

You know what I love? Walking in the woods and looking for mushrooms with my kids. It's like a treasure hunt that nature organized just for us!





I'm obsessed with bizarre creatures,
and mushrooms are certainly strange!



They look like aliens
from outer space.



Mushrooms are not plants or animals. They are a kingdom of their own: the realm of FUNGI.

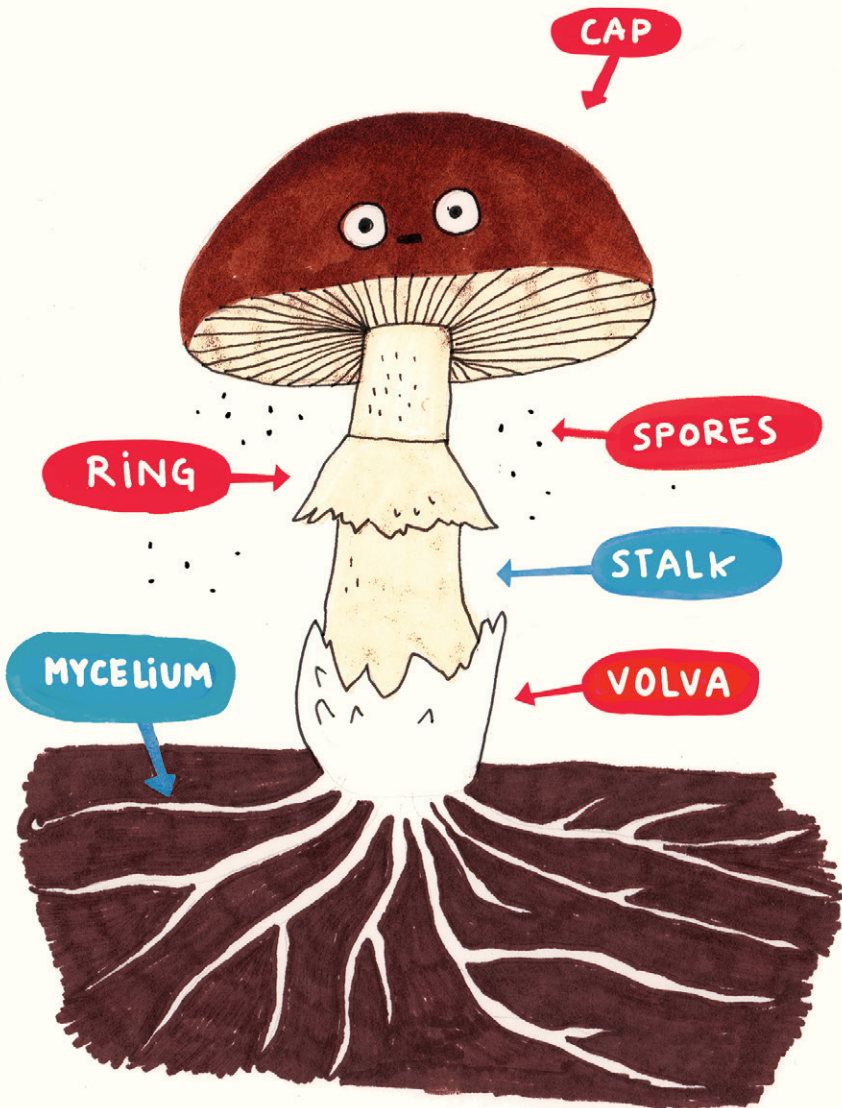
Many mushrooms look like the one I've drawn here, but not all of them. They come in many shapes, sizes, and colours!

Their smells differ wildly, too. Some stink horribly; others have a delicious perfume.

There are some next to my cottage that smell like maple syrup!

PARTS OF THE

MUSHROOM



When you try to identify a mushroom, you have to look under its cap. You'll find clues under there!

Some have gills that are like paper-thin blades. There are thousands of different mushrooms like this, including the kinds found at grocery stores.

Others have little needles, and some have tiny holes, like a sponge.

It's through these various types of underbellies that they produce and release



which are a bit like seeds. This is how mushrooms reproduce.



MUSHROOM
WITH SPINES



MUSHROOM
WITH GILLS



MUSHROOM
WITH PORES

Some mushrooms grow in the grass, others in dead leaves or on rotten wood or even on living trees.

Some are so tiny we can't even see them, and others are as big as a baseball field!

I don't know them all. There are too many. There are

MILLIONS

of fungus species around the world.



