

Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award 1997 Nominees and Activities

PIG WILL BE PIGS

Amy Axelrod & Sharon McGinley-Nally, illustrator

The pigs were hungry, the cupboard was bare, and so was the wallet. Thus the piggy family of four embarks on a "Hunt for money!" The house is torn apart, \$34.67 found and it's off to the Enchanted Enchilada where there's plenty of money for 4 specials.. Amidst this silly tale is an ingenious math lesson that will have the students squealing for more...math that is.

ACTIVITY: Money Hunt

Reproduce Activity sheet #1 to provide sufficient money for a class. Use light green paper for the bills, brown for pennies and gray for the rest. Cut out monetary shapes and hide all over the library before each class enters.

As the class enters the library, divide them into groups of 4-5, give each group an envelope and then allow 5 minutes to find the hidden money. After five minutes, have students put all their money in their envelope and gather to hear the story.

After the story, each group can add up their money. If there is time, reproduce the menu and have each group decide what they could order.



HENRY THE SAILOR CAT

Mary Calhoun & Erick Ingraham, illustrator

"Yow!!" Henry's a way-faring, sea-going stowaway Siamese in his latest adventure with the boy and the man. The man's annoyed, as usual, but Henry's enjoying the voyage and is just getting his sea legs when the sail becomes a rescue to recover the overboard man. You'd think the man wouldn't go anywhere with Henry after this..."some smart sailing Siamese."

ACTIVITY: Boating Safety

After reading the story, have each class make a group list of tips for keeping safe while using a boat. Use incidents and illustrations as inspiration.

Give each child a copy of Activity sheet #2 so they can record their tips. Decorate with illustrations time allows.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE

Jane Cowen-Fletcher

Cowen-Fletcher's storyline lives out the African proverb, "It takes a village to raise a child." Yemi feels very grown-up and responsible when she's asked to look after little brother at the market while mother sells her mangoes. Kokou wanders off and the reader sees what Yemi can't, that each of the people Kokou comes into contact with, in some way, keeps him safe and well taken care of until Yemi finally catches up to him. Cowen-Fletcher's time spent in Benin, West Africa serves her illustrations well, particularly in her depiction of clothing styles and setting.

ACTIVITY: Our Village

After reading the story, have children name some of the people in their life who help take care of them besides their parents. When they have the idea, give each child a 2 X 8.5 inch strip of construction paper. Point out a few illustrations showing the entire person then, using color crayons, have them draw one of their caretakers. Older children can add the sentence:

" (care taker's name) helps take care of (childs name)"

Paste all the strips on a large mural with the title of the book across the top.

THE LIBRARY DRAGON

Carmen Agra Deedy & Michael P. White

"Wanted: Children's Librarian...a thick-skinned professional to help reduce inventory damage and loss..." Enter Miss Lotta Scales. Now, Sunrise Elementary really has a problem - they've hired a dragon. She's all fired up about inflammatory books demonizing dragons. She snuffs out storytime, "storytime, shmorie-time," the children are returning to class singed and no one knows how to tame this wildfire. What's to become of the library, the books, the children? There must be a sure-fire solution.

ACTIVITY: Librarian Wanted

Read a few want ads for different jobs including the ad at the beginning of the story. Working in small groups for older children and as a class for the younger ones, write an ad that will attract the perfect librarian. (Recall the ad for the perfect nanny written by Jane and Michael Banks). The ad might be expanded into a poster with illustrations.



TOM

Tomie dePaola

Tomie dePaola shares another story from childhood. Tomie's Irish Grandfather shares stories and jokes and a bit of Irish blarney with his beloved grandson and buddy. Grandpa Tom teaches Tomie all sorts of amazing things one can do with chicken feet and when Tomie tries out his latest trick at school he gets into more than a wee bit of trouble. Intergenerational fun that serves as a reminder that there's a bit of kid in all of us.

Activity: Grandparent Stories

After reading the story, have the class share stories of favorite times with one of their grandparents (or older uncle, aunt, neighbor etc). Have the children draw their favorite story on Activity sheet #3. Assemble a book for each class.

A SEA OF GRASS: THE TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

David Dvorak, Jr.

Gorgeous color photographs of prairie flora, fauna, and the grasses themselves accompany a poetic text in this lovely non-fiction work. Dvorak has created a book sure to enstall an appreciation of this special terrain in every reader. His own passion for the prairie certainly shows in his work.

Activity: School yard Nature Preserve

After reading the story, divide the class into groups of 2 or 3. Each group needs a recorder, a notepad and pencil. Take the class on a walk around the school yard and have them record the plants and animals observed.

After the tour, have each group share the observations they gathered. A class list could be made or each group could research the proper name of one species, illustrate it and gather them all into a booklet.

TOUGH BORIS

Mem Fox & Kathryn Brown, illustrator

Wonderful watercolor illustrations join Mem Fox's sparse but powerful text in proclaiming this surefire description of a pirate. "He was tough. All pirates are tough. He was scruffy. All pirates are scruffy." But, oh my, when Tough Boris's parrot dies, "he cried and cried. All pirates cry." A special glimpse at the softer side of those burly brutes.

