

# **I Know How to Draw an Owl**

**Written By: Hilary Horder Hippely**  
**Illustrated By: Matt James**

**Synopsis:** Belle draws the best owl in class, but she doesn't say why: she sees them at night while her mother and her sleep in their car.

**Suggested Reading Date:** November (National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week, week prior to Thanksgiving); February (Canned Food Month)

## **Activity Descriptions:**

- Help students become more aware of what their home means to them. Link what their home means to them to how they might feel if they did not have a home.
- Explain what "acts of kindness" mean and create a list for students to spread kindness.
- Ask the students how they can welcome new students to their classroom and school.
- Help students to realize that despite differences, people experience many of the same feelings.
- Conclude discussions of houselessness with ideas about how students and communities can help people who don't have a home, such as a canned food or clothing drive that benefits local food banks and shelters.
- Have students do owl research in books or in your online databases.
- Create owl puppets.
- Makerspace: Create a collage owl with torn construction paper or cardboard owls.

## **Related Websites:**

- Author website, Hilary Horder Hippely: <https://www.hilaryhorderhippely.com/>
- Illustrator website, Matt James: <https://www.mattjamesillustration.ca/>
- 2-3, How to draw an owl: [https://youtu.be/wsDQNYAOitU?si=vn3uy6vIUOK9E\\_cZ](https://youtu.be/wsDQNYAOitU?si=vn3uy6vIUOK9E_cZ)
- K-1, How to draw an owl: <https://youtu.be/J4KCCwd2wF4?si=IAcNYyaBkF8xBs6d>

## **Text to Text Connections:**

- *I See You* by Michael Genhart
- *Still a Family* by Brenda Reeves Sturgis
- *Home* by Tonya Lippert
- *Mutt Dog* by Stephen Michael King
- *Owl Sees Owl* by Laura Godwin

**Created By:** Jerilyn Gerhardstein