



1999

Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award Nominees and Activities



Bat Jamboree

by Kathi Applet, illustrations by Melissa Sweet



In this rhymed counting book, fifty-five flamboyantly attired bats entertain an enthusiastic audience with ten wing-tapping, toe-tapping acts. The fabulous finale includes an impressive pyramid of all 55 bats anxiously awaiting the arrival of the greatest bat of all. This tale includes counting fun and theatrical thrills, all performed with fantastically outrageous costuming.

Activity:

- ➡ Using the black line master of a bat, draw an athletic costume on the bat. Then write a description about the athletic activity to accompany the picture.

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Butterfly Story

by Anca Hariton



The transformation of the fuzzy, green caterpillar into a beautiful, colorful red-striped butterfly is depicted with appealing watercolors. The five-week process, from the laying of eggs to the emergence of the butterfly from the cocoon, is explained in muted colors and words that define the stages of the butterfly metamorphosis in simple terms. For the older reader a more detailed explanation is included in the back of the book.

Activity:

- ➡ Gather all the library's informational books about butterflies. Make them accessible to students. Students will read the informational books to locate facts about butterflies.
- ➡ Using the black line master of a butterfly, students will write one fact about butterflies in the center and then color the butterfly. These butterflies could then be used to create an attractive bulletin board in the classroom.

Dark At the Top of the Stairs

by Sam McBratney, illustrations by Ivan Bates



A wise old mouse warns his three young mice of the danger that lurks at the top of the cellar stairs, yet they insist on seeing it for themselves. So, step by step, the mice climb the creaky stairs, growing ever closer to the dark shadows--until they are whisker to whisker with the creature who lives at the top of the stairs!

Activity:

- Using the black line master of a door, cut around the door so that it will open, then paste the sheet on a piece of construction paper, leaving the door unpasted. Then open the door and draw a picture of something that you think may be behind the dark door at the top of the stairs.



Hog-Eye

by Susan Meddaugh



Getting onto the wrong school bus was the pig's first mistake. Her second was choosing to take the path through the forest. When she's grabbed by a wolf and thrown into a sack, she knows she'll have to stall for time—or become his lunch. Lucky for pig, she knows how to use the dreaded "Hog-Eye" stare. Bright illustrations filled with expression captivate the reader in this cautionary tale.

Activity:

- Make an illustrated recipe for Wolf Stew. Be sure to include all the spices and accompanying vegetables that you will need for the stew in your recipe. The black line master of the wolf lined page may be used to write your recipe.

How Smudge Came

by Nan Gregory, illustrations by Ron Lightburn



Cindy is a young woman with Down syndrome who finds a stray puppy during a rainstorm on her way to the group home where she lives. She hides the puppy from her house mates and during the day takes it to her cleaning job at a nearby hospice where a nearly blind patient names him "Smudge." The puppy is discovered at the group home and sent to the animal shelter. When Cindy gets to the pound to retrieve Smudge, the puppy is gone. The muted, artfully colored illustrations enhance the caring of the hospice, the determination of Cindy in wanting to keep the puppy, agony of Cindy when she is forbidden Smudge, and the joyful ending of the puppy found and given a home at the hospice.

Activity:

- ➡ Use this story to generate interest in understanding people with disabilities. List a disability, then have students generate things they need to know to understand how a person with that disability feels and what they must cope with on a daily basis.
- ➡ Invite a guest speaker to talk to the students about disabilities.

Other books:

The man who loved clowns by June Wood

Be Good to Eddie Lee by Virginia Fleming

I have a sister. My sister is deaf by Jeanne Whitehouse

My sister's Silent World by Catherine Arthur

About Handicaps: An open family book for parents & Children together by SB Stein

I'm not so different: a book about handicaps by Barbara Seuling

My mommy's special by Jennifer English

Seeing in special ways: children living with blindness by Thomas Bergman

We laugh, we love, we cry: children living with mental retardation by T Bergman

On our own terms: children living with physical disabilities by Thomas Bergman

The Library

by Sarah Stewart, illustrations by David Small



The humorous pastel watercolor illustrations show that Elizabeth Brown doesn't like to play with dolls, she likes to read books. Now that she is grown up her collection has gotten so big her shelves are collapsing. What to do? Elizabeth surprises everyone with her splendid solution of sharing all her beloved books by starting a library. The simple rhyme adds to the reading enjoyment.

Activity:

- ➡ Using the black line master of a set of books, students will fill in titles, authors, and call numbers of their favorite books. Then they will color the spines and cut them out. All the students will paste their books on a large bookshelf drawn on butcher paper. This may then be used as a bulletin board.

