

**CYRM RESOURCE GUIDE
PRIMARY NOMINEES
(GRADES K-3)**

2014-2015

City Dog, Country Frog

By Mo Willems

Illustrations By Jon J. Muth

Hyperion Books For Children, 2010

Exclamation Mark!

By Amy Krouse Rosenthal

Illustrations By Tom Lichtenheld

Scholastic Press, 2013

***Miss Brooks Loves Books
(and I Don't)***

By Barbara Bottner

Illustrated By Michael Emberley

Alfred A. Knopf, 2010

Randy Riley's Really Big Hit

Written And Illustrated
By Chris Van Dusen
Candlewick Press, 2012

Too Tall Houses

Written And Illustrated
By Gianna Marino
Viking Press, 2012

CITY DOG, COUNTRY FROG

BY MO WILLEMS

ILLUSTRATIONS BY JON J. MUTH

SYNOPSIS

Through the seasons, whenever City Dog visits the country, he runs straight for Country Frog's rock to play games with him, but during the winter things change for them both. City Dog can't find Country Frog, but spring comes again and so does a new friend for Country Dog.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Mo Willems was born on February 11, 1968 in Chicago to Dutch immigrant parents and grew up in New Orleans. Willems first became interested in cartoon art when he was just a child; at age three or four he started to draw and create his own characters. Willems enjoyed writing stories about his characters to share with others. He spent some summers in Holland and developed his sense of humor through his Dutch ancestry and a stint doing stand-up in England.

Willems graduated from New York University Tisch School of Arts, with honors and started his career by traveling around the world for a year, drawing a cartoon every day, which were later published in the book *You Can Never Find a Rickshaw When it Monsoons*.

He is an author and illustrator and also an animator, having made more than 70 short films. He won six Emmy awards as a writer on *Sesame Street*. He has won two Theodor Seuss Geisel Medals and three Geisel Honors for his *Elephant and Piggie* books. His books have been translated into several languages.

Willems lives with his wife, Cheryl Camp, and daughter, Trixie, in Northampton, Massachusetts. When not writing, he enjoys hanging out with his family and friends and having a little pasta with a glass of wine.

"Mo Willems." *Authors and Artists for Young Adults*. Vol. 71. Detroit: Gale, 2006. *Biography in Context*. Web. 14 May 2014.

<http://artery.wbur.org/2013/06/25/interview-mo-willems> Web. 23 May 2014.

Learn more about the author Mo Willems <http://www.mowillems.com/>

MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

John J. Muth was born on July 28, 1960 and grew up in suburban Cincinnati, Ohio to parents who were teachers. His mother was an art teacher, and she took him to museums all over the US. He had his first one-man exhibit of paintings and drawings at the invitation of Wilmington College when he was eighteen.

Muth studied stone sculpture in Japan, painting, print-making and drawing in Austria, Germany, and England but most of his artistic education came from informal apprenticeships with painters Ballory Barack and Jeffrey Jones. His comic books have been published by DC/Vertigo, Eclipse Books, NBM, Donald M. Grant Publishers, Inc. in the U.S. and in Japan by the publisher Kodansha. He has won the Eisner Award for excellence in painting in comics. "I'm very interested in what words and pictures can do together that they can't do separately. There is a third thing which occurs. I'm drawn to what is suggested by both the images and the text but remains un-mentioned by either. It can be intellectual, or a logical story point, or emotional. This space seems to be as flexible as either words or pictures. It's a dance between the two. Exploring that element is why I started in comics."

Muth worked in comics for 20 years before he started writing and illustrating children's books; he was first inspired to start writing for a young audience after the birth of his son. "My work in children's books really grew out of a desire to explore what I was feeling as a new father," says Muth. "I was working in comics and that is a natural forum for expressions of angst and questioning one's place in the universe. When the children came it became important to say other things about the world... and that was where my work began to express the very real delight I find in being a parent."

All of Muth's work has received awards and critical acclaim. *Zen Shorts* was named a Caldecott Honor Book and spent 41 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list. The art for his first children's book, *Come On, Rain!* written by Karen Hesse, won the Gold Medal from the Society of Illustrators in 1999. *Gershon's Monster* by Eric Kimmel, was an ALA Notable Children's book, winner of the Sydney Taylor Award, a National Parenting Book Award, and was a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. *Stone Soup*

Primary

also won a National Parenting Book Award. *The Three Questions* was a Book Sense Book of the Year finalist and a NCSS/CBC Notable Social Studies Trade Book for Young People. Muth also did the illustrations for *Old Turtle and the Broken Truth*, written by Douglas Wood, and *I Will Hold You 'Til You Sleep*, by Linda Zuckerman. Jon J. Muth's highly acclaimed picture books are beloved around the world and have been translated into more than ten languages.

Muth lives in upstate New York with his wife and four children, where he spends time "chasing the clouds from his brushes."

<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=130412091>

<http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/contributor/jon-j-muth>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jon_J_Muth

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/muth/transcript>

<https://web.archive.org/web/20121025002203/http://www.indiebound.org/author-interviews/muthjonj>

CONNECTIONS

Other titles by Mo Willems

The Pigeon Needs a Bath (2014) (Pigeon series)

I'm a Frog (2013) (Elephant and Piggie series)

That is Not a Good Idea (2013)

Goldilocks and the Three Dinosaurs (2012)

Leonardo, the Terrible Monster (2005)

Knuffle Bunny: a Cautionary Tale (2004)

Saying Goodbye

Forever Friends by Carin Berger (2010)

The Lion and the Bird by Marianne Dubuc (2014)

The Sea Serpent and Me by Dashka Slater (2008)

Always and Forever by Alan Durant

Farfallina & Marcel by Holly Keller (2002)

Making a Friend by Alison McGhee (2011)

Bob and Otto by Robert O. Bruel (2007)

A Friend for Dragon by Dav Pilkey (1991)

A Little Bit of Winter by Paul Stewart (1998)

Bluebird by Bob Staake (2013)

Bear and Bird by James Skofield (2014)

Unusual Friendships

Owen & Mzee by Isabella Hatkoff (2007)

Little Pink Pup by Johanna Kerbey (2010)

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Friends: True Stories of Extraordinary Animal Friendships by Catherine Thimmesh

Non-Fiction

Red-eyed Tree Frog by Joy Cowley (1999)

Frog Song by Brenda Guiberson (2013)

Dogs Rule! by Daniel Kirk (2003)

The Frogs and Toads All Sang by Arnold Lobel (2009)

Stay: The True Story of Ten Dogs by Michaela Muntean (2010)

Dog-Gone School by Amy Schmidt (2013)

Song of the Water Boatman: & Other Pond Poems by Joyce Sidman (2005)

Frogs by Alyse Sweeney (2010)

Seasons

Old Bear by Kevin Henkes (2008)

Listen, Listen by Alison Jay (2008)

Snow Rabbit, Spring Rabbit by Il Sung Na (2011)

Hi, Kool!: a Year of Seasons by Jon J. Muth (2014)

Red Sings from Treetops: A Year in Colors by Joyce Sidman (2009)

Leaves by David Ezra Stein (2007)

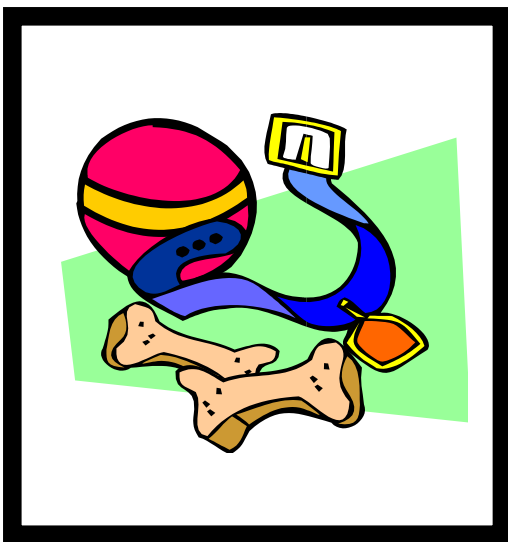
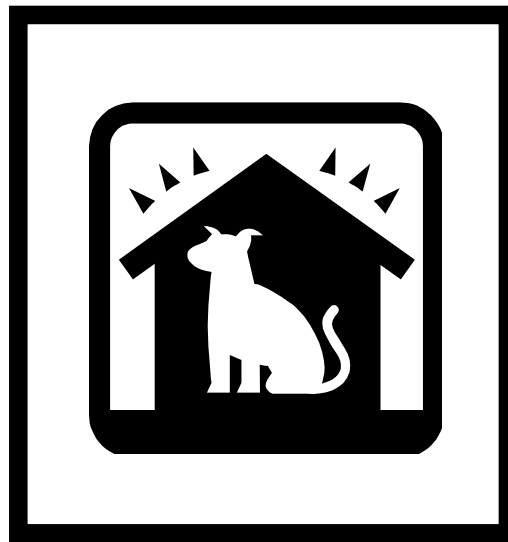
HOOKS

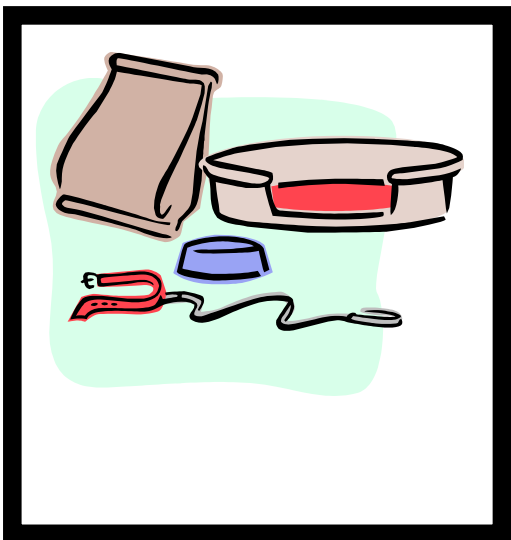
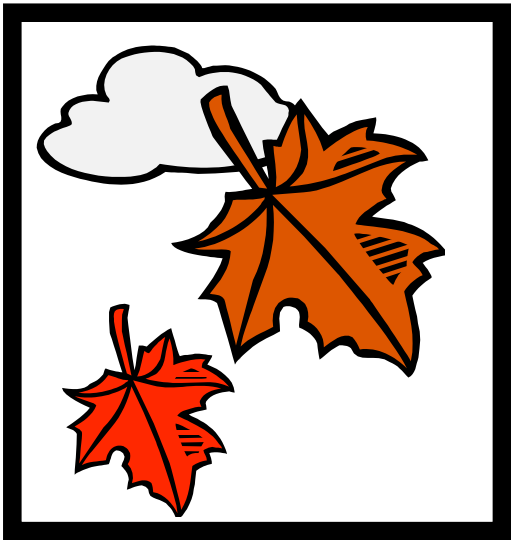
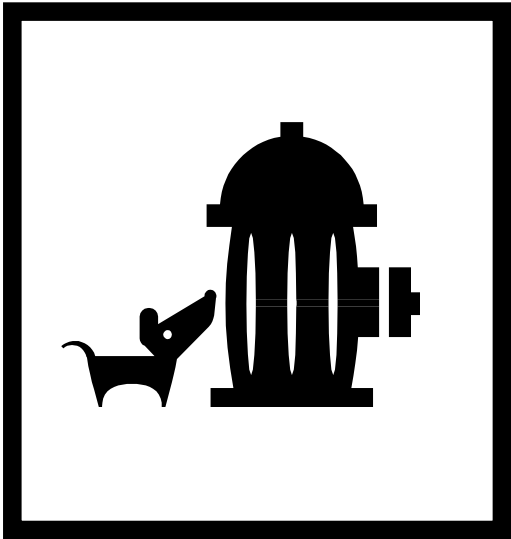
- Would a dog be a friend with a frog?
- What are the differences in the life of a dog who lives in the city and one who lives in the county?
- Do you have a favorite season? What makes it your favorite?
- Have you ever seen a dog smile?
- Have you ever had to say goodbye to a friend?

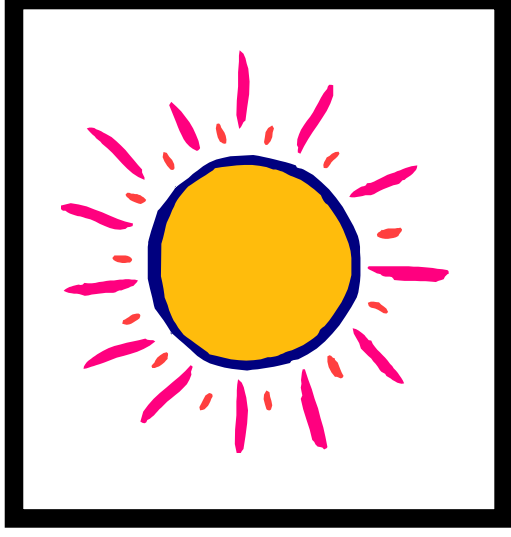
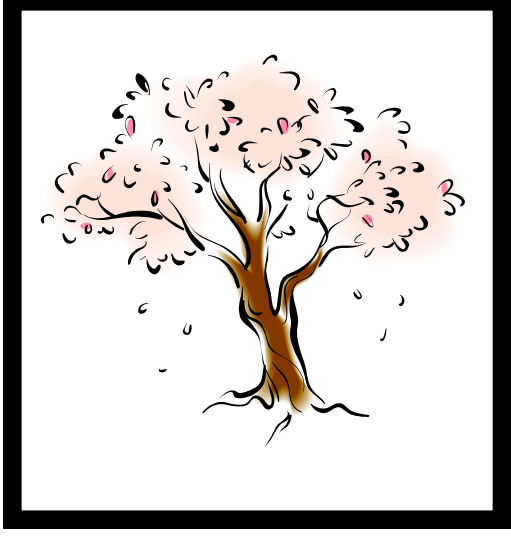
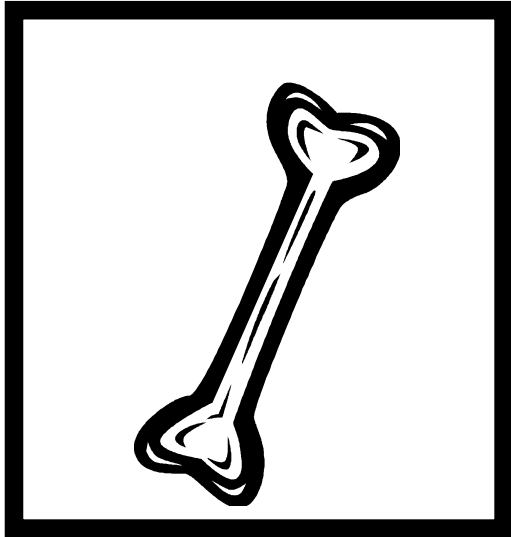
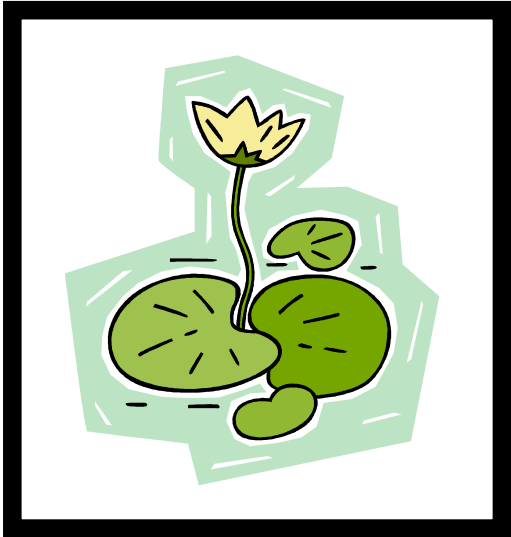
ACTIVITIES

Remember-ing Game

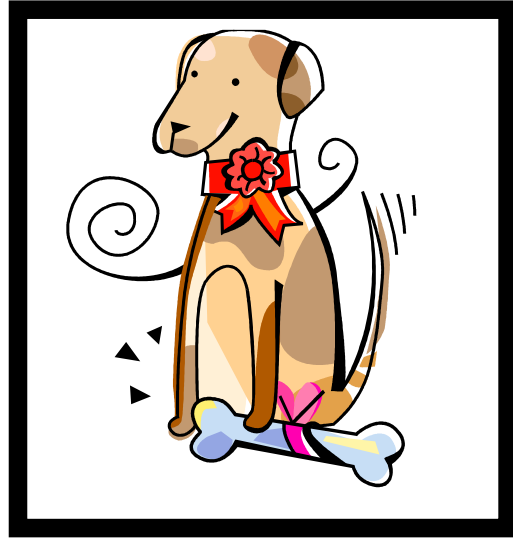
City Dog and Country Frog played a “remember-ing” game, remembering fun they had together. Can you remember where the pictures are and match the pairs of dog and frog images? Please print 2 sets of the images on cardstock, cut them out and place pictures face down. Take turns finding the matches. If your pictures do not match, place them face down again, but try to remember where they were.







