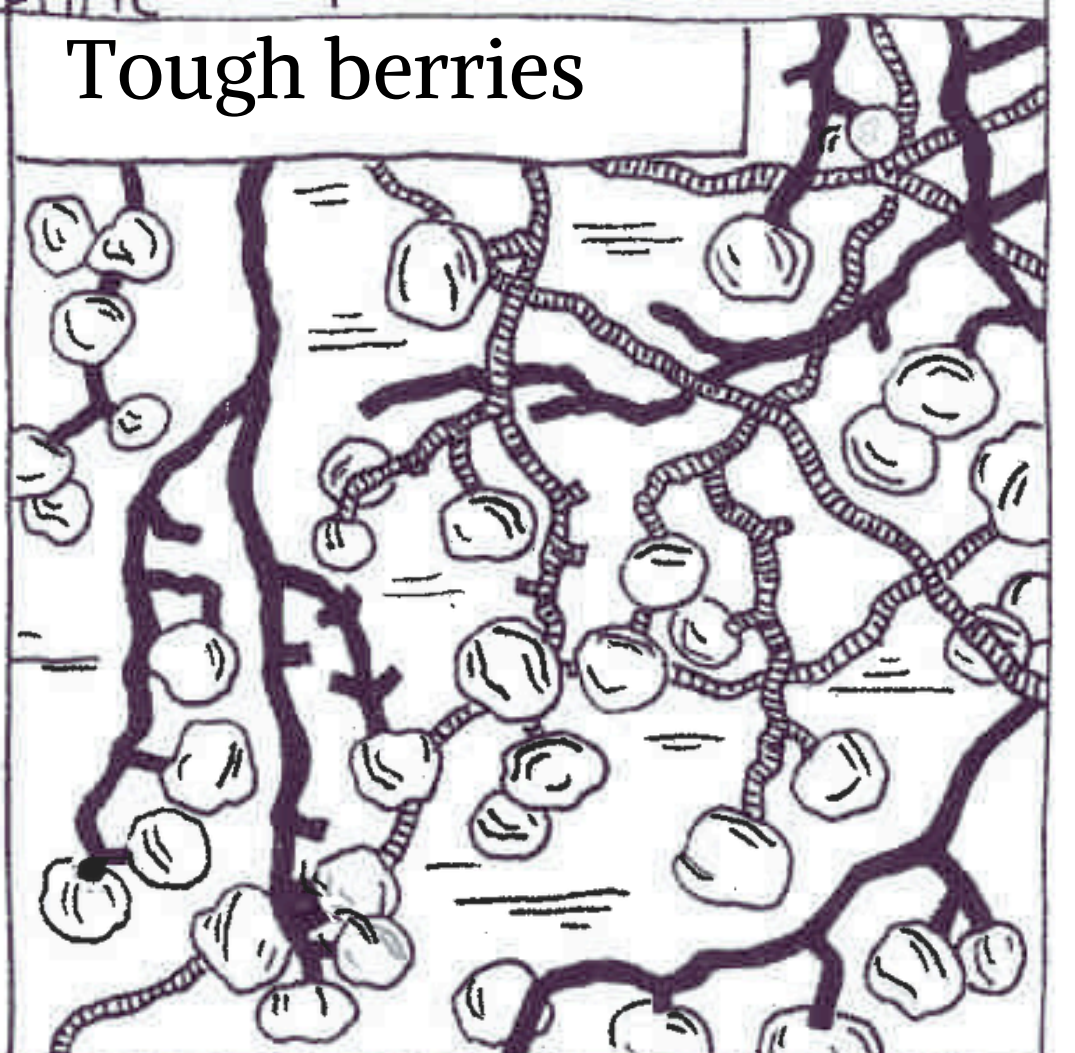
A tree that still has leaves



A cactus shriveled