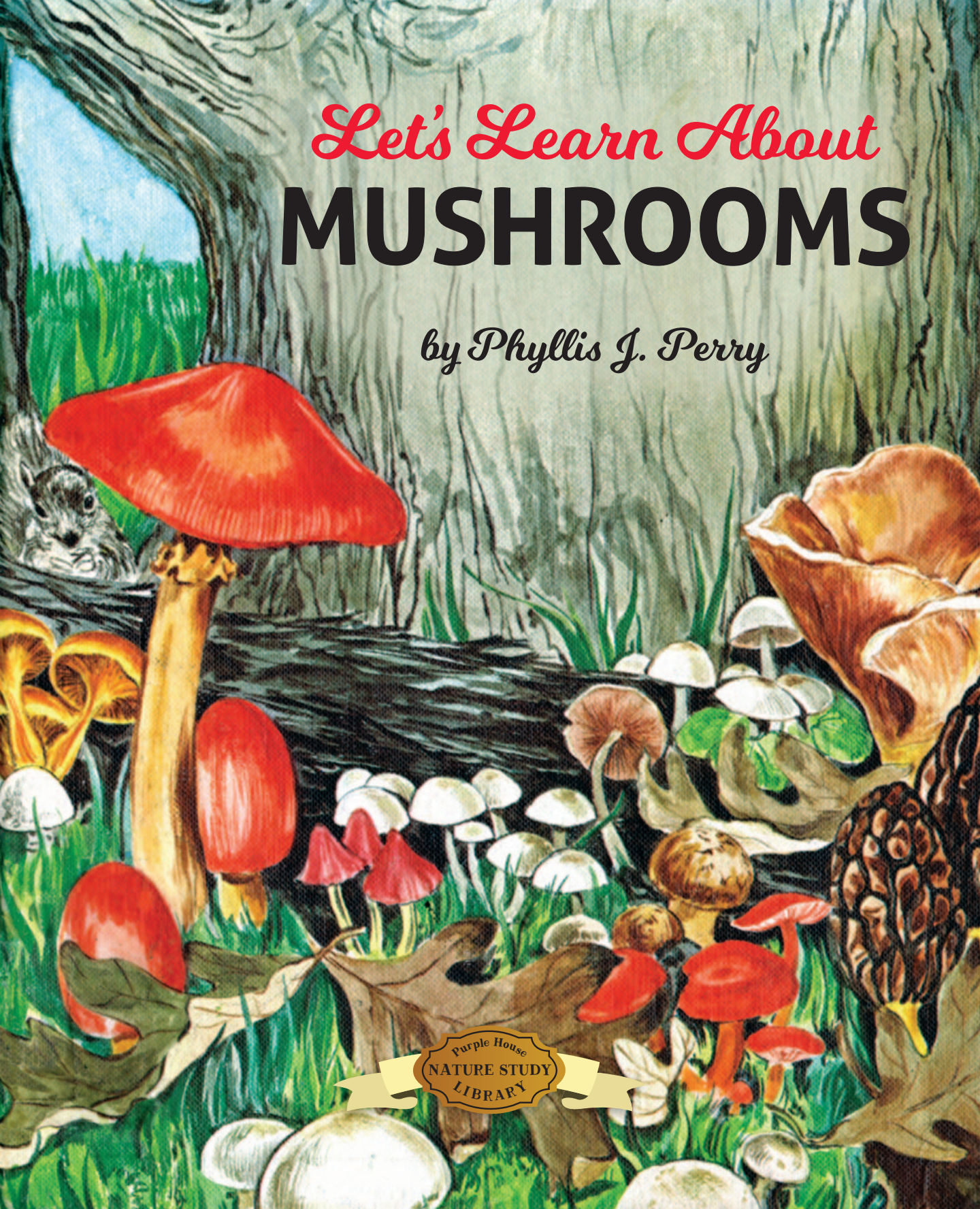


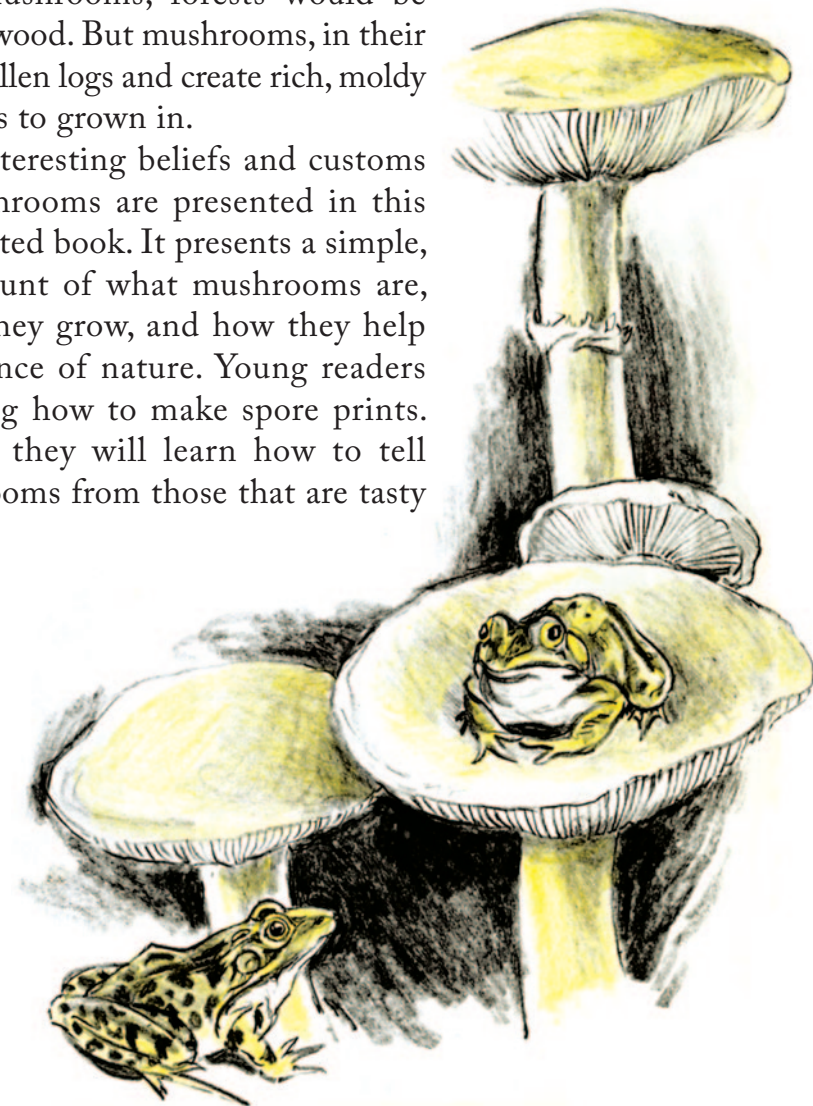
# *Let's Learn About* **MUSHROOMS**

*by Phyllis J. Perry*



**D**o toads really sit on toadstools? Do fairies dance on mushrooms and use them for umbrellas? Superstition and mystery surround plants in the mushroom family—plants that are important to the natural balance of our world. If there were no mushrooms, forests would be choked with deadwood. But mushrooms, in their own way, devour fallen logs and create rich, moldy earth for new trees to grow in.

Some of the interesting beliefs and customs surrounding mushrooms are presented in this beautifully illustrated book. It presents a simple, easy-to-read account of what mushrooms are, how and where they grow, and how they help preserve the balance of nature. Young readers will enjoy learning how to make spore prints. More important, they will learn how to tell poisonous mushrooms from those that are tasty and delicious.



many-cap clitocybe  
(CLITOCYBE MULTICEPS)



chanterelle  
(CANTHARELLUS CIBARIUS)



meadow mushroom  
(AGARICUS CAMPESTRIS)



green-spored lepiota  
(CHLOROPHYLLUM MOLYBDITES)



vermilion waxcap  
(HYGROCYBE MINIATA)



petticoat mottlegill  
(PANÆOLUS CAMPANULATUS)



horn of plenty  
(CRATERELLUS CORNUCOPIOIDES)



