

BOOK IT!



K - 2 Read Alouds & Activity

Curriculum and Activities
Adapted, created, & compiled
by Mallory Riesberg

Objectives:

- Participants will demonstrate literacy and comprehension skills through discussion and analysis of various books and completion of various activities.
- Participants will demonstrate their creativity and problem-solving abilities through completion of various story-related activities.
- Participants will develop and practice 21st century skills including communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity through completion of various activities.

Club Area: Academic (Literacy)

Time Frame: 30 - 45 minute sessions

Age of Participants: K - 2nd grade

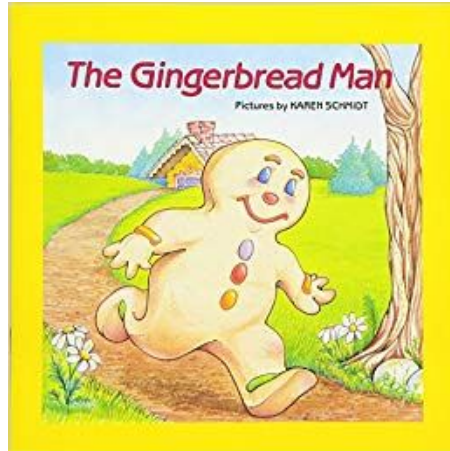
Overall Program Description: The BOOK IT! unit will offer young readers a unique experience in literacy. This high-interest, and hands-on unit is designed to engage young readers of all levels through read aloud story time and an accompanying related activity. While this unit is based in a fun and engaging literacy technique, there are additional academic aspects strategically incorporated throughout, such as STEM principles, SEL components, various art techniques, and introductions to various cultural influences. Each session focuses on a new picture book and accompanying thought-provoking discussion questions and related activity designed to enhance the literacy experience for the young readers. While this unit incorporates a mixture of well-known and newer books, the structure of the literacy unit can be adapted to fit whatever books might be on hand.

Potential Measurements:

- Active participation and engagement of all participants
- Completion of a Vocabulary Chart or Word Wall
- Completion of accompanying story projects

The Gingerbread Man

Illustrated by Karen Schmidt



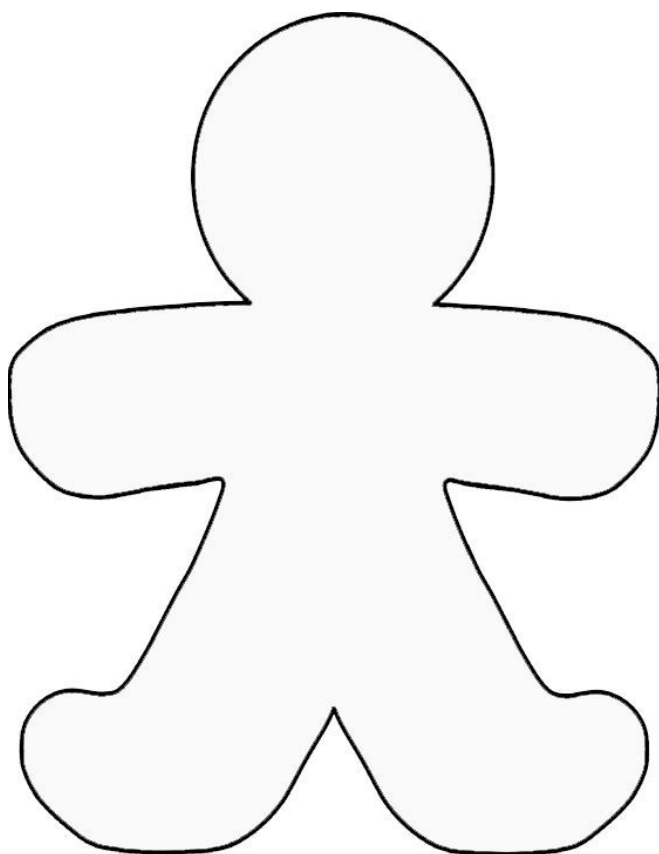
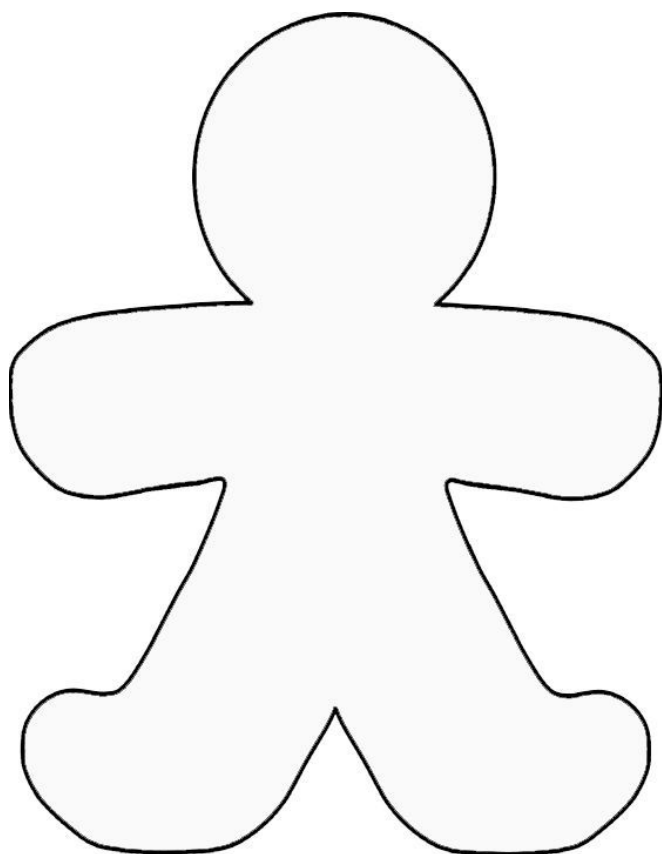
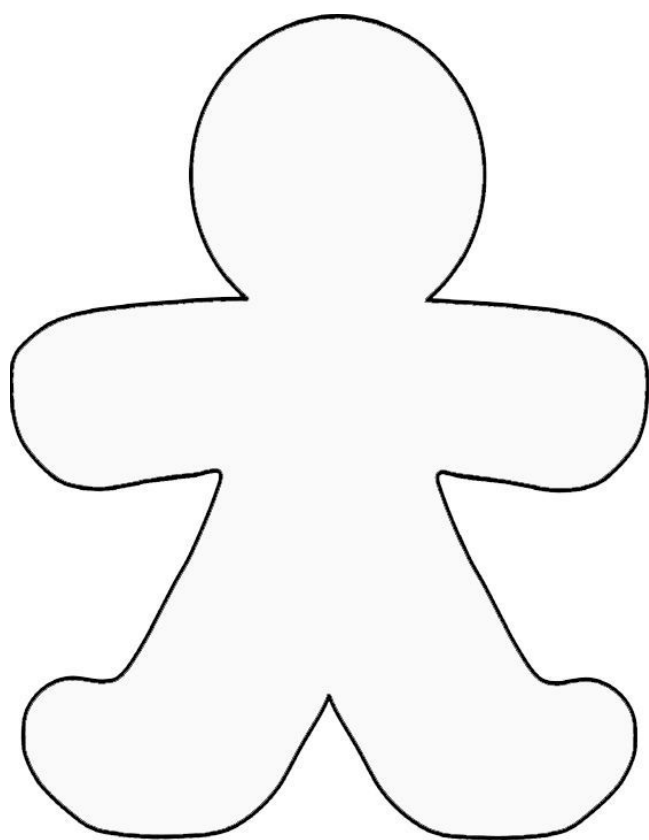
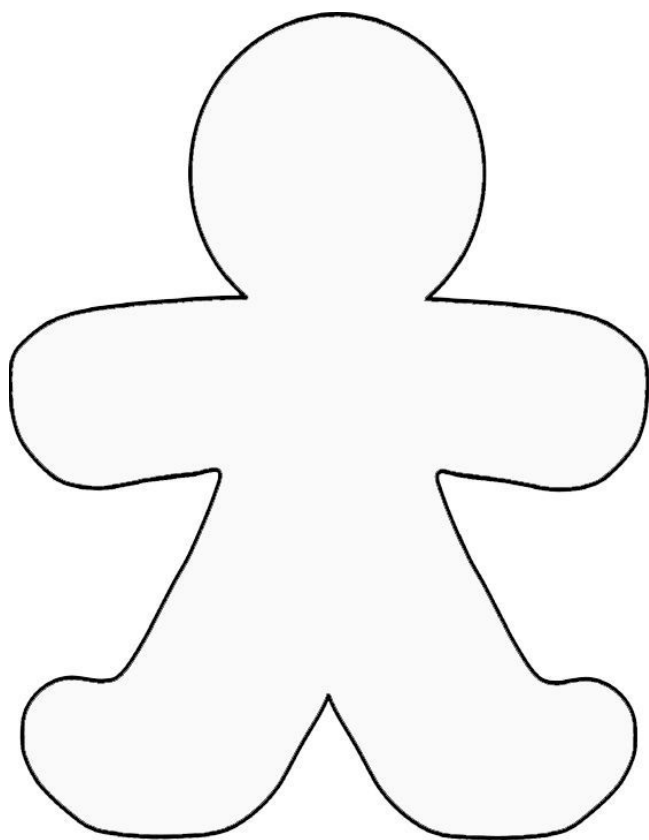
Discussion Questions - *Write, illustrate, share*

