

Teaching Tool Kit



ELLA SAYS:
IT'S COOL TO BE
DIFFERENT!

Written and Illustrated by Anu D. Misa



STORY SYNOPSIS

This is the third book in the Ella Says series. It tells the story of Ella's adventures at the amusement park, where she discovers that it's cool to be different! It was finally the day Ella and Ollie, the Westie, had been anticipating all week—their family was going to the amusement park! But when Ella woke and looked out the window, she cringed. It was cloudy, and that meant she would have to wear the orange polka dot raincoat her grandfather had hand-stitched for her. Ella really **DISLIKED** it because it was so different. Their day at the park had some ups and downs, lead them to a lost kitten who needed their help and ultimately resulted in a big win for the whole family! Find out how Ella came to **LOVE** her dreaded raincoat!

TEACHING TOOLS

This teaching tool kit can be used to create learning exercises for children who have read this story.

1. Discussion Topics

This story helps children understand the importance of celebrating uniqueness. It also brings forward other lessons, specifically, living life with a positive mind set, and being considerate as well as helpful to others. This **ACTIVITY** includes various questions to facilitate discussion with children about:

- comprehension and retention of the story,
- the importance of celebrating uniqueness,
- living life with a positive mindset, and
- being considerate and helpful to others.

2. Vocabulary

This story introduces children to several more complex words to help them expand their vocabulary. This **ACTIVITY** requires children to choose between two potential definitions for these words to help them discover their meaning. Children can also be urged to think about a way they can use these new words in sentences.

3. Story Writing

This **ACTIVITY** asks children to write a story. They can use Ella and Ollie as their main characters and are asked to tell their own version of a story about them. Or children can choose their own characters. The story should be about appreciating things that are different.

4. Other Activity Pages

Twelve additional **ACTIVITY** pages are provided, including colouring, finding the hidden word, completing logic patterns, and picture-word matching.

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DISCUSSION TOPICS



Story Comprehension



1. Who are the main characters in this story?

Handwriting practice area for question 1, consisting of a rounded rectangle with four horizontal lines.

2. What do you think this story is about?

Handwriting practice area for question 2, consisting of a large rounded rectangle with ten horizontal lines.



3. What words would you use to describe Ella?

Handwriting practice area for question 3, consisting of a rounded rectangle with five horizontal lines.



4. What words would you use to describe Toby?

Handwriting practice area for question 4, consisting of a rounded rectangle with six horizontal lines.

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DISCUSSION TOPICS



Importance of Celebrating Uniqueness



1. What is different about Ella's raincoat?

Handwriting practice area for question 1, consisting of five horizontal lines.

2. Why does Ella not like her raincoat at the beginning of the story?



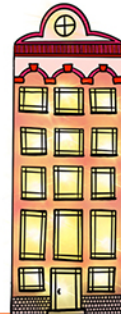
Handwriting practice area for question 2, consisting of five horizontal lines.

3. During her visit to the amusement park, what does Ella learn about things that are unique?



Handwriting practice area for question 3, consisting of five horizontal lines.

4. Why is it important to respect all our differences?



Handwriting practice area for question 4, consisting of five horizontal lines.

5. Is there something that makes you feel different and why is that difference great?

Handwriting practice area for question 5, consisting of five horizontal lines.

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DISCUSSION TOPICS



Living Life with a Positive Mindset

1. Why is Ella
glum when she
sees storm
clouds on the
day of their
outing?



2. Once Ella
learns more about
her special
raincoat, does
her perspective
change?



3. Do you think
it's important to
think positively
about things
that are
different? Why?

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DISCUSSION TOPICS



Being Helpful and Considerate to Others

1. Why does Ella think the little orange kitten they found needs their help?



Handwriting practice area for question 1, consisting of five horizontal lines within a rounded rectangular border.

2. Does Ella use her raincoat to help the kitten? How?



Handwriting practice area for question 2, consisting of five horizontal lines within a rounded rectangular border.

3. Describe a time you helped someone who needed it?



Handwriting practice area for question 3, consisting of five horizontal lines within a rounded rectangular border.

4. If your friend asks for help, what would you say?



Handwriting practice area for question 4, consisting of five horizontal lines within a rounded rectangular border.

5. Do you remember a time when you were not able to do something, and others helped you? How did that make you feel?

Handwriting practice area for question 5, consisting of five horizontal lines within a rounded rectangular border.



