Atlas to Z

ALEX AND ZOEY'S MIRROR MAP ALPHABET ADVENTURE FROM A TO Z



READ • HUNT • COLOR • CRACK THE CODE

YAHREQA

Atlas to Z

Alex and Zoey's Mirror Map Alphabet Adventure from A to Z

A B C D E F G H I J K L M

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Read. Hunt. Color. Crack the Code.

YAHREQA

Your Alphabet Hunt: Read, Explore, Quest, Achieve!

Atlas to Z

Alex and Zoey's Mirror Map Alphabet Adventure from A to Z

Copyright © 2026 YAHREQA LLC. All rights reserved.
Published by YAHREQA LLC, 522 W Riverside Ave #8032, Spokane, WA 99201, USA.

No part of this book may be reproduced, distributed or transmitted in any form or by any means, including photocopying, recording or other electronic or mechanical methods, without the prior written permission of the publisher, except in the case of brief quotations embodied in reviews and certain other non-commercial uses permitted by copyright law. The pages of this book are intended to be colored in by its owner.

Household permission: the owner of this book may print and copy its pages for the children in their own household to read and color.

Written and illustrated for YAHREQA. The text and the illustrations were created with generative artificial-intelligence tools and then reviewed, selected, revised and arranged by the author.

ISBN (paperback): 9798163865062

Second edition 2026

Printed by Amazon KDP. 8.5 x 11 in · 120 pages · black ink on white paper.

For ages 4 and up. Art supplies are not included. Use crayons, markers and pencils with grown-up supervision, and keep them away from children under 3.

Welcome, Adventurer!

Alex and Zoey are best friends. Alex's name starts with A, the very first letter of the alphabet. Zoey's name starts with Z, the very last.

One day in Grandpa Atlaz's attic, they found an old, dusty treasure chest. It was full of maps! Alex lifted one out and unrolled it. Across the top, the letters marched from A to Z. Across the bottom, they marched backwards, from Z to A.

“It's a Mirror Map!” said Zoey. “A is friends with Z. B is friends with Y. C is friends with X!”

The treasure map began to glow. Twenty-six (26) letters. Twenty-six (26) places to go. Find every sneaky word and every hidden number, and the map will lead you to the treasure. And that is how the Atlas to Z alphabet adventure began.

THE MIRROR ALPHABET

Every letter has a mirror buddy. Fold the alphabet in half and they touch!

A–Z B–Y C–X D–W E–V F–U G–T H–S I–R J–Q K–P L–O M–N

How to Play

1. **Read the story.**
Say the letter words out loud. In the A story, listen for all the A sounds!

2. **Spot the sneaky word.**
In every story, ONE thing from the other end of the alphabet has snuck in. In the A story, look for a Z thing. In the B story, look for a Y thing. Names don't count. Little words like "a" and "the" don't count. The sneaky word is always something you read in the story and can point to in the picture.

3. **Color the big picture.**
Every story ends with a giant two-page picture. Color it any way you like — and find the sneaky thing hiding in it.

4. **Find the hidden number.**
The A story is number 1. B is 2. C is 3 ... all the way to Z, which is 26. The number is hiding somewhere in the picture, too!

5. **Fill in your Mirror Key.**
Write each sneaky word in the Mirror Key at the back of the book, spelled just the way the story spells it. Then write its SECOND letter in the last box.

6. **Crack the Mirror Message.**
When you reach Z, use your Mirror Key to decode the secret message. That message is the treasure the map leads to — read it out loud!

Your Alphabet Hunt

Y our

A lphabet

H unt

R ead

E xplore

Q uest

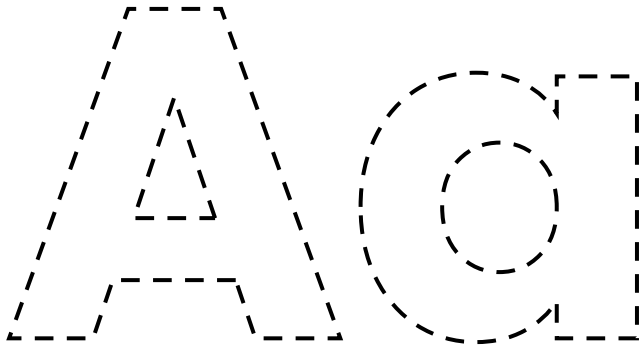
A chieve

Read the first letters going down. That spells YAHREQA! — say it "Yuh-REE-kuh." It is the sound you make when you finally figure something out.

MEET YOUR GUIDES

ALEX and ZOEY are your guides. A is for Alex, the first letter of the alphabet. Z is for Zoey, the last. They are in every single picture in this book, all twenty-six of them.

1



Trace the uppercase A and the lowercase *a*, then color them in.

AUNT AVA'S APPLE ORCHARD

Say it with me

"Azzy and Aunt Ava's alpaca ate an amazing apple."

1

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 1

Can you count one big apple in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter A in the story?

A WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

apple · apron · accordion · arm · ant · airplane · acorn · alpaca

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase A and the lowercase *a* at the top of this page.
2. The number 1 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky Z word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

AUNT AVA'S APPLE ORCHARD

1

Alex and Zoey's first stop from Grandpa Atlaz's attic was Aunt Ava's apple orchard in Alabama.

“Apples!” said Alex. “Apples everywhere!”

Aunt Ava wore an apron and played an accordion. Beside her stood Azzy, her granddaughter, an ace apple picker with a basket on each arm.

“Welcome, adventurers!” said Aunt Ava. “It is apple-picking day. I need one (1) apple. Just one (1). It is the most amazing apple in the whole orchard, and it grows at the very top of the tallest tree.”

“I know that tree,” said Azzy. “Follow me!”

Azzy, Alex and Zoey raced up the hill. An army of ants marched across the path. An airplane hummed above the clouds. Acorns plinked and plunked down from the oaks. Archie the alpaca said, “Ahem,” and let them pass.

And there it was. The tallest tree. One (1) apple at the very top, red and shining like a ruby.

Alex climbed. Azzy held the ladder. Zoey cheered. “Almost there! Almost!”

Alex stretched his arm as far as it could go... and plucked it. One (1) perfect apple!

Down below, Archie chewed grass, the ants carried away the crumbs, and a zebra took a nap in the shade.

Aunt Ava sliced the apple so everyone got a bite. “Absolutely amazing,” she said. “That's apple number one (1). Are you ready for more?”

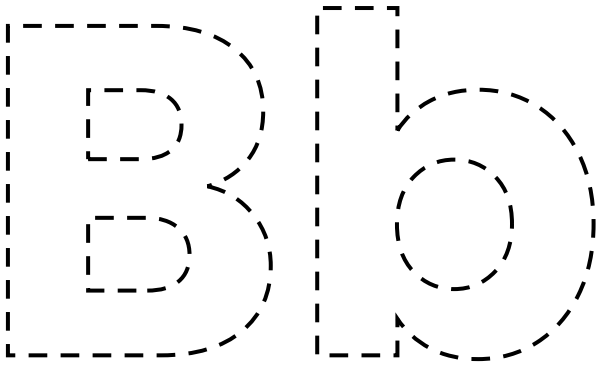
“Always!” said Alex, Azzy and Zoey together.

Turn the page and color — 1 and the sneaky Z word are both hiding in there.




A
1

2



Trace the uppercase B and the lowercase b, then color them in.

THE BEAR BAKERY

Say it with me

"Bea and Ben bake big blueberry buns."

2

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 2

Can you count two bears (Bea and Ben) in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter B in the story?

B WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

bear · bowl · bun · bread · bagel · bunny · balloon · bus

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase B and the lowercase b at the top of this page.
2. The number 2 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky Y word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Next stop: the Bear Bakery, the busiest bakery in Boston.

Two (2) bears ran it. Bea baked. Ben bagged. Both bears wore big blue bows.

“Breakfast rush!” said Bea. “We need bakers. Can you help?”

“You bet!” said Zoey.

Alex buttered the pans. Zoey mixed the batter in two (2) big bowls. Bea baked blueberry buns, banana bread, and bagels — baskets and baskets of bagels! Ben bagged them in brown bags as fast as he could.

Ding! The bell above the door rang. In came a bunny with a bow tie. Behind the bunny stood a yak. Behind the yak came a family of beavers, a boy with a balloon, and the driver of the big blue bus.

“Bagels for everybody!” said Ben.

The line was long, but the bears were quick. Bake, bake, bake. Bag, bag, bag.

By the end of the morning, every bun was gone. Bea gave Alex and Zoey a basket with two (2) blueberry buns — one for each of them.

“Best bakers in town,” said Ben. “Bye-bye! Come back soon!”

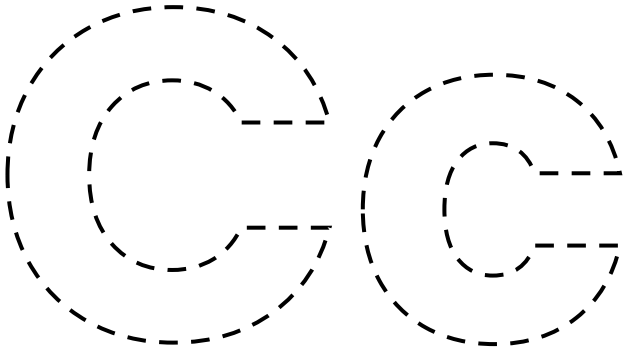
“We will!” said Alex, with his mouth full.

Turn the page and color — 2 and the sneaky Y word are both hiding in there.





3



Trace the uppercase C and the lowercase c, then color them in.

THE CREEKSIDE CARNIVAL

Say it with me

"Cousin Cal's camel carried cotton candy."

3

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 3

Can you count three ticket stubs in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter C in the story?

C WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

cotton candy · clown · corn dog · carousel · camel · cheetah · car · castle

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase C and the lowercase c at the top of this page.
2. The number 3 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky X word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

The Creekside Carnival came to Chicago once a year, and today was the day!

Alex and Zoey each got three (3) tickets. “Choose carefully,” said Cousin Cal, who ran the ticket booth. “Three (3) tickets, three (3) rides.”

Colors were everywhere. Candy-striped tents. Cotton candy as pink as a piglet. A clown on a unicycle juggling corn dogs.

Ticket one (1): the carousel! Alex chose a camel. Zoey chose a cheetah. Around and around they went.

Ticket two (2): the bumper cars! Crash! Clunk! Zoey's car spun in a circle. Alex's car bumped Cousin Cal's car. “Careful!” laughed Cal.

Ticket three (3): the big climbing castle! Up, up, up they climbed, then whoosh — down the curly slide.

On the way out, they passed a game booth with a ring toss, a coin drop, and a xylophone that played a little tune when you won. Zoey's three (3) ticket stubs fluttered down onto the ground by the booth.

“Cotton candy?” asked Cousin Cal.

“Yes, please!” said Alex and Zoey.

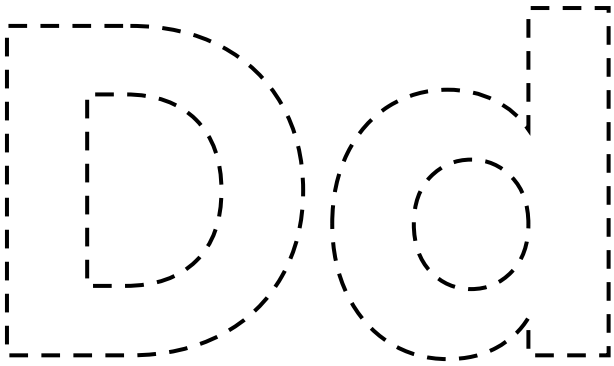
Three (3) tickets. Three (3) rides. One very sticky, very happy walk home.

Turn the page and color — 3 and the sneaky X word are both hiding in there.


A
Z


3

4



Trace the uppercase D and the lowercase d, then color them in.

DR. DEE'S DINO DIG

Say it with me

"Dave the dragon and Dot the dog dig deep in the dusty desert."

4

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 4

Can you count four dinosaur bones in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter D in the story?

D WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

dinosaur · dog · dragon · dirt · dune · diamond · dragonfly · donut

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase D and the lowercase d at the top of this page.
2. The number 4 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky W word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Deep in the desert of Dubai, Dr. Dee was digging for dinosaurs.

“Dig in!” she said, and handed Alex and Zoey two (2) shovels.

Dot the dog dug too. Dot was a digging dog. And Dave, the big green dragon, dug deepest of all. Dave was a digging dragon. Digging dragons don't fly — they dig, with dazzling claws. Dirt flew. Dust danced in the air.

“Dr. Dee,” asked Zoey, “how do you know where to dig?”

“Dinosaur bones are hiding under the dunes,” said Dr. Dee. “Today I need four (4) bones. Four (4) bones make one (1) dinosaur foot.”