- How would you describe The Gingerbread Man? What words would you use?
- How would you describe The fox in the story? What words would you use?
- If The Gingerbread Man came running up to you on the road what would you do to catch him?
- Can you think of a different way the story could have ended? How would you end it if you were the author?

Story Activity

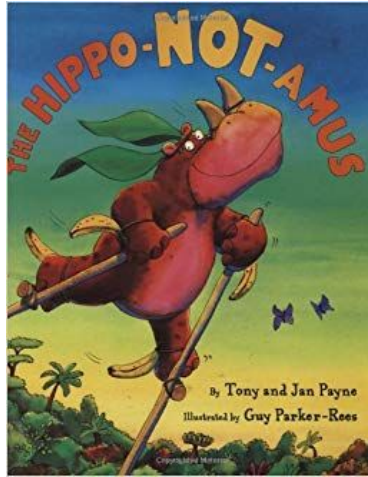
● **Gingerbread Bird Feeder**

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| - Cardstock | - Bird seed & container |
| - Honey or peanut butter | - Hole puncher |
| - Gingerbread man template | - Ribbon, string, or twine |
1. Print and cut out gingerbread template on cardstock. There are four to a sheet of paper.
 2. Punch a hole in the top.
 3. Spread peanut butter or honey all over one side of the gingerbread cutout. You can do the other side, but let the first side completely dry before starting the next.
 4. Sprinkle birdseed onto the gingerbread men. Try to hold the cutout over the container to keep the mess down.
 5. Set aside to dry. If desired, repeat process for the second side. Then hang with twine, ribbon, or string.



The Hippo-NOT-amus

By Tony and Jan Payne



Discussion Questions – Write, illustrate, share

- What did we learn about hippos? Where do they live? What do they eat? What activities do they enjoy?
- Portly met lots of different animals on his adventure of not being just a hippopotamus. If you could be any animal for the day, what animal would you be and why?
- If Portly could have three wishes, what do you think he would wish for?

Story Activities

- **Animal Bingo** – [The link to access the file is here](#)

- **If I Were an Animal...**

- Paper
- Pencils
- Colored pencils, crayons, markers
- Animal Discovery Report (optional)

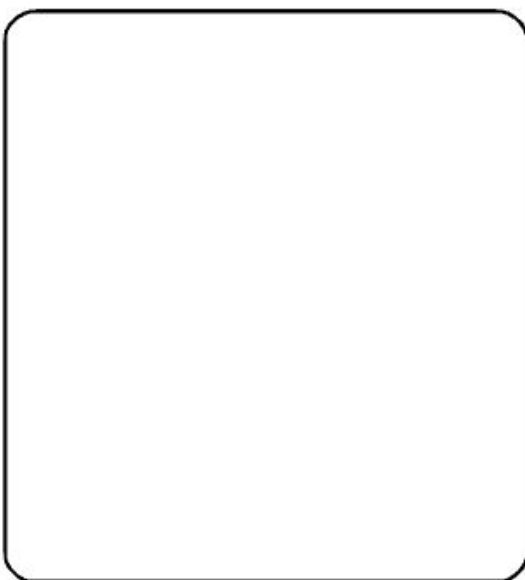
1. Draw yourself as your dream animal. If you could have an animal body, what creature would you be? Why?
2. Make up a new name for yourself now that you are part human-part animal.
3. Optional (Extension) – You are reporting to the World Wildlife Society on your new animal. Complete the Animal Discovery Report with all of the interesting details about your new human-animal.

