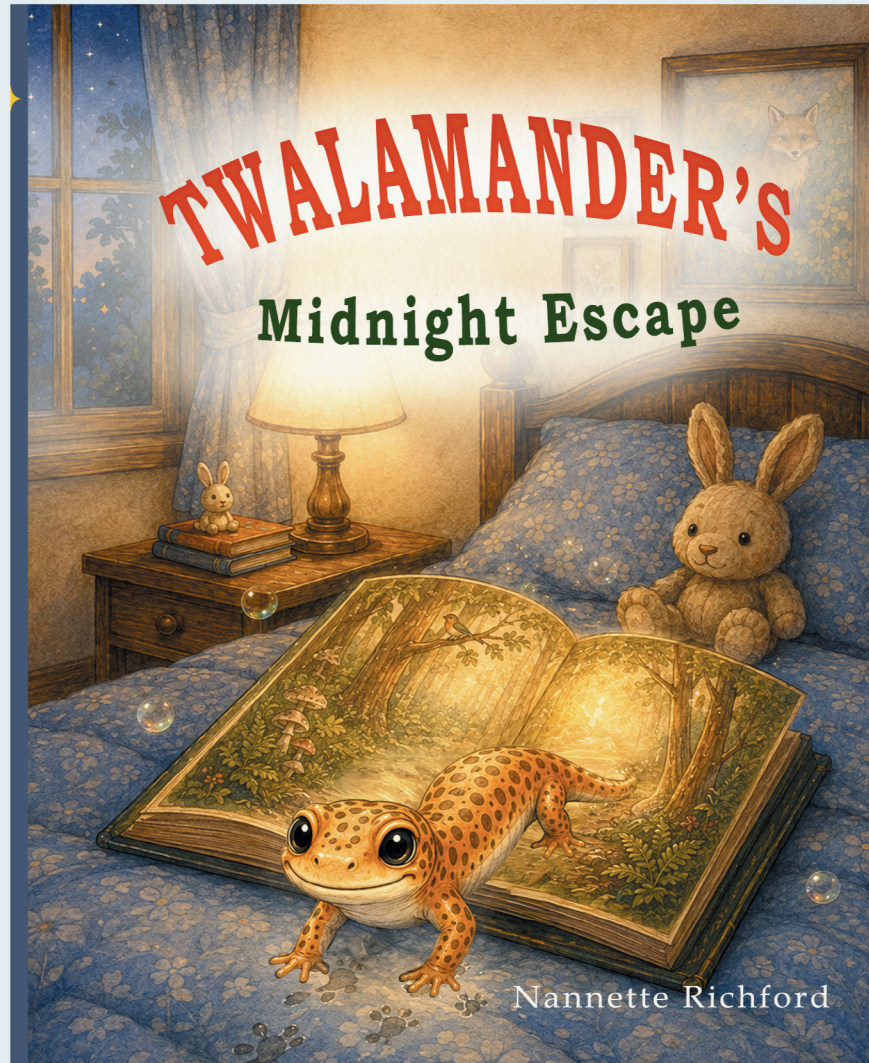




## Companion Activities for Reading, Reflection & Nature Study

Curiosity • Imagination • Perspective • Salamander Science

### For Classrooms, Libraries, Homeschool & Families

Conversation prompts, literacy activities, science connections, imaginative thinking, and five ready-to-print student pages inspired by Twalamander's story.



## About the Story

Twalamander has lived his whole life inside a quiet forest within the pages of a storybook. He loves his ferny home, but curiosity keeps tugging at him. What lies beyond the edge of the page?

One night the book is left open. Twalamander slips into Kit's sleeping house, where ordinary objects become astonishing adventures. Houseplants become a jungle. Romanesco broccoli becomes a prehistoric-looking forest. A pineapple and spilled honey become a volcano scene. A popcorn popper becomes a spaceship, and soap bubbles become swamp monsters.

By the end of the night, Twalamander has explored, imagined, solved problems, and made his way safely home again.

### Themes

- **Curiosity**  
Wonders what lies beyond the page.
- **Courage**  
Ventures outside the book.
- **Imagination**  
Objects become adventures.
- **Perspective**  
Size changes what he sees.
- **Home**  
Explores and returns safely.

### Learning Connections

- **Literacy**  
prediction, sequence, sounds
- **Science**  
salamanders, habitats
- **Social-emotional**  
curiosity, bravery
- **Creative**  
drawing, scale

### For Educators & Families

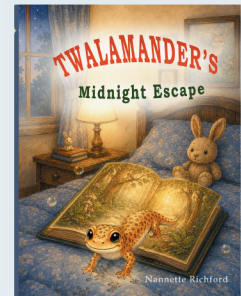
This guide is designed to extend the story through conversation, observation, writing, drawing, science connections, and creative activities. Choose the pieces that best fit the age, interests, and needs of your children or students.