Alex dug and dug. Nothing. Zoey dug and dug. A diamond! Pretty, but not a bone.

Then Dot's tail went straight up. She dug deeper, deeper, deeper... Clink!

“A bone!” said Alex. “A dinosaur toe bone!”

Dave dug up a second bone. Then a third. Dr. Dee dusted each one with a soft brush and set it in the wagon. Then a dragonfly landed on Dot's nose — right next to the fourth bone!

“Four (4) bones!” said Dr. Dee. “A whole dinosaur foot. Delightful!”

“Dinosaurs are my distant cousins,” said Dave, and he did a dizzy little dragon dance.

They celebrated with a crate of four (4) donuts and lemonade in the shade. Dot got a donut. Dave wanted a dozen, but one (1) was all he got.

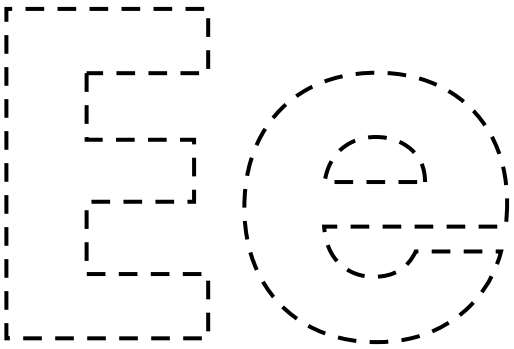
“Dinosaurs are dandy,” said Dr. Dee, “but a good digging dragon is even better.”

Turn the page and color — 4 and the sneaky W word are both hiding in there.





5



Trace the uppercase E and the lowercase e, then color them in.

ELLIE'S EASEL

Say it with me

"Ellie the elephant eats eleven excellent eggs."

5

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 5

Can you count five painted eggs in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter E in the story?

E WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

elephant · easel · egg · eagle · Earth · ears · eyes · elbow

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase E and the lowercase e at the top of this page.
2. The number 5 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky V word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

ELLIE'S EASEL

5

Ellie the elephant ran the art class at the end of Elm Street, on Easter Island.

“Everybody in!” she trumpeted. “Every artist gets an easel. Every easel gets a brush.”

Alex and Zoey each got an easel, an eraser, and an enormous smock.

“Today,” said Ellie, “we paint eggs. Five (5) eggs. Each egg gets its own color.”

Egg one (1): emerald green. Egg two (2): electric blue. Egg three (3): bright yellow. Egg four (4): orange. Egg five (5): purple with polka dots.

Alex painted an eagle on his emerald egg. Zoey painted the whole Earth on hers — with an elephant on top.

“Excellent!” said Ellie. Her enormous ears flapped and her eyes sparkled. “Simply excellent.”

Then — oops! Alex's elbow bumped the easel. Egg five (5) rolled… and rolled… and stopped right next to a violin in the corner.

“Easy does it,” said Ellie, and she scooped up the egg with the end of her trunk.

At the end of class, Ellie put every egg into an egg carton with a big letter E on the lid.

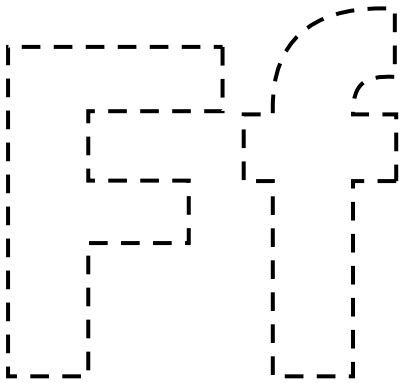
“Take them home,” she said. “And remember: every artist makes an excellent mess.”

Turn the page and color — 5 and the sneaky V word are both hiding in there.





6



Trace the uppercase F and the lowercase f, then color them in.

FARMER FAY'S FROG POND

Say it with me

"Six funny frogs flip and flop."

6

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 6

Can you count six frogs in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter F in the story?

F WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

farm · frog · fence · fish · flower · fox · finch · fig

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase F and the lowercase f at the top of this page.
2. The number 6 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky U word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

FARMER FAY'S FROG POND

6

Farmer Fay's farm in France had a fine frog pond, and the frogs were famous.

“Six (6) green frogs live on that log,” said Farmer Fay. “Fred, Flo, Finn, Fern, Fritz, and Fifi. But every morning, they hide. Can you find all six (6)?”

Alex and Zoey tiptoed to the fence.

Frog one (1) sat on a lily pad. “Found you!”

Frog two (2) floated by a fallen leaf. “Found you!”

Frog three (3) was fishing — for flies — while a fish jumped right past him. Frog four (4) was flat on a flower, fast asleep.

“That's four (4),” said Alex. “Where are five (5) and six (6)?”

A fox trotted by. A flock of finches flew over the field. Past the fence, in the far field, a unicorn nibbled on some clover.

Then — plop! Frog five (5) jumped from Zoey's boot into the pond.

“Five (5)!” said Zoey. “Finally!”

Frog six (6) was the trickiest of all. He sat right on top of Farmer Fay's hat.

“Fifi!” laughed Farmer Fay. “You funny frog.”

Six (6) frogs, all found. Farmer Fay gave them fresh figs from the fig tree, and the frogs sang a froggy song to say goodbye.

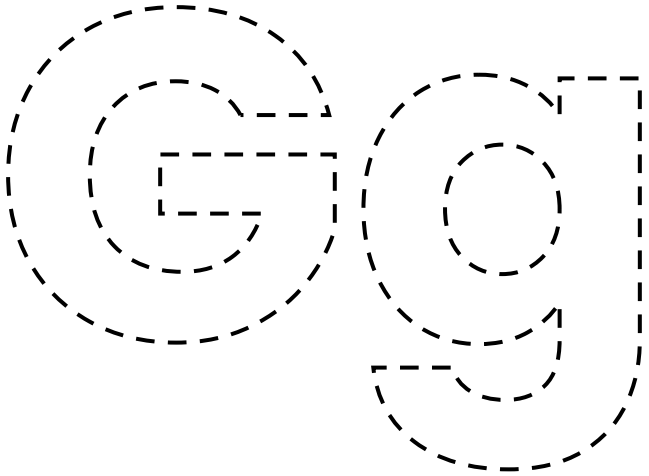
“Ribbit, ribbit, ribbit!” Which is frog for “Fantastic!”

Turn the page and color — 6 and the sneaky U word are both hiding in there.





7



Trace the uppercase G and the lowercase g, then color them in.

GRANDMA GIGI'S GARDEN

Say it with me

"Gus the goat gobbles Grandma Gigi's green grapes."

7

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 7

Can you count seven giant gourds in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter G in the story?

G WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

gloves · gourd · gate · grapes · gnome · geese · goat · grasshopper

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase G and the lowercase g at the top of this page.
2. The number 7 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky T word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Grandma Gigi grew the greatest garden in all of Georgia.

“Gardeners, grab your gloves!” she said. “The giant gourds are ready. I need seven (7) for the fair — the biggest, roundest gourds you can find.”

Alex and Zoey pulled on green gardening gloves and opened the garden gate.

Grapes grew on the arbor. Green beans grew on the vines. A garden gnome in a red hat grinned by the gate. A pair of geese honked. A goat named Gus chewed on Grandma's glove.

“Gus! Give that back!”

The gourds grew behind the green beans. Gourd one (1) was as big as a basketball. Gourd two (2) was bigger. Gourd three (3) was golden. Gourd four (4) was green with bumps. Gourd five (5) had grown into a funny shape, like a goose.

“That's five (5),” said Zoey. “Only six (6) and seven (7) left.”

Under the green beans, a turtle napped on a cool patch of dirt. Next to it: gourd six (6)!

Gourd seven (7) was the hardest to find. A grasshopper hopped off it. There it was, hiding under giant leaves.

“Seven (7) gorgeous gourds!” said Grandma Gigi. “Good job, gardeners.”

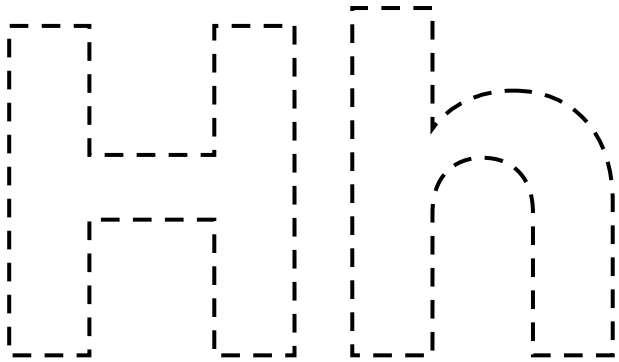
Then she gave them grape juice, and Gus the goat gave Zoey's glove one last chew.

Turn the page and color — 7 and the sneaky T word are both hiding in there.





8



Trace the uppercase H and the lowercase h, then color them in.

HOT-AIR BALLOONS OVER HONEY HILL

Say it with me

"Hank's hot-air balloon hovers high over Honey Hill."

8

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 8

Can you count eight hot-air balloons in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter H in the story?

H WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

hot-air balloon · hawk · hen · horse · hedgehog · honeybee · hammock · haystack

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase H and the lowercase h at the top of this page.
2. The number 8 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky S word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

On Honey Hill in Holland, the hot-air balloons were about to fly.

Eight (8) huge balloons hovered above the grass, held down by heavy ropes. Each balloon was a different color.

“Hop in!” called Hank, the pilot, from the basket of the biggest balloon — the red one. He wore a hat with a hawk feather in it.

Alex and Zoey climbed into the basket. Hank pulled a handle. The burner huffed — WHOOSH — and up, up, up they went.

“Hooray!” hollered Zoey. “We're higher than the hill!”

Below them, hens pecked around a henhouse. Horses grazed. A hedgehog hurried home along the hedge. Honeybees hummed over the heather.

“Hold on!” said Hank. “Here comes the wind.”

The balloon drifted over a hammock, a haystack, and a house with a red roof.

Down by the haystack, a squirrel sat up on its hind legs to watch them fly.

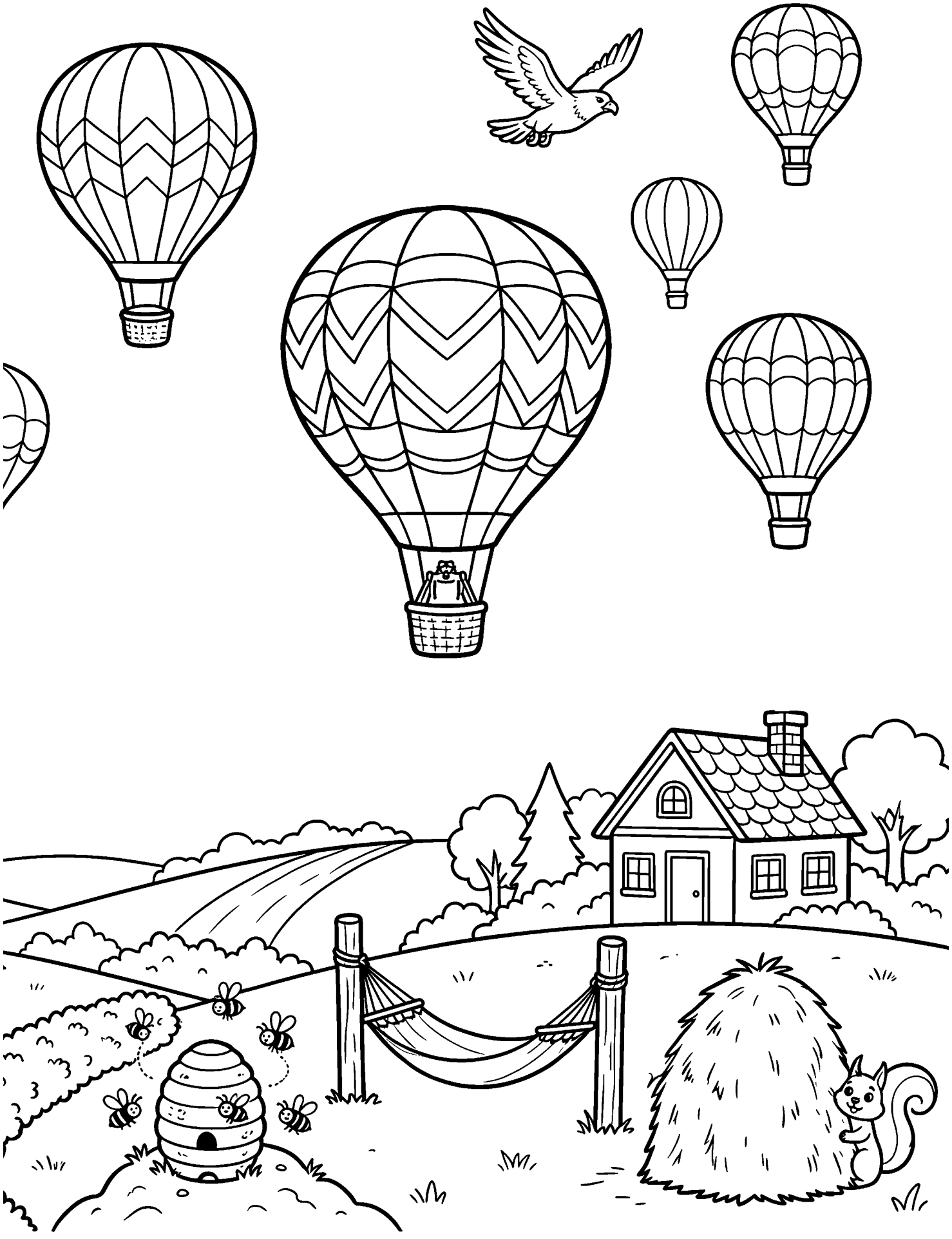
One by one, the eight (8) balloons floated back down to Honey Hill. Hank handed out chunks of honeycomb.