Animal Discovery Report

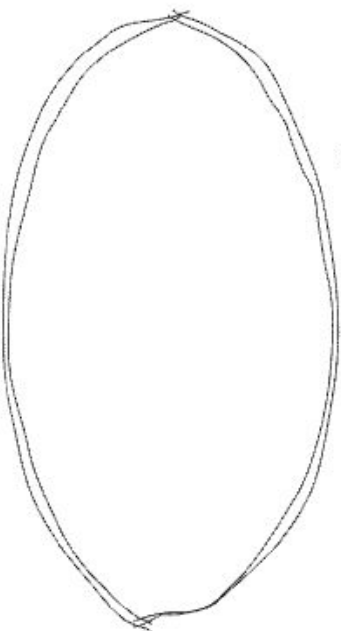
by: _____

Animal Name: _____

Here is a picture of my animal.



My animal's habitat is...



Animal Facts

Height/Size: _____

Weight: _____

Color: _____

It has fur/feathers/skin: _____

What it eats: _____

Where it lives: _____

Predators: _____

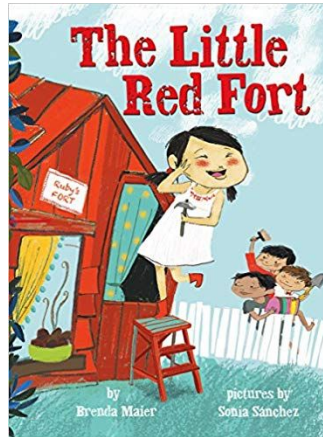
Lifespan: _____

Three Interesting Facts About My Animal:

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____
----------	----------	----------

The Little Red Fort

By Brenda Maier



Discussion Questions - *write, illustrate, share*

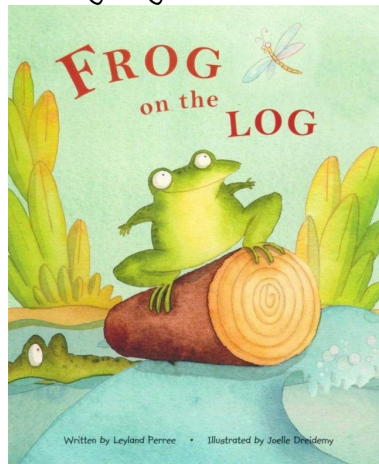
- What kind of person is Ruby? What in the story makes you think so?
- How would the story be different if the boys had agreed to help their sister in the first place?
- Do you agree or disagree with Ruby's decision to eventually let the boys play? Why do you think so?

Story Activities

- **Shape Fort**
 1. Provide students with blank paper, glue, and cut-out shapes in a variety of colors and textures. (e.g. green felt triangles, red foil rectangles, etc.)
 2. Using the shapes, invite them to create their own forts.
 3. Encourage each to write a sentence or dictate a caption about their fort.
- **Fort Challenge**
 1. Provide groups of students with rulers, a yardstick, and building materials such as blocks or cardboard "bricks"
 2. Challenge them to build a fort 3 feet high and 1 foot wide. They should check their fort's height with both a rule and a yardstick.
 3. Invite everyone on a tour of the finished forts.

Frog on the Log

By Leyland Perree



Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

- what surprised you about the book?
- If you were Frog, how would you have saved your home on the log?
- Imagine you could live anywhere and in any type of home in the world. where would you live? what would your home be like?

Story Activities

- **Frog Jump and Measure**

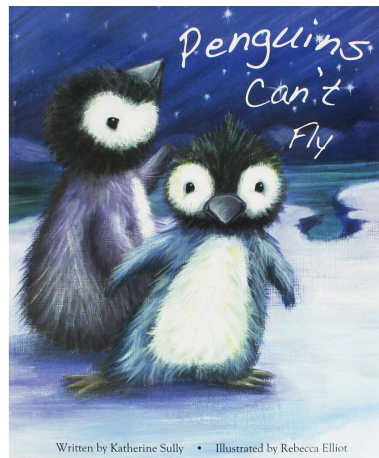
1. Create a starting line with painters tape on the floor.
2. Practice jumping like a frog by bending your legs and jumping. Then have kids take turns standing at the starting line and jumping forward like a frog as far as they can. Mark the spot where they land with another piece of tape or a frog cut-out with their name on it.
3. After everyone has jumped, measure how far each person jumped like a frog. Record it in a chart.
4. Repeat the Frog Jump as many times as desired. For fun, see how many "frogs" each of the distances jumped is equal to.

- **Rock Frogs on the Log**

1. Gather a variety of small rocks and pass out one to each student. Have each paint their rock into a frog. Allow to dry, then place all frogs on a log to display.

Penguins Can't Fly

By Katherine Sully



Discussion Questions - *write, illustrate, share*

- Would you want Billy (or Quentin) to be your friend? Why?
- What was one lesson that Quentin (or Billy) learned in the book?
- Have you ever been in a situation where a friend helped you make a good decision? Tell us about it.

Story Activities

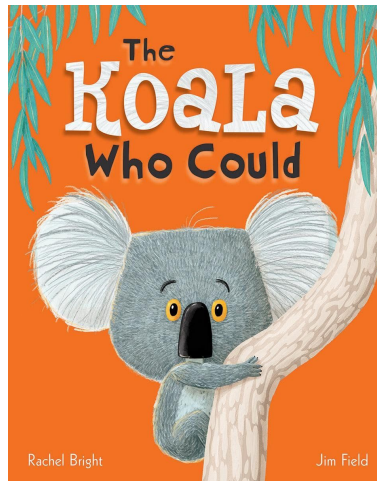
• **Penguin Poppers**

1. Using a sharp knife (adult supervision or prep ahead of time highly recommended), cut out the bottom of the black paper cup.
2. Next, tie the open end of the balloon into a knot. Cut across the balloon at the opposite end. Place the cut part of the balloon on the bottom end of the black cup. *If the balloon seems to slip off when launching, add a little glue to the underside of the balloon where it attaches to the cup.*
3. Apply sticky googly eyes and a small triangle cut from orange paper for the penguin's beak. Cut an oval out of white paper for the penguin's belly and apply with glue.
4. Once your penguin popper is assembled, gather cotton balls or marshmallows. Place one or a couple in the open part of your popper. To launch, pull the knot of the balloon back and let go!



