***A True Home***

By Kallie George

**Annotation**

Lost in a storm, Mona, an orphaned mouse, staggers into a special hotel. Having no money, she is quickly put to work as a maid, and discovers that Heartwood Hotel is a place she can finally belong, if she’s willing to fight to save it.

**Book Talk**

Downtown Abbey meets Miss Suzy! Do you have the courage to start over again and find your place in the world? Once you find it, are you willing to fight to save it and your newfound friends and family? Join feisty Mona as she creates “a true home.”

**Author on the Internet**

* Website: www.kalliegeorge.com
* Facebook: Kallie George (works as writer)
* Instagram: kallie.george, #kalliegeorge

**Items to use in a library display**

* Feathers, acorn tops, tiny furniture from twigs, tree, tiny suitcase

**Book Club Discussion Questions/Topics**

* What does it feel like to be all alone in the world?
* What does the phrase “Home is where the heart is” mean?
* What things or ideas are important enough to fight for?
* Which animals in the story live by “protect and respect” and which ones live by “tooth and claw?”

**First Line of the Book**

“Home is where the heart is or so she’d heard.”

**Non-Fiction Companion Title(s)**

* *Forest Explorer: A Life-Sized Field Guide by Nic Bishop*
* *Big Tracks, Little Tracks by Millicent E. Selsam*
* *Sounds of the Wild Forest (pop-up book) by Maurice Pledger*

**What to Read Next**

* *Heartwood Hotel #2: The Greatest Gift*
* Owl Diaries series

**Other Books by this Author:**

* *The Magical Adoption Agency Series: Clover’s Luck, The Enchanted Egg, The Missing Magic*
* *Duck, Duck, Dinosaur Series*
* *The Melancholic Mermaid*
* *Mr. M*

**Additional Resources**

* Poetry:Guess Who in the Woods: Haiku Poems for Children by Jody Haley
* Art/craft activity: create the hotel from cardboard, bird house
* Lesson ideas:eco friendly backyard habitats, animal tracks, forest animal foods

**Name that Book:**

* “A dusty hay bale, an abandoned bird’s nest, a prickly thicket- in her short life she had lived in more places than she had whiskers.” (P.1)
* “We live by “Protect and Respect,” not by “Tooth and Claw.” (P.11)
* “There,there, my petite perfumery. No need to fret any longer. Here we are at last, and it is time to relax.” (P.59)
* “His black tail disappeared into the darkness. “Home,” he said. “There’s nowhere like home.” P. 98-99
* “I know you never liked me,” she burst, “though I don't know why. I’ve always tried to do my best. We could have been friends. But you don’t want any friends.” ( p. 112)
* “Of course it’s going to work. We wait till we see the lit up tree. The tree with lights, that's the one. More than enough animals in there to feed our pack and then some.” (P. 117)
* “By leaving without speaking to me, you broke my trust and your pledge.” (P. 126)
* “Running or hiding: those were the choices. Running or hiding: that’s what small animals like her did. that’s what she had done all her life.” ( p. 135)
* “Those that were there and had seen the wolves flee described the spectacle over and over, but the story never grew old.” (P.153)