DISCUSSION TOPICS



Story Comprehension

QUESTION

ANSWER

-
- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Who are the main characters in this story? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A young girl named Ella.• Her younger brother Parker.• Her little dog Ollie.• A lost kitten named Toby. |
|---|--|
-
- | | |
|---|--|
| 2. What do you think this story is about? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This story is about Ella, a young girl who does not like wearing her orange polka dot raincoat because she thinks it makes her look different from everyone else.• It is cloudy the morning Ella and her family are going to the amusement park, and Ella's mom wants her to wear her raincoat. Ella is not happy about it.• As soon as they get to the park, they go on the roller coaster, and Ella uses her raincoat's goggle hoodie to stay warm and cozy even though it is very windy on the ride. She thinks to herself this is a good thing.• Soon, it is time for lunch. When the family finishes their meal, they find a lost kitten. Ella wants to help him and the special features of her raincoat come in handy—more than once!• Later in the day, the park selects a winner for their daily prize, and Ella is selected because her unique raincoat catches their attention.• Ella's day at the amusement park leads to her understanding that the things that make her raincoat different are actually extraordinary, and Ella is shocked to realize she loves her raincoat. |
|---|--|
-
- | | |
|---|--|
| 3. What words would you use to describe Ella? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sad: because she does not want to wear her raincoat.• Kind: because Ella wants to help the lost kitten.• Thoughtful: because Ella thinks about all the qualities of her raincoat and understands that they are actually a good thing. |
|---|--|
-
- | | |
|---|--|
| 4. What words would you use to describe Toby? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lost: because he is wandering all alone in a strange place.• Frightened: because he hears loud sounds that make him jump.• Weak: because he is wobbly and cold. |
|---|--|
-



DISCUSSION TOPICS



Importance of Celebrating Uniqueness

QUESTION

ANSWER

1. What is different about Ella's raincoat?

- Ella's coat was hand-stitched with love by her grandfather.
- It looks different from other raincoats because it is orange and has bright pink polka dots that are reflective.
- It also has a special hoodie with built-in goggles.
- Another thing that makes it different is that it has a secret pocket on the inside.

2. Why does Ella not like her raincoat at the beginning of the story?

- Ella thinks that her raincoat makes her look different because it is unique and not like the raincoats other children wear.

3. During her visit to the amusement park, what does Ella learn about things that are unique?

- Ella learns that diversity makes things better and more interesting.
- We should cherish and respect things that are unique.

4. Why is it important to respect all our differences?

- Diversity enriches every aspect of our lives.
- It would be boring if everything in our world was exactly the same—we would all eat exactly the same food, we would all wear exactly the same clothes, we would all say exactly the same things.
- Uniqueness is exciting and should be celebrated.

5. Is there something that makes you feel different and why is that difference great?

- Individual child response.

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DISCUSSION TOPICS



Living Life with a Positive Mindset

QUESTION

ANSWER

1. Why is Ella glum when she sees storm clouds on the day of their outing?

- She is sad because she will have to wear her raincoat, which she dislikes.
- Ella does not like her raincoat because it is different from everyone else's, and in her mind, that is a bad thing.

2. Once Ella learns more about her special raincoat, does her perspective change?

- The events at the amusement park show Ella that the things that may make us different are valuable and should be appreciated.
- Ella becomes happy when she understands that being different is a wonderful thing.
- She learns that we should always be thankful for what we have.

3. Do you think it's important to think positively about things that are different? Why?

- It is important to look at the positive in life and not focus on the negative.
- It is essential because:
 - Things that are different enrich our lives and make everything more interesting.
 - That way, all together, we are more likely to succeed in whatever we are doing.



DISCUSSION TOPICS



Being Helpful and Considerate to Others

QUESTION

ANSWER

1. Why does Ella think the little orange kitten they found needs their help?

- The kitten wobbled as he walked.
- The kitten was alone in a strange place.

2. Does Ella use her raincoat to help the kitten? How?

- Ella uses her raincoat twice to help the kitten.
- When Ella realizes that the polka dots on her raincoat are reflective, she uses her coat as a target to catch the kitten when he jumps from the beam he is on.
- Then Ella notices that the kitten is cold and shivering. She wants to find a way to keep the kitten and herself warm, and, magically, she finds a secret inside pocket in her raincoat where she can warm up the kitten.