Primary



Primary

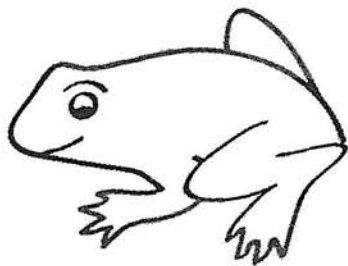
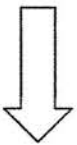
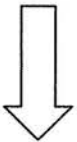
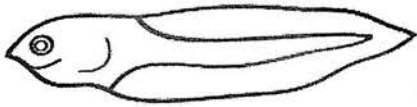
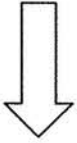
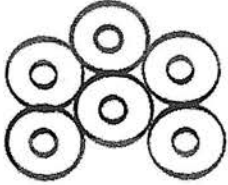
Compare and Contrast

City Dog and Country Frog are friends with similarities and differences. Compare and contrast City Dog and Country Frog. How are they alike? How are they different?

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LIFE CYCLE OF A FROG

Discuss the life cycle of a frog, from egg, to tadpole to frog. Write a little description of the process a frog goes through.

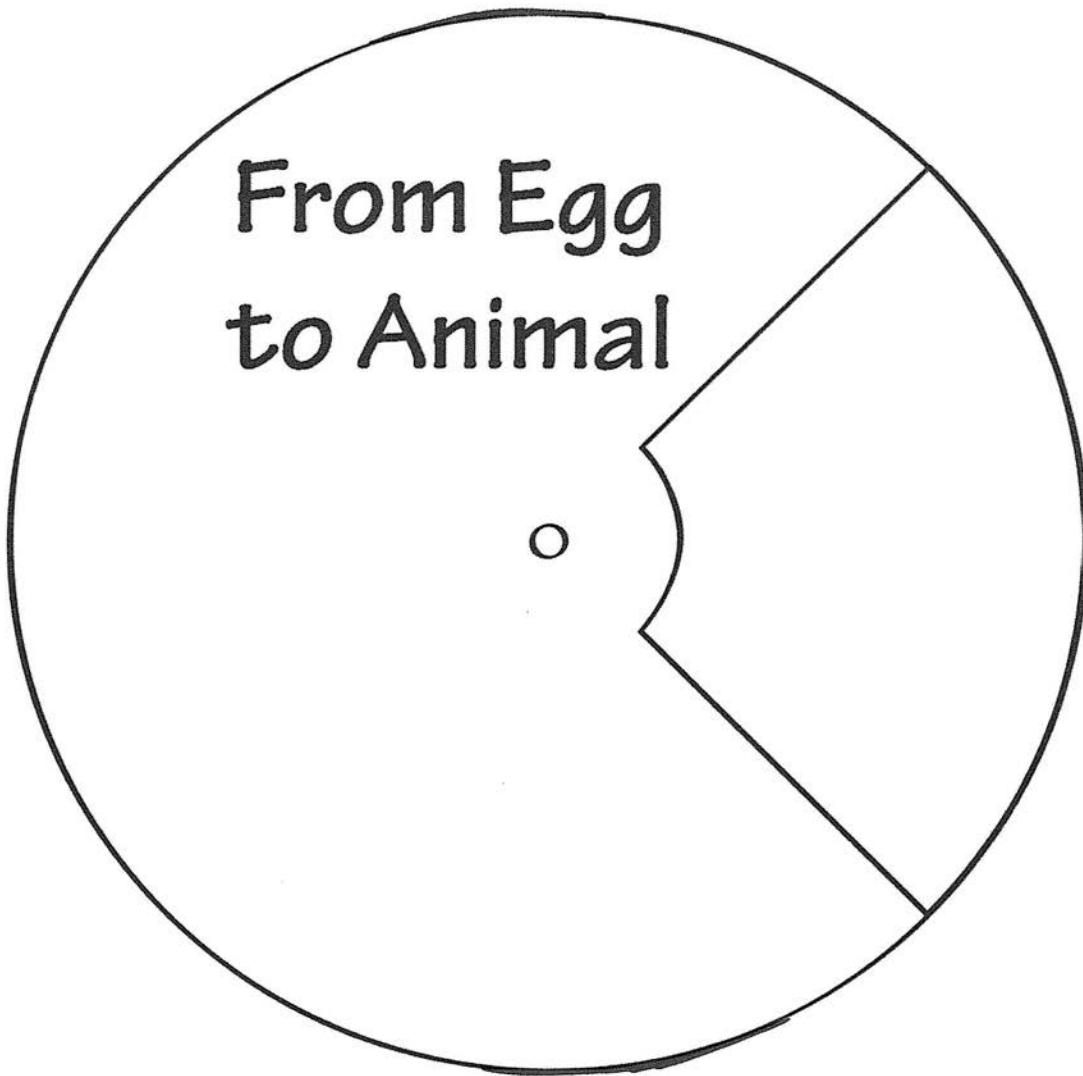
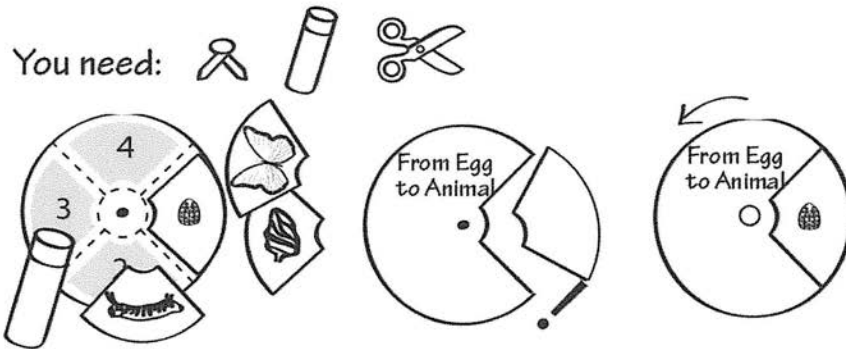


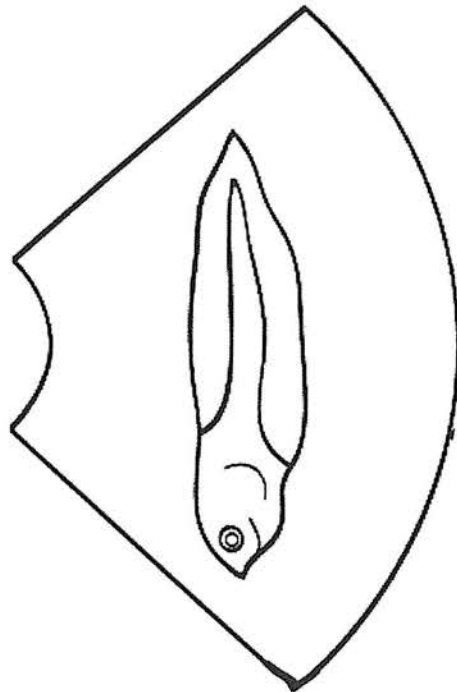
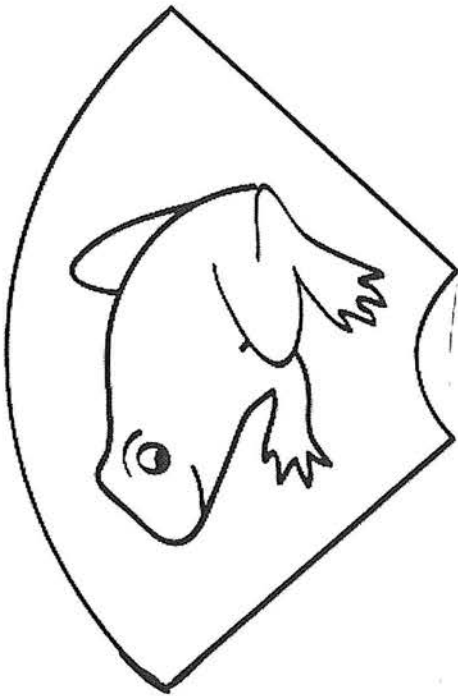
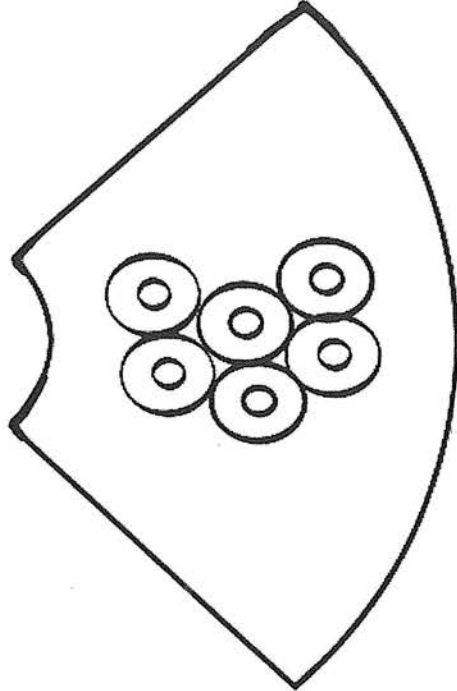
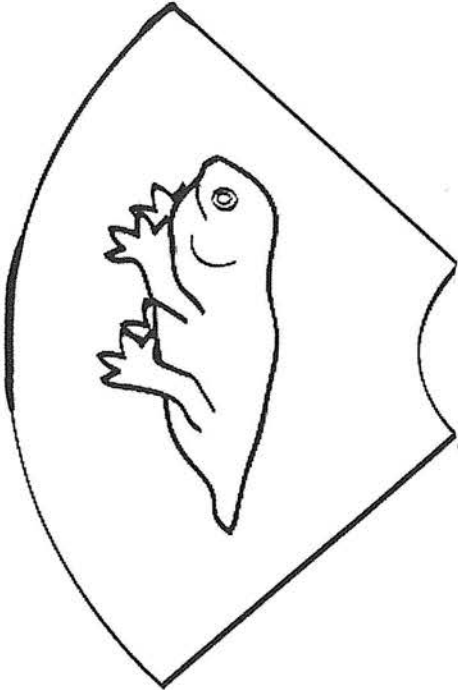
First, _____