ACTIVITY: Famous Pirates

Who are some pirates from historic times or classic books?

Who are some modern-day Pirates (computer pirates, music pirates)?

Have students use encyclopedias (CD or print), Card catalogue, and the Internet to answer these questions.

Write out each question on the top of a piece of butcher paper, post it in the library and let children record their findings along with the resource used.

SWAMP ANGEL

Anne Isaacs & Paul O. Zelinsky, illustrator

An original tall-tale that smacks of all that is good about said this genre...it's big, it's bold, it's brazenly outlandish. Angelica Longrider, knicknamed Swamp Angel for a heroic feat early in life is quite a gal. Lifting wagons out of mud is child's play for this wonder woman...she's bent on killing the great, huge bear that's got a price on his head. Certainly none of the men around seem to get the job done. A romping fun read-aloud with tall-tale size illustrations meant to be shared with groups.

ACTIVITY: Tall Tales from Home

After reading the story, show examples of other tall tales and discuss what they have in common.

Brain storm incidents from everybody's home that could be made into a tall tale. For example: "my brother ate so many pancakes we had to collect pancake batter from all the neighbors" or "my Mom is so tall she can shingle the roof of the house without using a ladder".

Write the mini-tall tales out on sentence strips and gather into class sets.

AN EXTRAORDINARY EGG

Leo Lionni

Well into his eighties, Leo Lionni has produced one of his most charming and endearing fables yet. Three frogs, Marilyn, August, and Jessica (the names produce peels of giggles from young listeners) mistake an alligator egg for that of a chicken...even when the baby gator hatches the three constantly refer to him as their friend the chicken. This simple little fable of mistaken identity produces sheer delight with audience after audience.

ACTIVITY: What's in your egg?

Reproduce the folded-egg pattern in Activity sheet #4 on construction paper.

Have students name animals that are born from an egg. Give each student an egg cut-out, scissors and crayons. Fold and cut out the egg shape and draw a baby animal on the 'X'. Older students could carry out some research to determine exactly how the baby and egg shell should look.

CONDOR'S EGG

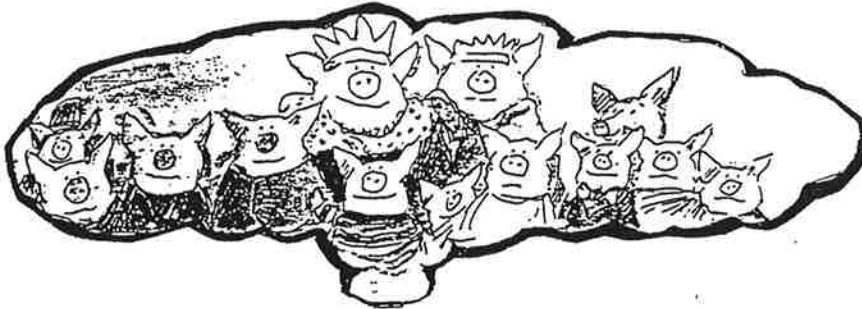
Jonathan London & James Chaffee, illustrator

Soft, sweeping pen and ink and watercolor illustrations portray two condors and the young in their vast, rugged environment in California. Simple text describes the life of these grand birds and wonders at how precariously close to extinction it is. A lovely picture book on one of nature's not so lovely creatures.

ACTIVITY: Letter Writing

Introduce children to the valuable resources available to those who will simply write a letter. Share the "More about Condors" section at the end of the story and point out the addresses of agencies and Zoos working to preserve the Condors. Provide a sample letter and addressed envelope which students may copy or they may wish to compose their own. Include the grade level of students so the agency can send appropriate material.

Divide the class into six groups. Give each group one of the six addresses at the end of the book. Display copies of the letters and the materials received to provide inspiration to others seeking information.



PIGS APLENTY, PIGS GALORE!

David McPhail

The story's narrator gets more than his fill of pigs one night. One minute he's reading and next there seem to be pigs everywhere..."in the cupboards, on the floor-Pigs aplenty, Pigs galore! Frolicking, rollicking, messy, piggy fun...and a bill of \$685.00 for pizzas!

ACTIVITY: Piggy Fashions

Reproduce the pig outlines on Activity sheet #5 and have each child "dress" a pig for a pig parade using felt pens or crayons. Mount the dressed pigs on a long strip of colored butcher paper.