“How was it?” he asked.

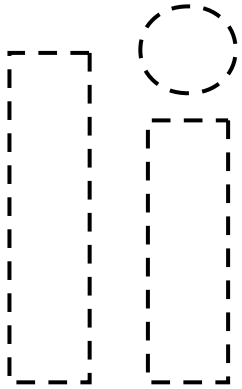
“Heavenly!” said Alex.

Turn the page and color — 8 and the sneaky S word are both hiding in there.





9



Trace the uppercase I and the lowercase i, then color them in.

IGGY'S IGLOO ICE CREAM

Say it with me

"Iggy the iguana invented icy Iguana Swirl."

9

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 9

Can you count nine itty-bitty scoops in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter I in the story?

I WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

island · igloo · iceberg · ice cream · iguana · icicle · ice cubes · inchworm

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase I and the lowercase i at the top of this page.
2. The number 9 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky R word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

On a tiny island in the middle of a lake in Iceland stood an igloo. An iceberg floated by. Inside the igloo was the best ice cream shop in the world.

Iggy, a green iguana, ran it. “It's icy in here!” he said, wrapped in a scarf. “Ice cream needs ice.”

Icicles hung from the ceiling. A bucket of ice cubes stood by the spoons, and a tiny inchworm inched along the counter.

“How many flavors?” asked Alex.

“Nine (9)!” said Iggy. “Nine (9) incredible flavors. Vanilla, chocolate, strawberry, mint, mango, blueberry, bubblegum, cookie crunch, and my own invention: Iguana Swirl.”

“What's in Iguana Swirl?” asked Zoey.

“It's a secret,” said Iggy, “but it involves pickles.”

Alex ordered a cone with three (3) scoops. Zoey ordered a bowl with nine (9) itty-bitty scoops — one of every flavor!

They ate inside the igloo, where it was cool and quiet. Outside the door, a rhino waited patiently for a cone, while Iggy sang his ice cream song: “Icy, icy, ice cream! I scream, you scream, we all scream for ice cream!”

“Iggy,” said Zoey, “Iguana Swirl is... interesting.”

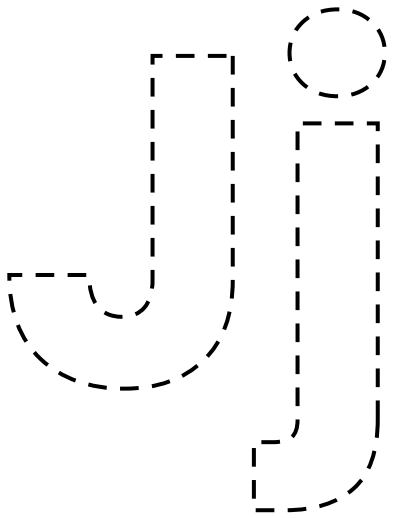
“Isn't it?” said Iggy. “Incredible! I'll pack you some for later.”

Turn the page and color — 9 and the sneaky R word are both hiding in there.





10



Trace the uppercase J and the lowercase j, then color them in.

JASPER'S JUNGLE JAMBOREE

Say it with me

"Jasper the jaguar juggles jars of jungle jam."

10

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 10

Can you count ten jars of jam in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter J in the story?

J WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

jaguar · jalopy · jam · jar · jay · juice · jelly · jumbo tuba

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase J and the lowercase j at the top of this page.
2. The number 10 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky Q word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Jasper the jaguar drove a jolly green jalopy through the jungles of Jamaica — slow and steady, the way a good driver should.

"Jump in!" said Jasper. "Buckle up, and keep your hands inside."

The jalopy jiggled and jostled over roots and bumps. Alex and Zoey giggled and joggled in the back seat, buckled up tight.

"Where are we going?" asked Alex.

"To the Jungle Jamboree," said Jasper. "Everyone brings jam. I'm bringing ten (10) jars."

Ten (10) jars of jam jingled in a crate: juicy strawberry jam, jiggly grape jam, peach jam, plum jam, and Jasper's own jungle-berry jam, to name a few.

Monkeys jabbered from the branches. A jay sang from a fig tree. Jasper stopped the jalopy and waited while a jumping toad crossed the trail.

At the jamboree, everyone spread a big patchwork quilt in the shade. There was juice, jelly, and jam on toast. There were jokes and juggling and a jazz band with a jumbo tuba.

Zoey tried every jar. "Jungle-berry is my favorite," she said, with jam on her chin.

"Jolly good," said Jasper. "Now, who wants a jalopy ride home?"

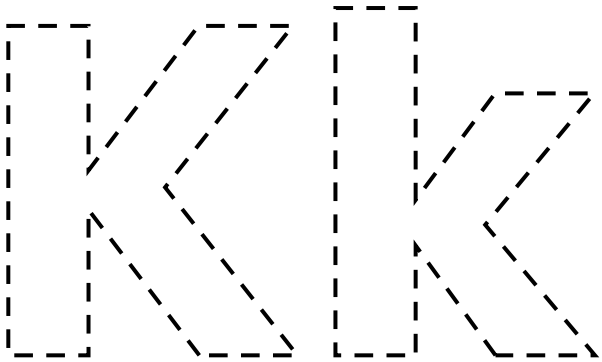
"ME!" said everybody.

Turn the page and color — 10 and the sneaky Q word are both hiding in there.





11



Trace the uppercase K and the lowercase k, then color them in.

KING KIP'S KITE KINGDOM

Say it with me

"King Kip's kangaroo kite kicked a koala kite."

11

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 11

Can you count eleven kites in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter K in the story?

K WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

king · kite · kangaroo · koala · kayak · kettle · kitten · kazoo

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase K and the lowercase k at the top of this page.
2. The number 11 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky P word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

King Kip was a kind king with a kingdom full of kites in Kansas.

“Kite Day!” he declared. “Every kite in the kingdom flies today. I count eleven (11)!”

Alex and Zoey helped carry the kites to the top of the knoll. There was a kite shaped like a kangaroo. A kite shaped like a koala. A kite like a kayak, a kite like a kettle, and a kite with long, curly tails, to name a few.

The wind whooshed. “Kites up!” called the king.

Up went the kangaroo. Up went the koala. Down in the grass, the kittens chased the strings.

“Keep the string tight!” said King Kip, holding the biggest kite of all — a red dragon kite.

A penguin held the string of the smallest kite and would not let go.

Eleven (11) kites danced in the sky like a flock of colorful birds.

Then the wind dropped. Down floated the kites, softly, into the king's garden.

“Kites make a king happy,” said King Kip. He played a little tune on his kazoo.

“Kazoos make a king happier,” said Zoey.

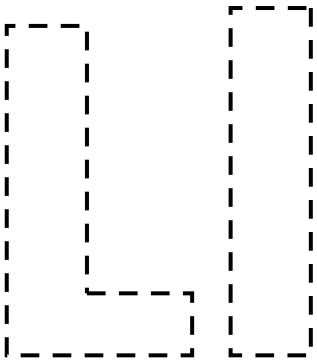
“Kettle corn makes a king happiest,” said the king, and he gave everyone a bag.

Turn the page and color — 11 and the sneaky P word are both hiding in there.





12



Trace the uppercase L and the lowercase l, then color them in.

LULU THE LION'S LEMONADE STAND

Say it with me

"Lulu the lion loves lots of lovely lemonade."

12

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 12

Can you count twelve lemons (a dozen) in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter L in the story?

L WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

lion · lemon · ladder · ladybug · lizard · lamb · llama · lollipop

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase L and the lowercase l at the top of this page.
2. The number 12 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky O word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Lulu the lion had a little yellow lemonade stand at the end of Lilac Lane in Louisiana, with a sign that said LULU'S LEMONADE.

“Lemonade! Lovely lemonade!” she roared. “Lots of lemons, lots of love!”

“Can we help?” asked Zoey.

“Let's see,” said Lulu. “For a big batch, I need twelve (12) lemons. A dozen. Can you pick them?”

Lulu held the little ladder steady while Alex climbed into the lemon tree. Zoey held the basket. Lemon, lemon, lemon... they counted all the way to twelve (12).

A ladybug landed on the very first lemon. A lizard lounged on the ladder. An owl blinked from the leafy branch above and went back to sleep.

Lulu squeezed. Zoey stirred. Alex added ice. Lemonade!

Soon a line formed. A lamb wanted a little cup. A llama wanted a large cup. A lumberjack wanted a lemonade with a lollipop in it.

“Lucky me,” said Lulu. “Best lemonade day ever.”

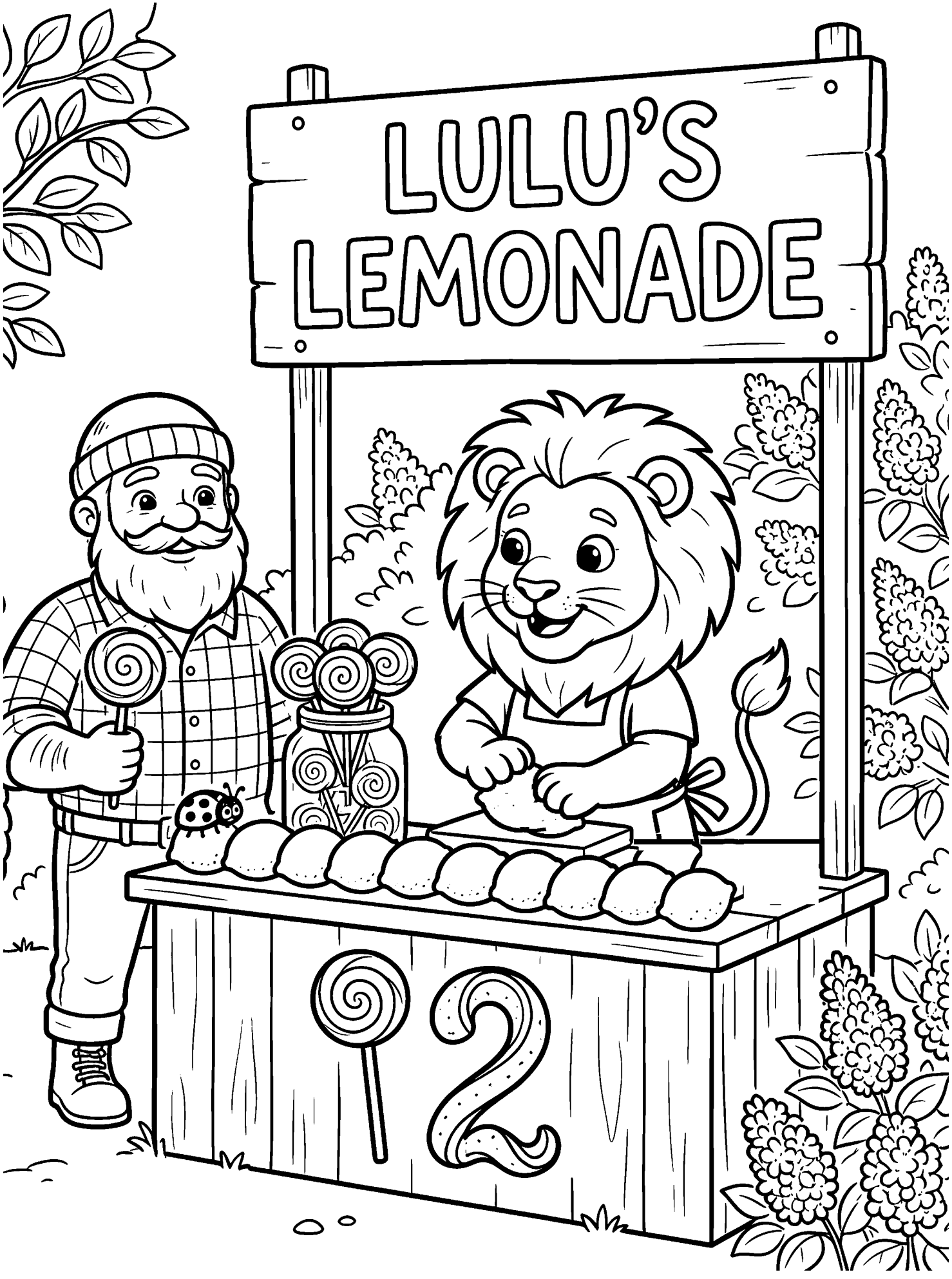
When the last lemon was gone, Lulu gave Alex and Zoey the last two (2) cups.