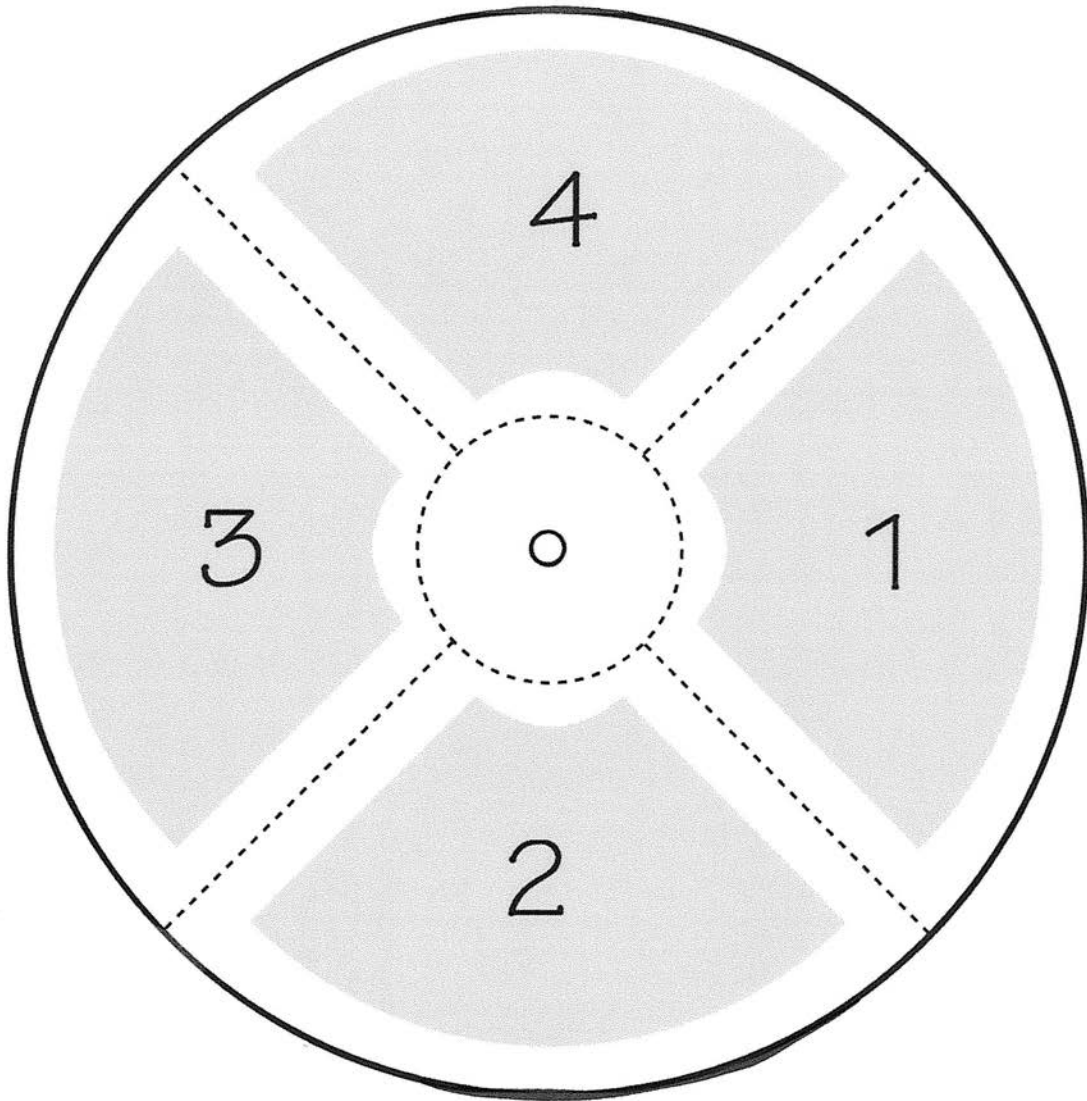
Next, _____

Then, _____

Finally, _____





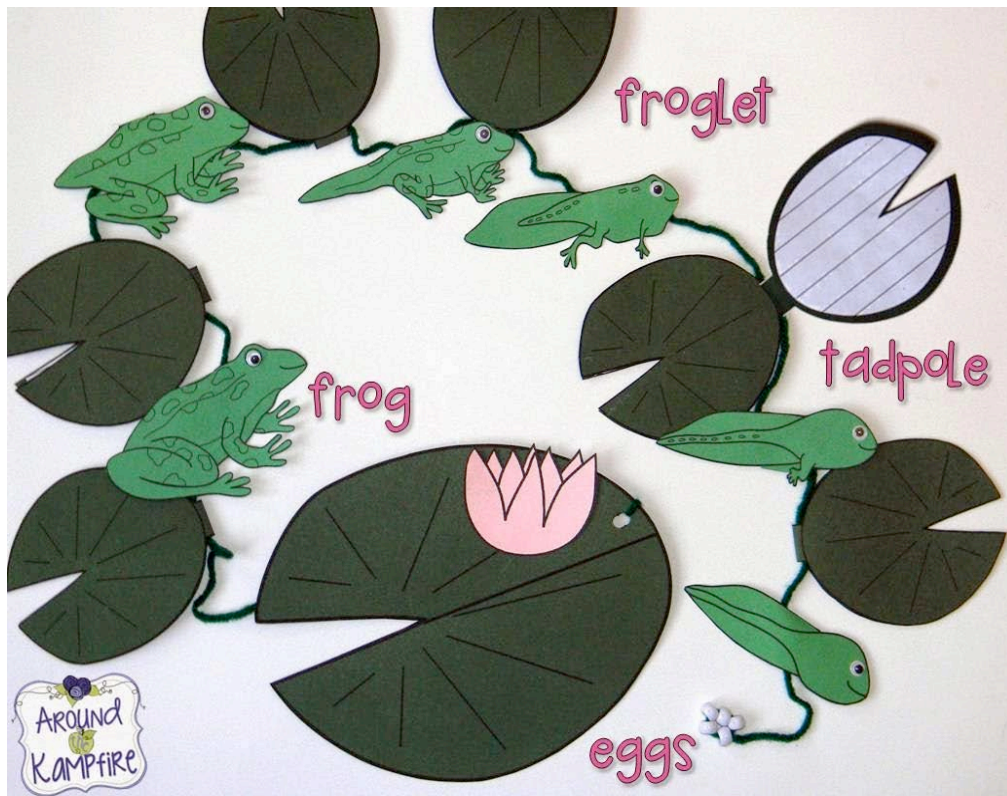


How a Frog Grows Craft

Frogs lay their eggs in water where tadpoles form into frogs. Below you can color, cut and paste your own frog life cycle. Then use the lily pads to write about each stage.

Supplies:

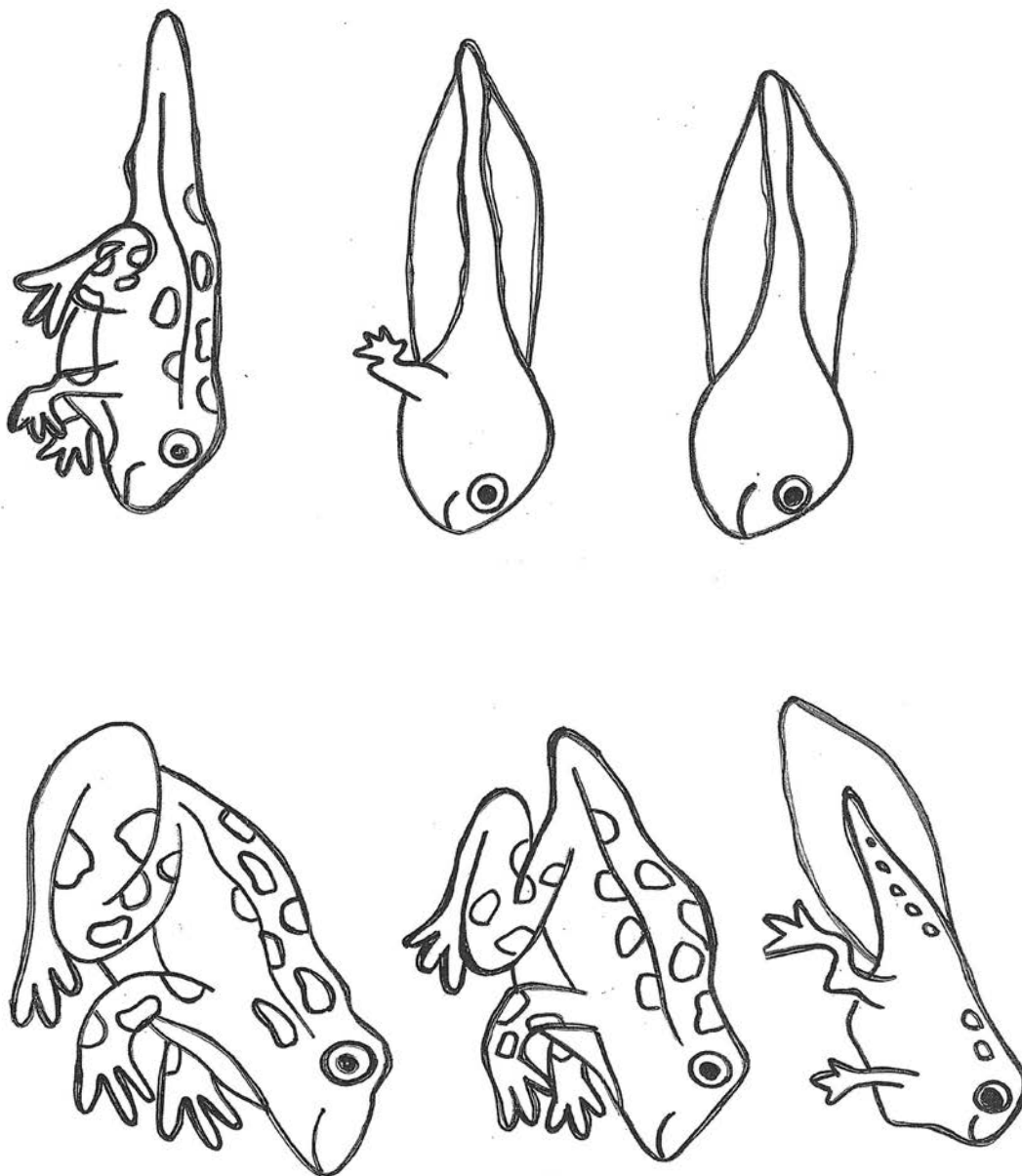
- Paper, colored or green for frogs and lily pads.
- Pink paper for lotus flower.
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Google eyes
- Glue stick
- Tape
- Yarn
- Hole punch
- White craft beads for eggs



<http://aroundthekampfire.blogspot.com/2014/04/leapin-life-cycles.html>

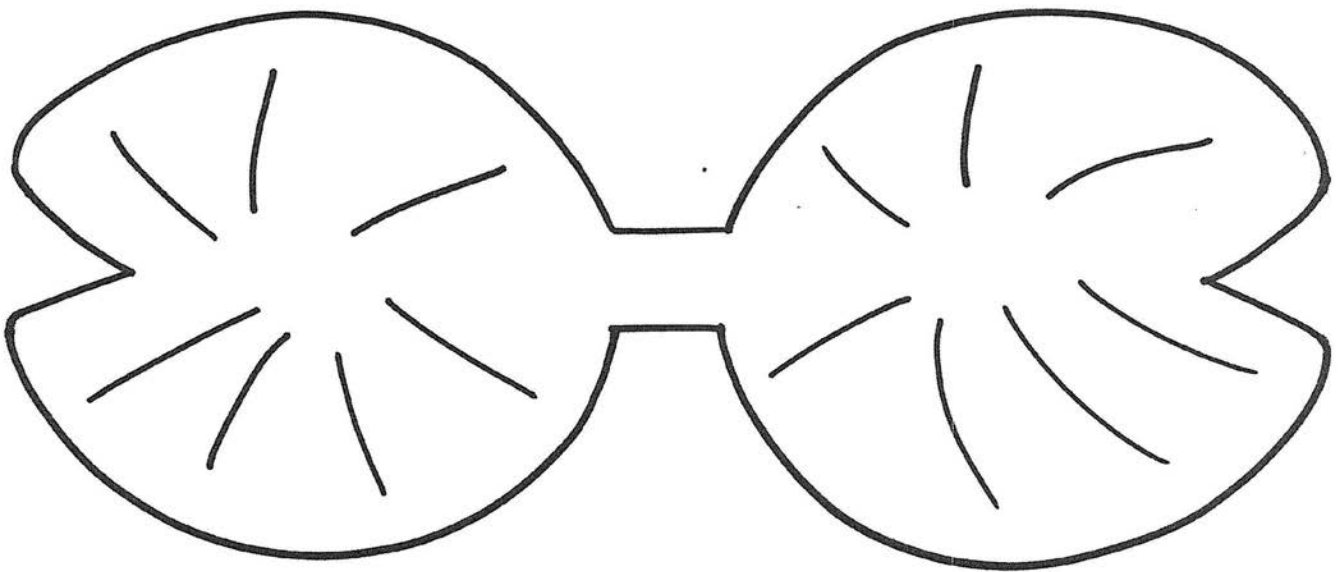
Primary

Color your tadpoles and frogs and cut out.
Or, if they are on green paper, just cut out.



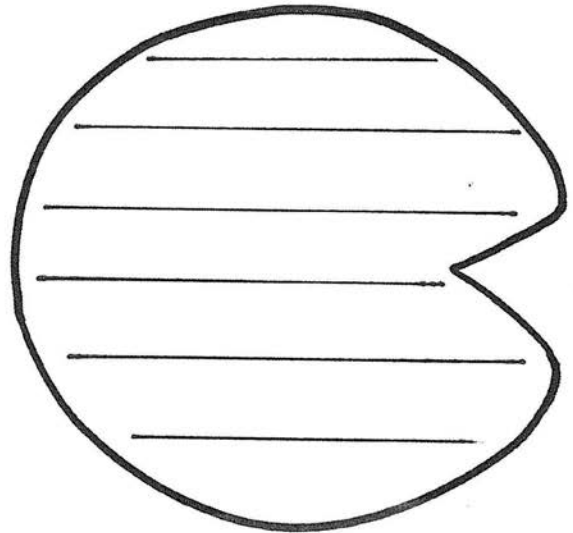
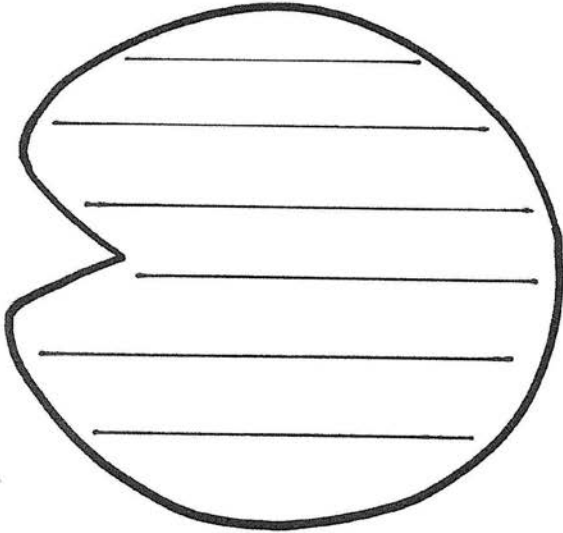
Primary

Color your lily pads and cut out.
Or, if they are on green paper, just cut out.
This lily pad is folded to create a “book-style” format.



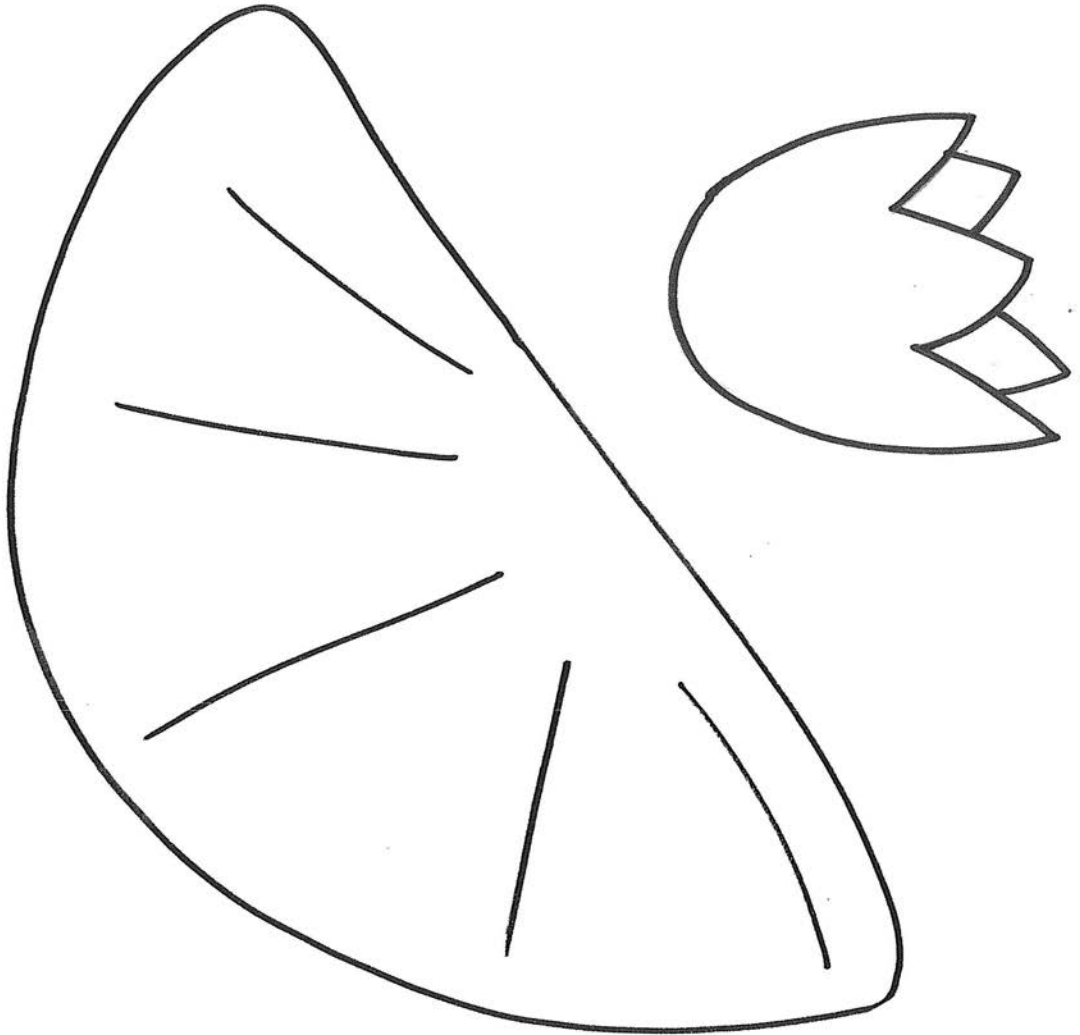
Primary

Glue Lily pad with lines to inside of folded lily pad above.
Use provided lines to write about the frog life cycle stages.