AMANDA'S PERFECT HAIR

Linda Milstein & Susan Meddaugh, illustrator

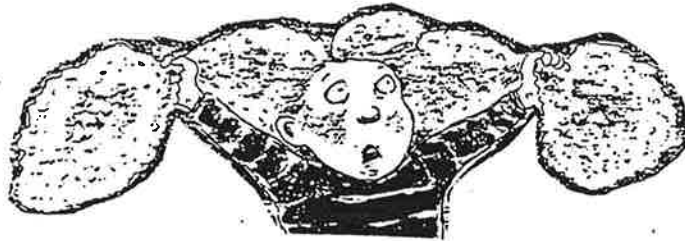
Everyone thinks Amanda's hair is stunning, wonderful, beautiful. It inspires comparison, it elicits simile, it's awful thinks Amanda. It's in the way, it takes forever to groom and she doesn't want to be Alice in Wonderland. And so she marches in to the bathroom with scissors. "Don't do it! Open the door! No, Amanda!" everybody yells. Will she do it? Amanda's is a guttsy little gal charmingly illustrated by the creator of Martha Speaks.

ACTIVITY: Hair Art

Discuss what hairstyles mean to everyone. Show pictures of hairstyles of the past and present.

Using Kid-pix and Quick Cam, have students take pictures of each other. Paste the picture in a Kid Pix document. Children can make numerous copies and then draw different hairstyles on each face.

The same idea can be used by having children bring in a school photo of them selves and pasting it on a piece of paper. The student can then use felt pens to create their unique hairstyle.



BASEBALL SAVED US

Ken Mochizuki & Dom Lee, illustrator

The power of the human spirit shines bright in the internment camp where a baseball field is built. The games played there bring a small degree of dignity and joy to the Japanese-Americans forced to live there during World War II. Mochizuki's unsentimental text and Dom Lee's stark illustrations depict the inner strength of the people embattled with the unforgiving land they've been moved to and the injustice of their predicament.

ACTIVITY: What if...?

Pose the question "What if your family was moved to an internment camp like Shorty's, what would you miss the most about your life?"

Give each group of 2 or 3 a large square of butcher paper, a pencil and felt pens. Write the question across the top and then have each person draw a picture of what they would miss if they were in Shorty's place. Under their picture, have student's write the sentence "I would miss_____." and sign their name.

PABLO'S TREE

Pat Mora & Cecily Lang, illustrator

It's Pablo's birthday and he can't wait to get to Abuelito's (Granfather's) house to see how he's decorated Pablo's tree this year. Abuelito planted the tree the day Pablo was adopted as a baby and each year his decorations are a better surprise than the year before. One year it's balloons, another year it's paper lanterns. What will it be this year? Colorful papercut illustrations assist in the telling of this warm, loving story.

ACTIVITY: Our Birthday Tree

Cut the trunk and branches of a tree from butcher paper and mount it on a large brightly colored backing sheet. Have students cut out decorations from brightly colored paper using their own ideas or patterns supplied in Activity sheet #6.

HARVEY POTTER'S BALLOON FARM

Jerdine Nolen & Mark Buehner, illustrator

The illustrator of the Taxi Dog books adds his colorful, whimsical style to a fun-filled tale about the goings on at a balloon farm. Crop after crop of balloons bring smiles to the locals faces and suspicion to those of the Government inspectors. The balloons pass the Government inspection but the story's young narrator remains intent on discovering Harvey Potter's secret. She goes out of her way to do it, finds a friend in Harvey along the way and, indeed, a mentor for her life's work.

ACTIVITY: What would you grow?

Before reading the story encourage students to observe something special in some of the clouds. After reading the story ask students to think of a "special" crop they might like to grow such as Hershey Bars or baseball caps. Divide class into crop specialists and cloud specialists.

Give the crop specialists a piece of 8.5 X 5.5 sheet of white drawing paper and felt pens and have them fill the page with pictures of their special crop.

Have the cloud specialists tear cloud shapes from white paper. Cut a 3' piece of brown and a 2' piece of blue butcher paper. Glue the blue on top of the brown to make a 3'X5' strip. Mount the crops on the brown and the clouds on the blue.

MY ROTTEN REDHEADED BROTHER

Patricia Polacco

There's just no catching up when you've got an older brother. He can spit farther, burp louder, eat more...there's just no catching up. But when young Patricia falls off a carnival ride into some pop bottles and is carried all the way home by her big brother she realizes two things. One, she's just done something Richard hasn't and two, he's pretty ok...for a brother. Polacco shares a piece of her own childhood with comic illustrations and a tale of two siblings we (who have been there) can relate to.

ACTIVITY: Sibling book titles

Brainstorm descriptive titles for siblings, cousins or friends such as "My Blue-eyed, Bubble-brained Little Sister", "My Shrimpy, squirmy Cousin John", "My Too-tall, Twinkle-toed, dancing Sister", etc. Discuss the difference between gentle teasing and hurtful name calling.

Have students print their titles on colored sentence strips and mount on a bulletin board or piece of butcher paper.

HOW TO MAKE AN APPLE PIE AND SEE THE WORLD

Marjorie Priceman

So you want to make a pie but you're short a few ingredients? No problem...a quick trip to the market. But, what if it's closed? No problem...off to Italy for semolina wheat, then to France for eggs, Sri Lanka for cinnamon...and so on. Ok, so it's not going to be a quick apple pie. Children will love following this intrepid young baker around the globe as she collects the necessary items. Priceman's whimsical illustrations add to the fun.