3. Describe a time you helped someone who needed it?

- Individual child response.

4. If your friend asks for help, what would you say?

- Individual child response.

5. Do you remember a time when you were not able to do something, and others helped you? How did that make you feel?

- Individual child response.



VOCABULARY



Choose the right meaning for each word -- 1 OR 2!

WINCE

1. To pull away from something that seems painful.
2. To close and open one eye quickly.

CLAMBER

1. Make a really loud noise.
2. Climb into something awkwardly.



MAJESTIC

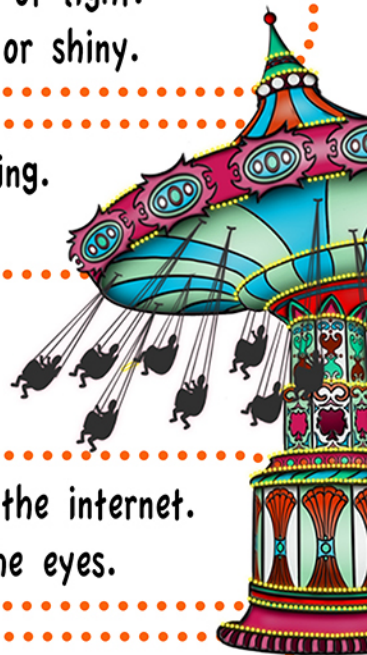
1. A magician.
2. Something that is very grand and impressive.

SPARKLE

1. To shine brightly with flashes of light.
2. When something is not bright or shiny.

THRILLING

1. Something that is not interesting.
2. Something that is exciting.



GOGGLES

1. A way to find information on the internet.
2. Special glasses that protect the eyes.

POLKA DOT

1. A pattern of round dots on fabric.
2. A type of music.



VOCABULARY



Choose the right meaning for each word -- 1 OR 2!

REFLECTIVE

1. Something that is rainbow coloured.
2. Something that can bounce light back.

EXTRAORDINARY

1. Something that is remarkable.
2. Something that is really ordinary.



CAROUSEL

1. A ride that goes around in a circle.
2. A place to park your car.

WHIRRING

1. A knocking sound.
2. A buzzing sound.

HOVER

1. To stay in one place in the air.
2. To zip around from place to place.



UNIQUE

1. Something similar to everything else.
2. Something different from everything else.

PRECIOUS

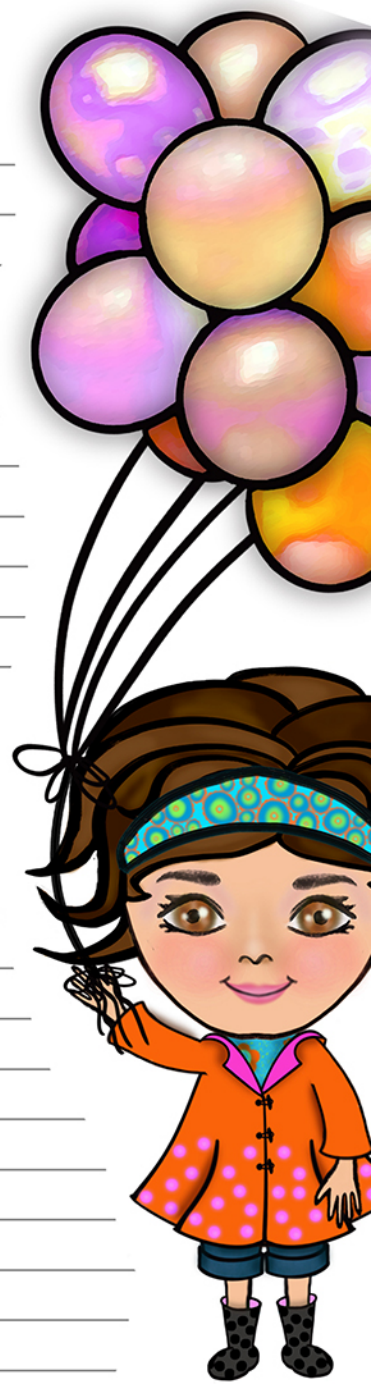
1. Something that has lots of holes in it.
2. Something that is rare and valuable.

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Let's write a story!

Ella and Ollie can be your main characters, or you can choose your own characters. Using your imagination, tell a story that is about appreciating things that are different.



