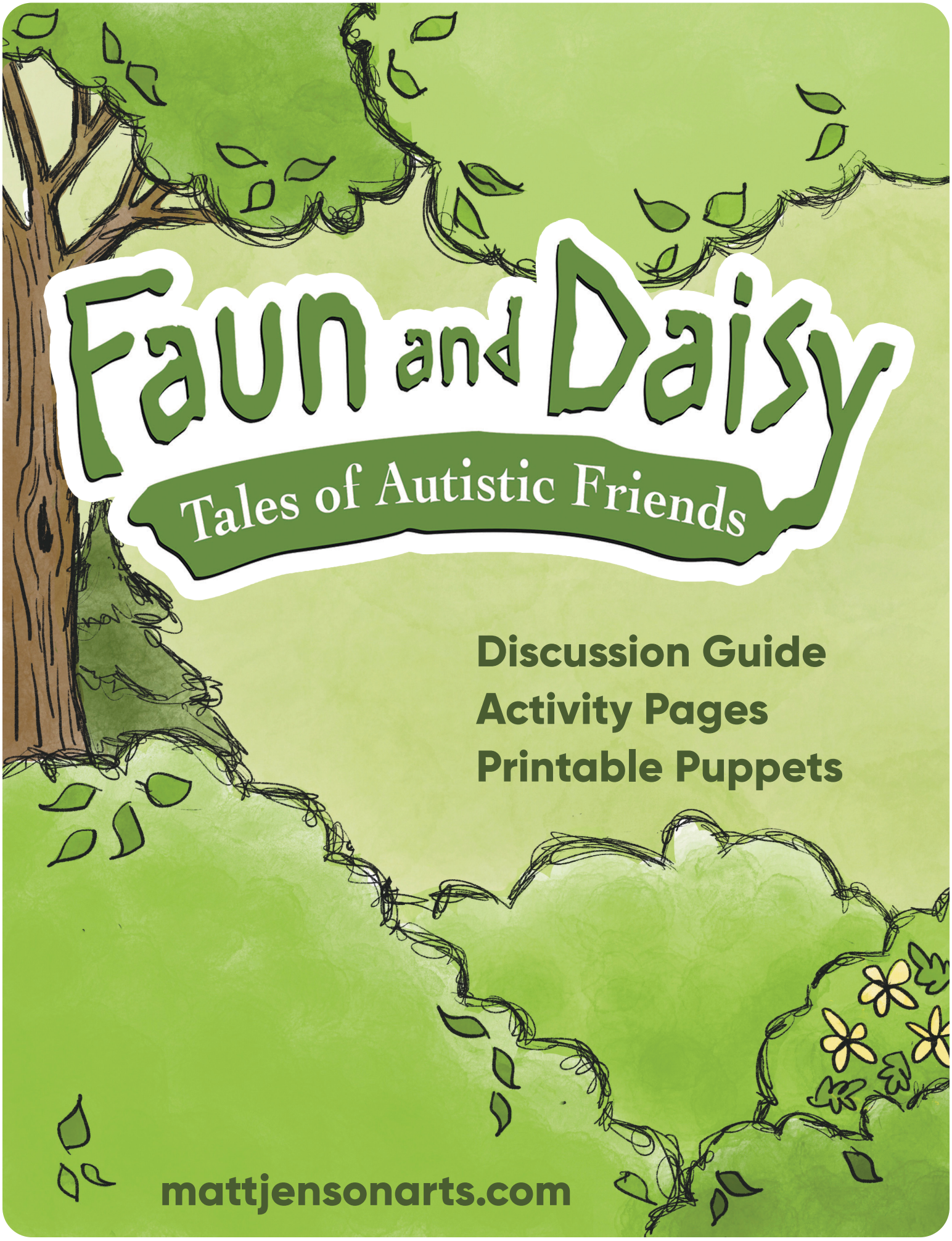
Faun and Daisy
Tales of Autistic Friends
Discussion Guide
Activity Pages
Printable Puppets
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Faun and Daisy

Tales of Autistic Friends

Overview for Educators

Created for Autistic Readers

These stories, made by an autistic author/illustrator, depict autistic traits in an affirming way and honor how autistic people tend to process information and interact with the world.

For Bottom-Up Thinkers

Context is given up front instead of diving right into the action, and illustrations leave out extraneous background details.

For Those Who Like Repetition

Phrases, ideas, and illustrations reappear throughout.

For Those Who Prefer Direct Communication

The characters say what they mean without subtext.

For Those Who have Special Interests

Special interests don't have to justify themselves by being super power, or the solution to a problem. Being a source of autistic joy is enough.

For Those Who Struggle to Read Faces

Illustrations use facial expressions sparingly.

For Those Who Struggle with Making Friends

The first story is a wish-fulfillment tale about being able to make a friend while being one's authentic self.