ACTIVITY: Travel the globe

Before reading the story, give each student a copy of the world map (Activity Sheet #7) and a felt pen. Display a world map on the overhead or a bulletin in front of the class. Have students point to each continent on their map, as you point to it on the big map. Instruct students to place a dot on each location as it is mentioned in the story.

Have two volunteer students point to the locations as you read the story. Students can connect their dots to make a trip around the world.

LILY

Abigail Thomas & William Low, illustrator

Lily, the sweetest little black lab puppy you ever want to see, likes her life just fine. She likes her lady's lap, her small apartment with the soft blue couch and the big yellow chair. She loves her rubber hedgehog and her walks in the big city of Boston. But, then Lily's lady moves to the country and life is tipped upside down for this little puppy. However...wait til she sees the country. Kids who have moved will understand Lily's lament.

ACTIVITY: "What if I have to move?"

Have students generate questions they have had or would have if they had to move. Have students volunteer to write the questions on a large piece of paper mounted horizontally. Leave room for student responses under each question. Have students who have moved share their advice by writing responses to the questions.

COWBOY COUNTRY

Ann Herbert Scott & Ted Lewin, illustrator

"You say you've never been to cowboy country and you'd like to take a look. It's good you have a day or two to spare. I see you've brought your backpack. Stow it here beside Matilda. This old dog and I'll be proud to take you there." As an old buckaroo takes a young boy around his world the we learn about the life of a cowboy in days gone by and current days as well. Cowboy Country is a fine example of the beautifully illustrated, lyrically written non-fiction that we're being treated to with more frequency in children's literature.

ACTIVITY: "Home, Home on the range..."

Before reading the story, have students sing "Home on the Range", Activity Sheet #8. After reading the story, have students sing the song again. Then have students humm the tune with their eyes closed. Ask students why they think Cowboys loved to sing this song.

WILLIAM WEGMAN'S ABC

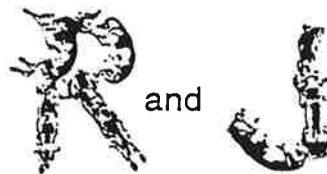
William Wegman

Fay Ray, two of her offspring and a buddy contort to conquer the entire alphabet. Wegman entices his canine characters into the wackiest positions with some of his goofiest costumes yet. I don't know what he give them for treats but they must be awfully delicious.

ACTIVITY: What could they be thinking?

Make a large copy of one of the photos such as "M", "U" or "W". Reproduce the voice bubbles on Activity sheet #9.

Have students suggest what the models might be thinking about. Give each student a bubble, scissors and a black ball-point pen. Have them write their thought on their bubble. Mount the bubbles on the picture.



Booklet written by Rebecca Miller and Joanne Hjort
Activity ideas provided by members of the WCCPBA Committee

Act. Sheet #2: Inspired by the book Henry the Sailor Cat by Mory Calhoun

TIPS FOR BOATING SAFETY



1.

2.

