

THE MITTEN

1 Once there was a boy named Nicki who wanted new mittens

made from wool as white as snow. His grandmother, Baba, did not want

to knit white mittens. "If you drop one in the snow," she

warned, "you'll never find it." But Nicki wanted snow white mittens so Baba

made them.

After she finished she said, "When you come home, first

I will look to see if you are safe and sound, but then

I will look to see if you still have your snow white mittens.

So off Nicki went. It wasn't long until one of his

new mittens dropped in the snow and was left behind.

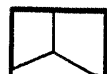
&

X

1



and jostled, but not being ones to argue with someone covered

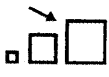


with prickles, they made room.

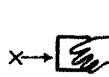


A

As soon as the hedgehog disappeared into the mitten, a



big owl, attracted by the commotion, swooped down. When he



decided to move in also, the mole, the rabbit, and the



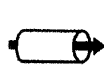
hedgehog grumbled.



But when they saw the owl's glinty talons, they



quickly let him in.



A



Up through the snow appeared a badger. He eyed



the mitten and began to climb in. The mole, the rabbit, the



&



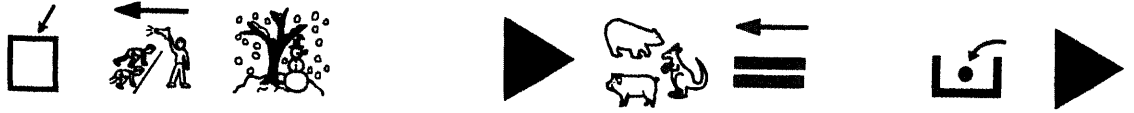
hedgehog and the owl were not pleased. There was no room



left, but



left, but when they saw his diggers, they gave him the thumb.



It started snowing, but the animals were snug in the



mitten. A waft of warm steam rose in the air, and a fox



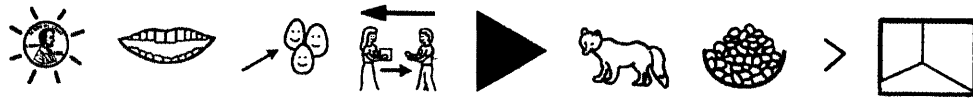
trotting by stopped to investigate. Just the sight of the cozy mitten



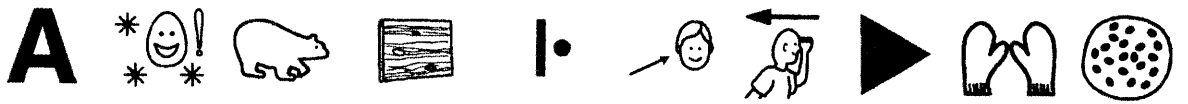
made him feel drowsy. The fox poked his muzzle in. When the



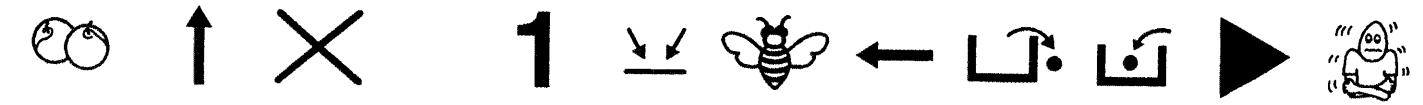
mole, the rabbit, the hedgehog, the owl and the badger saw his



shiny teeth, they gave the fox lots of room.



A great bear lumbered by. He spied the mitten all



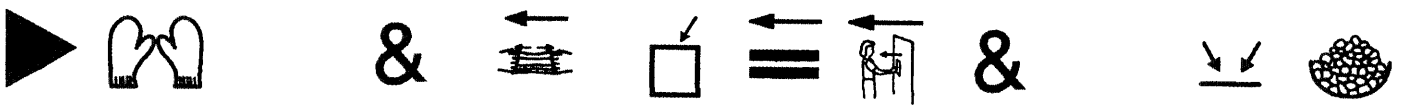
plumped up. Not being one to be left out in the cold,



he began to nose his way in. The animals were packed in



as tightly as could be. But what animal would argue with a bear?



The mitten swelled and stretched. It was pulled and bulged to many



times its size. But Baba's good knitting held fast.



A



an



Along came a meadow mouse, no bigger than an acorn.



1



&



She wriggled into the one space left, and made herself comfortable



>



on top of the great bear's nose.



B

Y



an

The bear, tickled by the mouse's whiskers, gave an



>



enormous sneeze. Aaaaaaaa-aaaa-aaa-ca-chew! The force of the sneeze shot



&



the mitten up into the sky, and scattered the animals in



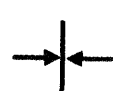
all directions.



A















On his way home, Nicki saw a white shape in
















the distance. It was the lost mitten silhouetted against the blue



sky. As he ran to catch the his snow white mitten, He

 saw  Baba's  face  in  the  window.  First  she  looked  to  see  if

 he  was  safe  and  sound,  and  then  she  saw  that  he  still  had

 his  new  mittens.