### Before You Read

Take a look at the cover and title before opening the book. What do you notice? What do you think might happen?

- 1 What do you think the words *Midnight Escape* tell us about the story?
- 2 What clues tell you that Twalamander is very small?
- 3 What do you think might be beyond the pages of his book?
- 4 How might a kitchen or living room look to a tiny creature?
- 5 What ordinary object might seem amazing or frightening if you were very small?
- 6 Do you think Twalamander leaves because he is unhappy, or because he is curious?

#### Look at the Cover



#### Look & Predict

Choose one detail from the cover that gives you a clue about the story.

I noticed:

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I think it might mean:

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#### Educator Note

There are no right or wrong predictions. The goal is to encourage children to observe, wonder, make connections, and become curious about the story before reading. Younger children can answer aloud rather than write.

## After Reading

Remember | Think | Connect

### Remember

Why did Twalamander leave the book?  
What did the houseplants become?  
What happened at the table?  
Why did he hide in the oven mitt?  
What happened in the sink?

### Think

Why do ordinary objects seem so different to Twalamander?  
Which part of the adventure feels funniest? Which part feels most dangerous?  
What helps him keep going?

### Connect

Have you ever imagined something ordinary becoming something else?  
What place in your home would look huge if you were tiny?  
When have you felt both curious and a little nervous?

### Notice the World Through Twalamander's Eyes

At the beginning, Twalamander feels... \_\_\_\_\_

One ordinary object that becomes extraordinary is... \_\_\_\_\_

By the end, Twalamander feels... \_\_\_\_\_



## Story & Language

### Sequence | Point of View | Sound Words

#### Beginning

Twalamander lives in his storybook forest and wonders what lies beyond the page. One night, he slips out into Kit's world.

#### Middle

The houseplants become a jungle. The table scene becomes a volcano escape. A popcorn popper becomes a spaceship, and old popcorn seems like aliens.

#### End

Soap bubbles become swamp monsters in the sink. Twalamander swims to safety and makes it back to the book.

### Talk About the Sequence

What happened first? • Which scene felt most dangerous? • What happened just before Twalamander returned home?

#### Real Object or Adventure?

Houseplants → jungle  
Romanesco broccoli → prehistoric-looking trees  
Honey and pineapple → lava / volcano scene  
Popcorn popper → spaceship  
Soap bubbles → swamp monsters

#### Sound Words in the Story

**tick tick tick** can sound like a countdown.  
**pop**, **swirl**, and **splash** help readers hear the action.

Ask children: Which sound word best matches each scene?



## Nature Connection

### Salamanders & Their Habitats

#### Built for Damp, Hidden Places

Salamanders are amphibians. Many have smooth, moist skin, long tails, and short legs. They often live in cool, damp places such as forests, under logs, beneath leaf litter, or near water.

#### Salamander Facts

- Amphibians, not reptiles.
- Often active at night.
- Need moist places to stay comfortable.
- Many hide under rocks, logs, or leaves.
- Tails help with balance and movement.

#### Look Closely

A salamander usually has a long tail, smooth skin, four small legs, and tiny toes.



#### Storybook or Real Life?

Twalamander's midnight adventure belongs to the story. Real salamanders do not live in books, explore kitchens, or meet soap-bubble swamp monsters.

#### Educator Note

Keep the science simple. Notice a few real salamander features while also enjoying the make-believe world of the story.



## Perspective & Scale

### Tiny Explorer, Giant World

A central idea in this story is that size changes experience. What seems ordinary to us can feel huge, mysterious, funny, or frightening to Twalamander.

#### Ordinary Object

houseplant  
Romanesco broccoli  
pineapple and honey  
popcorn popper  
soap bubbles

#### Twalamander's View

jungle  
prehistoric-looking forest  
lava / volcano scene  
spaceship and aliens  
swamp monsters

#### If You Were Twalamander-Sized...

What in your home would look enormous?  
Where would you hide if something suddenly seemed dangerous?  
What object might become a mountain, cave, waterfall, jungle, or machine?  
How would you find your way home again?





# Twalamander's Explorer Notebook

[Observe](#) | [Imagine](#) | [Compare](#) | [Return Home](#)

## A Tiny Explorer Uses Four Important Skills

**Observe** — look closely at details.

**Imagine** — ask what something seems like from a tiny point of view.

**Compare** — notice the difference between what something really is and what it looks like in the story.

**Return home** — remember that a good adventure also ends with safety and rest.

## Talk About It

Which part of the adventure shows the strongest imagination?

Which part shows problem-solving?