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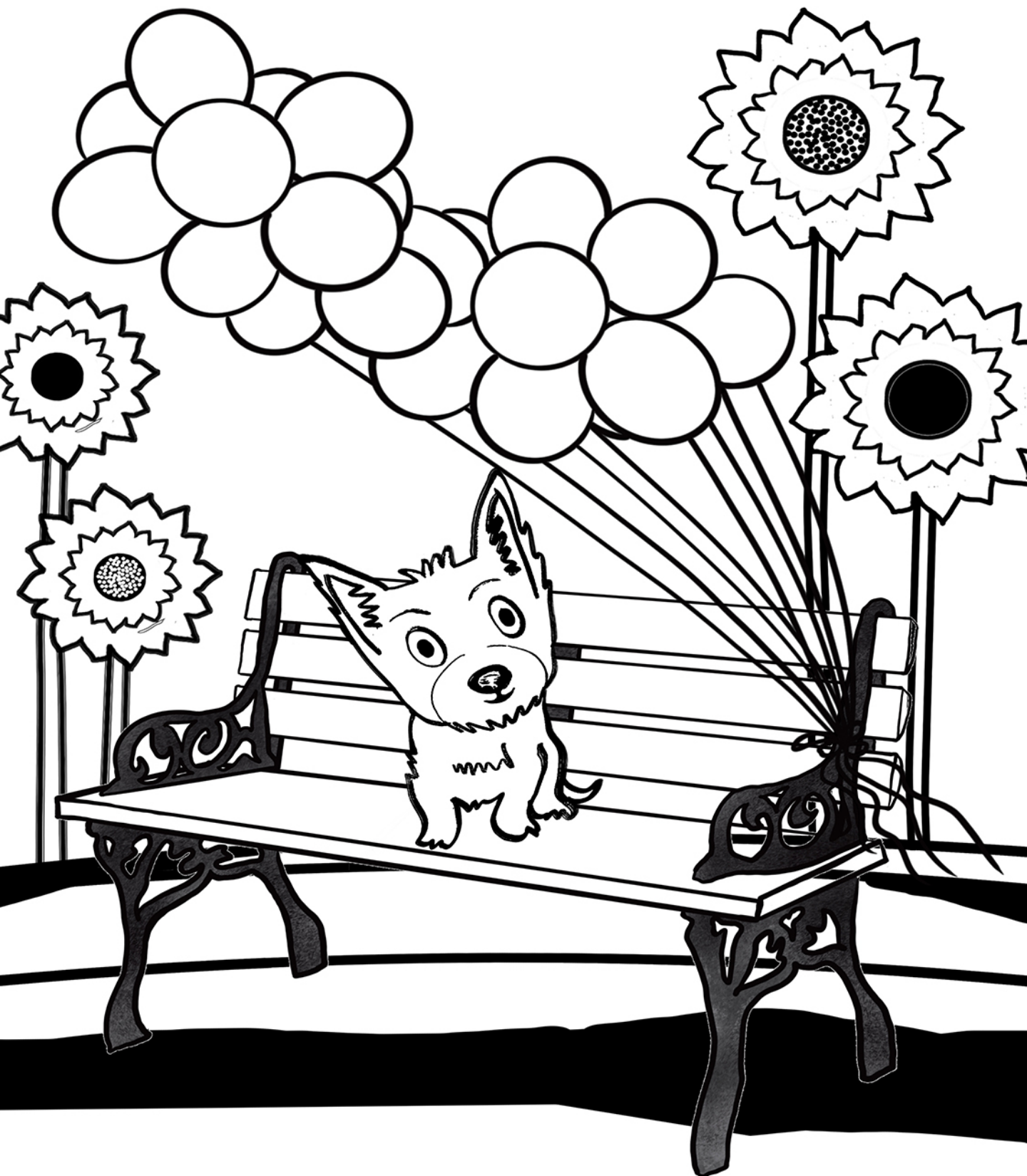