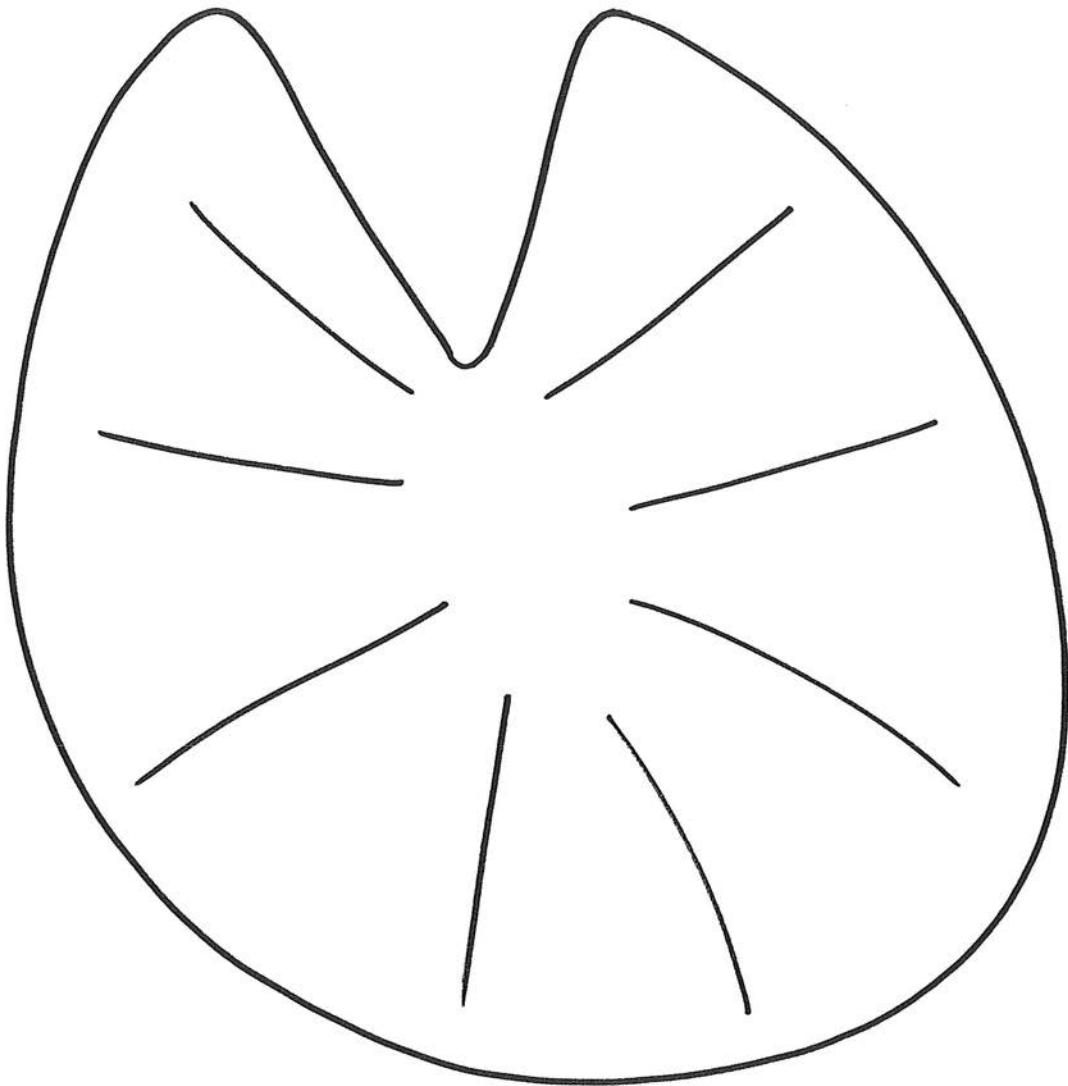
Primary

Color and cut out lotus flower and front pocket lily pad.
Glue or staple to front of full lily pad provided below to form
a pocket to keep finished life cycle in.



Primary

Color and cut out lotus lily pad. This will serve as the back of the pocket.





City vs. Country



City Dog lives in the city. Country Frog lives in the country. Where do you live? Have you visited the country if you live in the city? Have you visited the city if you live in the country? Compare and contrast the city and the country. How are they alike? How are they different?

ALIKE

DIFFERENT

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EXCLAMATION MARK **BY AMY KROUSE ROSENTHAL** **ILLUSTRATIONS BY TOM** **LICHTENHELD**

SYNOPSIS

A punctuation mark feels bad that he does not fit in with the others; it's not easy being different having grown up in a world of periods. Exclamation Mark does not discover his special ability to convey strong emotion—including joy and happiness—until he meets Question Mark and must listen to his seemingly endless questions. However, these questions reveal the possibilities that exist when differences are accepted.

MEET THE AUTHOR

Amy Krouse Rosenthal was born on April 29, 1965 and raised in Chicago, Illinois. She attended high school in Lake Forest and graduated from Tufts University in 1987, after a semester abroad at the University of Paris, Sorbonne in her junior year. Rosenthal is a person who likes to make things; these are some of the things she likes to make: Children's books. Grown-up books. Short films. Salads. Connections with the universe. Something out of nothing. Wishes. She identifies as an OK Ping-Pong player and admits she needs coffee to write. Her three favorite things in the world are a) her family, b) potato chips and c) ideas.

In addition to *Exclamation Mark* her books for children include *Little Pea* (2005), *Little Hoot* (2008), *Spoon* (2009), *Duck! Rabbit!* (2009), *The Wonder Book* (2010), *Little Oink* (2009), *Plant a Kiss* (2011), *Wumbers* (2012), *Chopsticks* (2012), and *I Scream, Ice Cream!* (2013). Rosenthal is also a contributor to the TED conference and a regular on NPR's *Morning Edition* and *All Things Considered*. She lives with her husband Jason and her children—Paris, 17, Miles, 19, and Justin, 21—on a tree-lined street in Lakeview, outside of Chicago.

<http://www.chicagoreader.com/chicago/funny-girl/Content?oid=904109>
<http://www.publishersweekly.com/pw/by-topic/authors/interviews/article/11339-q-a-with-amy-krouse-roenthal.html>
<http://twowritingteachers.wordpress.com/2013/05/09/amykrouserosenthal/>

Primary

"Amy Krouse Rosenthal." *Contemporary Authors Online*. Detroit: Gale, 2013. *Biography in Context*. Web. 14 May 2014.
Learn more about Amy Krouse Rosenthal at <http://www.whoisamy.com/>

MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

Tom Lichtenheld was born on June 14, 1953 in Nixon, Illinois. His earliest childhood memory is of sitting in the kitchen, drawing pictures of ships and trucks on a blackboard. He also remembers spending hours staring at the illustrations in *National Geographic* and thinking how wonderful it would be to be one of the people who got to make all those incredible pictures. He attended University of Wisconsin at Madison.

His venture into children's books was a happy accident. It happened like this: "Back in 1995 I got a letter from my nephew Adam, who LOVED pirates, asking me to draw him a picture of a pirate. I sat down at my drawing board to draw a few pirates and ended up creating 20 pages of silly pictures and nonsense about pirates. It was enough to fill a book, so that's what I did. I called it "Everything I Know About Pirates." I sent it off to my nephew and saved a copy for myself. After four years of submitting the idea to editors, it was accepted by Simon & Schuster and published in 2000."

Lichtenheld lives with his wife, Jan Miller, in Geneva, Illinois.

"Tom Lichtenheld." *Contemporary Authors Online*. Detroit: Gale, 2007. *Biography in Context*. Web. 14 May 2014.
http://www.tomlichtenheld.com/childrens_books/

Learn more about Tom Lichtenheld by visiting his website at www.tomlichtenheld.com

CONNECTIONS

Other titles by Amy Krouse Rosenthal

I Scream! Ice Cream!: A Book of Wordles (2013)
Wumbers: it's a Word Cr8ed with a Number! (May 2012)
Chopsticks (Jan 2012)
The Wonder Book (Feb 2010)
Duck! Rabbit! (Mar 2009)
Cookies: Bite-size Life Lessons (May 2006)
Little Pea (Feb 2005)

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Punctuation and Writing

The Punctuation Station (Apr 2010) by Brian P. Cleary
Penny and the Punctuation Bee by Moria Rose Donohue (Apr 2008)
Alfie the Apostrophe by Moria Rose Donohue (Apr 2006)
Rocket Writes a Story by Tad Hill (2013)
Little Red Writing by Joan Holub (2013)
At the Beach by Huy Voun Lee (1994)
Pick a Picture, Write a Poem! By Kristen McCurry (2014)
Do Not Open This Book! By Michaela Muntean (2006)
Punctuation Takes a Vacation by Robin Pulver (Jan 2003)

Picture Books that use an Exclamation Mark!

Jump! by Scott M. Fischer (2010)
Moo! By David La Rochelle (2013)
Ah Ha! By Jeff Mack (2013)
More Bears! by Kenn Nesbitt (2010)
Stick! by Andy Pritchett (2013)
Yo! Yes? By Chris Raschka (1993)
Banana! by Ed Vere (2010)

Being yourself

The Mixed-up Chameleon by Eric Carle (1984)
Extraordinary Jane by Hannah E. Harrison
Woolbur by Leslie Helakoski (2008)
Freckleface Strawberry by Julianne Moore (2007)
The Sandwich Swap by Queen Rania (2010)
Spoon by Amy Krouse Rosenthal (2009)
Churchill's Tale of Tails by Anca Sandu (2014)
The Skin You Live In by Michael Tyler (2005)
Naked Mole Rat Gets Dressed by Mo Willems (2009)

HOOKS

- How can we tell when someone is excited about something?
- What do we say when we are excited? Do we say it or do we shout it?
- How do we tell when we are reading a story that someone is excited?
- What is the difference between an exclamation mark and a question mark?
- Why would someone try to be like everybody else?

ACTIVITIES

Create Your Own “My Little Punctuation Book”

Based on the book *Exclamation Mark* written by Amy Krouse Rosenthal and illustrated by Tom Lichtenheld

Students can make and take home their very own “My Little Punctuation Book” to help them learn more about punctuation marks and practice writing sentences.

Please see following pages. Students can cut out the page squares provided, including the title page/cover and staple together to form a book. There are twelve (12) pages total, including the cover page.

Inspired by The Fabulous First Grade by Sarah at [blogspot.com](http://thefabulousfirstgrade-sarah.blogspot.com/2012/10/crazy-about-punctuation-freebies-galore.html?m=1)
<http://thefabulousfirstgrade-sarah.blogspot.com/2012/10/crazy-about-punctuation-freebies-galore.html?m=1>



My Little ? Punctuation Book



By _____



You use periods (.) when you are telling.



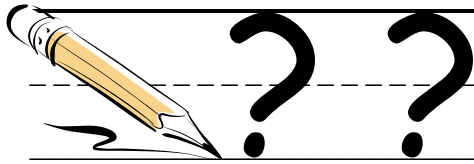
(Read each sentence and write a period in each space below.)

My dog is shaggy and brown____

The little girl has a pink dress____

Last night, I had a hot dog for
dinner____

You use question marks (?) when you are asking a question.



(Read each sentence and write a question mark in each space below.)

What time are we eating lunch ___

Can I have ice-cream ___

Where is my ball ___

You use exclamation marks (!) when you are happy, excited, frustrated, demanding or angry.



(Read each sentence and write an exclamation mark in each space below.)

I cannot wait to go swimming ___

My team won first place ___

I am so angry, I could scream ___

(Read each sentence and decide which type of punctuation to put at the end of the sentence.)

1. Do you want a cupcake_____
2. I love my silly dog, Dottie_____
3. My room is clean_____
4. I can't believe you ate my
cookie_____
5. I have four bananas_____

(Read each sentence and decide which type of punctuation to put at the end of the sentence.)

1. I love to visit grandpa_____
2. When are you coming home_____
3. Do you want a red shirt_____
4. I see flowers in my garden_____
5. I want a hamburger and
French fries for dinner_____

(Read each sentence and decide which type of punctuation to put at the end of the sentence.)

1. I play baseball_____
2. That cake is green and blue_____
3. Have you been to the zoo_____
4. My mom washed my laundry_____
5. I love sports_____

(Read each sentence and decide which type of punctuation to put at the end of the sentence.)

1. My birthday party is today_____
2. Can I have your peas_____
3. I am going to the store_____
4. I have art class on Monday_____
5. What are you going to wear to school_____

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(Write your own sentence using a period. Don't forget to use a capital letter at the beginning of your sentences!)



Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

(Write your own sentence using a question mark. Don't forget to use a capital letter at the beginning of your sentences!)



Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

(Write your own sentence using an exclamation mark. Don't forget to use a capital letter at the beginning of your sentences!)

Primary



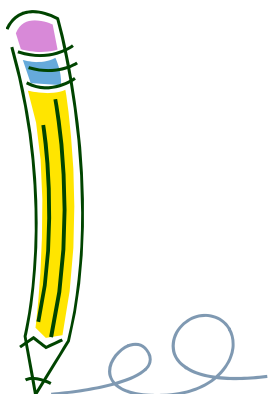
Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

(Write your own sentence using the punctuation of your choice. Don't forget to use a capital letter at the beginning of your sentences!)



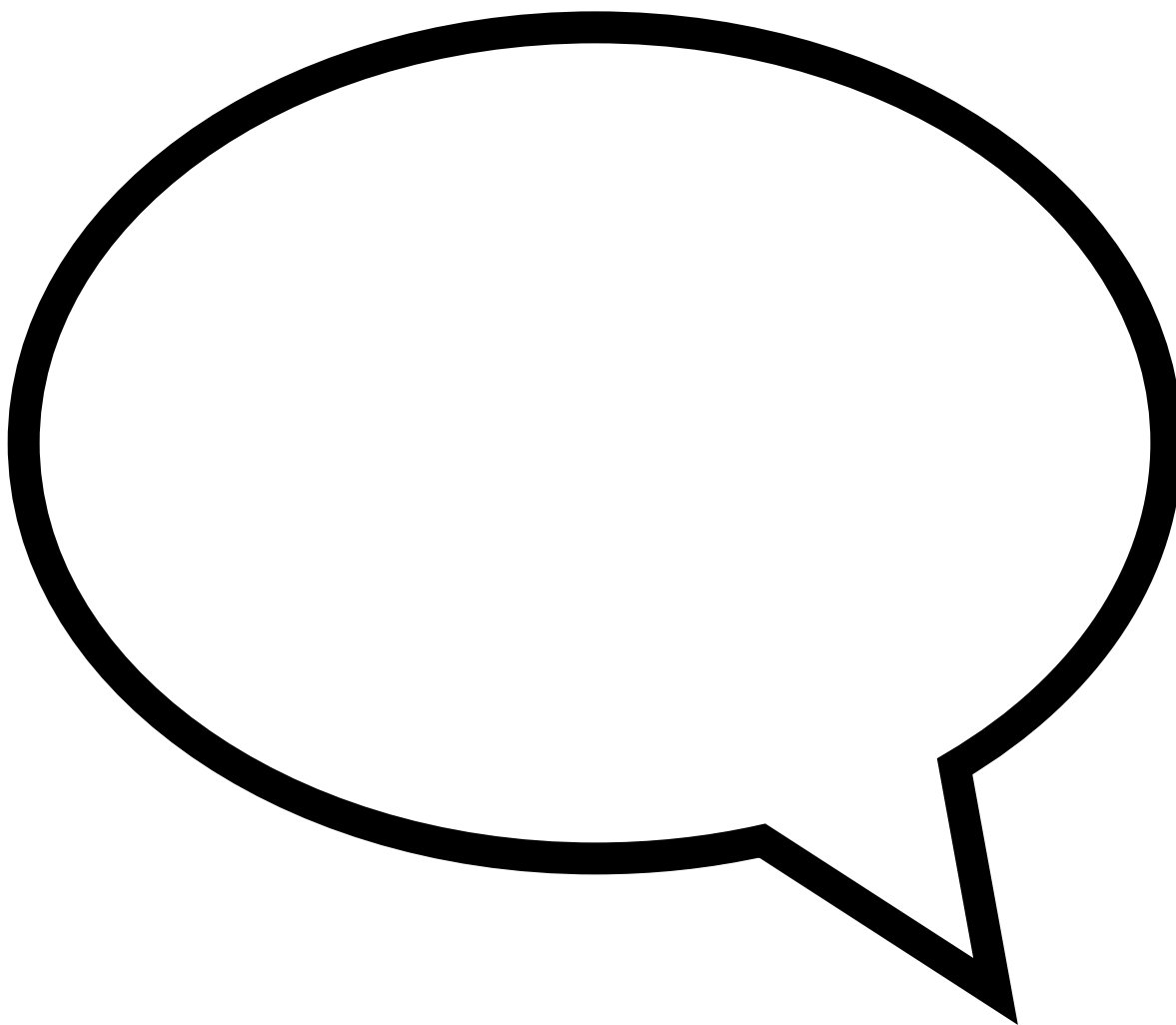
Handwriting practice lines consisting of four sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid).