“Lip-smacking,” said Alex.

“Lion-approved,” said Lulu.

Turn the page and color — 12 and the sneaky O word are both hiding in there.




LULU'S
LEMONADE

13



Trace the uppercase M and the lowercase m, then color them in.

MOON MUFFINS ON MUSHROOM MOUNTAIN

Say it with me

"Marco the monkey munches marshmallow Moon Muffins."

13

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 13

Can you count thirteen muffins (a baker's dozen) in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter M in the story?

M WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

mushroom · mountain · moon · monkey · muffin · marshmallow · moth · milk

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase M and the lowercase m at the top of this page.
2. The number 13 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky N word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Mushroom Mountain, in Montana, was the best place to see the moon.

So Alex and Zoey packed a picnic and marched up the mountain with Marco the monkey.

“Muffins!” said Marco. “I made thirteen (13) muffins. A baker's dozen!”

Blueberry muffins, banana muffins, and Marco's special Moon Muffins, with marshmallows on top, to name a few.

Mushrooms grew along the mossy path. Moles peeked out of the moss. A moth fluttered by, then another, then a whole crowd of moths.

“They like the moon too,” whispered Zoey.

At the top, they spread out the red-and-white checkered blanket. Marco poured milk into their cups. High in the maple, a nest held three (3) sleepy birds.

Then it happened. The moon rose over the mountain. Huge. Round. Marvelous. It made the mushrooms glow silver.

“Mmm,” said Marco, munching a muffin. “Moon Muffins taste better in the moonlight.”

They ate twelve (12) muffins. One (1) muffin was left.

“For the moon,” said Alex, and he set it on a mushroom.

In the morning, the muffin was gone. Only crumbs were left — and one very happy mole.

Turn the page and color — 13 and the sneaky N word are both hiding in there.





14



Trace the uppercase N and the lowercase n, then color them in.

NANA'S NOODLE NIGHT

Say it with me

"Nana's noisy neighbors nibble noodles at night."

14

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 14

Can you count fourteen folded napkins in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter N in the story?

N WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

noodle · night · nook · neighbor · napkin · newt · nose · nuts

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase N and the lowercase n at the top of this page.
2. The number 14 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky M word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Every Friday was Noodle Night at Nana's Noodle Nook in Naples, Italy.

Nana never sat down. She was always making noodles.

“Nice to see you!” she said. “Now, the neighbors are coming. I need napkins on every table. Fourteen (14) tables, fourteen (14) blue napkins.”

Alex counted. Zoey folded. Napkin, napkin, napkin… fourteen (14)!

Newton the newt pressed his nose to the glass of his tank. Newton was Nana's pet, and he was very nosy.

Then the neighbors arrived — a few, then a few more, then nearly the whole neighborhood.

Nana served noodle soup, noodle salad, and noodles with nuts. Alex slurped. Zoey twirled. Nobody was neat.

Under a table, a mouse nibbled a noodle that had fallen on the floor.

“Nana,” said Zoey, “why do you make noodles every week?”

“Because noodles make people happy,” said Nana. “And happy neighbors are the nicest neighbors.”

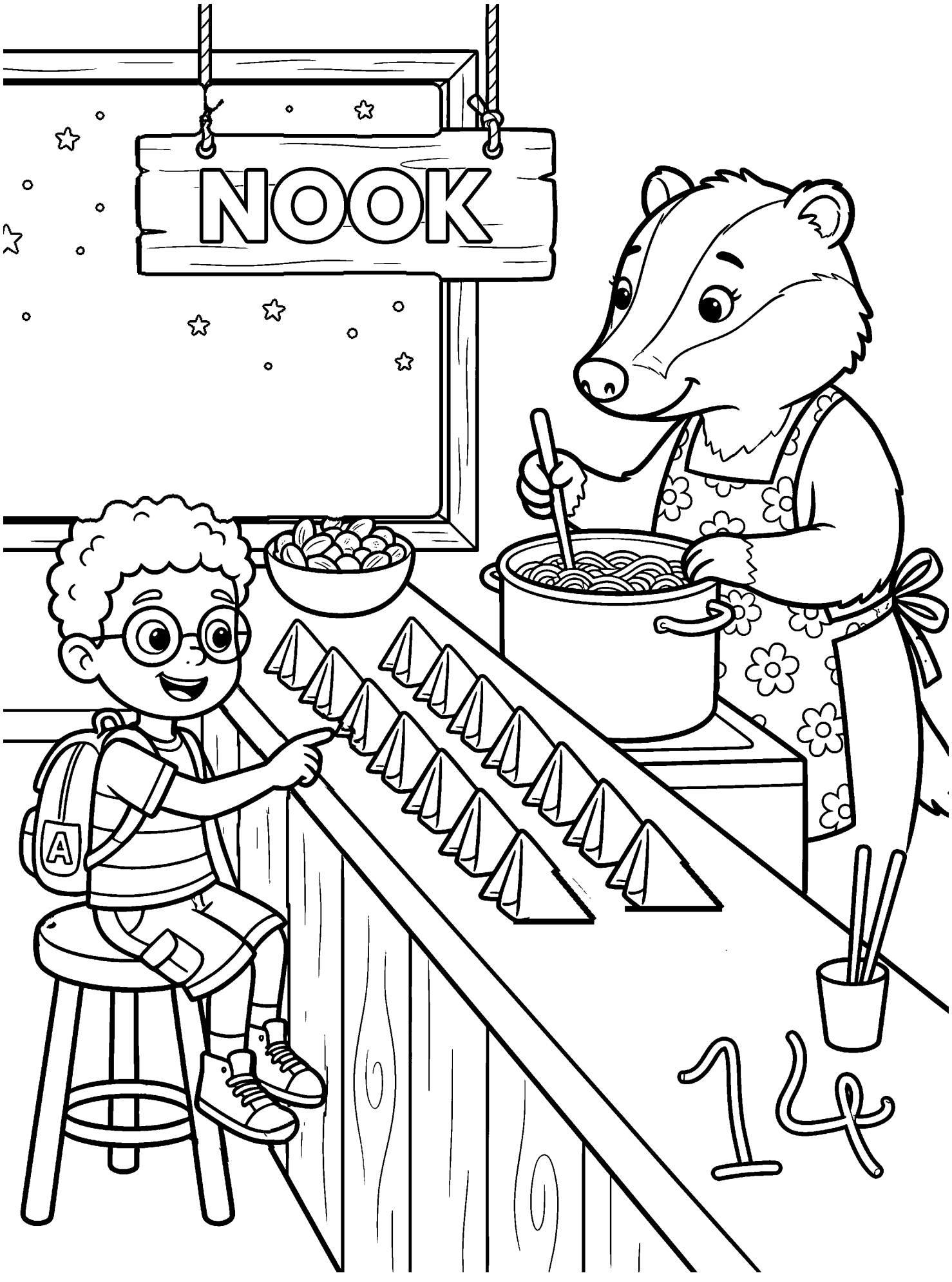
When the last noodle was gone, Nana handed out fortune cookies.

Alex's said: “Never say no to noodles.”

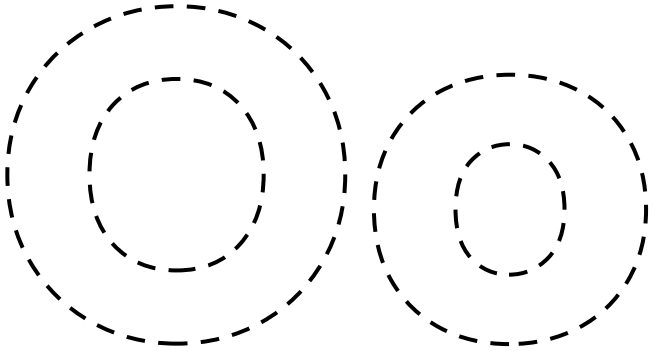
Zoey's said: “Next week, bring your appetite.”

Turn the page and color — 14 and the sneaky M word are both hiding in there.




NOOK
A

15



Trace the uppercase O and the lowercase o, then color them in.

OLLIE THE OTTER'S OCEAN OUTING

Say it with me

"Ollie the otter opens oysters over the ocean."

15

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 15

Can you count fifteen oysters in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter O in the story?

O WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

oar · otter · ocean · orange · oyster · octopus · orca · overalls

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase O and the lowercase o at the top of this page.
2. The number 15 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky L word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

"Oars up!" said Ollie the otter. "Oars in! Off we go!"

Alex and Zoey rowed the little red boat out onto the ocean off Oregon. Ollie floated alongside on his back, eating an orange.

"Where are we going?" asked Alex.

"To Oyster Cove," said Ollie. "The oysters are opening today. Fifteen (15) of them, and every one has a pearl."

Waves rolled under the boat. An octopus waved hello from the rocks. Orcas leaped in the distance. Overhead, seagulls circled and called.

Far off, on the rocky point, stood a lighthouse, red and white.

"Oyster Cove!" said Ollie. "Peek over the side."

Alex peeked. Zoey tucked up her overalls and peeked. On the ocean floor, fifteen (15) oysters opened their shells, one by one, like tiny doors. Inside each one: a pearl, round and shiny.

"Oh!" said Zoey. "Oh, oh, oh!"

"Only peek," said Ollie. "The pearls belong to the oysters."

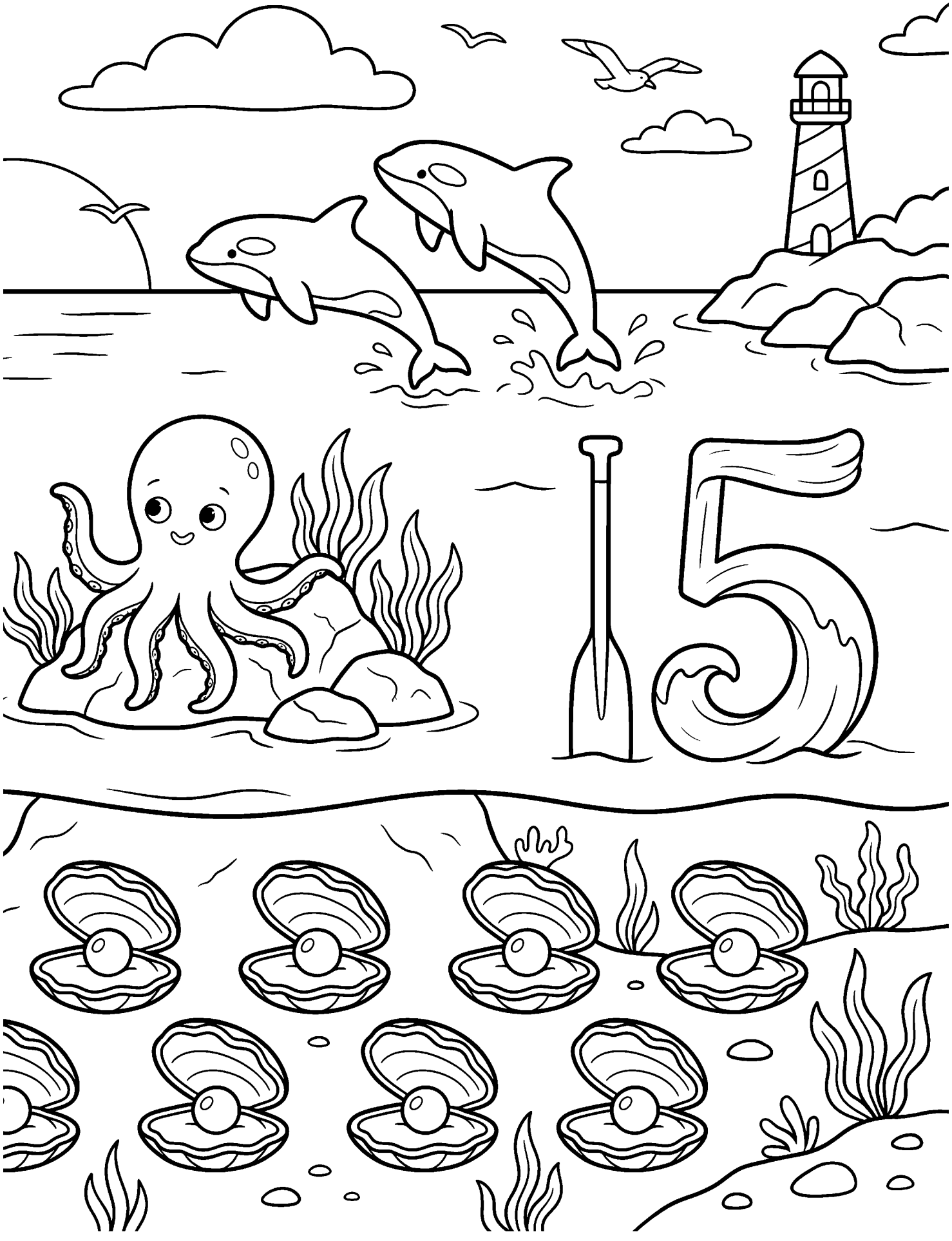
So they peeked, and peeked, and then rowed home with the sun going down orange behind them.

