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Cartoon Story Starters Curriculum Map

This collection of engaging and hilarious illustrations will inspire students' creative writing. Images of varying complexity are included so that students with a wide range of critical thinking and writing abilities may be engaged meaningfully. The illustrations may be used as "starters" for a variety of forms of writing, and can be used to augment any writing program. Or, use them as a meaningful "filler" activity when students have extra classroom time.

Organization

Divided into five sections based on the primary theme of the illustrations:

1. Adventure
2. Animals
3. Fantasy
4. General Fiction
5. Sports

Each story starter worksheet includes an illustration and corresponding word list, a blank line for the story's title, and numbered blank lines for the story itself.

For easy reference, the story genre and illustration number are listed at the top of each page. The cartoons are balanced for gender and race. The grade level of each word list is also included. These are arranged in order of increasing complexity within each section.

The word list includes key words related to the illustration to help the students begin to think about their overall impression of the image. They should read the word list before writing to stimulate their creative thinking, and you may wish to have them include the list words in their story. The blank lines are numbered so that you may easily give students instructions on how long their creative writing piece should be.

Students may be given the Writing Checklist (page 5) after writing a story. The checklist is a useful guide to help them edit and proofread their stories.

At Glance

Learning Expectations

Through the meaningful context of creative writing, students will:

- ✓ Express their responses to a variety of illustrations, using evidence from the images and their own knowledge and experience
- ✓ Develop ability in creative, independent thinking, and ordering of ideas in a logical sequence
- ✓ Communicate their ideas clearly and effectively
- ✓ Communicate their ideas for specific purposes and to specific audiences
- ✓ Apply previously learned basic skills of grammar, spelling, punctuation, and conventions of style and form
- ✓ Practice proofreading and editing skills

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Reproducible Story Starters

 Adventure

 Animal Stories

 Fantasy

 General Fiction

 Sports

Cartoon Story Starters Introduction

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How to Use the Illustrations

The cartoon story starters may be used as springboards for a variety of forms of creative writing. The most straightforward use is for a short story. Students who would benefit from other writing challenges may enjoy using the story starters to write any of the following:

- Poetry
- Biography or autobiography of a character in the illustration
- A letter written to or from a character
- Diary or personal journal entry of a character
- Script for a play or movie
- And many other forms of writing!

The illustrations may also be used as a basis for dramatic presentations.

Name: _____ Story Title: _____

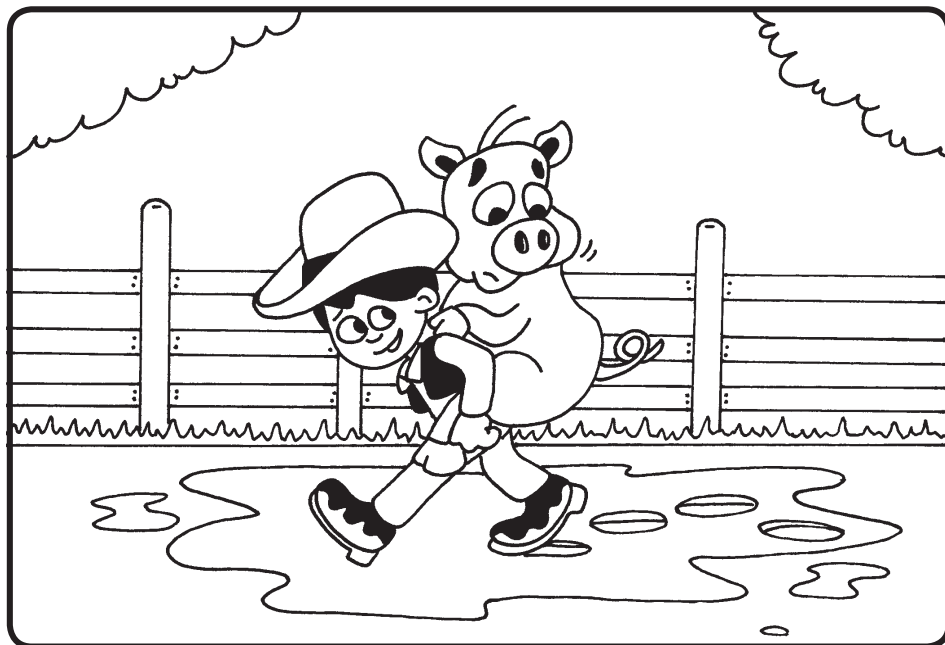
Writing Checklist

Read your story. Then read each sentence below. Circle **Yes** or **No**.