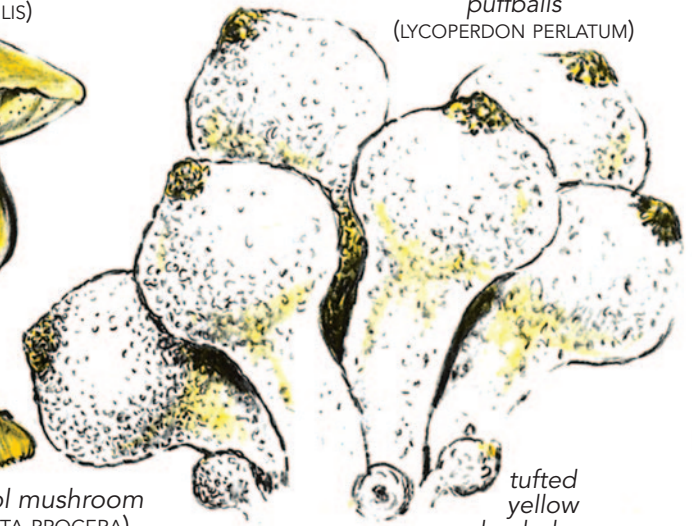
brown false morel  
(GYROMITRA BRUNNEA)



edible boletus  
(BOLETUS EDULIS)



puffballs  
(LYCOPERDON PERLATUM)



pale brittlestem  
(PSATHYRELLA CANDOLLEANA)



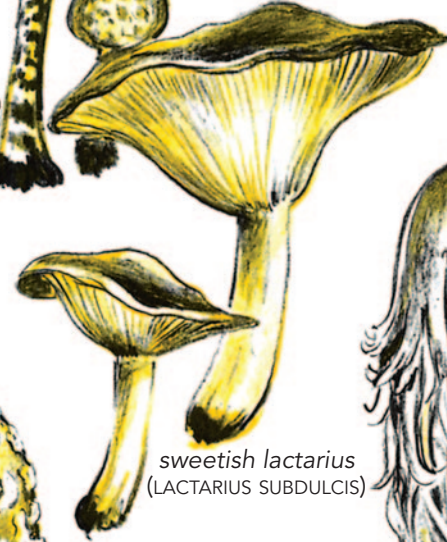
parasol mushroom  
(LEPIOTA PROCERA)



tufted yellow  
hypholoma  
(HYPHOLOMA PERPLEXUM)



sweetish lactarius  
(LACTARIUS SUBDULCIS)



pine cone mushroom  
(STROBILOMYCES FLOCCOPUS)



fly agaric  
(AMANITA MUSCARIA)



shaggy mane  
(COPRINUS COMATUS)