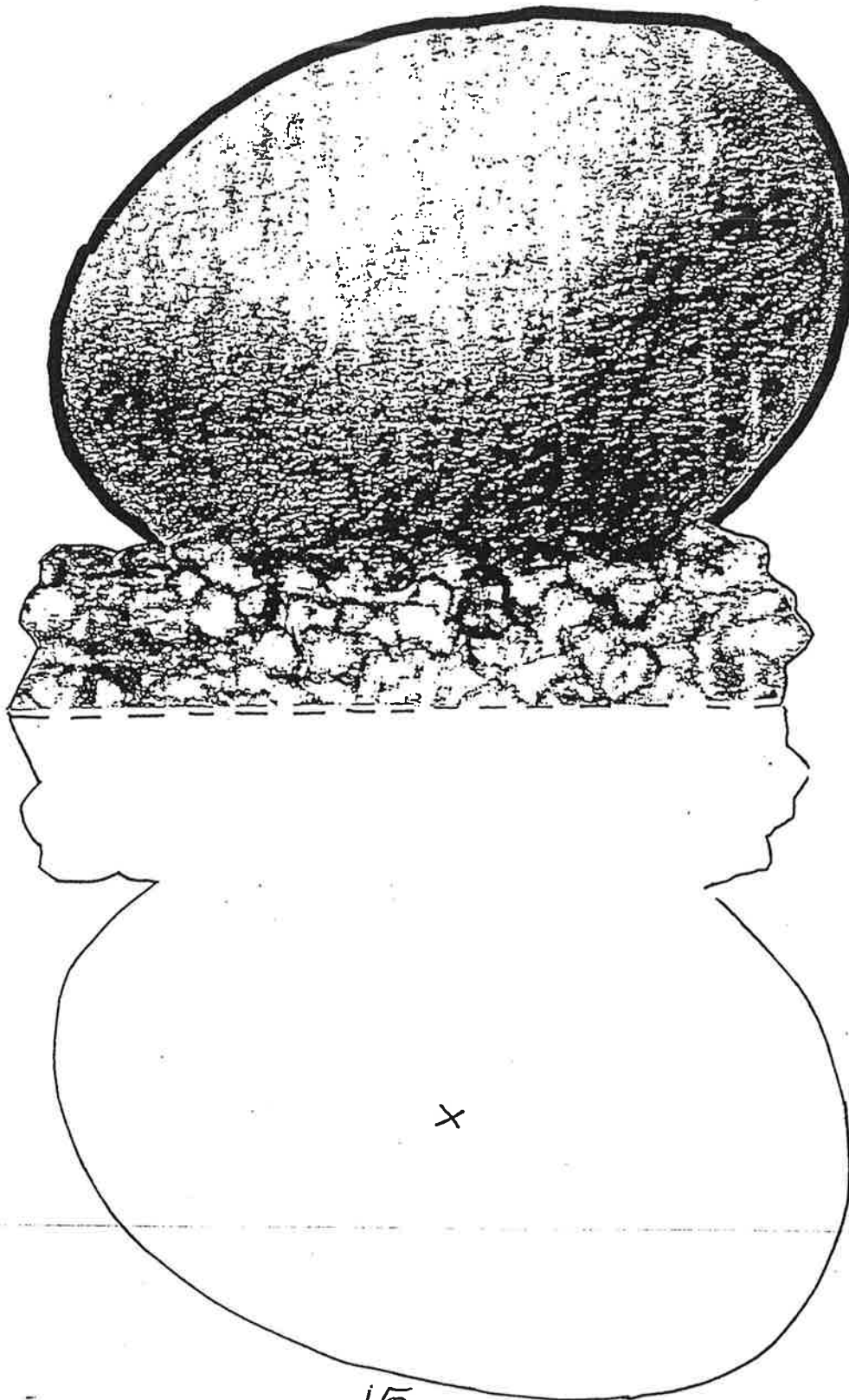
3.

4.

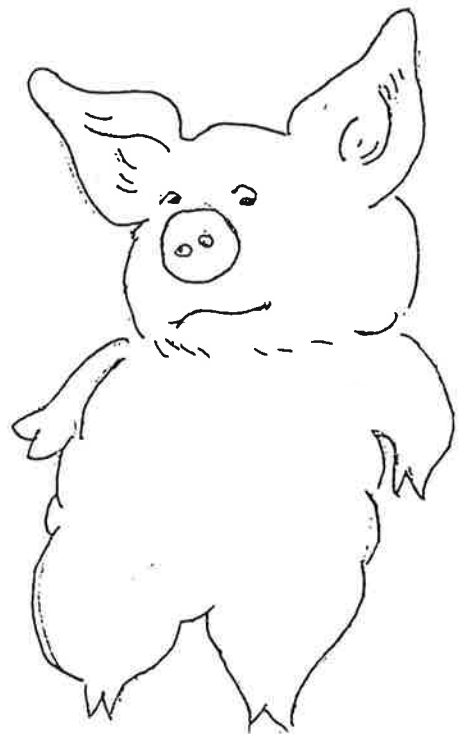
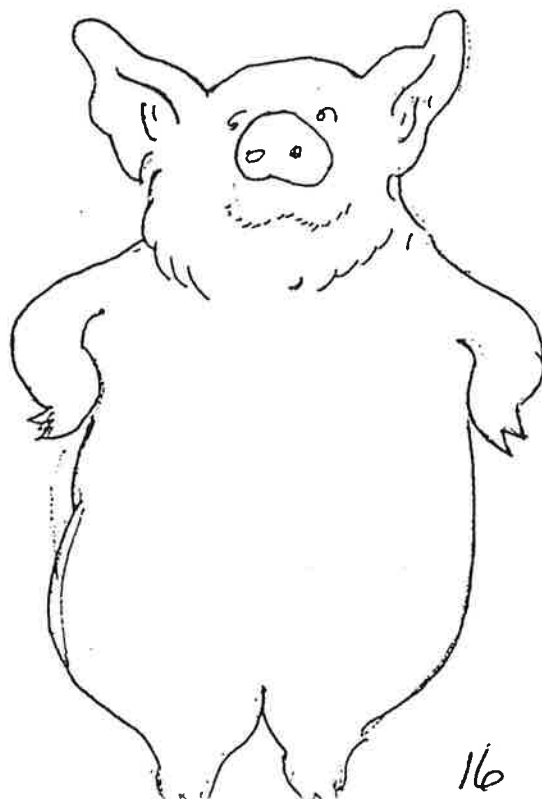