up like a raisin



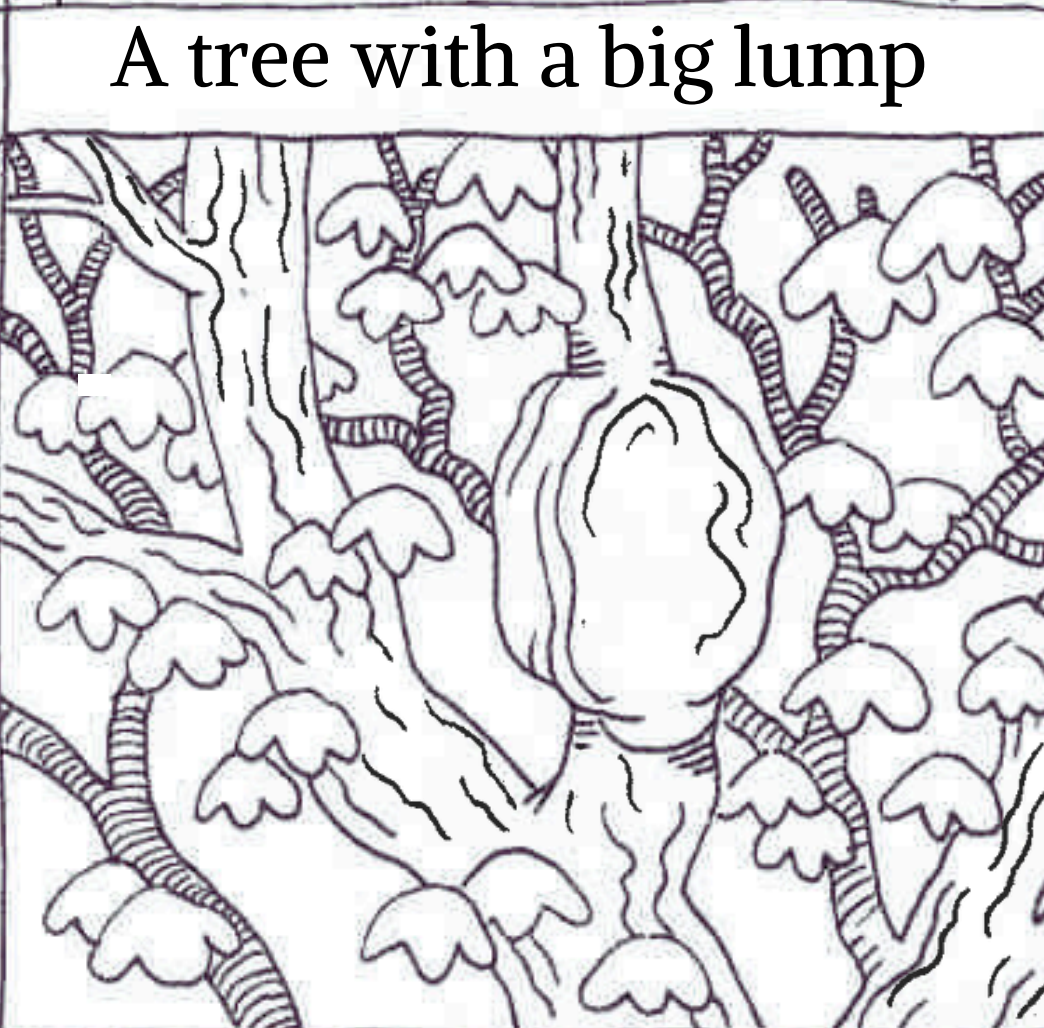
A very round bird!