The Koala Who Could

By Rachel Bright



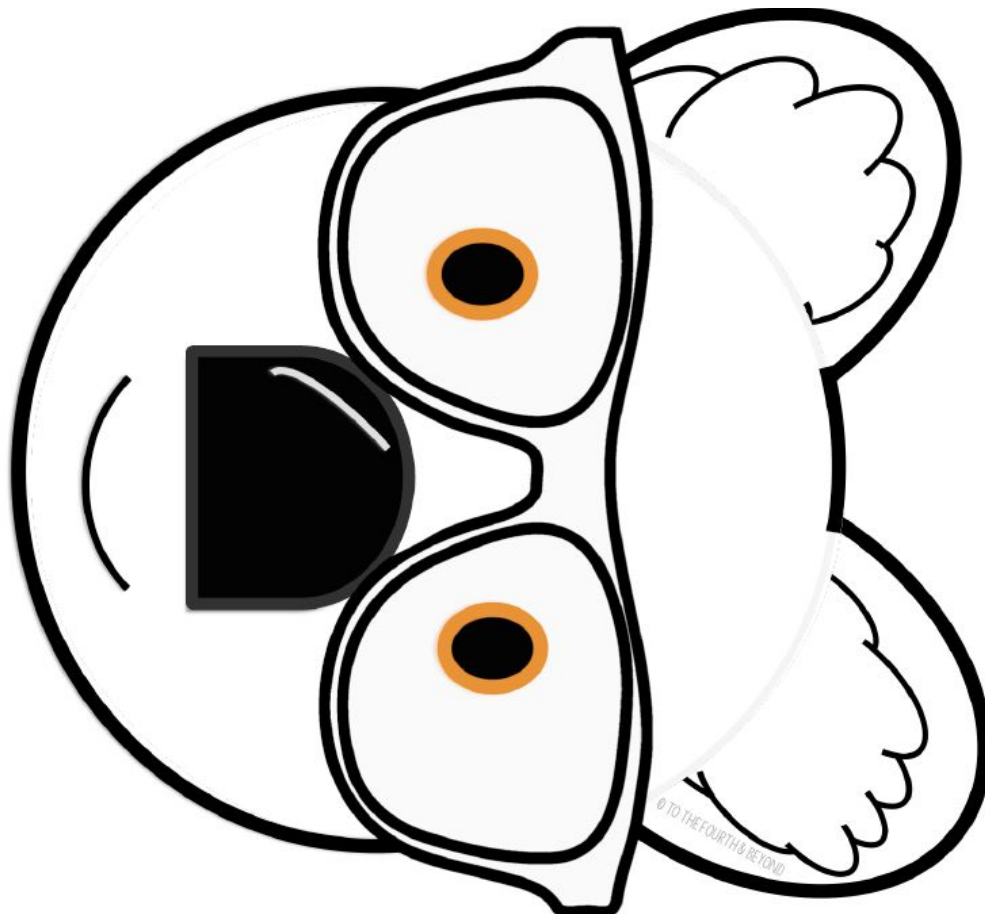
Discussion Questions - *Write, illustrate, share*

- What words would you use to describe Kevin?
- What was one lesson that Kevin learned in the book?
- If you were Kevin, would you have done anything differently? What would it be and why?

Story Activities

- **Koalafied Craftivity**
 1. After discussing the message and theme of the book, pass out a koala face and a variety of art supplies to students.
 2. Each student can decorate their koala face however they choose. Encourage students to be unique in their designs - suggest patterns or different textures and colors.
 3. Next, pass out a speech bubble to each student. Have them reflect on something they have been able to accomplish this year or write a goal about something they hope to accomplish in the near future. Complete the speech bubble.
 4. Glue the cut out speech bubble and koala face to a piece of construction paper and have each student write their name. Proudly display these Koalafied crafts.

© TO THE FOURTH & BEYOND



© TO THE FOURTH & BEYOND

GLUE
KOALA
HERE!

Complete the writing prompt by writing 2-3 sentences explaining something you have learned this school year. How have you grown? Cut & color your koala and glue it to the HERE. Then cut around the speech bubble!

i can...

© TO THE FOURTH & BEYOND

Extra Yarn

By Mac Barnett



Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

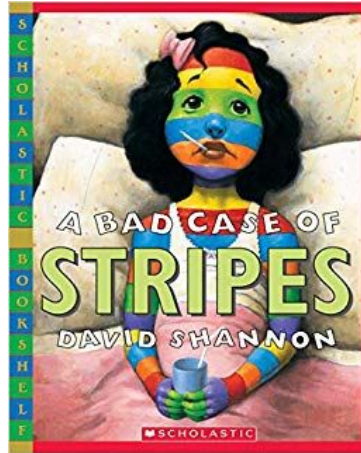
- Why do you think the box of yarn never ran out? Do you think the yarn was magical?
- How did the town, and all its people, change from the beginning to the ending of the book?
- Why didn't Annabelle want to sell the yarn? Would you have sold the yarn? Why or why not?
- What is your favorite part of the book? Why?
- If you could have an endless supply of something, what would it be and why?

Story Activities

- **Extra Yarn Yarn Hangings**
 - Piece of thin cardboard
 - Crayons or markers
 - Yarn scraps
 - Glue
 - Stapler
 - Hole punch
1. Cut the cardboard to desired length and width.
 2. Using crayons or markers or any other decorating materials, decorate one side of the cardboard.
 3. On the reverse side of the cardboard, squeeze a line of glue and glue down the lengths of yarn. Add an additional line of glue over the top of the yarn to help it stick. Allow glue to dry.
 4. Once dry, join ends of cardboard together to form circle and staple.
 5. Use the hole punch to make holes on either side of the top of the cardboard circle. Cut a length of yarn for hanging, thread one end through each hold and knot.

A Bad Case of Stripes

By David Shannon



Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

- Why do you think Camilla was afraid to have people find out that she liked lima beans? Was she right?
- How did Camilla change throughout the story? Think about what she was worried about at the beginning versus what she thought about how people felt about her at the end.
- What is the lesson from this story?