"Ollie," said Alex, "that was outstanding."

"Obviously," said Ollie, and he cracked open another orange.

Turn the page and color — 15 and the sneaky L word are both hiding in there.





16



Trace the uppercase P and the lowercase p, then color them in.

THE PIRATE PIZZA PARTY

Say it with me

"Pepper the pirate piles pepperoni on perfect pizza."

16

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 16

Can you count sixteen pizza slices in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter P in the story?

P WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

pirate · pizza · pelican · pepperoni · pineapple · parrot · puppy · popcorn

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase P and the lowercase p at the top of this page.
2. The number 16 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky K word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Captain Pepper the pirate was throwing a pizza party on her purple ship, the Purple Pelican, anchored off Puerto Rico.

"Pirates, prepare the pizza!" she said. "Pepperoni. Peppers. Pineapple. Plenty of cheese."

Alex patted the dough. Zoey piled on the toppings. Polly the parrot pecked at a pepper. A pelican watched from the bow.

"How many slices?" asked Alex.

"Sixteen (16)!" said Captain Pepper. "Enough for every pirate on board, and for our two (2) guests."

Into the oven went the pizza. Out came the pizza, puffy and perfect.

The pirates cheered: "Pizza! Pizza!"

They ate on the deck under the pink and purple sky. A puppy in a tiny pirate hat begged for a crust. Popcorn popped in a pot.

"Captain," said Zoey, "where do you keep your treasure?"

Captain Pepper pointed to a little key on a purple ribbon around her neck. "Right here," she whispered. "But the treasure is not gold. It's pudding. A whole chest of chocolate pudding."

"Pudding!" said the pirates.

"After pizza," said the Captain. "Pirates have to eat their pizza first."

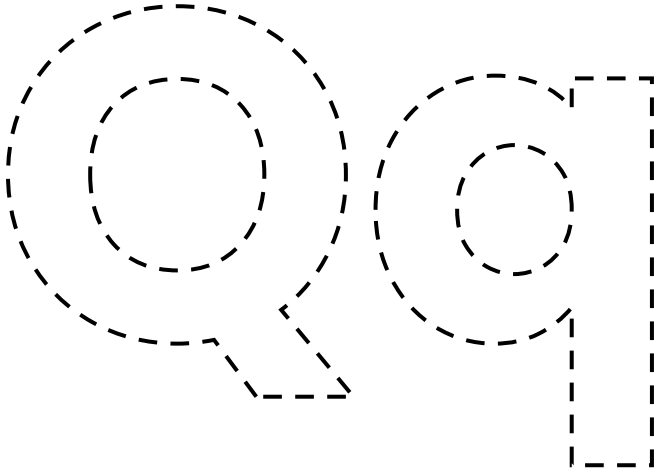
And they did. All sixteen (16) slices. Every last piece.

Turn the page and color — 16 and the sneaky K word are both hiding in there.





17



Trace the uppercase Q and the lowercase q, then color them in.

QUEEN QUINN'S QUILT QUEST

Say it with me

"Queen Quinn quickly quilts seventeen quiet squares."

17

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 17

Can you count seventeen quilt squares in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter Q in the story?

Q WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

queen · quilt · quiver · quail · quiche · quill

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase Q and the lowercase q at the top of this page.
2. The number 17 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky J word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Queen Quinn of Quebec had a problem, and she was quite upset.

“My quilt!” she said. “My quilt is missing a square. It had seventeen (17) squares, and now it has sixteen (16).”

The quilt was the most beautiful in the kingdom: seventeen (17) squares, each one a different color, stitched by the queen herself.

“We'll find it,” said Zoey. “Quick, Alex. This is a quest!”

They looked in quiet corners and under the queen's cushions. They peeked behind a quiver of arrows. They asked the royal guards, who said, “Not a clue,” a little quail, who just bobbed her head, and the yellow ducks in the moat, who said, “Quack.”

In the castle fountain, a jellyfish glowed like a little lantern.

“Question,” said Alex. “Where did you see the square last?”

“On my sewing table, next to my quiche,” said the queen. “Then I heard a quack, and it was gone.”

“Quack?” said Zoey. She looked at the ducks. The ducks looked at their feet.

Alex peeked into the reeds by the moat. There was the square, warm and cozy, under a sleepy duckling.

“Quilt thieves!” said the queen, but she was laughing.

She stitched the square back on. Seventeen (17) squares. The quest was complete.

“Quite a team,” said Queen Quinn. And she gave them each a quill pen and a royal thank-you note.

Turn the page and color — 17 and the sneaky J word are both hiding in there.





18



Trace the uppercase R and the lowercase r, then color them in.

ROXIE'S ROCKET RACE

Say it with me

"Roxie's red rocket roars right around the rings."

18

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 18

Can you count eighteen rockets in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter R in the story?

R WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

raccoon · rocket · rings · radio · rover · rocks · ribbon

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase R and the lowercase r at the top of this page.
2. The number 18 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky I word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

"Racers, ready!" said Roxie the raccoon. "Rockets, ready! Three (3)... two (2)... one (1)... RUMBLE!"

Eighteen (18) rockets roared into the sky over Roswell, New Mexico. Alex and Zoey rode in rocket number eighteen (18), the red one, with Roxie at the controls.

"Where's the finish line?" asked Alex.

"Around the rings of the ringed planet and back," said Roxie. "Hold on!"

The rocket rattled. The rocket rolled. Out the round window, the stars streamed by like rain.

Rocket number three (3) was fast. Rocket number twelve (12) was faster. Rocket eighteen (18) was... last.

"We're losing!" said Zoey.

"Not for long," said Roxie. She called the tower on the radio and flipped a switch. The rocket went RRRRUMBLE and rushed right past the others.

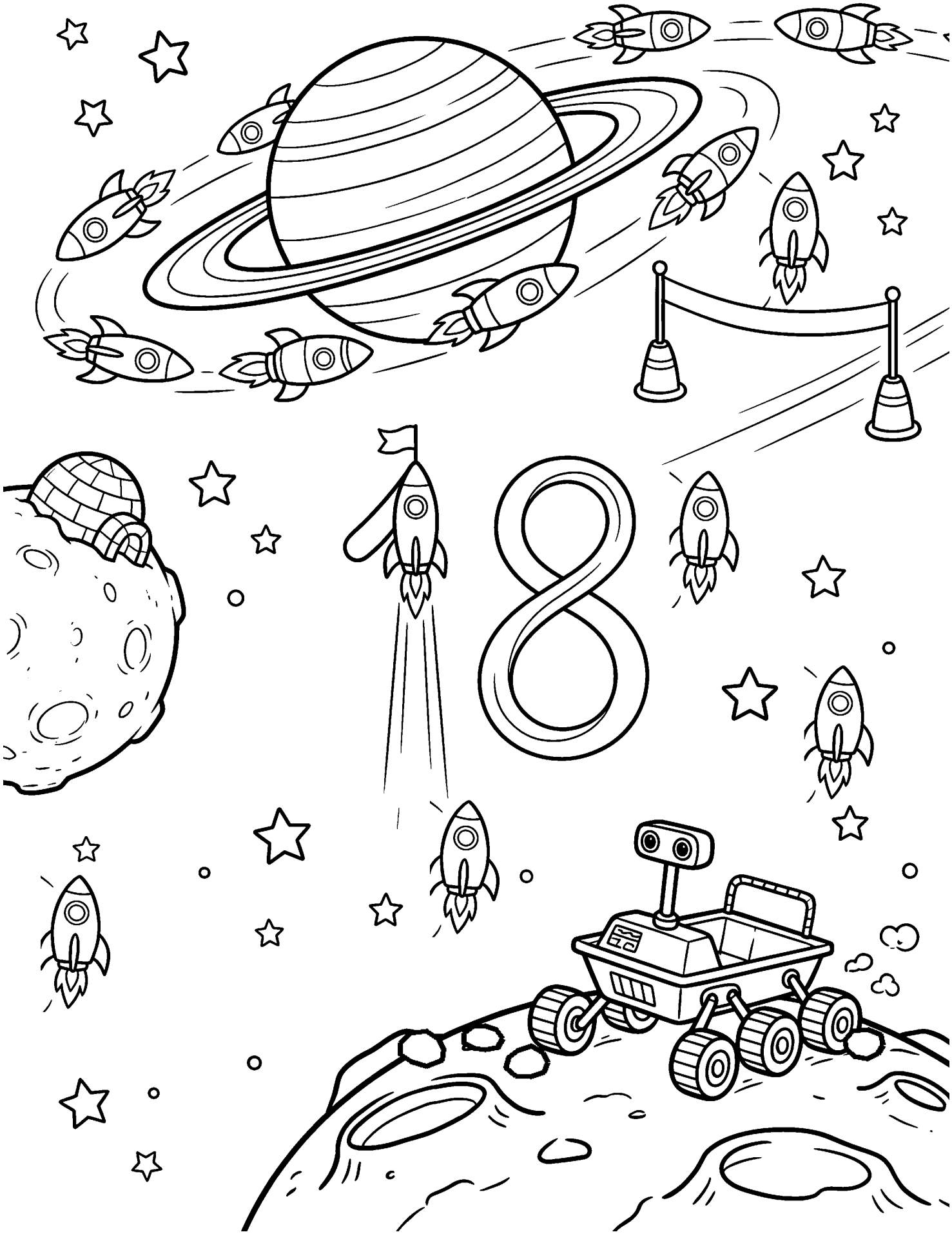
They rounded the rings. They raced back. They rushed past a frosty little moon where an igloo glowed, and past a rover rolling over red rocks.

The finish line! Rocket eighteen (18) crossed the ribbon first, by a whisker.

"Roxie the raccoon wins!" said the announcer. "With her co-pilots, Alex and Zoey!"

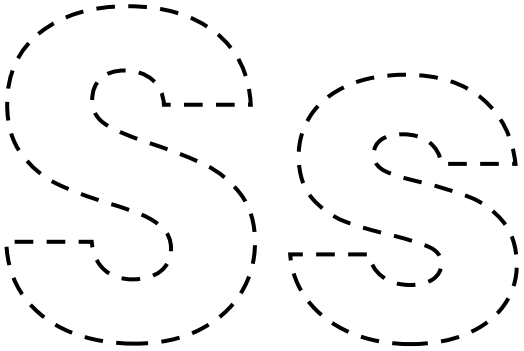
Roxie hung the ribbon around her neck. "Rockets are great," she said, "but a good crew is greater."

Turn the page and color — 18 and the sneaky I word are both hiding in there.





19



Trace the uppercase S and the lowercase s, then color them in.

SAM THE SEAL'S SANDCASTLE

Say it with me

"Sam the seal stacks seashells in the sunny sand."

19

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 19

Can you count nineteen seashells on the sandcastle in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter S in the story?

S WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

seal · sandcastle · sea · sand · starfish · seashell · seagull · sailboat

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase S and the lowercase s at the top of this page.
2. The number 19 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky H word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Sam the seal was building a sandcastle by the sea in San Diego, and it was the biggest sandcastle Alex and Zoey had ever seen.

"Sand, sand, sand," sang Sam as he stacked it up. "Tall towers. Tiny windows. And a spiral staircase for the starfish."

"Can we help?" asked Alex.

"Sure!" said Sam. "I need nineteen (19) seashells for the walls. Spiral ones, if you can find them."

So they searched the shore. Zoey found a spotted shell. Alex found a striped shell. Sam found a shell with a crab still inside, so he put it back.

A seagull swooped. A sailboat sailed by. The sun sparkled on the sea.

A hippo snoozed under a red-and-white striped umbrella, not far from the surf.