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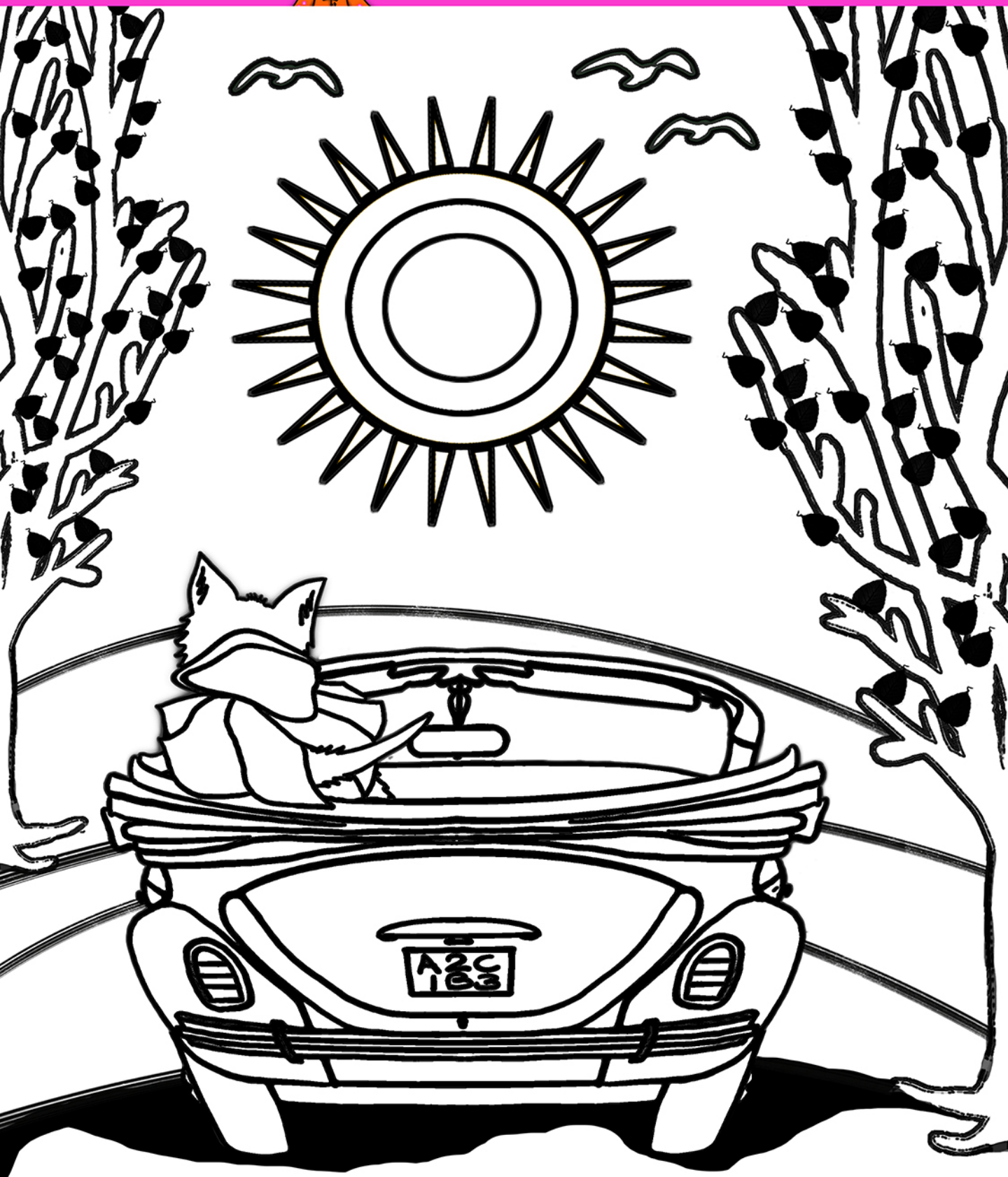