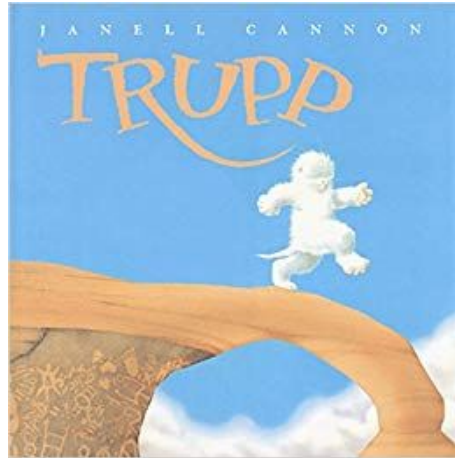
Story Activities

• My Bad Case of... (Respecting Our Differences)

- Large drawing paper
 - Crayons, colored pencils, markers
 - Scissors (optional for cutting out outlines)
 - Hole punch
 - Yarn
1. Have students draw (or trace) a large picture of themselves onto the paper.
 2. Using decorating materials, have each student decorate their outlines with something they like. For example, John loves to fish so he decorates his drawing with water and fish for a "Bad Case of Fishing".
 3. Once everyone is done, hole punch the drawings and string them together to display. Alternatively, display the drawings on a bulletin board under the title "Respecting Our Differences...My Bad Case of..."

Trupp

By Janell Cannon



Discussion Questions - *write, illustrate, share*

- Who was your favorite character in this book? What did you like about them?
- What was the lesson in the book?
- Is there a different way the story could have ended?
- What surprised you about the story?

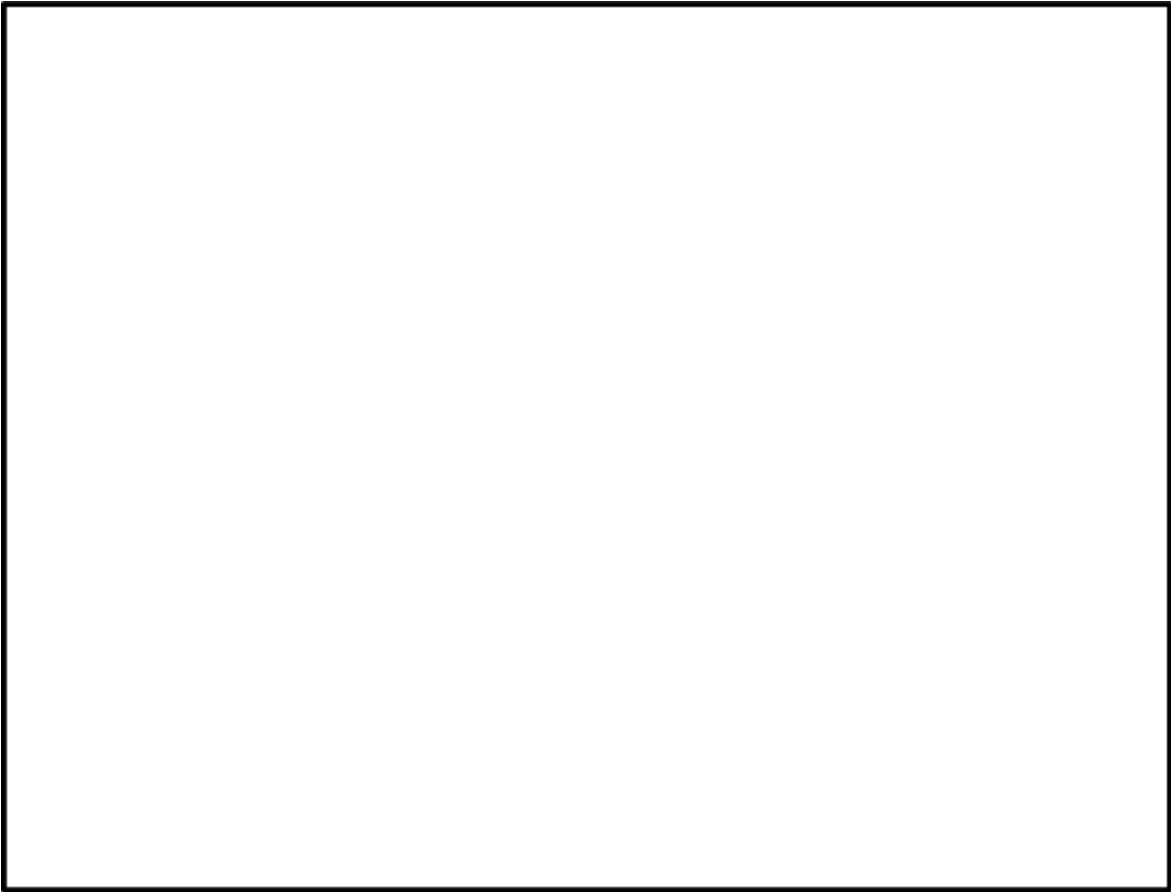
Story Activities

- **Trupp's Next Adventure**

1. In this book, Trupp decided to leave home to go on an adventure. He met his raven friend, Krok, and they traveled from a farm into a big city.
2. Imagine where Trupp's next adventure will be. Draw a scene from his next adventure and include a caption to give a short summary. Include a title for Trupp's next adventure too.

Trupp’s Next Great Adventure

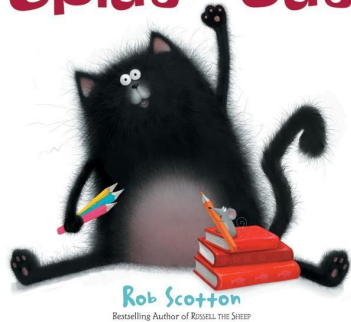
Title: _____.