Exclamation Mark!

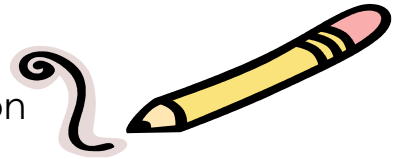


The exclamation mark is a punctuation mark used to show a forceful way of speaking or a strong feeling. Have your students use the below speech bubble to make an exclamation. This could be something they are excited about, angry about, or any other emotional statement that shows the appropriate use of the exclamation mark.

Teachers or librarians can then place students' cut-out speech bubbles on a bulletin board for display.



Sentence Punctuation



A list of words is provided below. Use each word in three (3) different sentences, using a period (.), question mark (?) and an exclamation mark (!). Have students discuss the difference in using each of these punctuation marks and what each one adds/means to each sentence.

Color

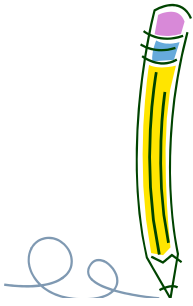
Ice Cream

Birthday

Fun

Favorite

Sentence Scramble



First, unscramble the words to write a **statement**. Then use the same words to write a **question**. Remember to **capitalize** and **punctuate**.

you

ice cream

like

will



wear

should

she

hat

a



box

the

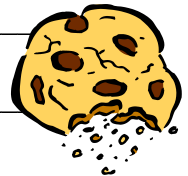
I

cookie

of

open

can



can

the

far

kick

ball

you



plant

a

flower

Mom

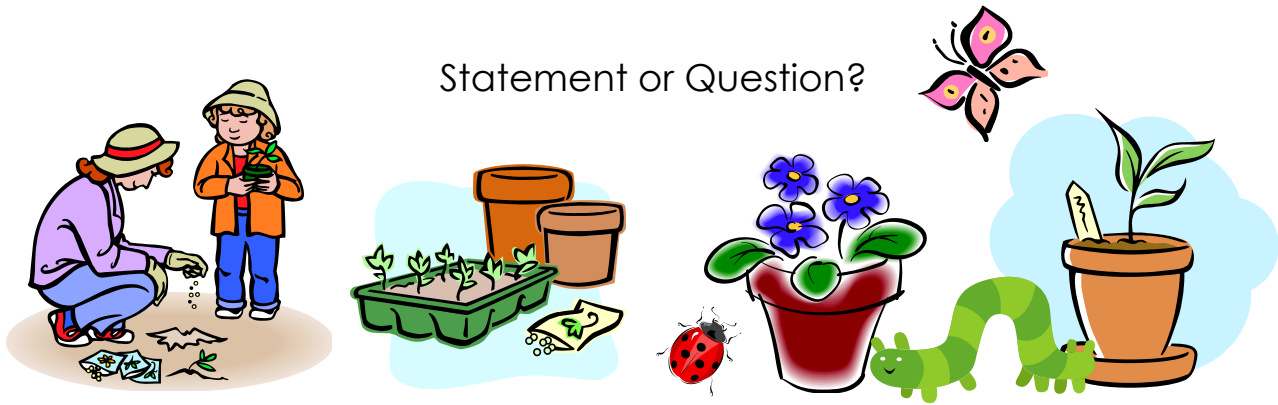
will

garden



Have fun!

Statement or Question?



Read the sentences. If the sentence is a statement, put an **X** next to the "S" and next to the "Q" if it is a question.

- | | | |
|---|-----|-----|
| 1. My mom and I love to garden | S__ | Q__ |
| 2. Do you see the ladybug | S__ | Q__ |
| 3. The flowers are violet | S__ | Q__ |
| 4. How many flowers have bloomed | S__ | Q__ |
| 5. What kind of vegetables should we grow | S__ | Q__ |
| 6. Gloves help to protect our hands | S__ | Q__ |
| 7. How many butterflies do you see | S__ | Q__ |
| 8. Our hats help to shade us from the sun | S__ | Q__ |
| 9. I like to watch the caterpillar crawl | S__ | Q__ |
| 10. How tall will our plants grow | S__ | Q__ |
| 11. The sun helps our garden grow | S__ | Q__ |
| 12. Gardening is fun | S__ | Q__ |

MISS BROOKS LOVES BOOKS (AND I DON'T) **BY BARBARA BOTTNER** **ILLUSTRATED BY MICHAEL** **EMBERLEY**

SYNOPSIS

Mrs. Brooks, the school librarian, will do anything to share her love of books with kids. She goes out of her way to entice, cajole, tempt, or discover the secret passion or interest of each one. She is able to excite and enthrall the entire first-grade class.... except for one little girl who does not like to read. The little girl stubbornly resists Mrs. Brook's efforts to convince her to love books until she finds one that changes her mind.

The sequel, due out in 2014, is titled *Miss Brooks' Story Nook (where tales are told and ogres are welcome!)*

MEET THE AUTHOR

Barbara Bottner was born on May 25, 1943, in New York, NY. She attended Boston University, from 1961 to 62, and École des Beaux Arts, from 1963 to 64. She received her B.S. from the University of Wisconsin, Madison, in 1965 and her M.A. from the University of California, Santa Barbara, in 1966. She also studied animation at the School of Visual Arts.

"Growing up, my earliest memory is reading Dr. Seuss and then the Honey Bunch books by Josephine Lawrence. The children had adventures and were on their own, and that was very appealing to me. *Catcher in the Rye* astonished me and everyone I knew. And Mark Twain, always one of my favorites."

As a child, Barbara Bottner grew up dreaming of becoming an artist, a dancer, and a storyteller. After studying painting in Paris, she was asked to create sets for an off-Broadway theatrical company, Café La MaMa, where she worked alongside company founder and director Ellen Stewart. Bottner's set-design career with Café La MaMa ended prematurely, however, when she was told that her set designs were too large and

Primary

eclipsed the actors. She then studied acting and toured for two years both in the United States and Europe.

Bottner became a substitute kindergarten teacher to supplement her acting wages, and after a year of teaching, she decided to establish a career in children's book illustration. Since then, she has become known for writing children's books, young-adult novels, and "I Can Read" books. She was honored with a Distinguished Teaching Award at Parson's School of Design in New York. She has also works with at-risk teenage girls through the Los Angeles-based mentoring nonprofit WriteGirl, and teaches and consults privately in Los Angeles.

Her hobbies include dancing, travel, politics and Buddhism. She lives in Los Angeles, CA and is married to Gerald Kruglik.

"Barbara Bottner." *Contemporary Authors Online*. Detroit: Gale, 2012. *Biography in Context*. Web. 14 May 2014.
<http://blaine.org/sevenimpossiblethings/?p=2048>

Barbara Bottner (1943–) Biography - Personal, Career, Member, Honors Awards, Writings, Adaptations, Work in Progress, Sidelights - York, Illustrated, Book, and Books - JRank
Articles <http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2253/Bottner-Barbara-1943.html#ixzz31FwTwiGn>

MEET THE ILLUSTRATOR

Michael Emberley was born on June 2, 1960 in Boston and grew up in Ipswich, Massachusetts, just north of Boston. He attended Rhode Island School of Design and California College of the Arts for a short while. "I was never a good student, a classic underachiever. I have only a little formal art instruction at the college level, a few months here and there." Both his sister, Rebecca, and his father, Ed, create children's books.

With his father's encouragement, Emberley eventually branched off into his own style of illustrating and began to work on ideas for his own children's books. "So I became an author/illustrator for two reasons: It was around the house—my Mother, Father, and sister and I were always dabbling in arts and crafts, including helping my father with work. Then I woke up one day as a late teenager and realized I needed to get a job. My second revelation was that I was not qualified for much and with my work ethic at school, had little to get me into a university. I could draw a little, so I tried illustrating. My prospects were limited. I had little choice."

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Emberley has no art degree, no writing degree, no kids, no house and no pets but he does have a lot of pencils and a pretty decent stereo. He has been writing and illustrating children's books since 1979 and he has produced books that teach young children how to draw dinosaurs, and in addition, he has written and illustrated several picture books, often drawing upon classic children's literature.

Emberley has lived in Oakland and San Diego, CA. He bought his first television set at the age of forty so he could watch a bike race, and his first car a few years later because there was no subway in California. His hobbies include bicycle racing, bike riding, cycling, mountain biking, avoiding driving, and talking in a funny accent. He now lives just south of Dublin, Ireland, between the Irish Sea, and the Wicklow mountains with his wife Marie-Louise, who also writes and illustrates children's books, and talks with a funny accent. He still drives and cycles in Ireland almost as much as he did in America, just on the wrong side of the road.

Learn more about Michael Emberley at www.michaelemberley.com
<http://www.michaelemberley.com/about-me/>
<http://www.candlewick.com/authill.asp?b=Illustrator&m=bio&id=1791&pix=y>

"Michael Emberley." *Contemporary Authors Online*. Detroit: Gale, 2005. *Biography in Context*. Web. 14 May 2014.

CONNECTIONS

Other titles by Barbara Bottner

Flower Girl (2012)
An Annoying ABC (2011)
Raymond and Nelda (2007)
Pish and Posh Wish for Fairy Wings (2006)
Wallace's Lists (2004)

Books about Books

Book! Book! Book! by Deborah Bruss (2001)
I Don't Like to Read by Nancy L. Carlson (2007)
But, Excuse Me, That is my Book by Lauren Child (Jan 2005)
The Fantastic Flying Books of Mr. Morris Lessmore by William Joyce (2012)
Bats at the Library by Brian Lies (2008)
Book Fiesta!: Celebrate Children's Day, Book Day by Pat Mora (2009)
Beatrice Doesn't Want To by Laura Joffe Numeroff (Sep 2004)
Book! by Kristine O'Connell (2001)

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The Incredible Book Eating Boy by Oliver Jeffers (2006)

Wild about Books by Judy Sierra (2004)

It's a Book by Lane Smith (2010)

We are in a Book: an Elephant and Piggie Book by Mo Willems (2010)

Baby Bear's Books by Jane Yolen (Aug 2006)

Books about Librarians

Librarians in our Community by Michelle Ames (2010)

Biblioburro: a True Story from Colombia by Monica Brown (2010)

The Library Dragon by Carmen Agra Deedy (1994)

Library Lion by Michelle Knudsen (2006)

The Wonderful Thing about Tigger by Cece Meng (2007)

Tomas and the Library Lady by Pat Mora (1997)

The Library by Sarah Stewart (1995)

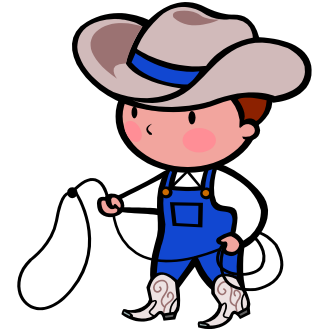
HOOKS

- Do you like to read books? Yes! What are some of your favorite books?
- Do you like to read books? No! Why don't you like to read books?
- Has someone tried to convince you to do something you didn't like? How did they do it?
- Have you ever tried to convince someone to try something they didn't like? How did you do it?
- What is perseverance? Why do we keep trying and trying and trying to do something?

ACTIVITIES



Character Costume



During Book Week, Miss Brooks has her students dress up as their favorite story character and share stories.

Who is your favorite storybook character? Make a costume or dress in something that represents your favorite character.

Share your favorite storybook with others and why you really love it! Also, discuss the character you chose to dress up as and why.

Bookmark Design

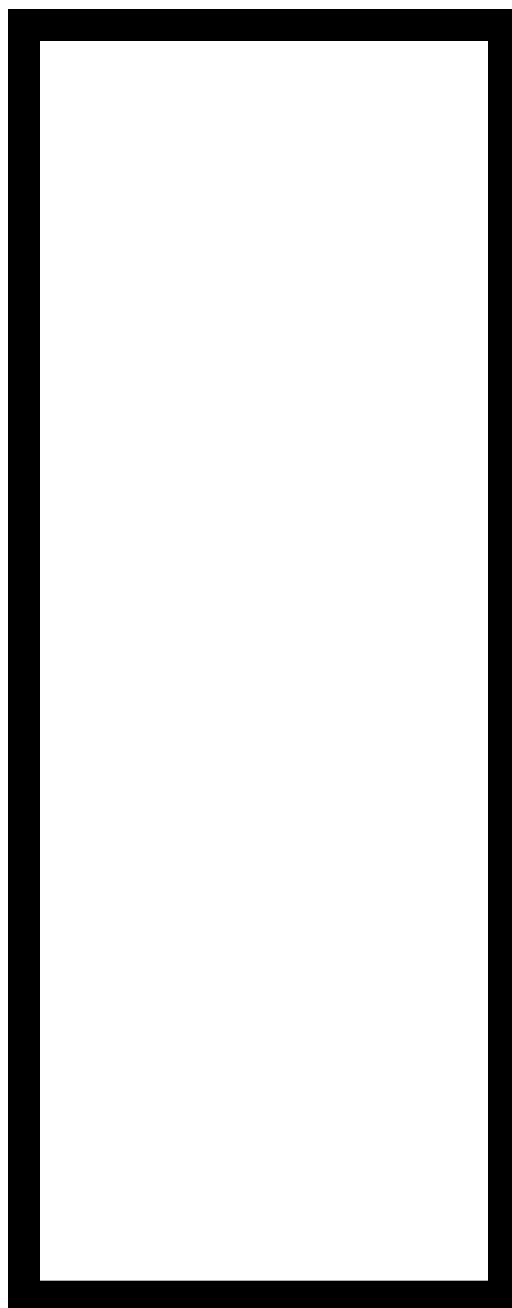
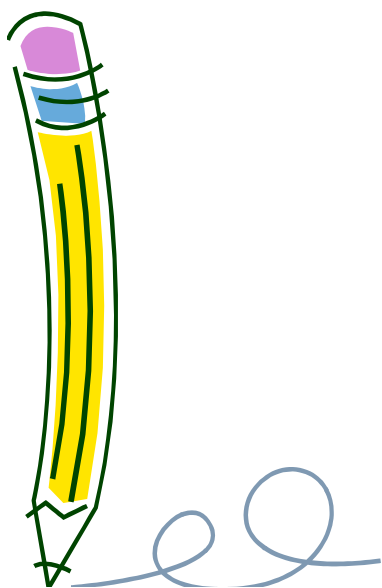


Miss Brooks loves books and her enthusiasm shows. Design a bookmark to save your place in your favorite books. Your bookmark can represent your favorite book or you can simply design a bookmark that shows why you love books. Use the frame below to design your bookmark. Cut your bookmark out. Punch a hole in the top and create a tassel with ribbon or yarn. Happy reading!

Supplies you will need to create your book mark:

- Paper (size varies depending on book cover size)
- Pencils, colored pencils, crayons, anything to add color
- Scissors
- Eraser
- Hole punch
- Ribbon or yarn for tassel
- Anything else you can think of

Have fun!