Lilly's Purple Plastic Purse

by Kevin Henkes



Lilly of Chester's Way and Julius Baby of the World is back! Lilly loves everything about school: the pointy pencils, the squeaky chalk, the fish sticks, chocolate milk in the lunchroom, and her cool teacher Mr. Slinger. But one day, Lilly has something to share with her class that is new and irresistible and she just can't wait until sharing time. Another hilarious and sensitive Kevin Henkes winner.

Activity:

- ➡ Using the black line master of a purse, students will draw, color, and cut out items that they would carry in their own purses/wallets. These may then fill a bulletin board entitled: Our Purple Plastic Purses.

Other Lilly books:

Chester's way, Henkes

Julius, baby of the World, Henkes

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Lost

by Paul Brett Johnson and Celeste Lewis, illustrations by Paul Brett Johnson



During a desert camping trip, Flag, the family beagle, runs off in pursuit of a wild rabbit and finds himself lost amid the perils of the wilderness for twenty-nine days before being reunited with his young owner. Two facing points of view in different illustration styles tell the dual stories of Flag's adventures and his mistress's determination to find her dog.

Activity:

- ➡ Create a Lost poster for a lost pet. The poster should include: when last seen, a description of the pet, a way to contact the owner when they find the lost pet and a colorful picture of the pet.

Lucy's Picture

by Nicola Moon, illustrations by Alex Ayliffe



Lucy's grandpa is coming for a visit and she wants to surprise him with a picture. At school the rest of the class is painting—but paint is not right for Lucy's picture. Lucy wants to make a collage. As she sets about collecting things for her collage, her imagination takes hold, and her project grows into a special picture that her blind grandfather can “see” with his hands.

Activity:

- ➡ Gather a box of paper, cloth, nature scraps, sandpaper, etc. Children will create collage pictures of a tactile nature to be sent to a school for the disabled or for a class for the blind in their school district or for the State School for the Blind.
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M.C. Turtle and the Hip Hop Hare

by David Vozar, illustrations by Betsy Lewin



Hip Hop Hare challenges M.C. Turtle to a race along the city streets in this rap version of “The Tortoise and the Hare.” The infectious rap rhythm and rhyme, as well as the colorful and comical illustrations make this book a crowd-pleaser, but you will want to be sure and practice this ahead of time to get the right beat, or have your music teacher read this one.

Activity:

- ➡ Use this book to involve your school's vocal music teacher in the WCCPBA. Ask the music teacher to read and/or use this book with all your classes in grades K - 3.

My Little Sister Ate One Hare

by Bill Grossman, illustrations by Kevin Hawkes



This little sister decides to eat the grossest and most disgusting critters on the planet, while her brother sits by waiting for her to “throw up then and there, but she didn’t.” It’s not until she eats 10 peas that everything explodes. This book’s fantastic rhythm and cumulative rhyme, along with the comical illustrations guarantees a captive audience.

Activity:

- ➡ Use the blackline master to have students draw:

The worse thing I ever ate....

The best thing I ever ate...

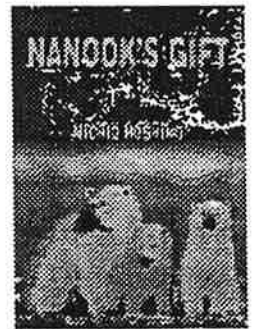
What my mother wants me to eat...

What television ads want me to eat...

in each of the four sections of the paper.

Nanook’s Gift

by Michio Hoshino



Illustrated with playful and moving color photos of wild polar bears, this unique children’s book teaches children about the web of life and the importance of respect for our environment and all living things.

Activity:

- ➡ Create a mural of a polar habitat and include all the animals who live in the polar region.
- ➡ Create a page of Fun Facts about Polar Bears, illustrate.

Princess Penelope's Parrot

by Helen Lester, illustrations by Lynn Munsinger



Spoiled Princess Penelope can't get her new parrot to talk until Percival comes courting. She hides the parrot behind a curtain, only to have the prince be greeted by the parrot repeating all the rude comments the princess herself had made earlier. The personality of the art and comical dialogue of the text are sure to have every reader laughing out loud.

Activity:

- ➡ Students will draw a picture illustrating a correct 'manner'. Older students can write a sentence about their 'manner'. As an extension: these pictures may be drawn using KidPix. Then the class pictures may be put together in KidPix as a slide show of manners.