Splat the Cat

By Rob Scotton

Splat^{the} Cat

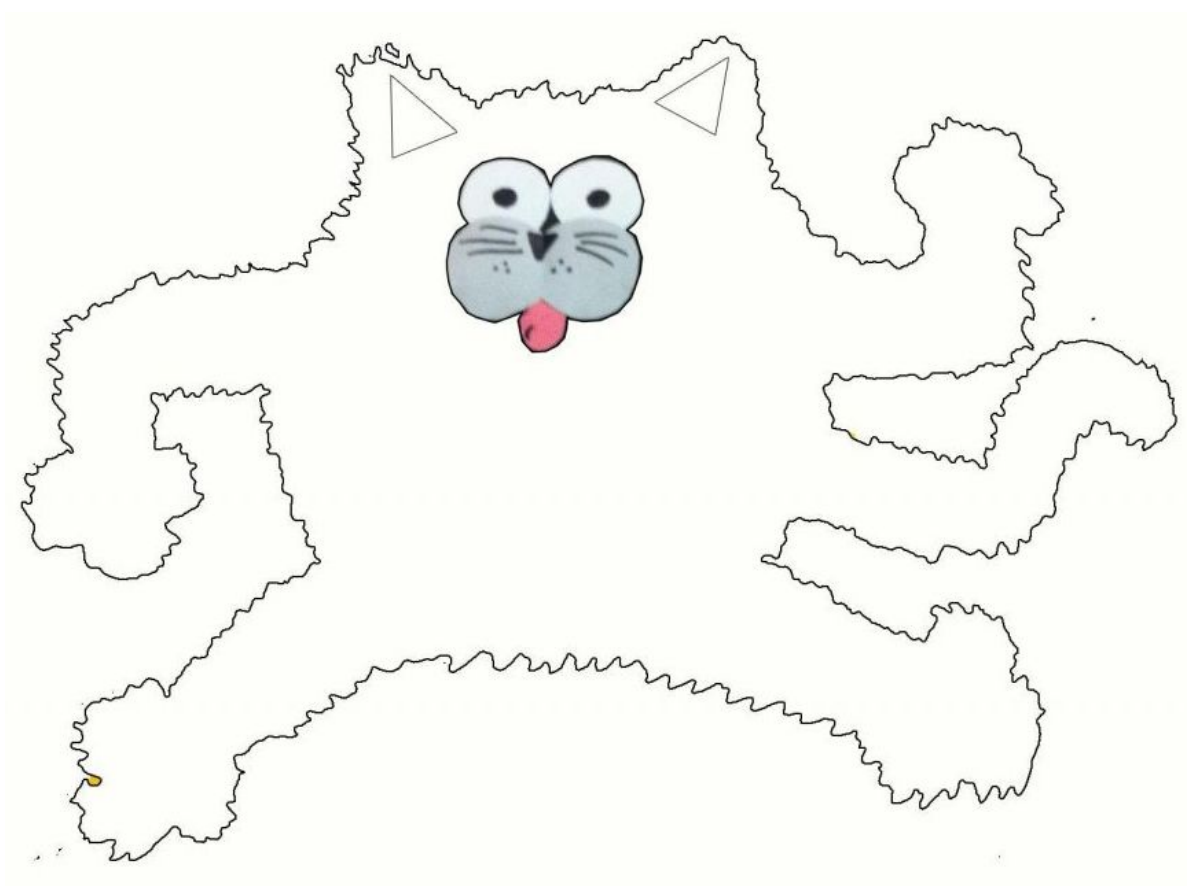
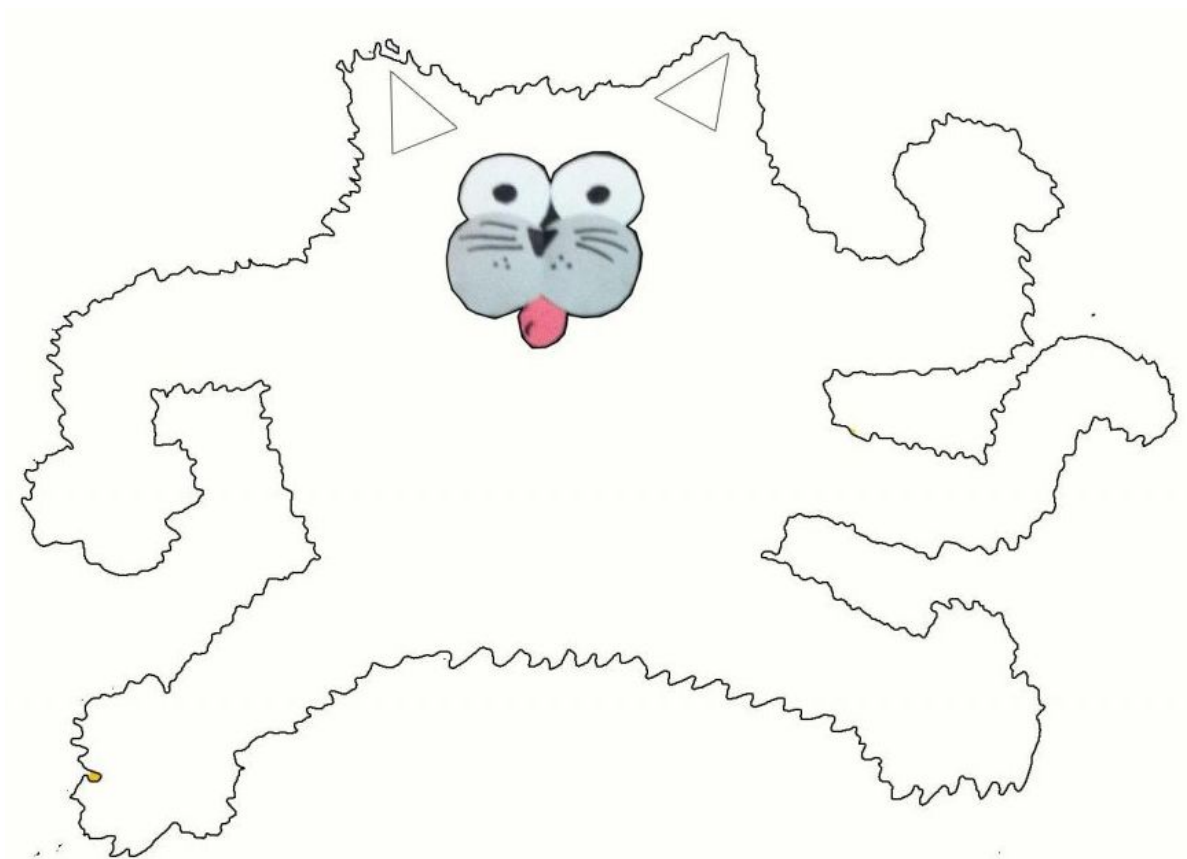


Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

- Why was Splat worried to go to Cat School? How can you tell?
- Think back to your first day of school. How did you feel? Was there anything in particular that you were nervous about?
- How did the opinions of Splat's classmates about Seymour change after he saved the day and opened the milk cupboard?