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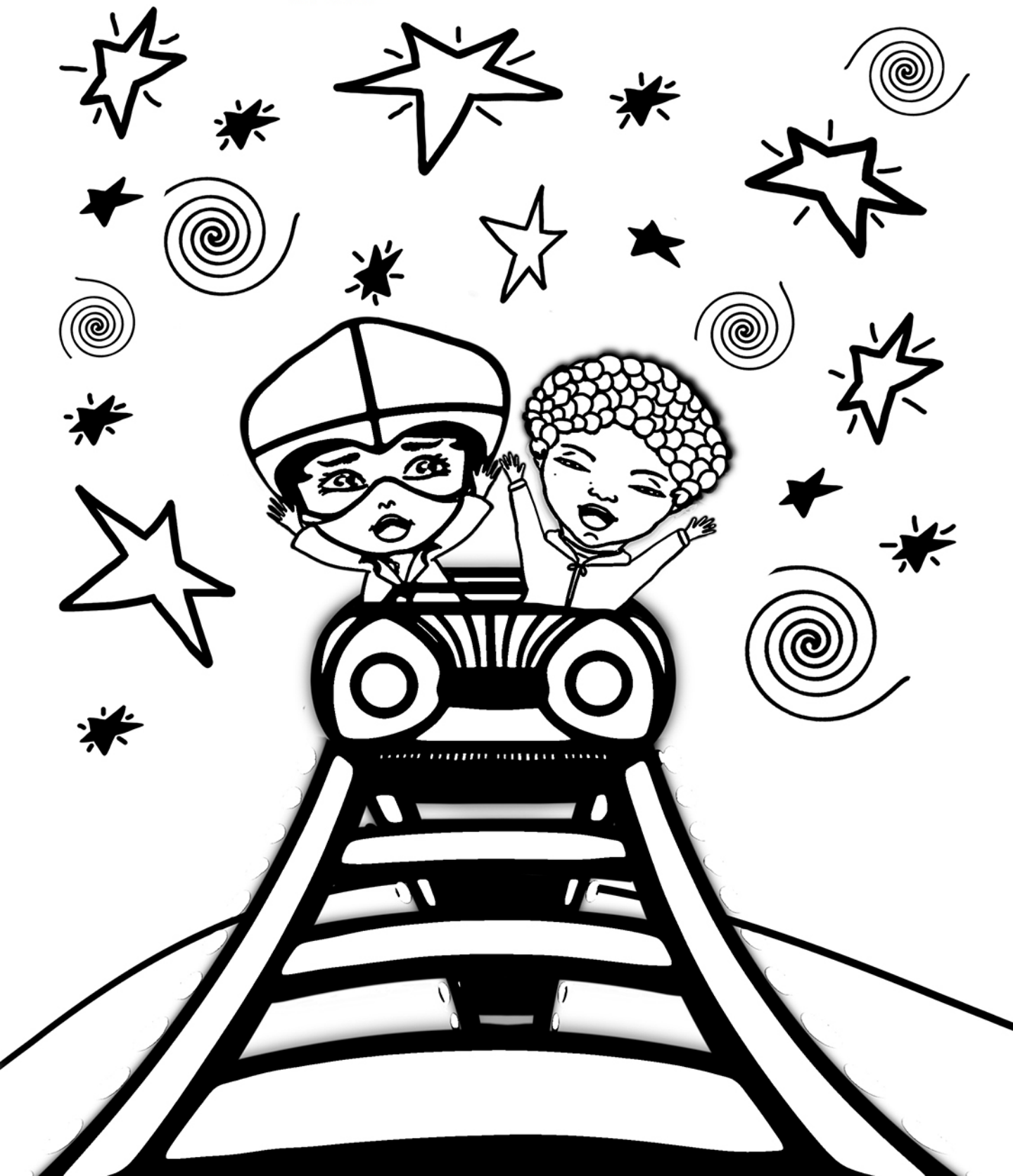