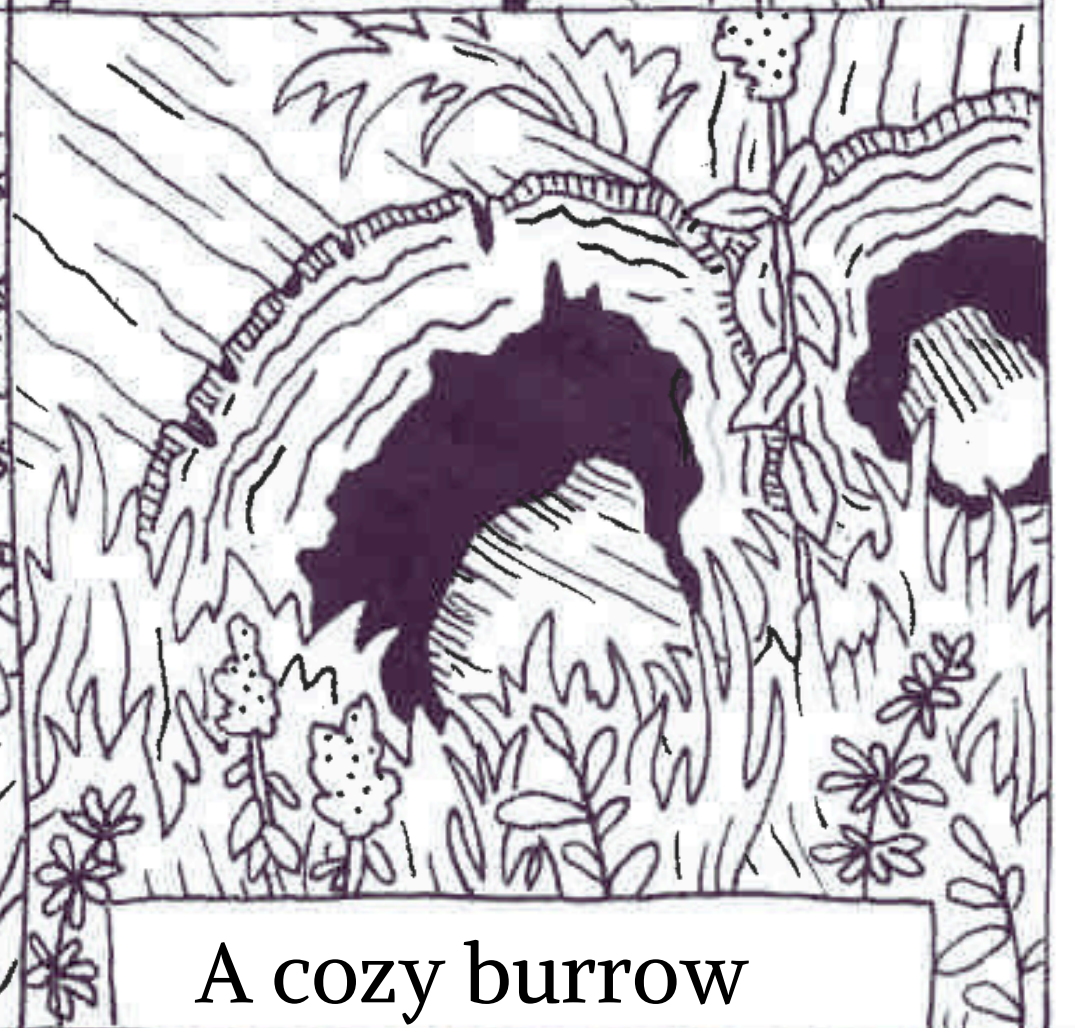
Tough berries



Something fluffy



A tree with a big lump



A cozy burrow

- Make sure you are dressed warm enough to spend time outside, and remember to take breaks to warm up and drink water!
- If you come across an animal, please respect its personal space. Remember that the animals that live at and visit the conservatory are wild animals, not pets.



Scavenger Hunt Key

Here's some more info about your wintertime finds!

Little buds waiting for spring

Buds are undeveloped shoots waiting to turn into leaves, flowers, or stems. In Chicago, many buds are protected from the cold by modified leaves called scales.

A nest in a naked tree

When trees lose their leaves, we get a sneak peek at who lives there! You may find bird nests, squirrel dreys, or even bee hives.

A tree that still has its leaves

Trees that keep their leaves all year around are called evergreens! They still lose old leaves and grow new ones, just not all at once. Trees that lose all their leaves in winter are called deciduous.

A cactus shriveled up like a raisin

This cactus is an Eastern Prickly Pear. It has special antifreeze in its cells that keep it from being damaged by the cold- it also loses lots of water as an extra safeguard against freezing.

A very round bird

These birds are using their feathers the same way humans use puffy coats! They trap air bubbles against their bodies, the bubbles warm up from their body heat, and tada! They have a warm layer of air around their bodies!

Tough berries

Hackberry, crabapples, boston ivy, staghorn sumac, and roses all have fruits that stick around well into winter. Some berries are too gross for animals to eat until they've undergone a deep freeze, which reduces bitterness and acidity. These fruits are an important food source for wintertime residents like chickadees, cardinals, and squirrels!

Something fluffy

Silk and fuzz help little seeds catch a ride on the wind, to a new place to grow! Birds also collect this warm fluff to line their nests.

A tree with a big lump

This lump is called a burl! They are generally believed to form when growth hormones are disrupted by stress, such as infestation, infection, or freeze damage. Burls form over these injuries to keep the tree alive and healthy. They are prized by woodworkers for their unique growth patterns and colors!

A cozy burrow

Whether you're hibernating or not, all animals that spend the winter in Chicago need a cozy shelter to warm up and rest in- including humans!