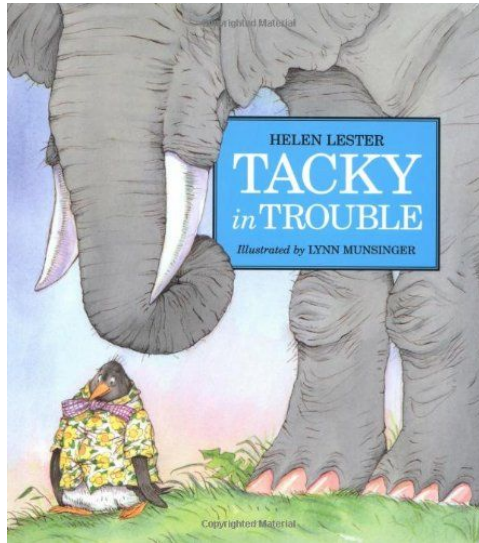
Story Activities

- **Personalizing Splat the Cat**
 1. In the book, Splat learns how clever cats are and some other special talents that he has.
 2. Think about how clever you are and what special talents you have. Use these words to decorate the outline of Splat. See if you can color Splat in using only words.



TACKY IN TROUBLE

By Helen Lester



Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

- What are some things that make Tacky an odd bird?
- What do you like about Tacky?
- What surprised you in the story? Why?

Story Activities

• Curiosity Challenge

1. In the story Tacky used the wind and his shirt to get back to his iceberg. Pretend that Rocky ended up keeping Tacky's shirt and the tablecloth because he loved the colors so much. Use the Curiosity Kits to create something that will help Tacky get back to his iceberg.

• Walk Like a Penguin

1. Read aloud the short informative text about Emperor penguins and their eggs. Afterwards, have students take turns walking like a penguin carrying their egg. Follow up with the discussion questions. *See attached instruction sheet for additional details.*

Do

The Emperor Penguin and His Egg

The Emperor penguin is the largest penguin and weighs anywhere from 65-85 pounds. Baby penguins hatch out of eggs just like ducks. However, no nest is built for an Emperor penguin's egg when it is laid. Male Emperor penguins are in charge of keeping the egg warm and they do it by holding the egg on their feet and using their pouchy stomach to help keep the egg in place. In this activity, each student can volunteer to be an Emperor penguin with an egg to keep warm.

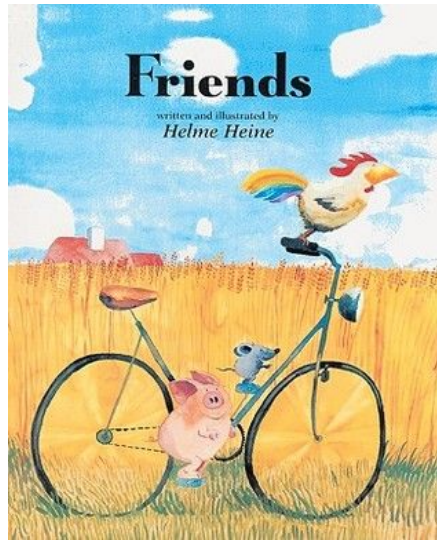
You will need a large egg-shaped object (a softball works great), a long, large pillow, and a belt or rope to hold the pillow up. First, take off your shoes (leave your socks on). Place the pillow on your stomach and the rope or belt to hold it up. Leave enough of the pillow hanging down so it touches the tops of your feet. Next, balance the softball on the top of your feet. Place the pillow on top of the egg and walk.

Discussion questions:

- Was it easy or hard to walk?
- Were you able to keep the egg from rolling off your feet?
- What did the pillow do to help the egg?
- What does the penguin have that is like the pillow?
- Why do you think penguins don't make nests to use for hatching their eggs?

Friends

By Helme Heine



Discussion Questions – write, illustrate, share

- Why were the characters good friends? What made them good friends?
- What do you think the most important qualities are in friends? What makes a good friend?
- Can you think of a different way the story could have ended?

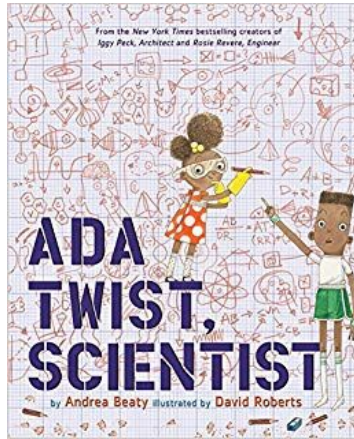
Story Activities

● Hands of a Friendship Wreath

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| - White printer paper | - Scissors |
| - Crayons, markers, colored pencils | - Poster board |
| | - Glue or tape |
1. Pass out paper to each student. Have them trace their hand (or ask a friend to help them). Using decorating materials such as crayons and markers, have each student decorate their hand print. Challenge them to design it to represent them (maybe using their favorite colors or drawing their favorite activities).
 2. Once they are finished decorating the handprints, cut them out and glue or tape them onto the posterboard to create a large friendship wreath. Then display!

Ada Twist, Scientist

By Andrea Beaty



Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

- Have you ever had a question that no one could answer? Did you ever find an answer?
- How would you design an experiment about smells?
- What was your favorite part in the story and why?

Story Activities

- Rainbow Soda Geysers

What you'll need:

- Soda (variety)
- Tape (to hold mentos)
- Mentos

The Science Behind the Soda Geysers

Soda contains dissolved carbon dioxide gas. It doesn't take much to cause the carbon dioxide to form bubbles and try to escape the container. Just open the container to release the pressure and watch some of the gas escape. Dropping something into the soda will cause the carbon dioxide bubbles to form around the object and the bubbles can then rise as well. Mentos candy has a lot of surface area - it has tiny pits all over the surface of the candy. This allows lots of places for the carbon dioxide bubbles to form. Lots of gas forming at once is what causes the geyser. It's all trying to escape the bottle at the same time.



Rainbow Soda Geysers

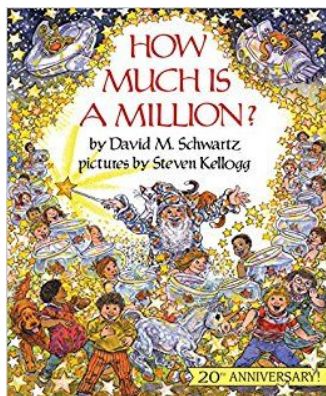
Directions

1. Choose the type of soda(s) you want to test. Examples can be 2L vs 1L, Diet vs regular, different diet brands (Diet Coke works best), cola vs orange vs lemon-lime, etc. You can also experiment to see if the number of mentos has an effect on the height of the geyser.
2. Take all your materials outside, things will get messy. Using a piece of tape, place your desired number of mentos to test in the soda on the tape (this way they can all be dropped in at the same time).
3. Drop in the mentos and watch the geysers!
4. If desired, record the results of your different experiments in a chart to compare results later.
5. To create a Rainbow Geyser, line up bottles of red, orange, green, blue, purple sodas. Have students drop in the desired amount of mentos into each bottle at the same time. Step back and watch the rainbow erupt.



