

A BONE & BLAZE PICTURE BOOK

Tangle

and the

Very Crooked Welcome



STRANGEWOVEN



Bone found a sunny place for a picnic. He was a skeleton with a long beard, a soft smile, and a hat that never quite sat straight. Blaze, his big shaggy dog, sniffed the basket. Katniss, his cat, tested the blanket. Echo, his bright little bird, watched from a branch. "Ready?" called Echo. "Almost," said Bone. "First, we need cups."



Bone set out three cups. One, two, three. Then he opened the basket. When he looked back, there were two. "Did a cup grow legs?" he asked. Blaze sniffed. Katniss blinked. Behind a bush, two golden eyes blinked back. A pointed ear poked out. Then another. Something small was trying very hard to look like a bush.



Bone found the missing cup beneath a dripping branch. *Plink. Plink. Plink.* A little creature stepped into the clearing, holding another cup. Leaves nestled in dark fur. A long tail curled like a spring. The creature pointed at the dripping water. "Catch," they said softly. "Oh! You're catching the drips," said Bone. The creature nodded. "Well, hello," said Bone. "I'm glad we found you."



The creature put the empty cup on their head. Plink. The next drop missed. **SPLIP!** Right on their nose. They crossed their eyes to look at it. Bone chuckled. The creature giggled, too. "A cup makes a tricky hat," said Bone. The little tail curled around a twig, then a leaf. "What a little tangle," Bone said fondly. "Would you like us to call you Tangle?" The creature grinned and nodded.



"I'm Bone. This is Blaze, Katniss, and Echo." Tangle reached for their satchel. It was heavier than before. Inside sat Katniss. "You've made a very comfortable friend," said Bone. Blaze wagged. An empty cup tipped over. "And Blaze has made a very crooked picnic." "Ready?" called Echo. "One more place," said Bone. Tangle fetched a giant leaf. Bone helped spread it beside the blanket. "A perfect picnic mat!"



Tangle arranged bread and berries on another leaf. Then they stopped. Was this a place for them, too? Bone moved over. Blaze rested nearby. Katniss stayed in the satchel, which seemed to be her answer to everything. "Come sit with us," said Bone. Tangle sat. The cups were crooked. The blanket was bumpy. One leaf plate was much too big. But there was room for everyone. "Ready?" called Echo. "Ready," said Bone. Tangle smiled. "Ready."

Picnic number play



Count the cups in each row. Draw a line to the matching number.



2



1



3

Draw one more cup below. Who would you invite to share it?

Make room for a friend



How might Tangle feel before Bone says, "Come sit with us"? Circle a word, or tell your own idea.

curious

unsure

excited

What could you say or do to welcome a new friend?

Draw a picnic with a place for you and someone new.

A large, empty rectangular box with rounded corners, intended for a child to draw a picnic scene.

For grown-ups: Read together or take turns. Count real cups if that helps. Feelings can have more than one answer; ask what in the story gave your child that idea.