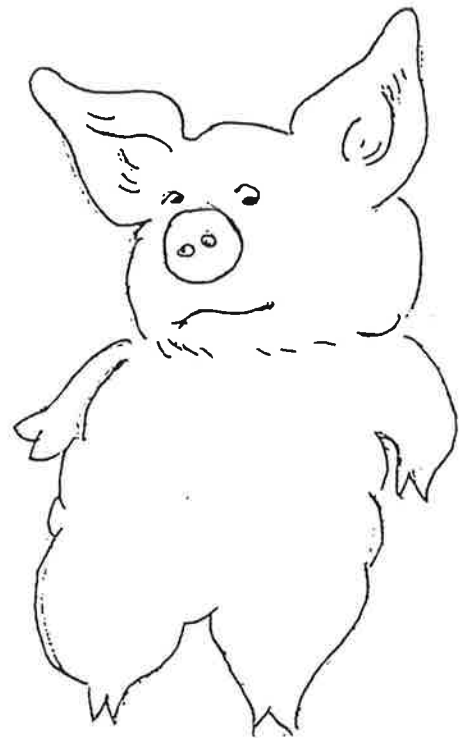
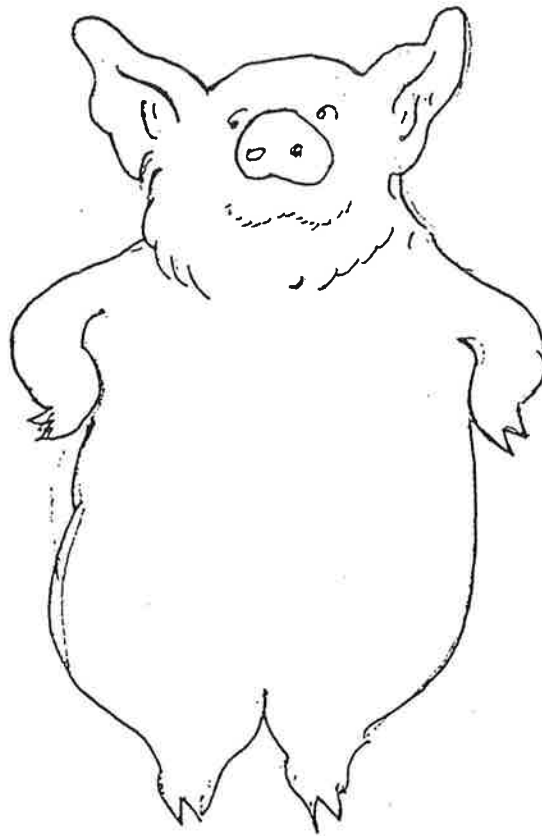
FROM _____ CLASS.