"Sixteen (16)... seventeen (17)... eighteen (18)..." counted Zoey. "We need just one (1) more!"

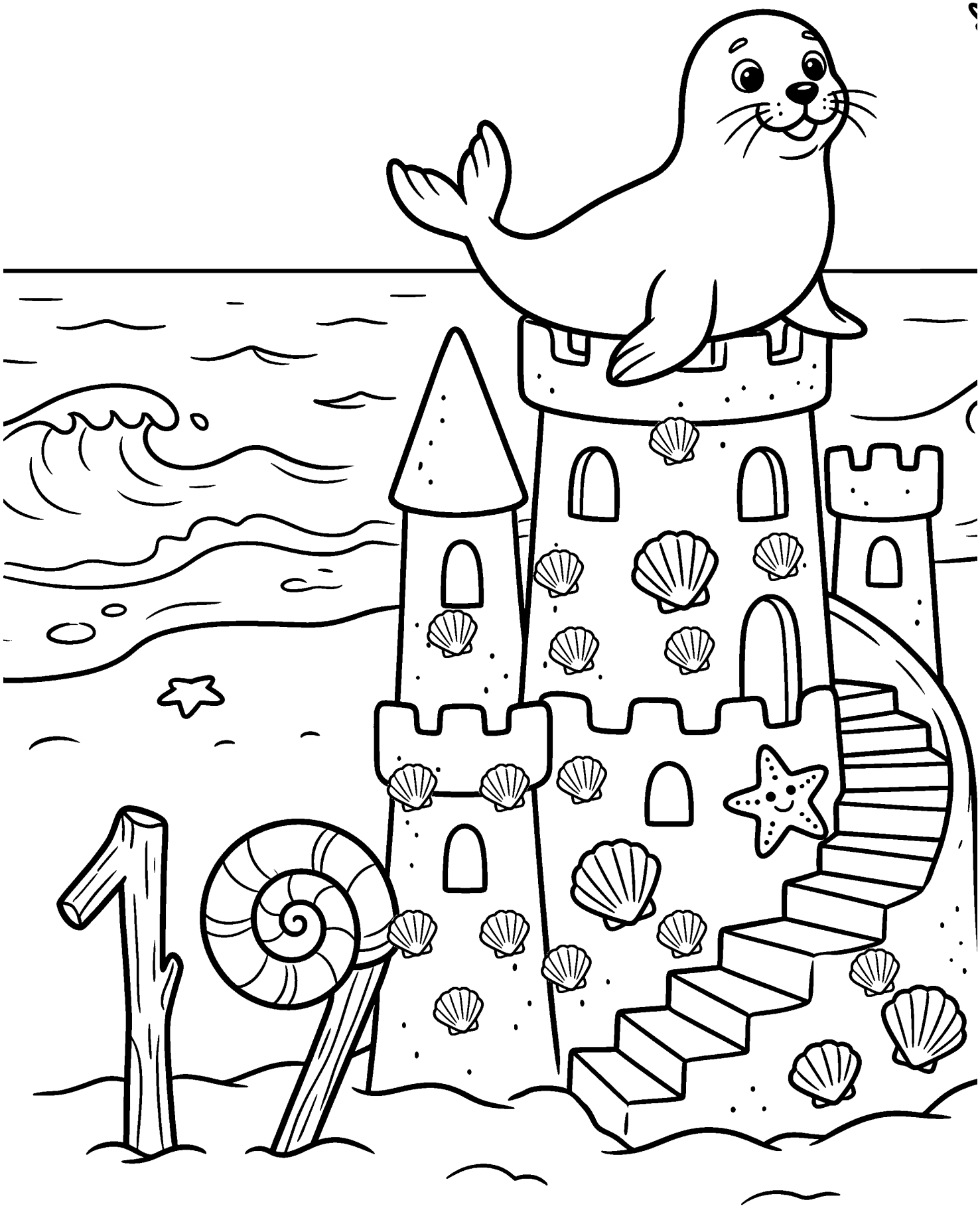
Splash! A wave rolled in and rolled back out, and there it was: a silver spiral shell, shining in the sand.

"Nineteen (19)!" said Sam. He pressed it into the top of the tallest tower.

They sat in the sand and ate sandwiches while the sky turned pink.

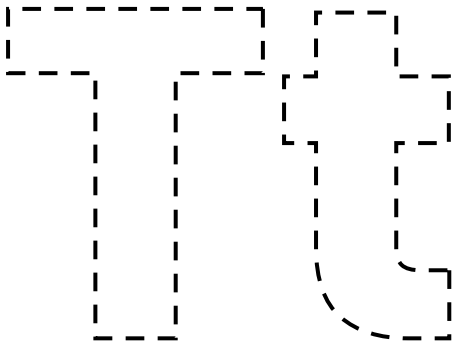
"Sandcastles don't last," said Sam. "But the sand is always here. Come back tomorrow, and we'll build a bigger one."

Turn the page and color — 19 and the sneaky H word are both hiding in there.





20



Trace the uppercase T and the lowercase t, then color them in.

TILLY THE TIGER'S TREETOP TEA PARTY

Say it with me

"Tilly the tiger takes tea and tarts in the treetop."

20

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 20

Can you count twenty teacups in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter T in the story?

T WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

tiger · tree · tea · teacup · toad · toucan · tortoise · teapot

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase T and the lowercase t at the top of this page.
2. The number 20 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky G word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Tilly, an orange tiger with black stripes, lived at the very top of the tallest tree in Thailand, and she loved a tea party.

“Tea time!” she called down. “Take the twisty stairs all the way to the top!”

Alex and Zoey climbed and climbed. At the very top, there was Tilly, in a tiny treetop room with a table set for a tea party.

“Twenty (20) teacups,” said Tilly, “and a plate of toast for anyone who's hungry.”

“Who else is coming?” asked Zoey.

“Everyone,” said Tilly. And she rang a tiny bell.

Up the stairs came a toad in a top hat. Two (2) toucans. A troop of tamarins. A tortoise, very slowly, to name a few.

Tilly poured. The toucans passed the tarts. Then a giraffe peeked over the railing and asked, “Is there toast?”

“There's always toast,” said Tilly.

They talked and tasted and told tall tales until the teapot was empty.

“Twenty (20) teacups and a treetop full of friends,” said Tilly. “That's my kind of tea party.”

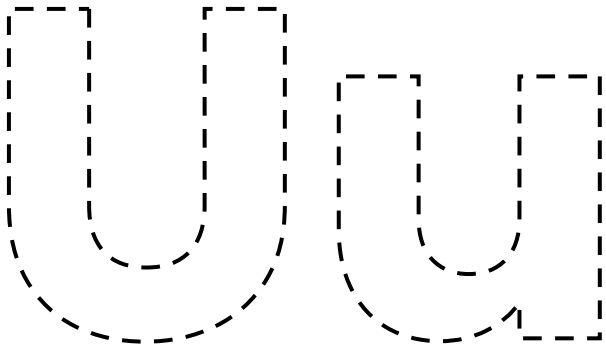
“Tremendous,” said Alex, and everyone tiptoed back down the twisty stairs.

Turn the page and color — 20 and the sneaky G word are both hiding in there.





21



Trace the uppercase U and the lowercase u, then color them in.

UNCLE UBI'S UMBRELLA PARADE

Say it with me

“Uncle Ubi's umbrella parade is utterly unique.”

21

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 21

Can you count twenty-one umbrellas in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter U in the story?

U WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

umbrella · uncle · ukulele · uniform · umpire · unicycle

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase U and the lowercase u at the top of this page.
2. The number 21 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky F word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

UNCLE UBI'S UMBRELLA PARADE

21

It was raining in Umbrella Town, in the United Kingdom, and that meant one thing: the Umbrella Parade.

Uncle Ubi was in charge. He had strung twenty-one (21) umbrellas high across the street, like bunting. "Umbrellas up!" he shouted. "Twenty-one (21) umbrellas, and every umbrella is unique!"

Alex found his favorite right away: an umbrella with an upside-down umbrella painted on it. Zoey's favorite was purple with silver stars.

Under the umbrellas, off went the parade.

A ukulele band marched in matching uniforms. An umpire in a striped shirt blew his whistle. An uncle on a unicycle wobbled by, pushing a cart full of cookies.

"Under here!" laughed Uncle Ubi as the rain came down harder. "Umbrellas are useful!"

A frog sat on top of one of the umbrellas, catching raindrops.

Then — uh-oh. A gust of wind! Umbrellas turned inside out. Umbrellas twirled. One umbrella sailed up, up, up over the rooftops.

"After it!" said Zoey.

They ran until the umbrella came down, right in the umpire's arms.

"Umbrella number twenty-one (21)," said the umpire. "Safe!"

Everyone cheered. Uncle Ubi handed out cookies, and the parade marched on under all twenty-one (21) umbrellas, up and unbroken.

"Unbelievable," said Alex.

"Usual," said Uncle Ubi. "For Umbrella Town."

Turn the page and color — 21 and the sneaky F word are both hiding in there.





22



Trace the uppercase V and the lowercase v, then color them in.

VOLCANO VALLEY VILLAGE

Say it with me

"Vera the vet visits Viv the vulture in Violet Vale."

22

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 22

Can you count twenty-two violets in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter V in the story?

V WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

valley · volcano · violet · vet · van · vulture · vegetables · vine

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase V and the lowercase v at the top of this page.
2. The number 22 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky E word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Down in a valley in Vanuatu (vah-noo-AH-too), under a very old volcano, was a village called Violet Vale.

"Don't worry," said Vera, the village vet. "The volcano is asleep. It has been asleep for a very, very long time."

Vera drove a green van. She visited every creature in the valley.

"Today I'm visiting the vulture," she said. "Her name is Viv, and she has a very sore toe."

Alex carried the vet bag. Zoey carried the vegetables — carrots for the rabbits, and celery for the goats.

Violets grew along the road. Twenty-two (22) of them, Zoey counted, purple as grape juice. Vines climbed up the village walls.

Viv the vulture was waiting on a fence post. "Very sore," she said, and held up her toe.

Vera wrapped it in a velvet bandage. "Very brave," she said. "Now, no hopping for a week."

Behind the very last house in the village, an elephant's trunk reached up for a vine and pulled it down for a snack.

"Vera," asked Alex, "does the volcano ever wake up?"

"It yawns sometimes," said Vera. "Vrrrrr. Then it goes back to sleep."

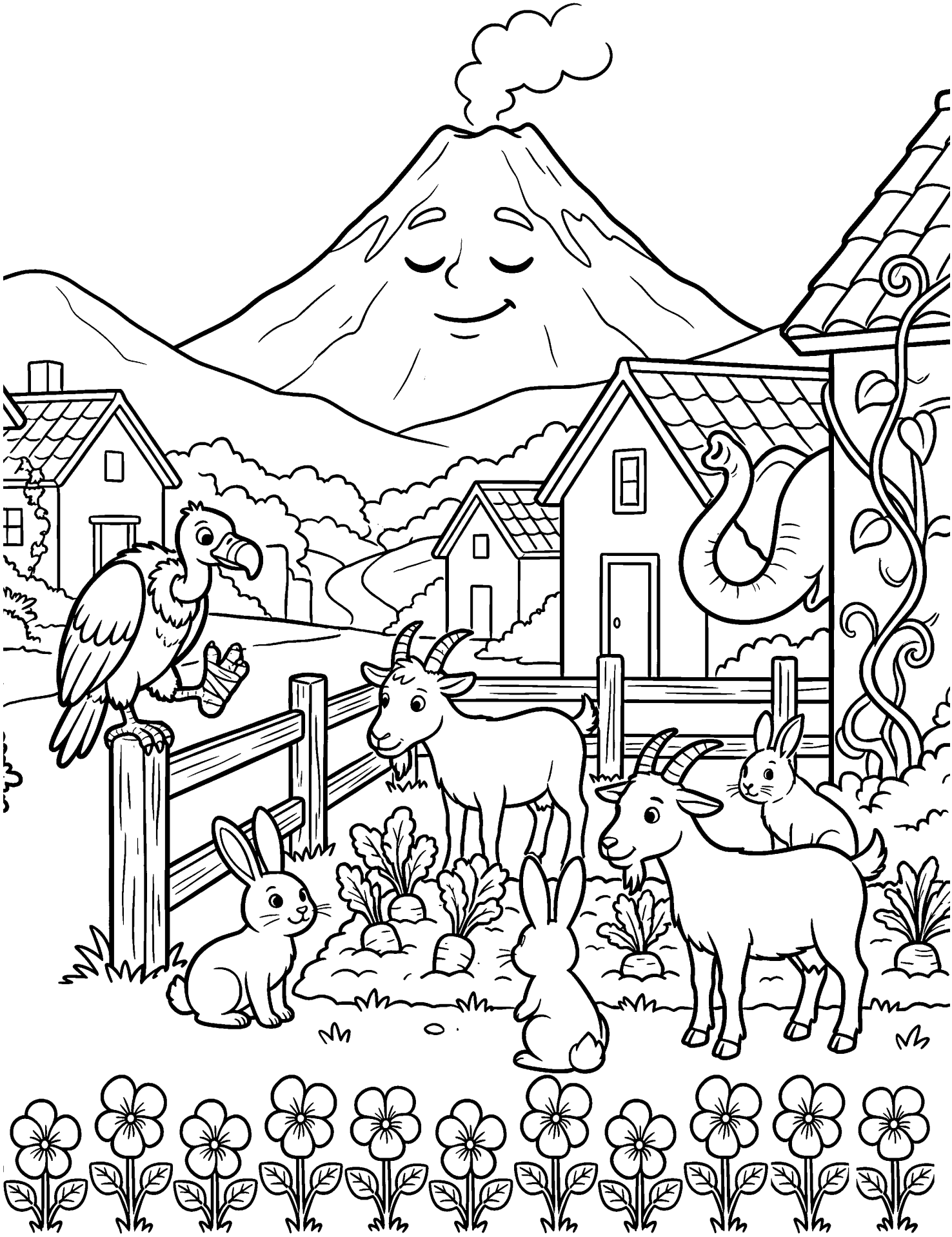
And as if it heard her, the volcano let out a tiny puff of smoke, like a snore.