Other books:

The Thingumajigs, Keller

A Spoon Not a Shovel, Buehner

What Do You Say Dear?, Joslin

What Do you Do Dear? Joslin

Red Wolf Country

by Johnathan London, illustrations by Daniel San Souci



The scene set in the southeastern United States, author London touchingly imagines the red wolves' determination as winter turns to spring and the time of birthing draws near. Silhouetted against the night sky of a thick blanket of snow, running from a shotgun-toting farmer or an alligator, the red wolf couple seem to have only each other—and because red wolves as a species are endangered, this is almost true.

Activity:

Wolf Fact/Wolf Fiction

- ➡ Select nonfiction books about wolves from your collection. Mark pages that give interesting wolf facts
- ➡ Gather folktales from your collection that have wolf characters.
- ➡ Read one of the folktales about wolves
- ➡ Read Red Wolf Country
- ➡ After reading each book have students research fiction and nonfiction books (from books you have selected) to find descriptions of wolves. Divide them into groups and have each group write a list of "Character Traits: Fact and Fiction" that they find in their books.

example:

Character Traits: Fact and Fiction

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> name of Folktale: | words used to describe how a wolf behaves |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Title of Nonfiction book: | words used to describe how a wolf behaves. |

- ➡ Have each student draw a picture of a wolf in its habitat and write one fact about the wolf. Put pictures on butcher paper titled **Facts about Wolves**.

Sam and the Tigers

by Julius Lester, illustrations by Jerry Pinkney

Little Black Sambo by Helen Bannerman is re-created in a black southern storytelling voice in which the storyteller is involved—a voice readers may recognize from his retellings of The Tales of Uncle Remus, among others. He turns Sam's deals with hungry tigers into an exuberant battle of wits, and transforms his pancake dinner into a glorious feast for the whole community.

Activity:

- ➔ Using the blackline master of Sam, students will draw and color a fine set of clothes worthy of a Tiger's coveting.

Other books:

Little Babaja

Little Black Sambo



Saving Sweetness

by Diane Stanley, illustrations by G Brian Karas

When Sweetness, the little orphan in mean old Mrs. Sump's orphanage, runs away, the kind-hearted sheriff sets off to find her. After all, someone's got to save Sweetness before she meets up with Coyote Pete, the nastiest, ugliest desperado in the West. Sweetness proves herself resourceful and clever as laughs and surprises abound in this offbeat tall tale.

Activity:

- ➔ Celebrate the language in this book by creating a word wall (large piece of butcher paper with the words and phrases listed). Some suggestions from this story are:

hollerin' like a banshee
desperado
wind was too tired to blow
prudent
stay there a spell
canteen
sun goes down in all it's
endured
little tyke
fry my patience
chewed on it awhile longer
ambled
dilemma

mean as an acre of rattlesnakes
hot as blazes
commenced
stagger with thirst
just a shadow against the sun
cute as a speckled pup
she lit off like she was tryin' to catch glory yesterday
mosey
fell on me like Gramma on a chicken snake
laid out cold like a sacka feed
a look that would freeze a cat
tied that varmint up bulletproof and pig tight



Secret Shortcut

by Mark Teague

Wendell and Floyd have the perfect plan for getting to school on time. But what begins as an innocent hop over a fence amazingly becomes a wild race through the jungle, complete with quicksand, vine-swinging monkeys, and crocodiles. Teague's luscious double page spreads make this book an absorbing adventure.

Activity:

- ➡ Using the blackline master students will draw a shortcut (putting in obstacles of their own creation) from home to school.

Other books:

As a Crow Flies, Hartman

Map books



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Some Smug Slug

by Pamela Edwards, illustrations by Henry Cole



A self-assured slug slithers up a suspicious slope. A sparrow, spider, stink bug, and several other spectators shout alliterative cautions. But this slug is smug, and heeds not his companions' warnings. He'll wish he had when he sees the shocking surprise that awaits him at the summit!

Activity:

- ➡ Put names of different animals in a hat. Have students pick an animal from hat and write an alliterative sentence about the animal and then illustrate the sentence. Make a class book of the pages
- ➡ **Alternative:** students use their own names to write alliterative sentences and illustrate them.
- ➡ **Extension:** students draw these pictures in KidPix, ClarisWorks and place into a class slide show.

Other books:

Slugs by David Greenburg

Four Farnished Foxes and Fosdyke by Pamela Duncan Edwards

Spoon For Every Bite

by Joe Hayes, illustrations by Rebecca Leer



In a humorous story of greed based on traditional Hispanic folktales from the Southwest, a proud and wealthy man foolishly squanders his fortune in a game of one-upmanship by trying to buy enough spoons to use a different one for each bite of food.