Activity Sheet #4 Inspired by An Extrordinary Egg by Leo Leoni

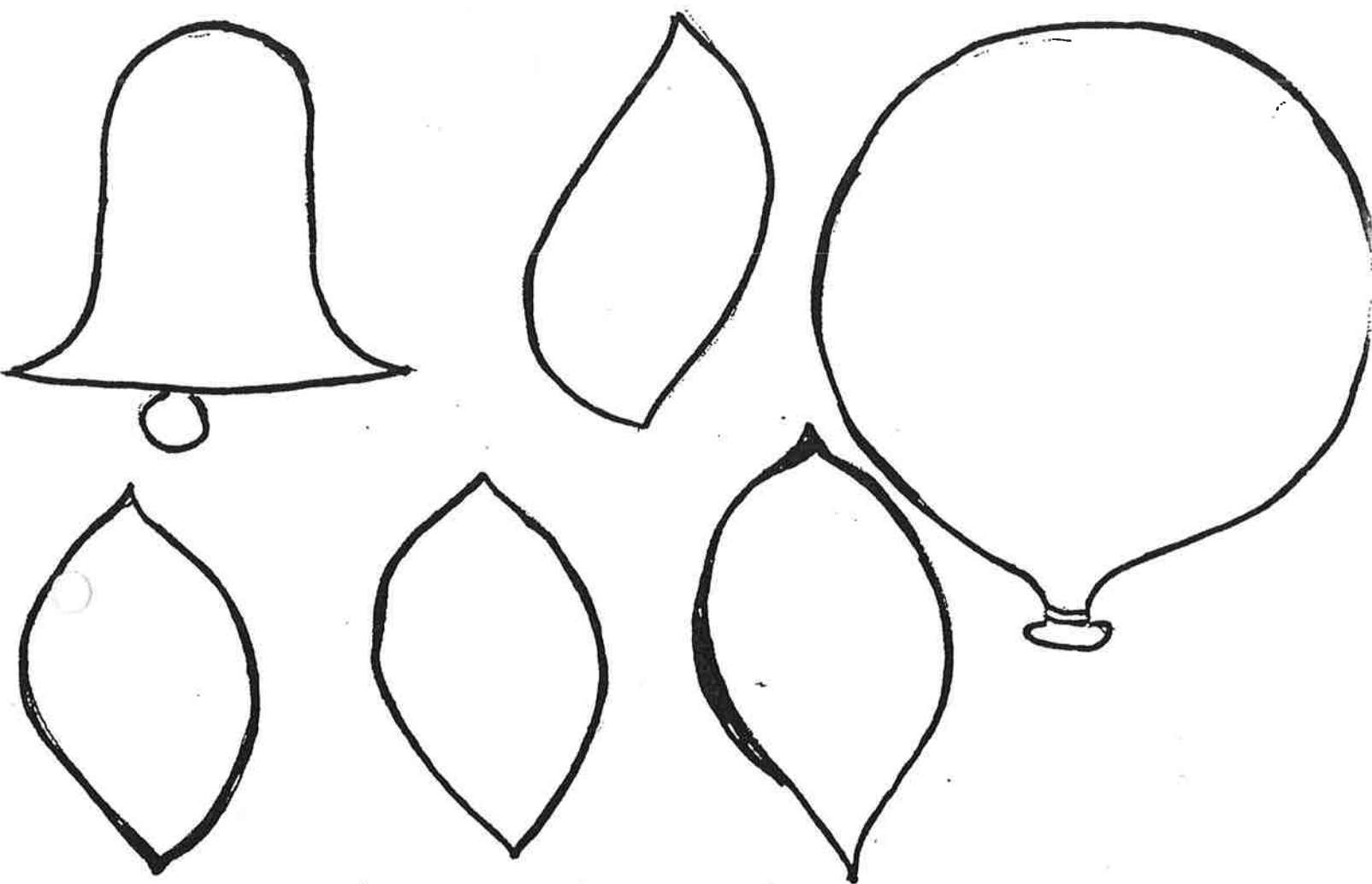
1. Cut out along the outside edge and fold along the dotted line.
2. Draw a picture of a baby creature born from an egg.