"Vanilla ice cream?" asked Vera.

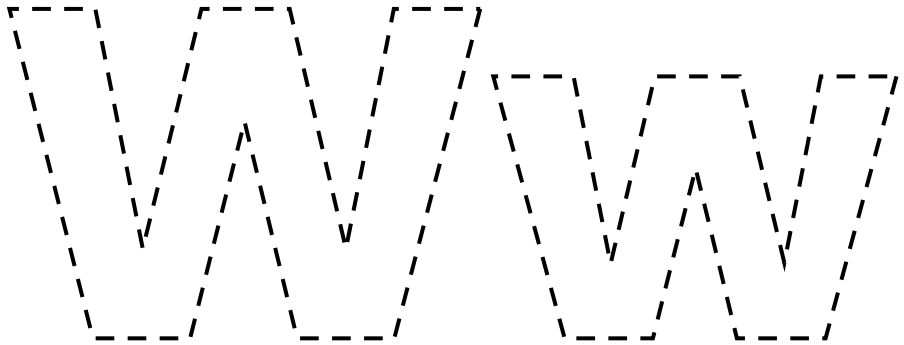
"Victory!" said Zoey.

Turn the page and color — 22 and the sneaky E word are both hiding in there.





23



Trace the uppercase W and the lowercase w, then color them in.

WANDA THE WALRUS'S WAVE LAGOON

Say it with me

"Wanda the walrus whooshes down the wild water slide."

23

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 23

Can you count twenty-three water balloons in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter W in the story?

W WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

wave · walrus · water slide · whirlpool · windmill · whistle · whale · watermelon

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase W and the lowercase w at the top of this page.
2. The number 23 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky D word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

“Welcome to Wanda's Wave Lagoon!” said Wanda the walrus. “Wettest water park in Washington!”

Alex and Zoey wiggled into their swimsuits.

“What first?” asked Wanda. “The wave pool? The water slide? The whirlpool?”

“Water slide!” said Zoey.

Whoosh! Down the twisty slide they went, with water whooshing all around. Splash!

Wanda waved from the lifeguard chair, under the little windmill, and blew her whistle. “Wonderful!”

Next, the wave pool. Waves rolled and rocked. A whale float wobbled by. A giant pink donut with sprinkles bobbed by, and Alex floated on it for a while.

Then Wanda announced the Water Balloon Wallop.

“Twenty-three (23) water balloons!” she said. “Whoever pops the most, wins!”

Wham! Whap! Water balloons flew everywhere. Zoey popped nine (9). Alex popped eight (8). Wanda popped six (6) with her whiskers.

“Twenty-three (23),” said Wanda, wiping her whiskers. “We win! All of us.”

They warmed up in the sun and ate watermelon, which was very wet and very wonderful.

“Wanda,” said Alex, “why is it called the Wave Lagoon?”

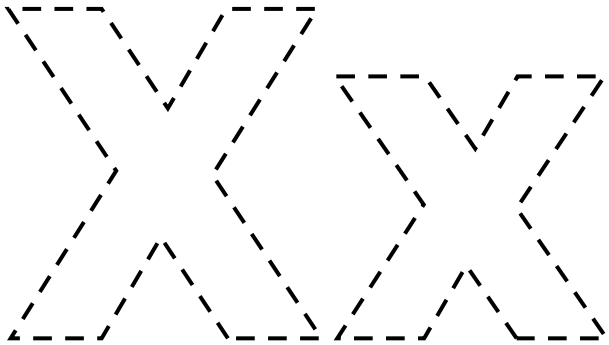
“Because,” said Wanda, “Wanda's Wet and Wild Wonderful Wave Lagoon was too long for the sign.”

Turn the page and color — 23 and the sneaky D word are both hiding in there.





24



Trace the uppercase X and the lowercase x, then color them in.

X MARKS THE SPOT

Say it with me

"X marks the spot where the xylophone rocks."

24

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 24

Can you count twenty-four little x's in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter X in the story?

X WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

X · xylophone · six · fox · little x's · box · x-ray · explorers

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase X and the lowercase x at the top of this page.
2. The number 24 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky C word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Alex unrolled the treasure map. There was an island near Xcaret (ish-kah-RET), in Mexico. There was a dotted line. And there, at the end, was a big red X.

"X marks the spot!" said Zoey. "Treasure!"

The map said: "Twenty-four (24) steps from the xylophone rock."

"Xylophone rock?" said Alex. "What's a xylophone rock?"

They found it by the beach: a row of six (6) flat stones that went plink, plonk, plunk when you tapped them. Exactly like a xylophone!

Zoey played a tune. Then they counted. "One (1), two (2), three (3)..." Twenty-four (24) steps along the sand, past a fox asleep under a palm tree, following a trail of little x's... "twenty-two (22), twenty-three (23), twenty-four (24)!"

They stopped. There, half hidden in the sand, was a big X made of driftwood.

They dug. And dug. Thunk! A wooden box with an X on the lid.

A cat sat on the box and would not move.

"Excuse me," said Alex. The cat yawned, stretched, and hopped down.

Inside the box: an X-ray of a fish skeleton, a xylophone the size of a sandwich, and a note that said: "EXCELLENT WORK. You are eXtra eXceptional eXplorers. Next stop: Y!"

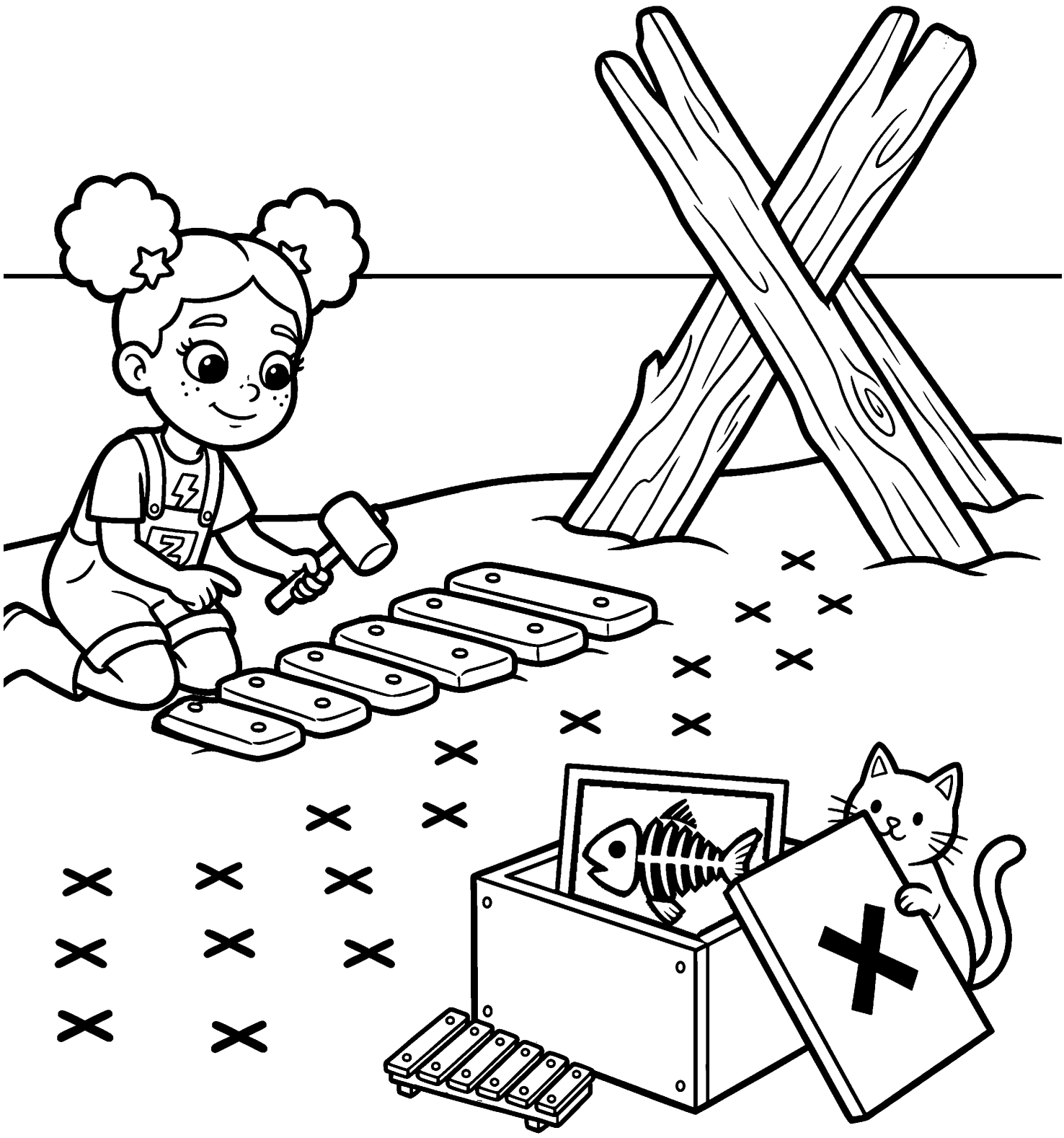
"That's it?" said Zoey. "No gold?"

Alex tapped the tiny xylophone. Plink. "It's a treasure to me," he said.

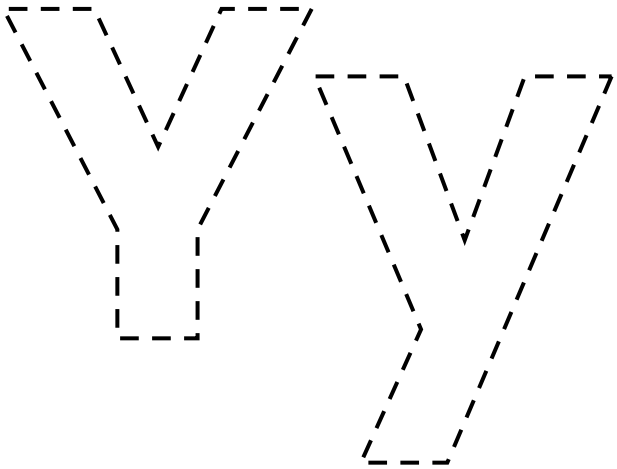
And they played it all the way home. Plink, plonk, plunk.

Turn the page and color — 24 and the sneaky C word are both hiding in there.





25



Trace the uppercase Y and the lowercase y, then color them in.

YOLANDA THE YETI'S YELLOW YARD SALE

Say it with me

"Yolanda the yeti yells, "Yellow yo-yos, yellow yarn!""

25

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 25

Can you count twenty-five yo-yos in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter Y in the story?

Y WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

yeti · yard · yo-yo · yarn · yam · yogurt · yardstick

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase Y and the lowercase y at the top of this page.
2. The number 25 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky B word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

Yolanda the yeti was having a yard sale in the Yukon, and everything was yellow.

"Yellow yo-yos! Yellow yarn! Yellow yams!" she yelled. "Everything must go!"

"Why is everything yellow?" asked Zoey.

"Yellow is my favorite," said Yolanda. "But my yard is getting full. Yikes!"

Alex and Zoey helped set up. They lined up twenty-five (25) yellow yo-yos in neat rows on the front table. They stacked yellow yarn into a yellow pyramid. They lined up yellow yogurt cups, a yellow yardstick, and a yellow yacht for the tub.