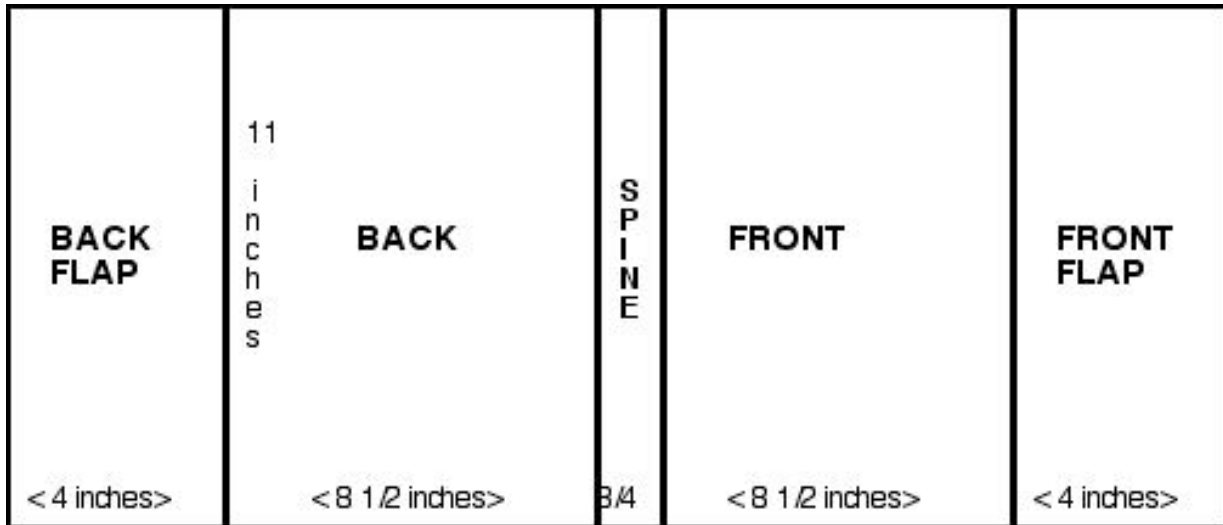
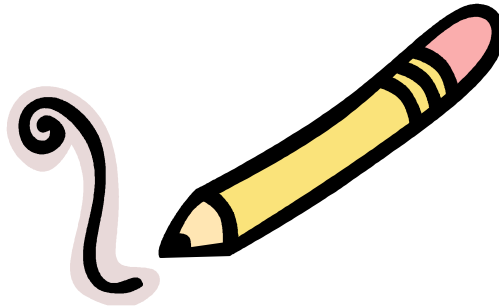


Book Cover Design

Miss Brooks has many favorite books. Look closely and discuss the covers of some of your favorite books. What do you see? What do you like? Choose your favorite book and redesign the book cover. You can use the diagram below as an idea.

What to include in your book cover:

- Title
- Author's name
- Illustrator's name
- Illustration/cover art
- Short summary of the book



Supplies you will need to create your book cover:

- Paper (size varies depending on book cover size)
- Pencils, colored pencils, crayons, anything to add color
- Scissors
- Eraser
- Glue stick
- Tape
- Anything else you can think of



Book Spine Poetry

What are your favorite books? Can you arrange their titles to form a poem? Book spine poetry is a fun way to create poems by simply stacking books.



Please visit websites for more book spine poetry examples:

School Library Journal Scope Notes:

<http://100scopenotes.com/2014/04/01/2014-book-spine-poem-gallery/>

Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC):

<http://www.alsc.ala.org/blog/2012/03/4-steps-to-poetry-month-success-with-book-spine-poems/>

Teaching Authors:

<http://www.teachingauthors.com/2014/04/wednesday-writing-workout-book-spine.html>



Primary

Review Your Favorite Book

Student's Name: _____

School: _____ Grade: _____

Book Title: _____

Author: _____

Rate the Book: Circle your rating. 1 (lowest rating) and 5 (highest rating)

1

2

3

4

5

Briefly summarize your book.

Would you recommend this book to your friend? Why or why not?

RANDY RILEY'S REALLY BIG HIT

**WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED
BY CHRIS VAN DUSEN**

SYNOPSIS

Randy Riley, a science genius, loves to play baseball, but unfortunately it doesn't love him. He never gives up, even when he strikes out again and again. He wonders how far the ball would go if he hit it and there were no gravity. When Randy finds out that earth is in trouble and he is the only one that can save it, he creates a robot to meet the challenge. He finds out that his talents are important and that he can still love things just because he enjoys them. In the end it is all up to Randy, and he is up to bat in the biggest game of his life.

MEET THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Chris Van Dusen was born in Portland, Maine on St. Patrick's Day, March 17, 1960. He spent his childhood drawing with his brothers; his specialties were aliens, robots and monsters.

"Dr. Seuss and Robert McCloskey were my heroes and [were] probably the two people that were most influential. I love Dr. Seuss for his amazing use of words and rhymes. His lines are almost musical. And Robert McCloskey's illustrations are my favorites. He created such a sense of place in his illustrations. Plus they are full of detail which I love."

After high school, Van Dusen studied fine art at The University of Massachusetts at Dartmouth and graduated with a BFA in 1982. It took him a while to figure out what he wanted to do; he was a waiter and then was offered a part-time job at a magazine for teenagers. Eventually, he started drawing cartoons and illustrations for the magazine and his career as an illustrator began. For more than ten years he worked as a freelance illustrator specializing in art for kids; his illustrations appeared in magazines like *Nickelodeon*, *Family Fun* and *Disney Adventures*.

"One day I started thinking about drawing a picture of a boat stuck high up in a tree. I thought that would be a really funny and intriguing illustration. At the same time, a refrain kept running through my head—

Primary

'Mr. Magee and his little dog, Dee/Hopped in the car and drove down to the sea.' The combination of these two things eventually became my first book, *Down to the Sea with Mr. Magee* which was published in 2000." Van Dusen has been busy writing and illustrating children's books ever since; these include *Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee* and *A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee*; the Mercy Watson series with Kate DiCamillo; *The Circus Ship*; *King Hugo's Huge Ego*, and, most recently, *President Taft is Stuck in the Bath*.

His favorite books include but are not limited to *Sylvester and the Magic Pebble* by William Steig, *Terrific* by Jon Agee, *Swamp Angel* by Anne Isaacs and illustrated by Paul O. Zelinsky, *Fanny's Dream* by Caralyn and Mark Beuhner, *The Orange Book* by Richard McGuire, *Zen Shorts* by Jon J. Muth, *The Wreck of the Zephyr* by Chris Van Allsburg and *The Arrival* by Shaun Tan. Van Dusen lives in a little town on the coast of Maine with his wife Lori, his two tall sons, Ethan and Tucker, and a yellow lab named Pearl.

Learn more about Chris Van Dusen by visiting his website at www.chrisvandusen.com

<http://www.chrisvandusen.com/bio>

<http://mainehumanities.org/special-programs/One-Evening/pop-vandusen.html>

<http://www.readingrockets.org/books/interviews/vandusen/transcript>

CONNECTIONS

Other titles by Chris Van Dusen

If I Built a House (Oct 2012)
King Hugo's Huge Ego (2011)
Learning to Ski with Mr. Magee (Oct 2010)
The Circus Ship (Sep 2009)
If I Built a Car (2005)
A Camping Spree with Mr. Magee (2003)

Baseball

Hit the Ball Duck by Jez Alborough (2006)
Goodnight Baseball by Michael Dahl (Mar 2013)
ABC's of Baseball by Peter Goldenbock (Feb 2012)
H is For Home Run: A Baseball Alphabet by Brad Herzog (2004)
Bats at the Ballgame by Brian Lies (2010)
Baseball Hour by Carol Nevius (2008)

Primary

Robots

Clink by Kelly DiPucchio (Apr 2011)

Boy + Bot by Ame Dyckman (Apr 2012)

Robots, Robots, Everywhere! By Sue Fliess (Aug 2013)

MarvelTown by Bruce McCall (2008)

Robot Zot! By Jon Scieszka (Sep 2009)

So You Want to be an Inventor by Judith St. George (2002)

Gizmo by Barry Varela (2007)

If I Had a Robot by Dan Yaccarino (Sep 1996)

Heroes

Oh No!, or How My Science Project Destroyed the World by Mac Barnett (2010)

Dex: The Heart of a Hero by Caralyn Buehner (2003)

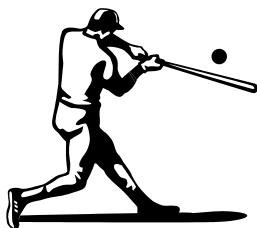
Weslandia by Paul Fleischman (1999)

Mighty Max by Harriet Ziefert (2008)

HOOKS

- We are not all good at everything, but each of us is good at something. What do you do really well? What do you wish you could be better at?
- What is perseverance? Why do we keep trying and trying and trying to do something?
- If you could build a robot, what kind of robot would you build?
- Have you ever hit a homerun? What can be as exciting as hitting a home run?
- What is a hero? What does a hero look like?

ACTIVITIES



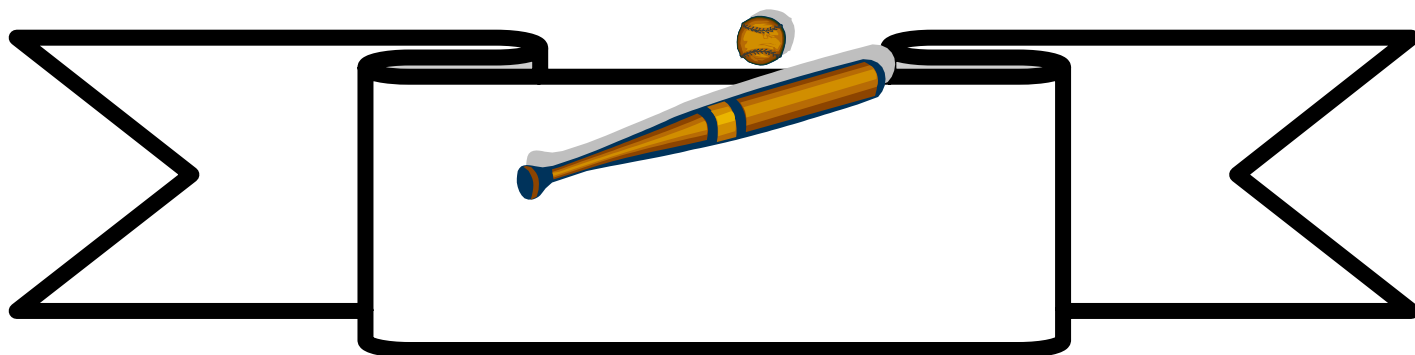
Randy's Big League

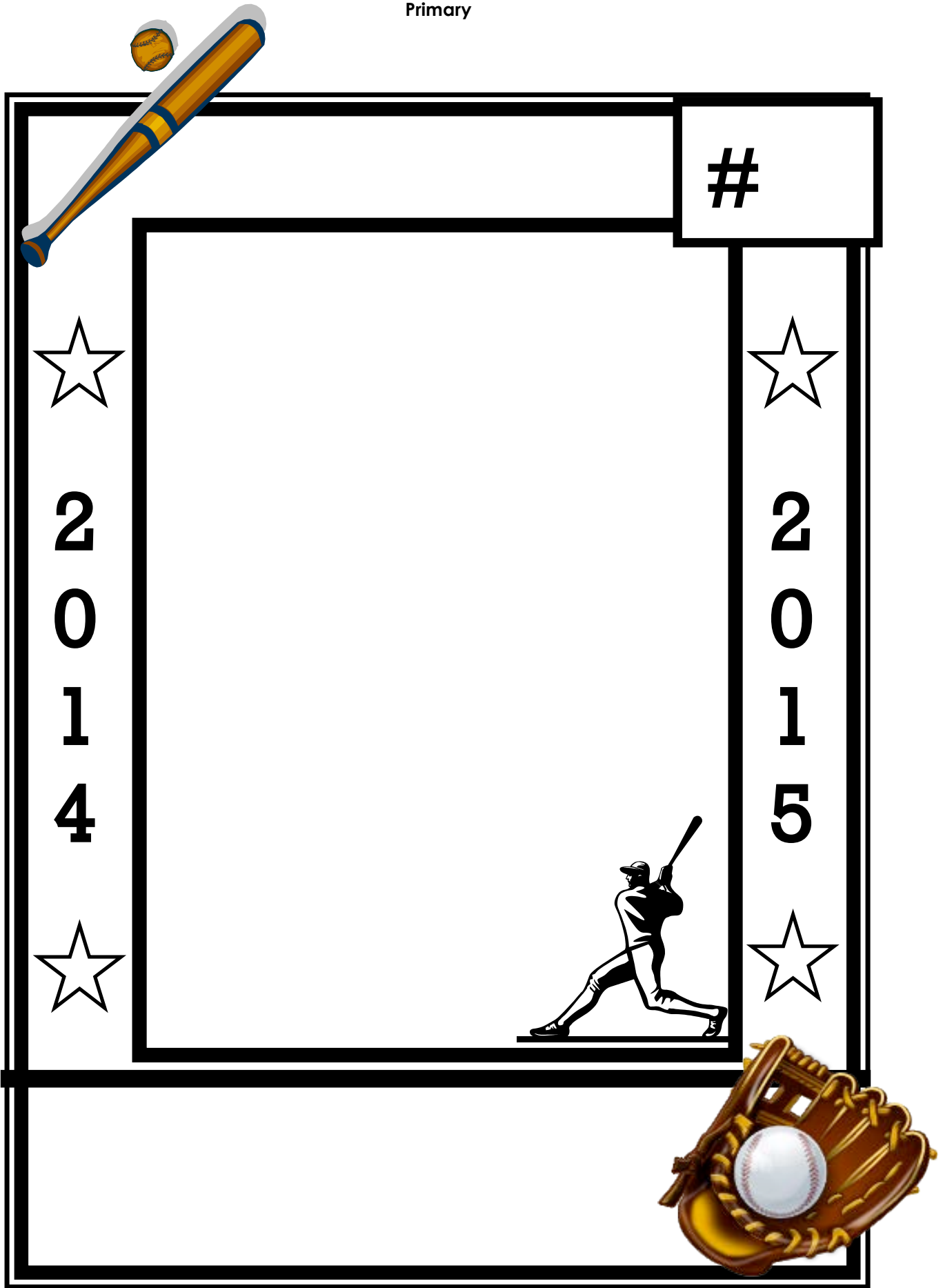


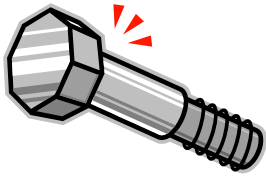
One of Randy's favorite pastimes is baseball. Have the class create a set of oversize baseball cards, using themselves as the players. Invite children to bring in a photograph of themselves. Hand out sheets of the blank baseball card (see attached) and have students glue or tape their photo in the center. Then have them fill in the bottom portion with their various stats such as height, hometown, school, age and favorite sport or hobby. Use the cards to create a bulletin board called "Major League Readers."

Please see next page for the blank baseball card for this activity.