Activity:

- ➡ Using the blackline master of the spoon, students will draw on the spoon their favorite spoonful of food. (use the Mary Poppins song, Spoonful of Sugar to play in the background while the students work). These spoons can be mounted on a bulletin board in a big circle to have a circle of good eats.

Toads And Diamonds

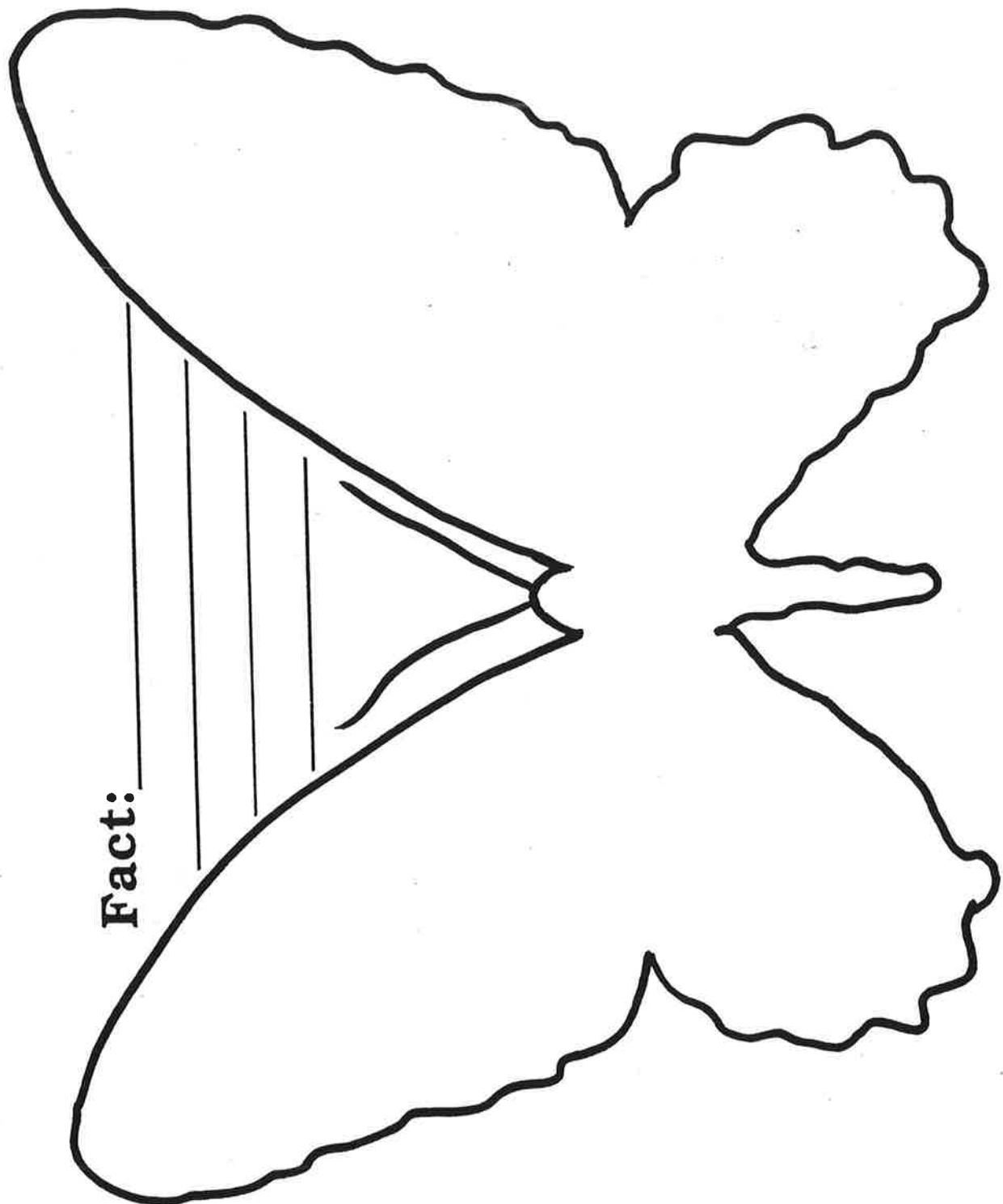
by Robert Bender



In this retelling of a Perrault tale, two sisters' treatment of a three-headed troll is appropriately repaid. Merth, the caring and generous sister treats the troll kindly and is repaid with jewels pouring from her mouth. Bleacha, a selfish and spoiled sister refuses to obey the troll and is rewarded with a mouthful of toads.