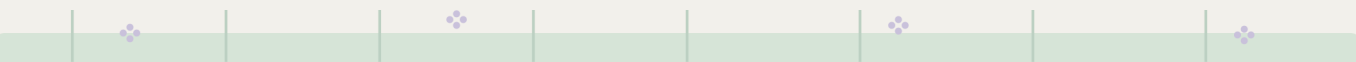
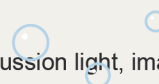
Which scene feels funniest to you?

## Try It

Choose one ordinary object nearby. Say or draw three things it might become if you were very tiny.

## A Gentle Reminder

Twalamander gets into trouble, but the tone of the book remains playful and safe. Keep discussion light, imaginative, and reassuring for younger children.



# TWALAMANDER

STANDALONE PRINTABLE • STORY SEQUENCING



## Put Twalamander's Story in Order

Cut out the six cards. Mix them up, then place them in the order the events happen in the story.

Twalamander wonders what might be beyond the pages of his storybook home.



One night, the book is left open and Twalamander slips into Kit's world.



The houseplants seem like a giant jungle.



The table scene becomes a volcano escape, and Twalamander runs from the "lava."



The popcorn popper becomes a spaceship, and old popcorn seems like aliens.



Sink bubbles become swamp monsters, and Twalamander makes it safely back to the book.



# TWALAMANDER

STANDALONE PRINTABLE • PERSPECTIVE & IMAGINATION



## What Did Twalamander Think It Was?

Match the real object to Twalamander's imaginative version. Write the correct letter on each line.

### Real Object

- A. houseplants
- B. Romanesco broccoli
- C. pineapple and spilled honey
- D. popcorn popper
- E. soap bubbles

### Twalamander's View

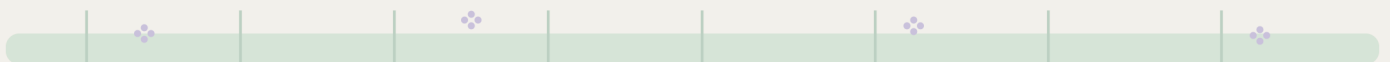
- \_\_\_ giant jungle
- \_\_\_ spaceship
- \_\_\_ swamp monsters
- \_\_\_ trees in a prehistoric forest
- \_\_\_ lava / volcano scene

Bonus: Which scene would you most like to explore? Why?

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# TWALAMANDER

STANDALONE PRINTABLE • SCIENCE & STORY



## Real Salamander or Storybook Twalamander?

Read each statement. Circle **Real Life** or **Storybook**.

Salamanders are amphibians.

☐ Real Life ☐ Storybook

Many salamanders like cool, damp places.

☐ Real Life ☐ Storybook

A salamander can live inside a storybook forest.

☐ Real Life ☐ Storybook

A popcorn popper can become a spaceship in a story.

☐ Real Life ☐ Storybook

Salamanders have long tails.

☐ Real Life ☐ Storybook

Soap bubbles can become swamp monsters in make-believe.

☐ Real Life ☐ Storybook

Draw or name one real salamander detail and one make-believe story detail.

Real-life detail: \_\_\_\_\_

Story detail: \_\_\_\_\_





## Tick Tick Tick! Story Sounds

Say the sound words aloud. Then think about which scene each sound might match.

### Sound Words

- tick tick tick
- pop
- swirl
- splash

### Which scene could it match?

### Make Your Own Sound Word

If you were writing a tiny midnight adventure, what sound word would you use for a waterfall, a spaceship, or a monster?

My sound word: \_\_\_\_\_

Use it in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



# TWALAMANDER

STANDALONE PRINTABLE • WRITING & DRAWING



## My Tiny Midnight Adventure

Imagine you are Twalamander-sized. Draw or write about one ordinary place becoming an adventure.

If I were tiny, I would explore... \_\_\_\_\_

This ordinary object would become... \_\_\_\_\_

I would hide in... \_\_\_\_\_

I would hurry home when... \_\_\_\_\_

Draw Your Adventure Here



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## Using This Resource

This companion guide extends *Twalamander's Midnight Escape* through conversation, observation, science connections, imaginative thinking, and creative response. Activities may be adapted to fit the age, interests, and abilities of the children you are working with.

### Suggested Uses

- Classroom read-alouds and literacy centers
- Homeschool lessons and family learning
- Library storytimes and book groups
- Science-and-story comparisons
- Creative drawing and writing extensions

### A Note on Adaptation

Younger children may respond by talking, pointing, acting out, or drawing. Older children can add writing, explanation, and comparison. The goal is to support curiosity and joyful thinking - not to turn the story into a test.

### A Note on Personal Response

Children may answer for Twalamander, invent a fictional example, draw instead of write, or keep a response private.

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