How Much Is A Million?

By David M. Schwartz



Discussion Questions - *write, illustrate, share*

- What was something that surprised you or something you learned from the book?
- What things are often counted in millions? (examples might include stars, population, money, years in the past, etc).
- What would you like a million of? Is there anything you would not like a million of? Challenge yourself to think of something other than money. *Example statement: "I'd like a million _____, but not a million _____."*

Story Activities

• **Pictures Worth a Million**

- Paper
- Markers, crayons, colored pencils, watercolors, tempera paint, etc
- Cotton swabs / Qtips
- Examples of Pointillism paintings

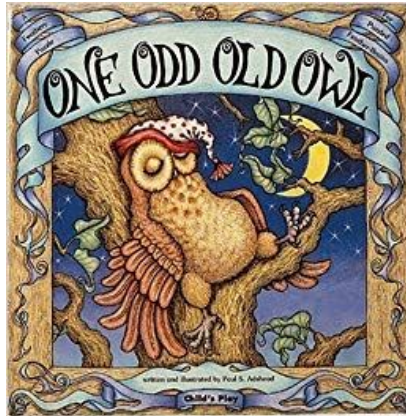
Instructions

1. Show students the examples of paintings done with the technique "pointillism". This technique using dots to create patterns and images. Ask them to discuss how many dots they think are in one of the paintings and how long it might have taken the artist to create the picture.
2. Distribute art materials. Invite students to create their own pointillist paintings.
 - a. Possible extensions / challenges to this activity:
 - i. Have students count how many dots they used in their painting.
 - ii. Have students use a designated number of dots (for example 100 dots) to create their painting.



One Odd Old Owl

By Paul S. Adshear



Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

- If you were the sleepy snail, how would you have woken up the snoring owl?
- If you could give the main character a gift, what would it be and why?
- Do any of the characters remind you of a family member, friend, or classmate? If so, how?

Story Activities

Owl Rice Cake Snacks

♣ Author

Amanda@AFewShortCuts.com

Ingredients

plain rice cakes
2 Tbsps peanut butter
1 banana
1/4 cup blueberries
1/2 apple sliced
1/4 cup Cheerios
Small piece of cantaloupe

Instructions

Spread peanut butter on each rice cake. Top rice cake with 2 banana slices for eyes, and top each banana slice with 1 blueberry.

Next add a small piece of cantaloupe cut into the shape of a triangle for the beak. Then, two apple slices for the wings.

Finally add cheerios for the body.

Serve.

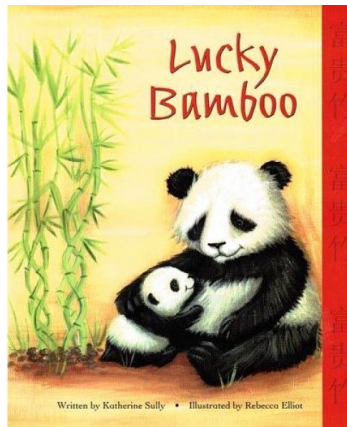
Recipe Notes

Get as creative as you want with these. Feel free to switch out ingredients for different fruits.



Lucky Bamboo

By Katherine Sully



Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

- What lesson did one of the characters in the book learn?
- What would you have done differently if you were one of the characters?
- What would be a change to the story that you would make? Could the story have ended in a different way?

Story Activities

• Chinese Paper Lanterns

- Paper or cardstock
- Scissors
- Stapler or tape
- Glue
- Ruler
- Pencil
- Things to decorate with: gift wrap, ribbons, sequins, stickers, glitter glue, etc

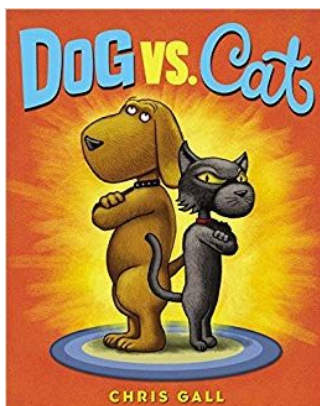


Instructions - Chinese Paper Lanterns

1. Fold paper in half, lengthwise (hotdog style). Draw a horizontal line one inch from the long edge opposite the fold. This is a line for a cutting guide.
2. Starting at the folded edge, cut a straight line about one inch from the short edge, all the way up to the horizontal pencil line. Continue to cut more straight lines about 1 inch apart until you reach the end of the paper.
3. Unfold the paper. It will have several vertical slits along the middle. Erase any pencil marks or refold it so the pencil marks are on the back.
4. Decorate as desired. Suggestions include making a border using decorating materials or patterns or textures.
5. Form the paper into a tube shape to transform it into a lantern. Overlap the long edges at least a half-inch. Staple or tape the top and bottom corners.
6. Cut a 1 inch strip, lengthwise, from another sheet of paper to create the handle. Glue on the handle to your lantern. You could also use a ribbon as a handle too.
7. Cut strips of crepe paper and glue them along the inside of the lanterns bottom edge. Once everything is dry, hand and enjoy!

Dog vs. Cat

By Chris Gall



Discussion Questions - write, illustrate, share

- which pet would you have picked and why? would your answer change throughout the story with their actions?
- Have you ever had to share a room and learn to get along with someone else? what did you do to resolve any disagreements? How could Cat and Dog handled their disagreement differently?
- what do you think will happen next in the story? will they become friends with the baby?

Story Activities

- Cat and Dog's New Home

Suggested materials:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------|
| - Cardboard | - Felt |
| - Cardboard tubes | - Plastic bottle caps |
| - Construction paper | - Yarn or string |
| - Scissors | - Ribbon |
| - Pipe cleaners | - Straws |
| - Buttons | - Tissue paper |
| - Popsicle sticks | - Toothpicks |
| - Glue or tape | - Foil or plastic wrap |
| - Markers, colored pencils, crayons, | - Coffee filters |
| - Foam sheets | - Rubber bands |
| - Bubble wrap | |

using found materials, create a new home for Cat and Dog where they both can live and get along with each other. Make sure to include where the new home will be located and any other special details that should be pointed out.