Activity Sheet #5 Inspired by Pigs Aplenty, Pigs Galore by David McPhail

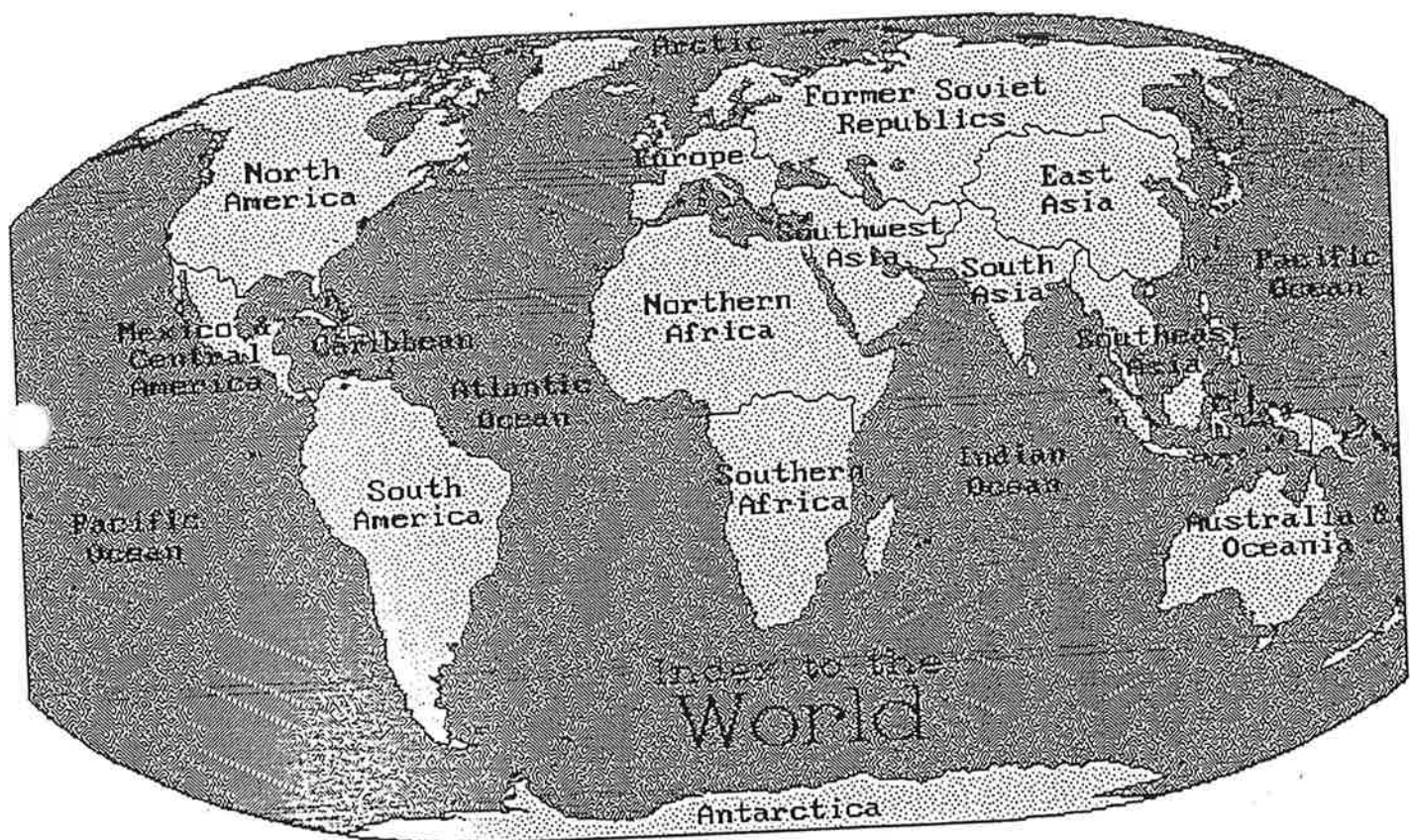


Activity Sheet #6 Inspired by Pablo's Tree by Pat Mora



Act. sheet #7: Inspired by the book How to Make an Apple Pie and See the World by Marjorie Priceman

Plot Your Trip Around the World



While Making an Apple Pie.

Act. Sheet #8: Inspired by Cowboy Country by Ann Herbert Scott

Close your eyes and imagine you are sitting by the campfire out in Devil's Canyon and you have just finished supper. The stars are coming out as the sun goes down. There is no Walkman and no TV. Lets make our own music.

HOME ON THE RANGE

146

UNKNOWN

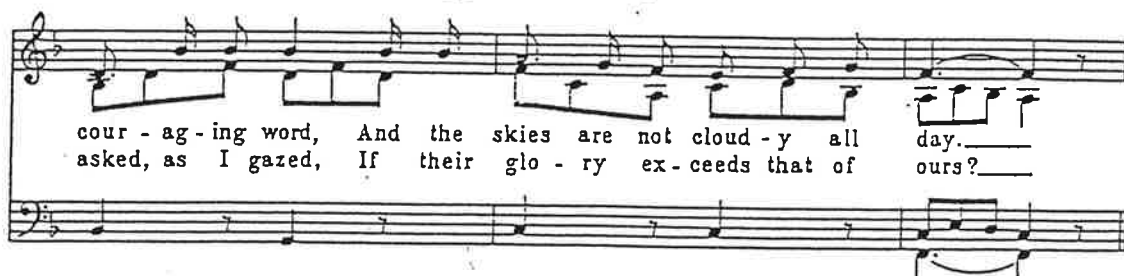
COWBOY SONG
Arr. by Walter Goodell



1. Oh, give me a home where the buf - fa - lo roam, Where the
2. How of - ten at night, when the heav - ens are bright, With the

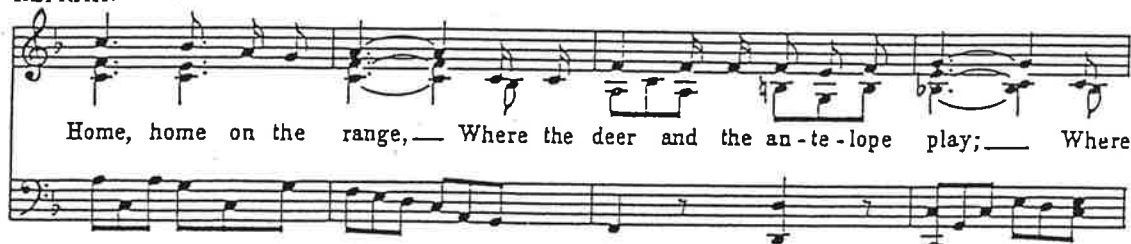


deer and the an - te - lope play; _____ Where _____ sel - dom is heard a dis -
light from the glit - ter - ing stars, _____ Have I stood there a - mazed and _____

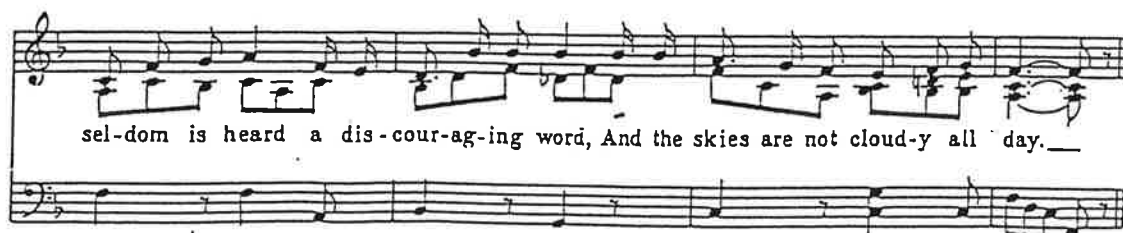


cour - ag - ing word, And the skies are not cloud - y all day. _____
asked, as I gazed, If their glo - ry ex - ceeds that of ours? _____

REFRAIN



Home, home on the range, _____ Where the deer and the an - te - lope play; _____ Where



sel - dom is heard a dis - cour - ag - ing word, And the skies are not cloud - y all day. _____

Act. Sheet #9 Inspired by William Wegman's ABC