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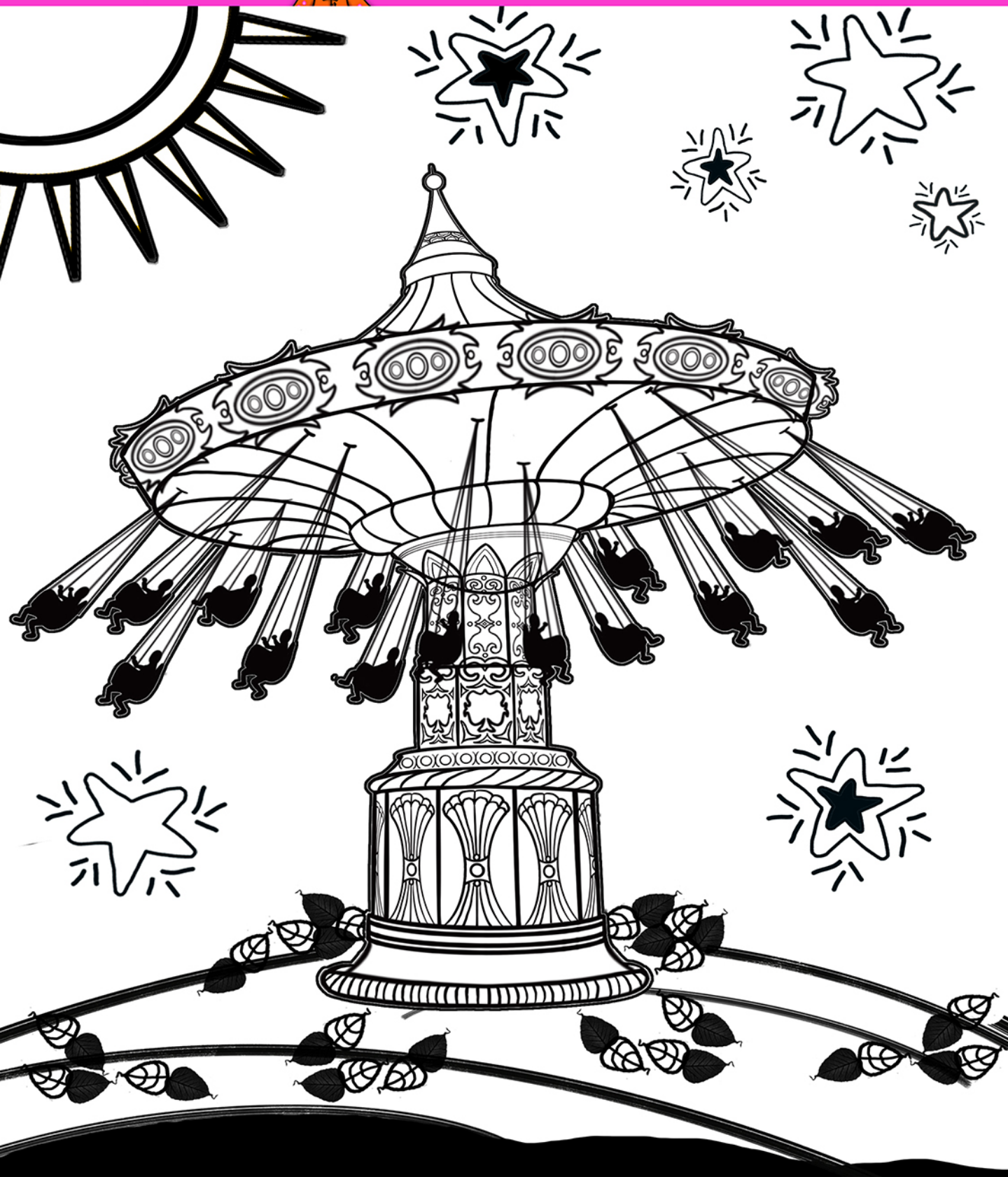


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WORD FIND



★ Find The ★ Hidden Word ★

Park Words!

oo



ARCADE
BALLOONS
CAROUSEL
CONCERTS
FIREWORKS
FUN
GAMES
LIGHTS
MUSIC
PARK
PICNIC
PLAYGROUND
RIDES



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WORD FIND



* Find The Hidden Word *



ADMIRE
APPRECIATE
CONSIDER
DIFFERENT
DISTINCT
ESTEEM
INDIVIDUAL
MERIT
RECOGNIZE
RESPECT
SPECIAL
UNIQUE
VALUE



Words about
appreciating our
differences!