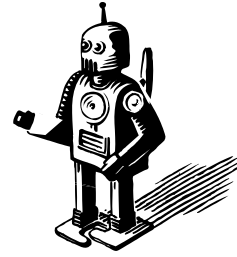
http://www.candlewick.com/book_files/0763649465.btg.1.pdf







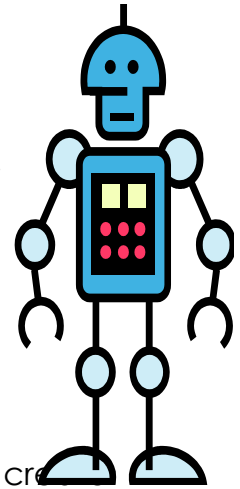
Build a Robot



Randy builds a “Mighty Mammoth Robot Man” to save the town of Millville from a meteorite. Use your creativity and best robot skills along with a few recycled items found around your house to build your very own robot. Give your robot a name. What special skills does your robot have?

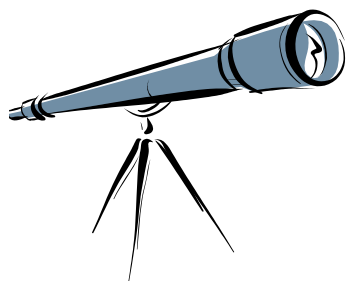
Supply Suggestions:

- Toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- Empty tissue boxes
- Empty and cleaned food containers, cans, packaging, etc.
- Scissors, tape, glue, wires
- Aluminum foil
- Pipe cleaners and buttons
- Nuts, bolts, metal bits and pieces
- Anything else you might find around your house – let your imagination explore



After creating your robot, take a look at what shapes you used to create your robot. For example, a toilet paper roll is a cylinder. A box can be a square or rectangle. What shapes do you see? Make a list of parts and shapes.





Constellation Creation

Randy Riley loves science and baseball. When it comes to the solar system, the constellations and all things robot, Randy is a genius.

Constellations are a group of stars that form a particular shape in the sky and have been given a name.

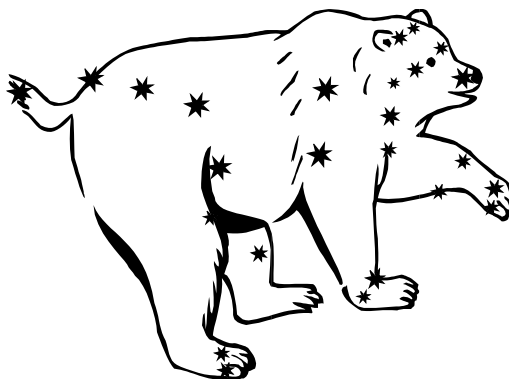
Create your own constellation.

Supplies:

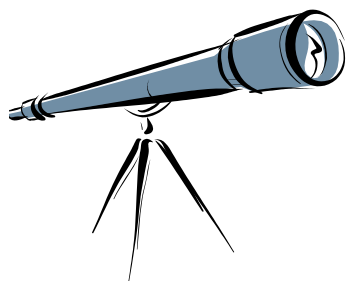
- Black paper: 8" x 10", 8 ½" x 11" or other size that works best for you
- Star stickers
- White or yellow pencil or another light color that will show up on black paper

How to:

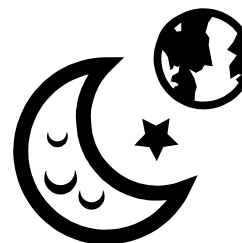
1. Each student gets their own sheet of black paper.
2. Each student is given star stickers 12 – 20 each or more if needed.
3. Think of a constellation to create. For example, if the student likes ice cream, they can make an ice cream cone-shaped constellation.
4. Place star stickers in formation of constellation on black paper.
5. Connect the stars. Draw a straight line between each star using a white pencil, or other color that shows up on black paper.
6. Name your constellation.
7. Have each student share their constellations, what they named them and why.



Primary



Star Gazer



When it comes to the solar system, the constellations and all things robot, Randy Riley is a genius. Constellations are a group of stars that form a particular shape in the sky and have been given a name. Telescopes help us to see the stars way up in the night sky.

Make your own telescope to see the stars.

Supplies:

- Black paper: 8" x 10", 8 ½" x 11" or other size that works best for you
- Empty paper towel or toilet paper tubes (16 for all constellations or however many you would like to make)
- A pin or something that will poke through construction paper
- Colored paper, colored pens, stickers, anything to decorate the outside of your telescope
- Tape and glue/glue stick

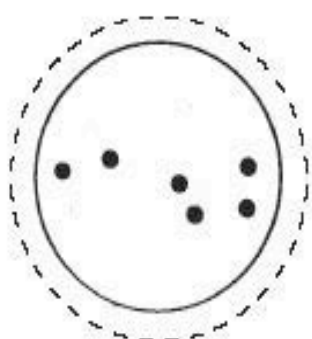
How to:

- Measure your empty paper tube and wrap construction paper (any color) around it for decoration. You can also draw on the outside of your telescope to make it your own style.
- Photocopy your constellations sheet onto black or dark colored paper
- Constellations may need to be adjusted in size depending on your paper tube size. Cut out constellations along dotted lines.
- Poke holes in stars to allow for light to shine through
- Tape Constellation cut-outs to end of your "telescope"
- Hold telescope to light to allow light to shine through to view your constellations

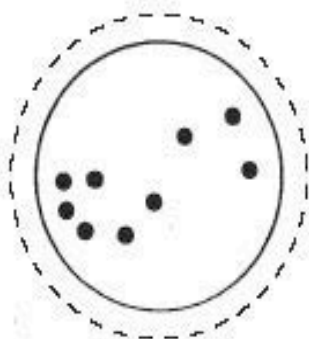


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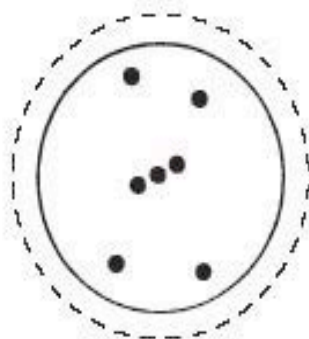
Star Gazer constellations



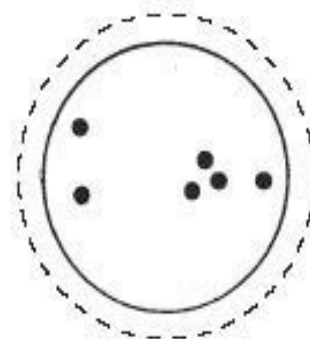
URSA MAJOR,
the Great Bear



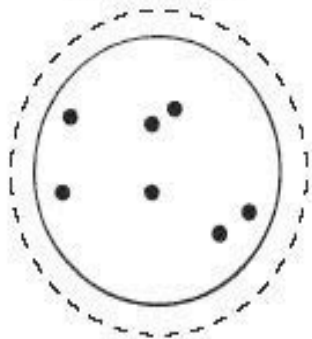
SCORPIUS,
the Scorpion



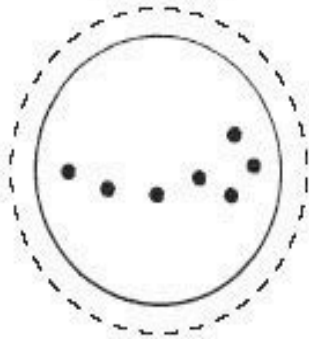
ORION,
the Hunter



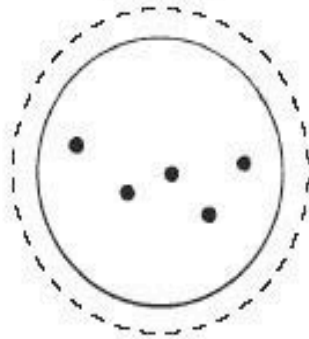
TAURUS,
the Bull



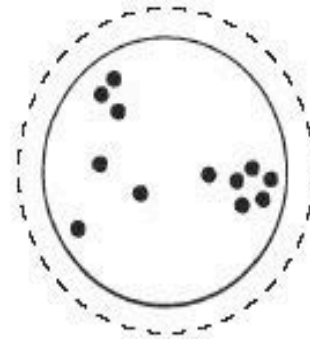
PEGASUS,
the Flying Horse



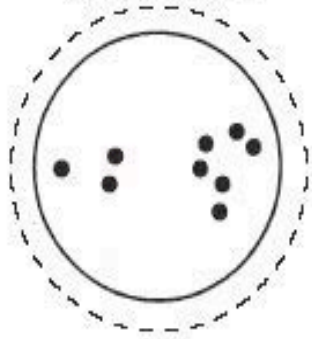
URSA MINOR,
the Little Bear



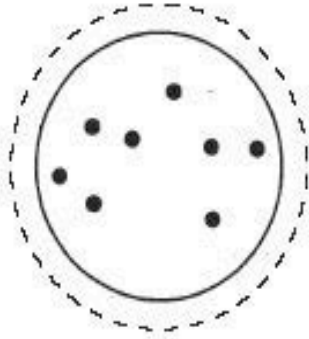
CASSIOPEIA,
the Queen



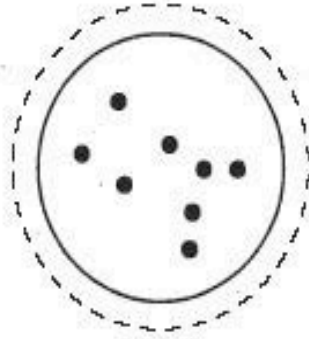
PISCES,
the Fishes



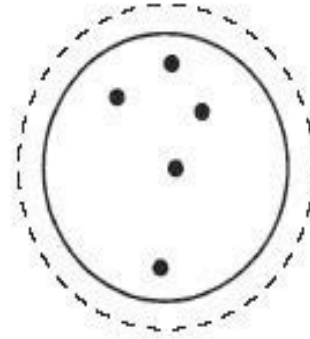
LEO,
the Lion



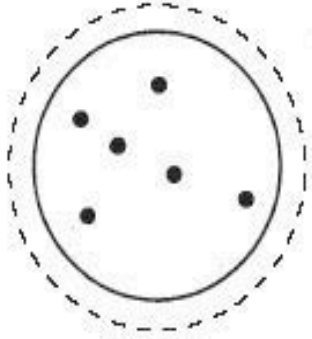
SAGITTARIUS,
the Archer



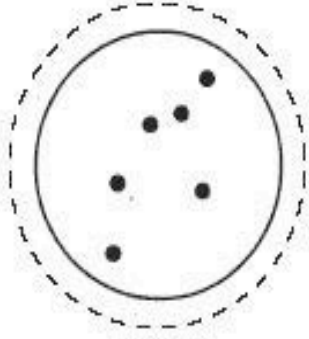
GEMINI,
the Twins



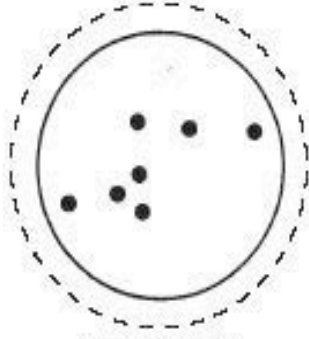
BOOTES,
the Herdsman



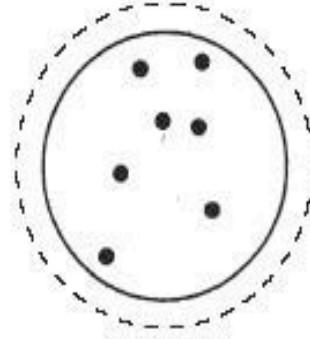
CYGNUS,
the Swan



PERSEUS



CANIS MAJOR,
the Big Dog



HERCULES

TOO TALL HOUSES **WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED** **BY GIANNA MARINO**

SYNOPSIS

Neighbors and good friends Owl and Rabbit live happily next door to each other, until Rabbit's garden grows too tall and blocks Owl's view. Unhappy, Owl builds his house a little taller, which then prevents sunlight from reaching Rabbit's plants. So Rabbit builds his house a little taller, too. The two neighbors keep building, each trying to have the tallest house, until one day, the houses are too tall and there are two very unhappy neighbors—who are no longer friends. Then, disaster strikes the houses and both Owl and Rabbit are plummeted back to the Earth, where neither has much left. However, they learn that together, as friends, they have enough to survive.

<http://www.chickadeeward.org/2013-2014/TooTall.html>

MEET THE AUTHOR/ILLUSTRATOR

Gianna Marino was born in San Francisco and spent her early years galloping horses through Golden Gate Park. Her explorations expanded after graduating from high school and in order to afford her many journeys, Marino had several jobs at once: apprentice to a muralist, a jewelry designer, a product designer and horse carriage driver through Golden Gate Park. Marino explored many corners of the world, from Africa and Asia, to the South Pacific and Europe, often crewing on sailboats in the high seas. At work and school, she became known as “Boomerang”.

Marino finally landed a full-time freelance gig designing toys for children, but after several years in a corporate box with no windows, she left for good and began painting, illustrating and writing books. She took an extension course at UC Berkeley on illustrating children's books.

Marino has written and illustrated numerous articles for travel and leisure magazines. Her children's books include *Zoopa: An Animal Alphabet* (2005), *One Too Many* (2010), *Meet Me at the Moon* (2012), *Too Tall Houses* (2012) and *Following Papa's Song* (2014).

Though she still wanders the world, Marino now lives in Northern California with her husband and step-children, and works full-time writing and

Primary

illustrating. She spends her time juggling two Newfoundland dogs, a gigantic cat and Nabu, the brilliant horse.

Learn more about Gianna Marino by visiting her website at www.giannamarino.com

<http://www.giannamarino.com/>

<http://www.jacketflap.com/profile.asp?member=gianna>

CONNECTIONS

Other titles by Gianna Marino

Following Papa's Song (2014)

Meet Me At the Moon (2012)

One Too Many: a Seek & Find Counting Book (2010)

Zoopa: An Animal Alphabet (2005)

Homes and Neighbors

Building our House by Jonathan Bean (2013)

Odd Duck by Cecil Castellucci (2013)

Library Mouse: Home Sweet Home by Daniel Kirk (2013)

The House that Jack Built by Diana Mayo (2001)

Cooperation

Rabbit & Robot: The Sleepover by Cece Bell (2012)

A Visitor for Bear by Bonny Becker (2008)

Horsefly and Honeybee by Randy Cecil (2012)

Riley and Rose In the Picture by Susanna Gretz (2005)

Duck and Goose by Tad Hilles (2006)

Up the Creek by Nicholas Oldland (2013)

Knuffle Bunny Too: A Case of Mistaken Identity by Mo Willems (2007)

How Do Dinosaurs Play with Their Friends by Jane Yolen (2006)

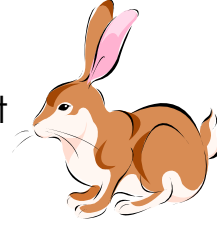
HOOKS

- What are the favorite parts of your house?
- If you could add anything to your house, what would you add? What if the part you added crept over into your neighbor's yard?
- Could a house ever be too big?
- Do you have too much stuff in your house? What could you do without?
- Have you ever had a quarrel with a friend that just got bigger and bigger?

ACTIVITIES



Compare and Contrast

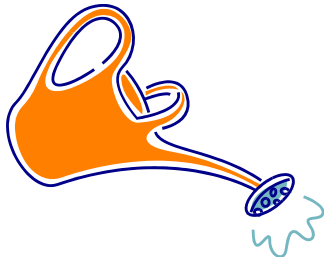


In Gianna Marino's *Too Tall Houses*, the main characters are Rabbit and Owl. Although rabbits and owls can often be found living in similar places throughout the world, they are both very different from each other. Compare and contrast rabbits and owls.

Similar

Different

--	--



Vegetable Garden



Rabbit loves to eat vegetables. In *Too Tall Houses* by Gianna Marino, Rabbit's vegetable garden grew too tall, blocking Owl's view of the forest. All vegetables start with seeds. What are your favorite vegetables? Plant your own vegetable garden. If you want, take note of the seeds you grow and as you observe them, record their growth progress. Do not forget to make sure your seeds get the right amount of water and sun to help them grow.