Look for These Common Autistic Experiences in the Story

Social

- Preferring parallel play
- Not being in sync with neurotypical peers
- Spending lots of time alone
- Autistic fun looking different than neurotypical fun
- Expressing friendship by wanting to share things you've collected

Masking

- Special interests
- Suppressing autistic traits so as not to bother others
- Trying to learn and mimic neurotypical norms
- Anxiety around receiving gifts

Sensory, Emotional, and Internal

- Stimming
- Sensory, emotional, and social overwhelm
- Burnout, shutdown, and/or needing more time to recover
- Difficulty identifying and expressing emotions
- Going into "waiting mode"
- Non-binary identities

Communicaition

- Faun doesn't use contractions when he speaks
- Ghost (also autistic) is non-speaking

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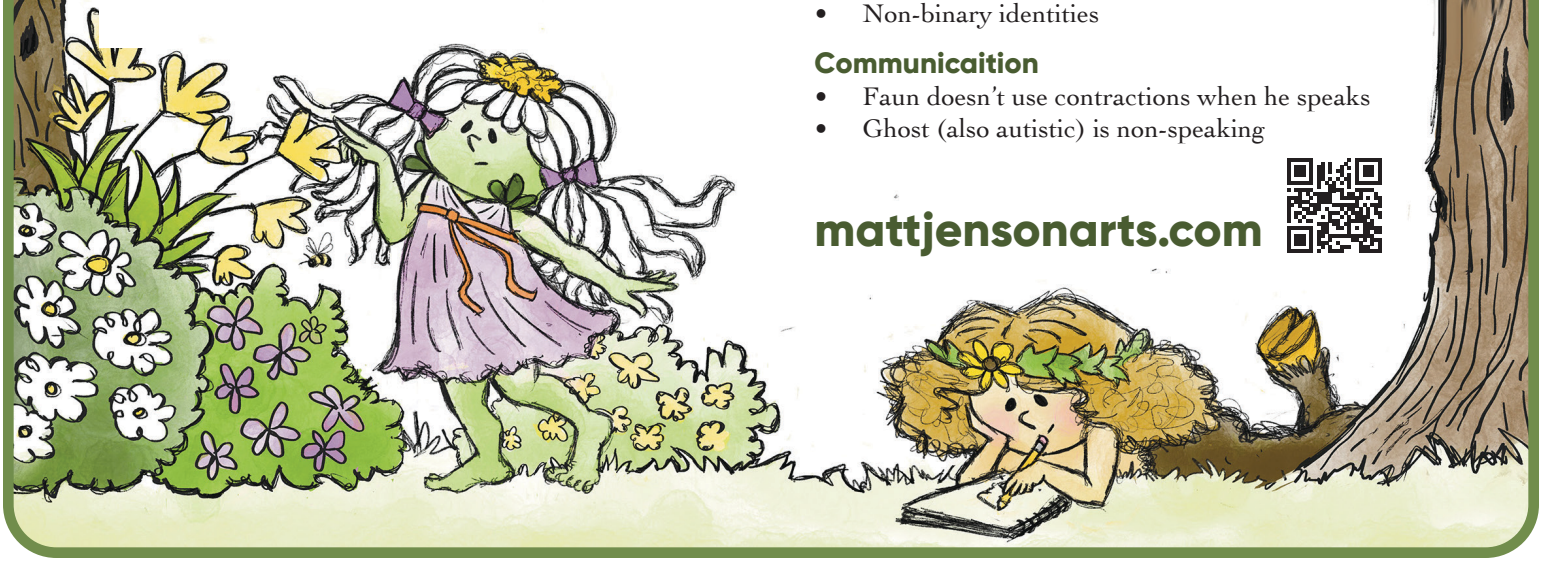

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Discussion Questions

A New Holiday



- Daisy thinks counting is the best feeling in the world. What is something that you really love to do?
- Faun loves holiday decorations. Different families celebrate different holidays. What special days does your family celebrate?
- Some autistic people have a hard time making friends. Why do you think Faun and Daisy got along so well?



Haunted House

- Why didn't Daisy try to talk Faun into going inside the haunted house?
- If haunted house monsters were friendly, which one would you like to meet?
- Faun never went inside the haunted house. Do you think the story had a happy ending? Why or why not?



Winter Sleep

- Why do you think Daisy needed to sleep for so long?
- How do you feel when you miss someone?
- Have you ever made or saved something to give to someone when they come back?



The Gift

- Daisy doesn't like birthday parties. Is there anything that most people think is fun but you don't?
- What could the nymphs do differently so that Daisy could enjoy the party? What could Daisy say to ask for what she needs?
- What do you think was inside the gift Faun gave to Daisy?

Faun and Daisy

Tales of Autistic Friends

Daisy smiled and wiggled her elbows.



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Faun and Daisy

Tales of Autistic Friends



Faun loves holiday decorations.

Draw a picture of a holiday you celebrate in his sketchbook.


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Time went by,
but they were having
way too much fun
to notice.
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Faun and Daisy
Tales of Autistic Friends

Haunted House Puppet Show





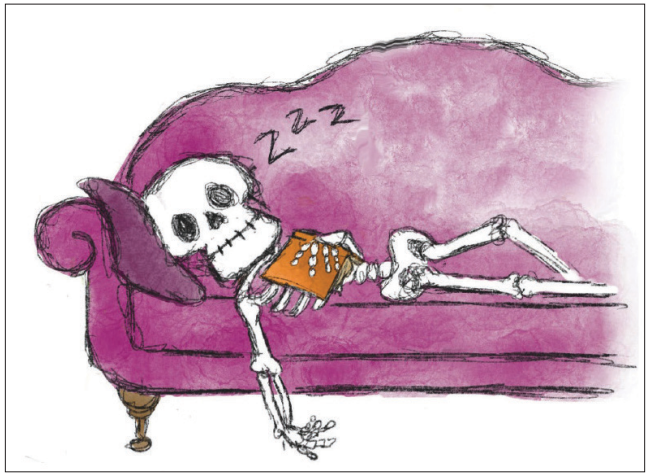




1. Cut out puppets.
2. Tape a straw to each puppet so the straw is at the top and the puppet is at the bottom.
3. Tape the haunted house page to the back of a chair so that the seat becomes the floor of the puppet stage.
4. Act out the story!





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