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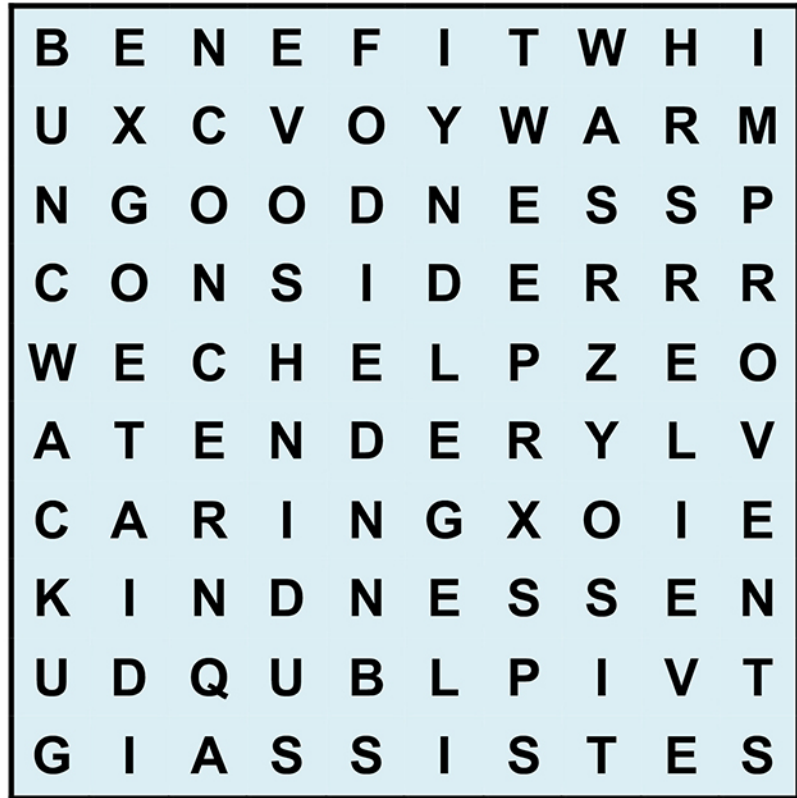


WORD FIND



★ Find The ★ Hidden Word ★

AID
ASSIST
BENEFIT
CARING
CONCERN
CONSIDER
GOODNESS
HELP
IMPROVE
KINDNESS
RELIEVE
TENDER
WARM



Words about
helping!



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LOGIC PUZZLE



* Which Symbol Comes * Next In Each Row? *

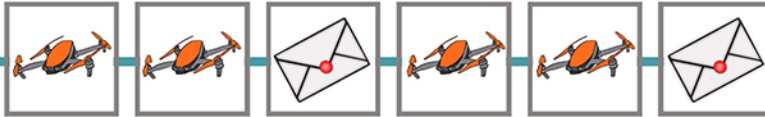
1



Which one comes next?



2



Which one comes next?



3



Which one comes next?



4



Which one comes next?



5



Which one comes next?



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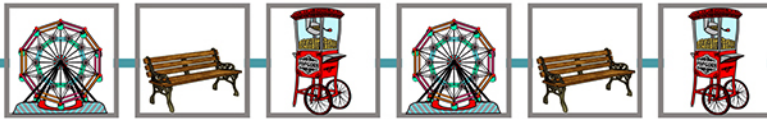


LOGIC PUZZLE



★ Which Symbol Comes ★ Next In Each Row? ★

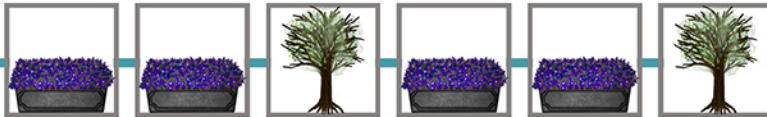
1



Which one comes next?



2



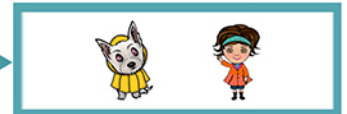
Which one comes next?



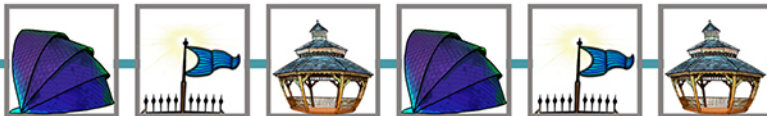
3



Which one comes next?



4



Which one comes next?



5



Which one comes next?



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WORD MATCH



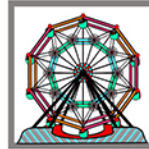
Match The Picture ★ ★ With The Word ★ ★

Car



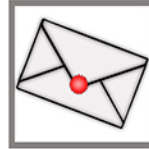
Drone

Bandshell



Kitten

Bird



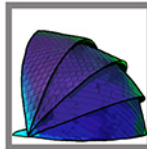
Dog

Lamp



Ferris wheel

Carousel



Building

Butterfly



Envelope



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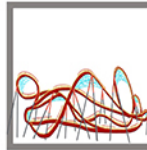
WORD MATCH



Match The Picture ★ ★ With The Word ★



Balloons



Pillow

Tree



House

Bench



Books

Roller coaster



Mobile

Gazebo



Umbrella

Rock



Ball



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NOTES