On the yellow table sat a yellow yam, a yellow yogurt cup, and a banana.

Customers came from all over. A young goat tried to eat the yarn. A little girl took the yacht home. A tall man took all the yarn for his grandma.

By the end of the day, twenty-four (24) yo-yos were gone.

"One (1) left," said Alex.

"Yours," said Yolanda. "You two were the best helpers yet."

Zoey made the yo-yo go up and down, up and down. "Yippee!"

"Yellow you later!" called Yolanda.

"That's not how you say it," said Alex.

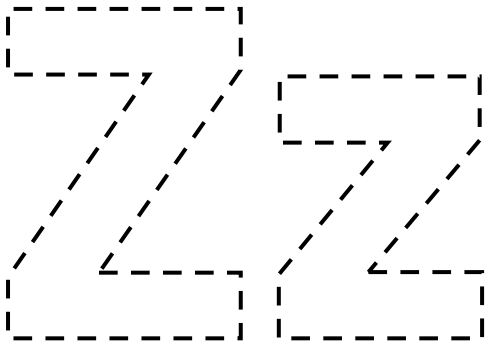
"It is in my yard," said the yeti.

Turn the page and color — 25 and the sneaky B word are both hiding in there.





26



Trace the uppercase Z and the lowercase z, then color them in.

ZOEY'S ZIGZAG ZOO

Say it with me

"Zaniyah and Zeke the zebra zigzag and zoom through the zoo."

26

THIS IS STORY NUMBER 26

Can you count twenty-six zinnias in the big picture? And just for fun: how many times can you find the letter Z in the story?

Z WORDS TO SPOT IN THE STORY AND COLORING PAGES

zigzag · zookeeper · zipper · zebra · zinnia · zeppelin · zucchini

YOUR THREE HUNTS

1. Trace and color the uppercase Z and the lowercase z at the top of this page.
2. The number 26 is hiding somewhere in the big picture. Find it!
3. One sneaky A word is in the story AND in the picture. Names don't count.

The last stop was the zaniest of all: the Zigzag Zoo in Zurich, Switzerland, where Zaniyah's Grandma Zalta is from.

“Zoey!” said Alex. “It has your letter on the gate!”

Zed the zookeeper met them in his green zip-up jacket, zipper zipped to the top, with Zaniyah, the zoo's zippiest junior zookeeper, at his side.

“Zoo rules,” said Zed. “Zip your jackets. Stay on the zigzag path. Don't feed the zebras — that's our job.”

The path zigged left. The path zagged right. Zig, zag, zig, zag, through the whole zoo. Zaniyah zipped in front to show the way.

They zoomed past a long row of zinnias along the path, under a zeppelin floating over the zoo.

“How many zinnias?” Zoey wanted to know.

“Twenty-six (26),” said Zaniyah. “One for every letter. Count them all!”

Zoey counted. Alex counted. Zaniyah counted fastest of all. “Twenty-six (26)!”

It was zebra snack time. Zed pushed a cart of zucchini. Zeke the zebra zoomed over, and ate… an apple.

“Zeke!” said Zaniyah. “Where did you get that?”

Zeke just chewed. Zoey zipped her lips. She had a feeling she had seen that zebra before.

“Zig, zag, zip, zoom,” said Alex. “Zoey, we did it. A to Z!”

“And Z to A,” said Zoey. “Just like the treasure map.”

Zeke the zebra winked. The treasure map glowed one last time. ZZZAP! They zipped back to Grandpa's attic after a zealous, zany alphabet adventure!

Turn the page and color — 26 and the sneaky A word are both hiding in there.


Z


Z
Z
Z
26

Your Mirror Key

Write the sneaky word you found in each story, spelled just the way the story spells it. Then write its SECOND letter in the last box — the second letter, not the first! (The first letters are easy: they run Z to A, the alphabet in a mirror. The second letters are the real secret.)

No.	Story	The sneaky word I found (spelled like the story)	Its 2nd letter
1	Aa		
2	Bb		
3	Cc		
4	Dd		
5	Ee		
6	Ff		
7	Gg		
8	Hh		
9	Ii		
10	Jj		
11	Kk		
12	Ll		
13	Mm		

Your Mirror Key (continued)

Keep going. The last box is the SECOND letter of the sneaky word.

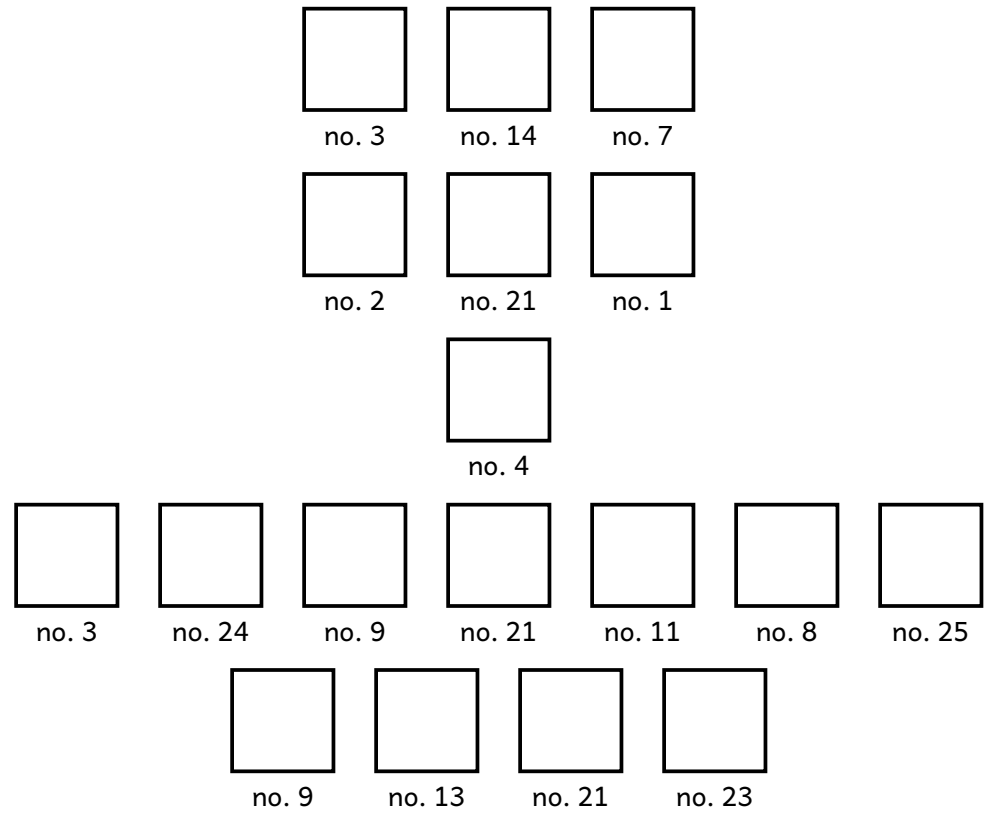
No.	Story	The sneaky word I found (spelled like the story)	Its 2nd letter
14	Nn		
15	Oo		
16	Pp		
17	Qq		
18	Rr		
19	Ss		
20	Tt		
21	Uu		
22	Vv		
23	Ww		
24	Xx		
25	Yy		
26	Zz		

The Mirror Message

You did it! Twenty-six stories, twenty-six sneaky words, twenty-six hidden numbers. Now for the mystery.

Each number below is a story number. Find that number in your Mirror Key and write the SECOND LETTER of its sneaky word in the blank. Number 1 is the A story, and its sneaky word is the ZEBRA — so its second letter is E. Write an E!

When every blank is full, read the message out loud. That message is the treasure.



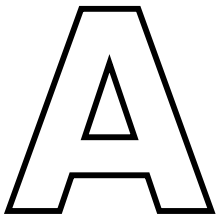
Now read your message out loud!

Write the whole message here:

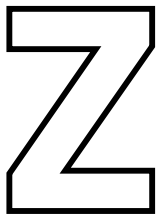
Did You Notice?

A and Z are a perfect pair. In the A story, the sneaky word was a ZEBRA — and the Z story is all about Zeke the zebra. In the Z story, the sneaky word was an APPLE — and the A story is all about one amazing apple.

The very first letter and the very last letter each hid the other one's star. Only A and Z do that. They are the bookends of the whole alphabet, holding all the other letters in between.



the bookends of the alphabet



ONE MORE THING TO TRY

Read your Mirror Key from the bottom up. The first letters of the sneaky words spell the alphabet forwards, A to Z. Read it from the top down and they spell it backwards, Z to A. That is the mirror. The SECOND letters are the secret.

ONE LAST THING TO FIND

There are mirror names hiding somewhere in this book. Did you find them?

Solve It. Color It. Create It. Play It Again!

You cracked the Mirror Message? Then you are an Alphabet Hero —
and the map is not finished with you yet!

Here are six more ways to play. Try them in any order, as many times as you like, with anyone who loves an adventure.

SIX MORE WAYS TO PLAY

1. **Say it three times fast.**
   Every letter page has a "Say it with me" tongue twister. Can you say it three times fast without a mistake? Can a grown-up?

2. **Mirror buddies.**
   Call out a letter and have a friend shout back its mirror buddy. A! Z! B! Y! Can you get all the way to M and N without peeking at page 3?

3. **Write in Mirror Letters.**
   Swap every letter in your name for its mirror buddy: ALEX becomes ZOVC! Try your own name on page 115, then write a secret note for a friend to decode.

4. **Hunt again.**
   Pick any story and hunt for every word on its "words to spot" list in the picture. How many can you find? Which one hides best?

5. **Color it again.**
   Ask a grown-up to make a copy of a big picture, then color it a brand-new way: all rainbow, all sunset colors, or only your three favorites.

6. **Make your own adventure.**
   Turn to pages 116 to 119. Pick a letter, write a story full of its words, and sneak in one word from its mirror buddy. Draw the big picture, then read it out loud and see if a grown-up can find your sneaky word!

Head to YAHREQA.com/atlas
to find more challenges!

Keep Going, Adventurer

Here is the best part: the adventure does not end when the book does. Read your favorite stories again, color the big pictures a brand-new way, or write a story of your own. Alex and Zoey are always ready for one more adventure!

THIS BOOK WAS COLORED BY

_____

your name

_____ _____

the day you started the day you finished

26 letters. 26 stories. 26 hidden numbers. One mirror message. Well done.

YAHREQA!

Your Alphabet Hunt: Read, Explore, Quest, Achieve!

Head to YAHREQA.com/atlas to find more challenges!

WRITE YOUR NAME IN MIRROR LETTERS

Swap every letter in your name for its mirror buddy: A–Z, B–Y, C–X, and so on (they are all on page 3). ALEX becomes ZOVC!

My name: _____

My name in mirror letters: _____

FOR THE GROWN-UPS

Every story is made for reading aloud, so take turns, try silly voices, and let your Adventurer point to the sneaky word and the hidden number. Crayons, colored pencils and washable markers all work well; slip a spare sheet of paper behind the page you are coloring. Pages 116 to 119 are your Adventurer's to fill with a story and a picture of their own.

Write Your Own Letter Story

Alex and Zoey have visited twenty-six places. Now take them somewhere new! Pick a letter, fill your story with words that start with it, and sneak in one word from its mirror buddy. Then write it out on the next page and draw its big picture on the two pages after that.

My letter: ☐ **Story number:** ☐ **Title:** _____

Say it with me: _____

My story ideas:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

My sneaky word (it starts with my letter's mirror buddy): _____

My words to spot: _____

MY STORY: _____



Turn the page and draw — hide your number and your sneaky word in the big picture.

26 letters. 26 adventures. One secret message.

Alex and Zoey are best friends — A and Z, the very first and very last letters of the alphabet. When an old treasure map starts to glow, it sends them on twenty-six adventures to twenty-six real places around the world. Help them along their adventure and find the treasure!

Alabama · Boston · Chicago · Dubai · Easter Island · France · Georgia · Holland · Iceland
Jamaica · Kansas · Louisiana · Montana · Naples · Oregon · Puerto Rico · Quebec · Roswell
San Diego · Thailand · United Kingdom · Vanuatu · Washington · Xcaret · Yukon · Zurich



- ★ 26 read-aloud stories packed with letter sounds
- ★ 26 giant two-page pictures to color
- ★ A sneaky word and a hidden number in every picture

Your Alphabet Hunt: Read, Explore, Quest, Achieve!

YAHREQA!

★ **SEE THE WORLD FROM A TO Z!** ★

Every story hides a sneaky word that starts with its mirror letter — A pairs with Z, B with Y, all the way to M and N. Find all 26 sneaky words, crack the secret Mirror Message, and become an Alphabet Hero!

YAHREQA!
yahreqa.com/atlas

AGES 4 AND UP