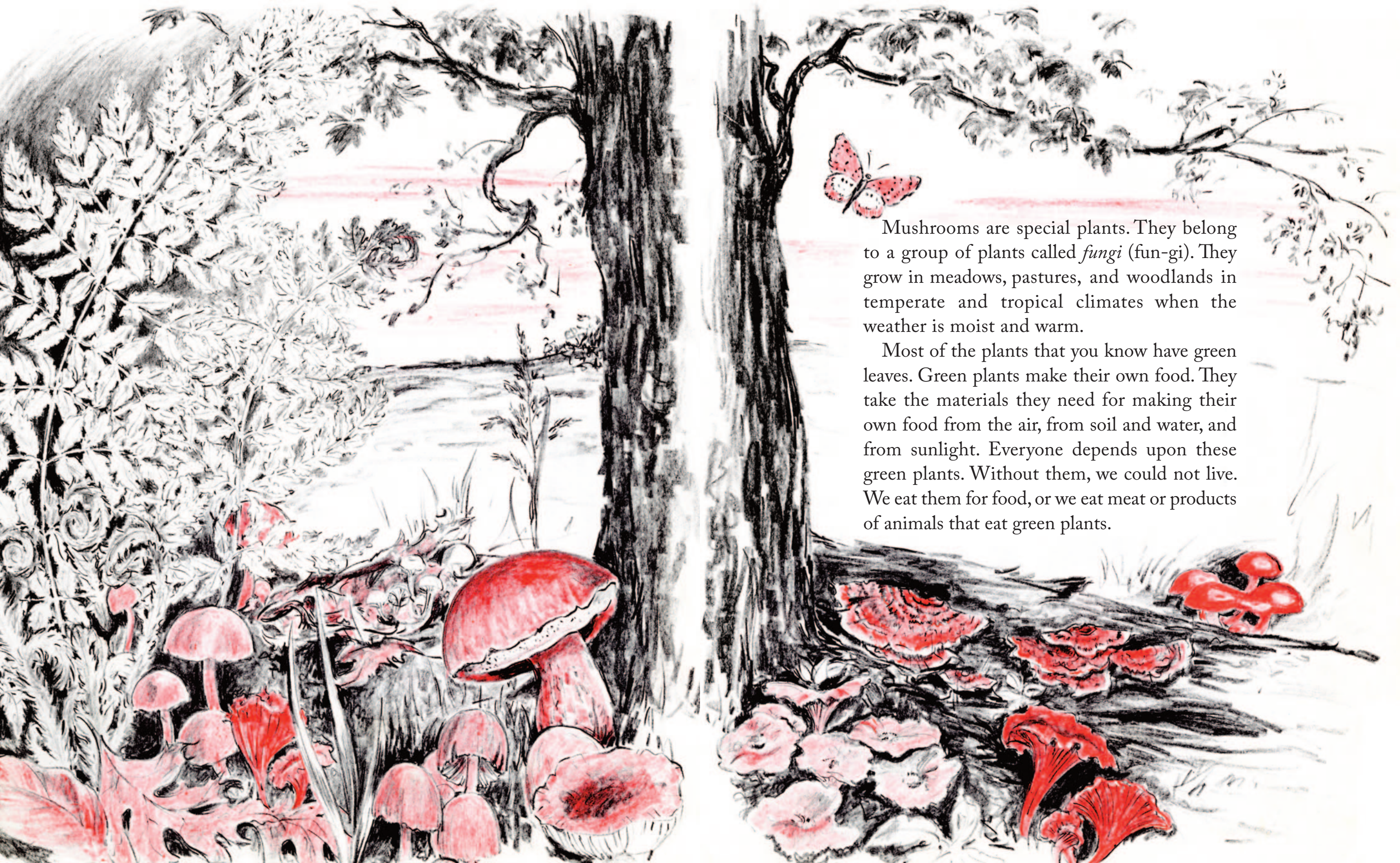




*Let's Learn About*  
**MUSHROOMS**


*by Phyllis J. Perry*  
*illustrated by Haris Petie*

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*Kentucky*



Mushrooms are special plants. They belong to a group of plants called *fungi* (fun-gi). They grow in meadows, pastures, and woodlands in temperate and tropical climates when the weather is moist and warm.

Most of the plants that you know have green leaves. Green plants make their own food. They take the materials they need for making their own food from the air, from soil and water, and from sunlight. Everyone depends upon these green plants. Without them, we could not live. We eat them for food, or we eat meat or products of animals that eat green plants.



Mushrooms, like animals, mostly depend upon these green plants for food. They have no *chlorophyll* and cannot make their own food. They generally grow where plant food already grows for them to feed upon. Wild mushrooms may grow out of an old decaying log or from a pile of dead leaves. They may also appear on the dung of animals or even growing out of cracks in concrete and plaster. Commercial mushrooms, raised for market, are grown in specially prepared soil in mushroom houses. But whether they are wild or cultivated, mushrooms will be found where green plants have lived and made food.

Do you know that there are red and green and orange mushrooms? Others are brown and black and yellow. Some mushrooms are good to eat. Others are poisonous. Some are as small as your fingernail. Others are bigger than basketballs. Some grow on tiny stems so close to the ground that they are hard to see. Others stand up tall—sometimes a foot in the air. Some are flat. Some look like umbrellas. Still others look like trumpets. If you have seen only the kind of mushrooms that you find in the grocery store, you have much to learn about the strange world of mushrooms.