- | | | |
|--|------------|-----------|
| 1. My story has a beginning, middle, and an end. | Yes | No |
| 2. I read my story to be sure that it makes sense. | Yes | No |
| 3. I used lots of interesting details. | Yes | No |
| 4. Each sentence begins with a capital letter. | Yes | No |
| 5. Each sentence ends with a punctuation mark (. ? !). | Yes | No |
| 6. My sentences are complete. | Yes | No |
| 7. My handwriting is neat. | Yes | No |
| 8. There are spaces between the words. | Yes | No |
| 9. I underlined spellings that I am not sure about. | Yes | No |
| 10. I tried to correct the spellings on my own. | Yes | No |

Name: _____



Grade 1

Word List

pig
mud
back
carry
dirty
silly

Title: _____

1

2

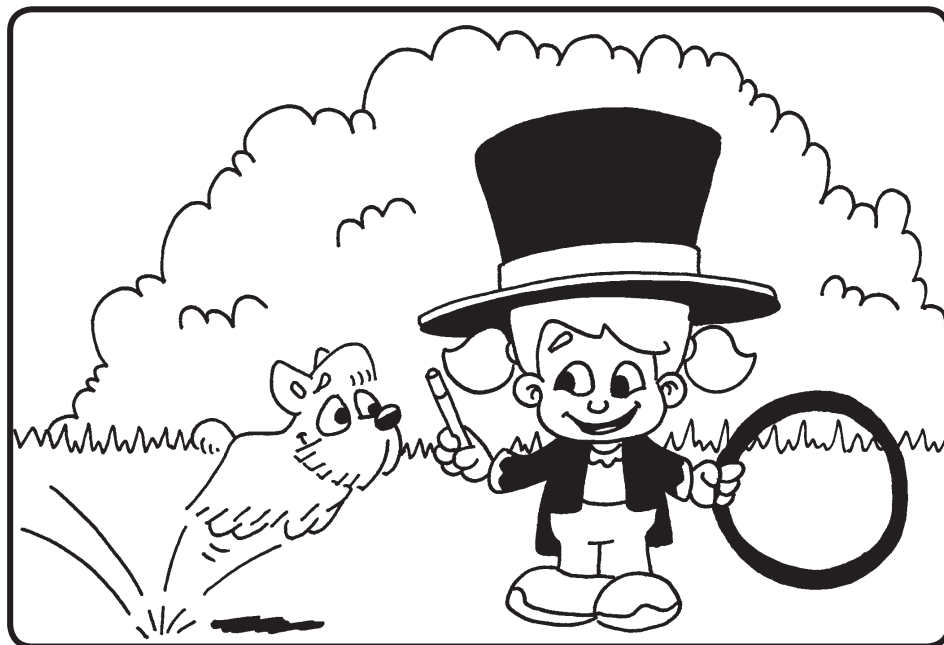
3

4

5

6

Name: _____



Grade 1

Word List

dog
ring
hat
jump
wave
through

Title: _____

1

2

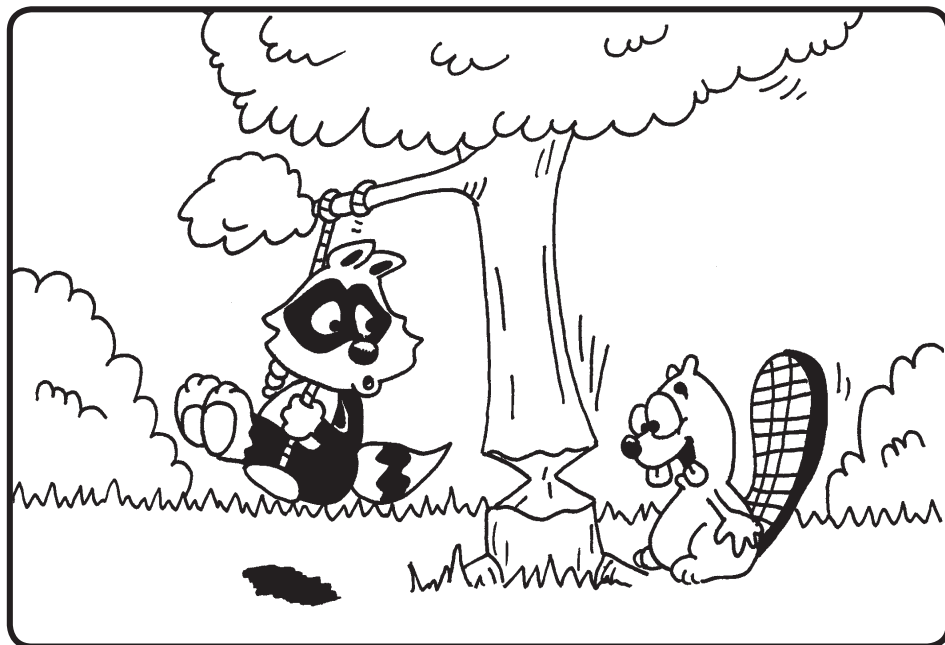
3

4

5

6

Name: _____



Grade 1

Word List

raccoon
beaver
wood
fall
swing
chew

Title: _____

1

2

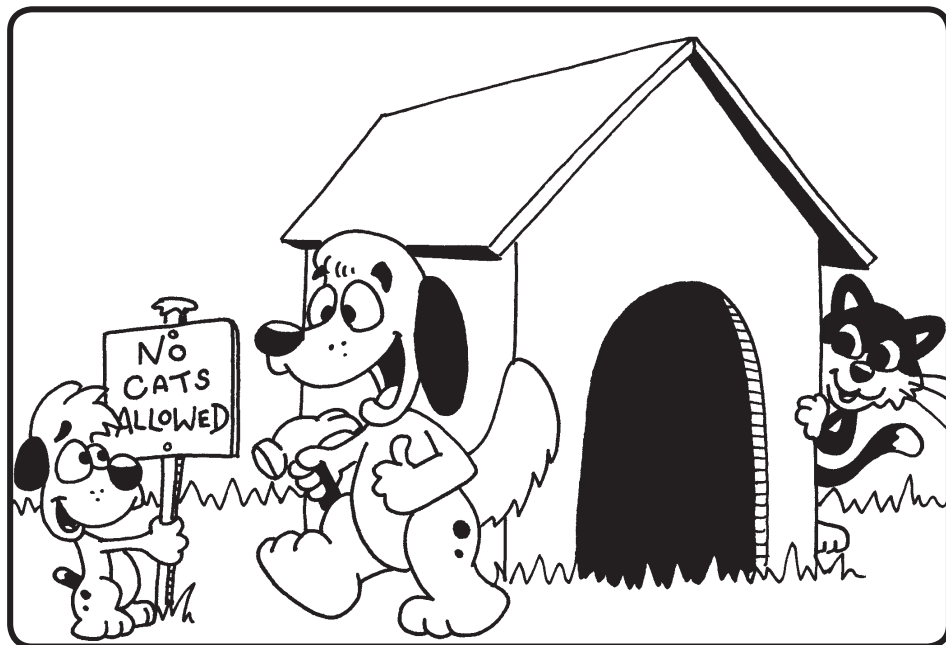
3

4

5

6

Name: _____



Grade 1

Word List

dogs
cat
club
hide
happy
play

Title: _____

1

2

3

4

5

6

Name: _____



Grade 1

Word List

pet
spot
brush
paint
splash
messy

Title: _____

1

2

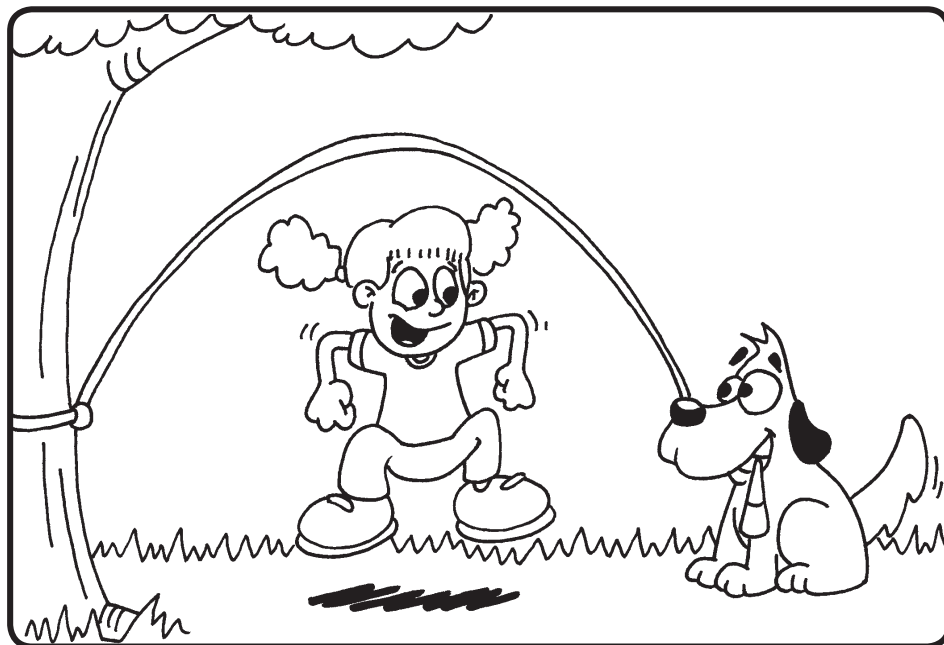
3

4

5

6

Name: _____



Grade 1

Word List

rope
puppy
tree
skip
jump
wag

Title: _____

1

2

3

4

5

6