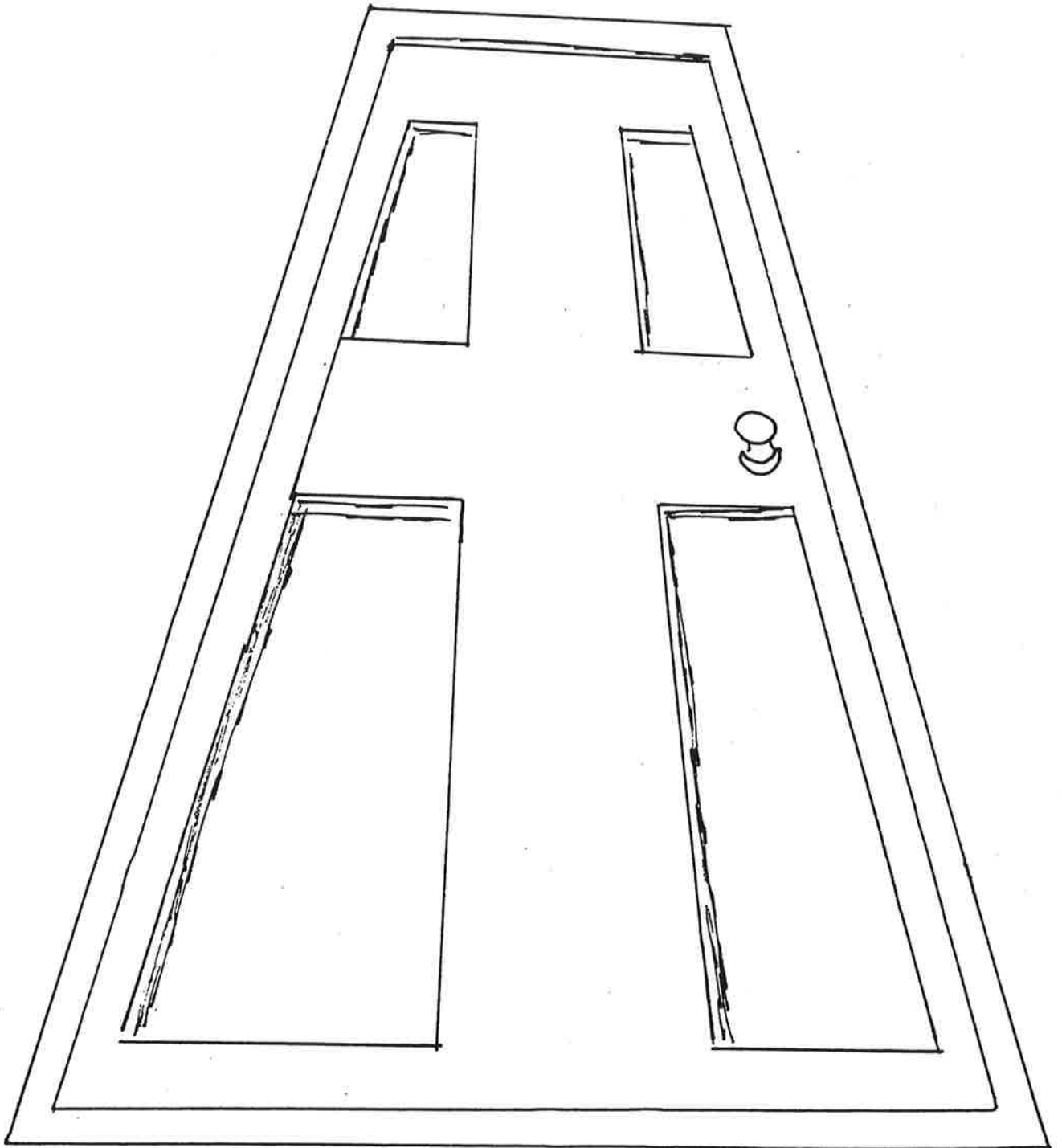
Activity:

- ➡ Using the blackline master, students will list the attributes of the characters, Merth and Bleacha, in the ven diagram noting the similarities and differences.



Fact:

Butterfly Story

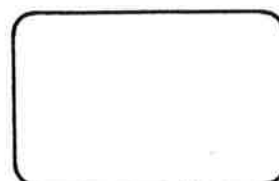
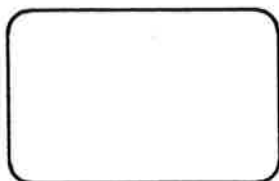


... the Top of the Stairs

title
author

title
author

title
author





1999 Washington Children's Choice Picture Book Award Nominee Summary/Activity

Bleacha



Merth

