



# Bess the Barn Stands Strong

## Activity Guide

A steadfast old barn shows she's sturdy enough to save the day.

Beam by beam and board by board, Bess the barn is built by able hands to keep the farm's animals safe and sound. Through many seasons and celebrations, that's just what she does, until she starts to sag . . . and creak . . . and slump. Then new everything comes along: a new farmer and a shiny new barn. A mean storm arrives not far behind, putting both barns to a dangerous test—can old Bess weather this threat to the farm?

Bess opens her doors wide, welcoming all to celebrate the year-round ups and downs of farm life and admire the enduring strength and importance of something made to last.

★ “A true storyteller, Elizabeth Gilbert Bedia gives Bess life with literary gilding; there's repetition, imagery, personification and more. The prose flows, poetic and brusque by turns, as the finely wrought story oh-so-delicately addresses the concept of passing on . . . *Bess the Barn Stands Strong* reminds us that love shelters us through all storms.”

—BookPage, starred review

**Elizabeth Gilbert Bedia** is a former teacher and audiologist who loves to stand in old barns and listen to all the sounds. This is her debut picture book, inspired by a real barn in her neighborhood that felt like an old friend before it was torn down. She lives with her husband, two teenagers and two dogs in central Iowa.

**Katie Hickey** is a freelance illustrator who blends hand rendered print processes and digital methods and finds inspiration in her travels and surroundings. She loves drawing environments and enjoyed making Bess the barn an unusually human one. Katie lives in Surrey, England.

# Bess & the Seasons

Bess loves celebrating every season with her farm friends! Below, draw or write what you enjoy doing with your family or friends in each season.

**Spring**

**Summer**

**Fall**

**Winter**

# Story Barn

Like sturdy and steadfast Bess, a strong story needs to be built with care and all the right parts. Fill in the boxes below to begin building your own story.

**Character(s)**

**Problem**

**Climax**



**This** happens ...

**Then** this happens ...

**Then** this ...

**And** this ...



**Setting**

**Resolution**



# Unique Main Character

Bess the Barn is a unique main character.  
Create your own unique main character in the box below.