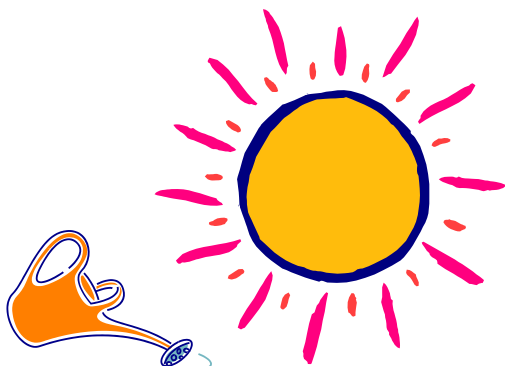
Supplies:

- Seeds
- Potting soil
- Container to plant seeds in – paper cup, ceramic pot or the ground in your backyard.
- Water
- Sunshine

Supplies for garden markers:

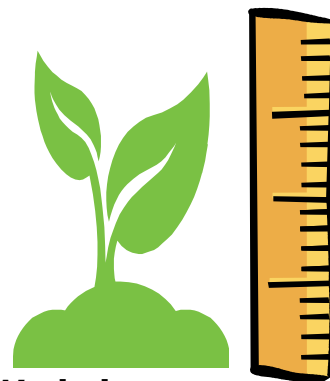
- Popsicle sticks, straw or any other stick to attach sign to
- Pens, colored pencils, markers, scissors, tape, glue
- Wide clear packing tape to “laminare” paper sign to protect from moisture and attach to popsicle stick

This garden belongs to:



I am growing:

Welcome to my garden:



Watch me grow:

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Build a "Too Tall" House

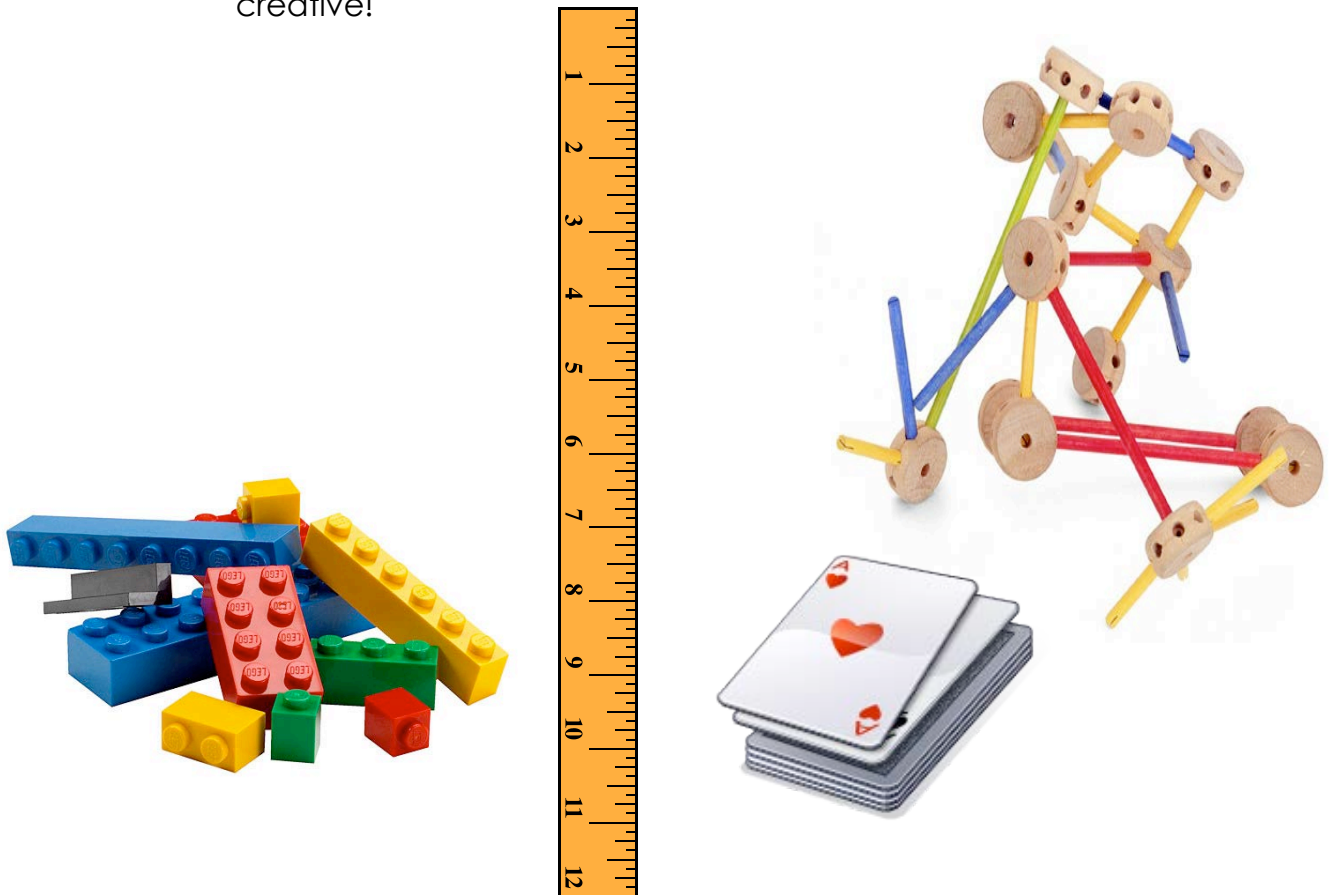


Rabbit and Owl tried to one-up each other by building their houses too tall. Rabbit built his house out of soil. Owl used twigs to build his.

Have a competition between your friends to see who could build the tallest house without it falling over. Use whatever supplies you would like, or you can use the same supplies as your friends. Consider heavy bottom for support and balance. What other thoughts went into your too tall house planning? Have a discussion with your friends about why you built your house the way you did and about the decisions you made.

Some ideas for supplies include:

- Deck of cards
- Dried spaghetti noodles and marshmallows
- Legos, Tinker Toys, blocks or any other toy used for building
- Recycled items from home, such as toilet paper rolls, straws – be creative!



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Animal Habitats



Investigate the habitats of both Rabbit and Owl. Where do they live? Why do you think each one lives where it does?

Discuss what you have found about each habitat and animal.

Create a habitat for both Rabbit and Owl. You can either draw the habitats or build a 3-D model.

Website links to animal habitats for kids:

Enchanted Learning: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/biomes/>

SkyeNimals: http://www.skyenimals.com/browse_habitat.cgi

Build a Rabbit Habit or Diorama:

http://www.ehow.com/how_12068310_make-diorama-rabbits.html

Owl Habitat/Diorama Craft:

http://www.ehow.com/info_12110283_owl-habitat-craft.html

More Diorama How-Tos:

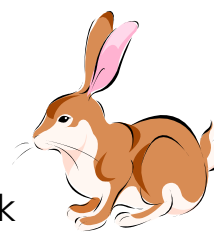
<http://jimmie.squidoo.com/shoebox-diorama>



Example found at:

<http://elisedemille.blogspot.com/2012/06/owl-diorama.html>

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Make a Character Mask

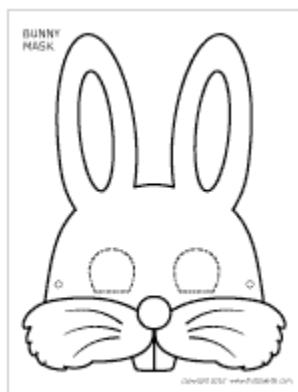
Use provided link or any other reference or inspiration to create masks for both Rabbit and Owl's characters. After reading the book, choose someone to be Rabbit and someone to be Owl. Wearing the masks, have a conversation between Rabbit and Owl, similar to that found in Gianna Marino's *Too Tall Houses*.

Mask templates can be found at FirstPalette.com:

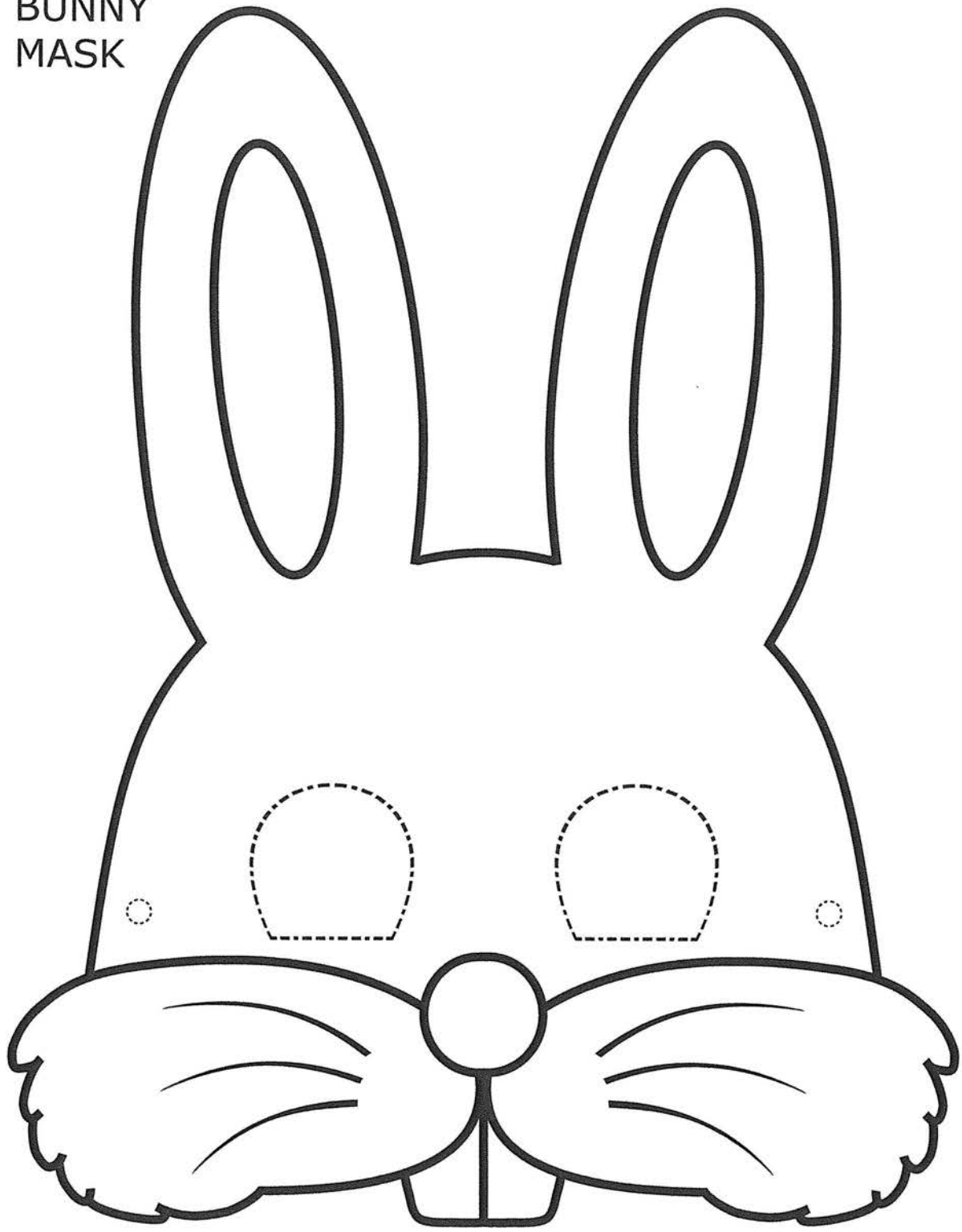
http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Animals/animalmasks/animalmask.html

Materials:

- Card stock 8.5" x 11"
- Crayons, paint, or any coloring material
- Scissors
- Hole punch
- Elastic string or yarn
- Scotch tape
- Craft stick (optional)

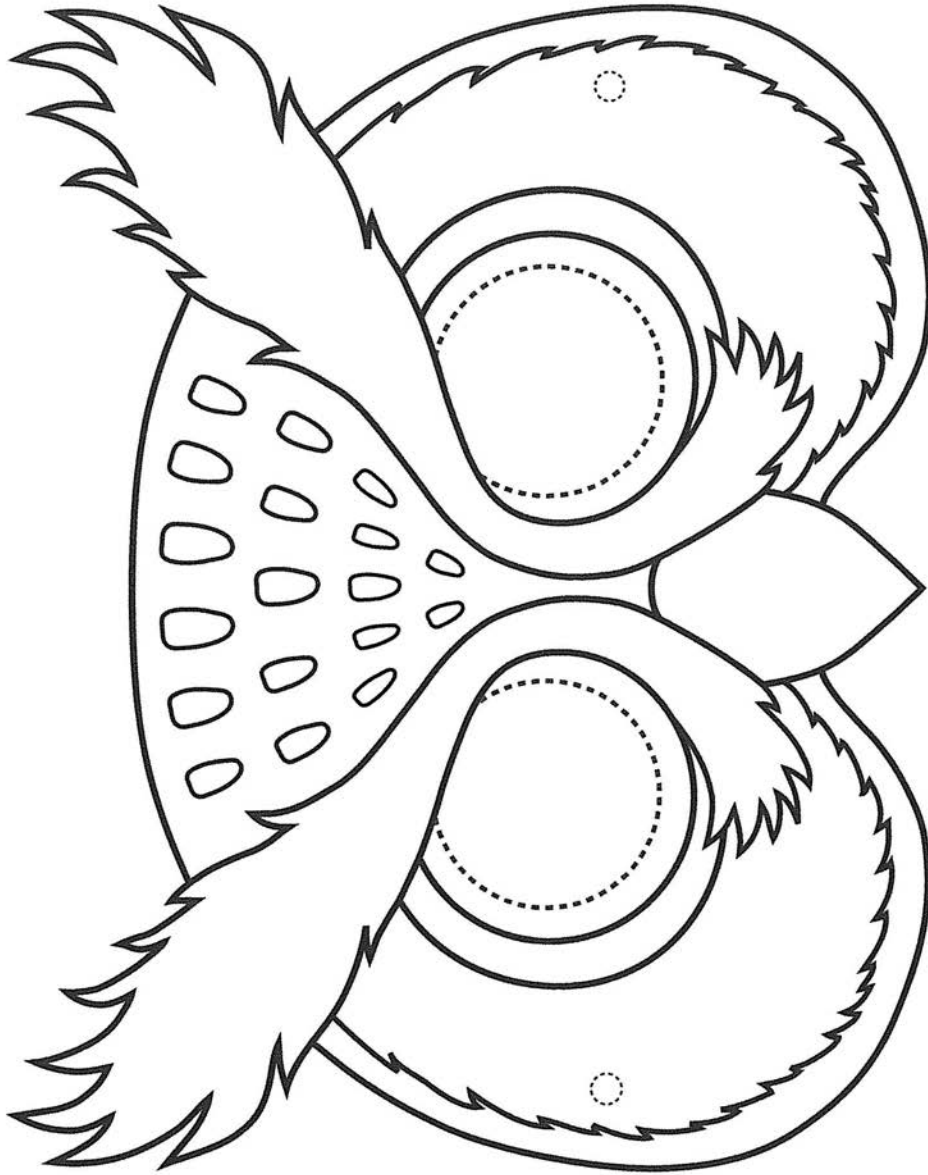


BUNNY
MASK



copyright 2010 www.firstpalette.com

OWL MASK



copyright 2012 www.firstpalette.com

http://www.firstpalette.com/Craft_themes/Animals/animalmasks/animalmask.html