

Teaching Tool Kit



ELLA SAYS:
**I'M NOT AFRAID
OF THE DARK!**

Written and Illustrated by Anu D. Misa



STORY SYNOPSIS

This is the first book in the Ella Says series and tells the delightful tale of a brave girl named Ella, who puts aside her fear of the dark to help her best friend, Ollie. A bright sunny day turns dark, windy, and rainy! Ella and her little dog Ollie were playing in the woods and become disoriented and lost. What is worse, they also become separated! Ella is afraid of the dark and wants to go home to the safety of their little blue house but, first, she must find her best friend, Ollie! So, she bravely makes her way through the woods and locates him. Once they are reunited, together they hatch their plan to find the way home. Their adventure teaches Ella and Ollie that they can smile and not be afraid of the dark!

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 teaches children they do not need to fear the dark. It also brings forward other lessons, specifically, how to manage change, and working together to solve problems. This ACTIVITY includes various questions to facilitate discussion with children about:

- comprehension and retention of the story,
- fear of the dark,
- managing change, and
- working together to solve problems.

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 are to 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, if they prefer. The story should be about one of these topics: friendship, overcoming fear, or working together to achieve a goal.

4. Other activity pages

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



1. Who are
the main
characters in
this story?

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

2. What do
you think
this story
is about?



3. What words
would you use
to describe Ella?



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

4. What
words would
you use to
describe
Ollie?

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



1. What is Ella afraid of at the beginning of the story?



2. What does Ella do to show that she is brave?



3. Why is Ella no longer afraid of the dark?



4. How did you feel when the story talked about the sunny day turning dark?



1. What are the main things that happen in the story that Ella has to overcome?



2. Ella starts her day thinking she will play ball with Ollie in the sunshine, but then everything changes. What does Ella do to cope with the changes?



3. Can you describe a time when you had to deal with things changing suddenly? How did you manage?

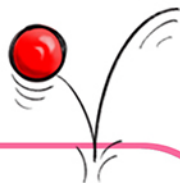


1. What do
Ella and Ollie
do to find
their way
back home?



Handwriting practice lines for topic 1.

2. Who helps
Ella and Ollie
find their way
back home?



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



Handwriting practice lines for topic 3.

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



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 lines for topic 5.



QUESTION

ANSWER

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|---|--|
| 1. Who are the main characters in this story? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A little girl named Ella.• Her dog named Ollie. |
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| 2. What do you think this story is about? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The story is about a little girl named Ella and her dog Ollie who are playing in the woods on a bright sunny day. Then, it suddenly turns dark, windy and rainy.• Ella and Ollie get separated. Ella is afraid of the dark, but she is also brave, so she searches for Ollie and finds him!• Ella and Ollie take a moment to come up with a plan to get back home.• Ollie sees an owl who wants to help them. He flies to the top of the tallest tree so he can see far away. From there, the owl can see the little blue house. He then points Ella and Ollie in the right direction so they can go home.• Ella and Ollie set off, but soon they find a fork in the path, and they need to decide which way to take.• At that point, they meet many woodland creatures who are having fun in the woods even though it is dark and rainy.• Their new friends know the woods well and Ella asks for their help to find their way.• They also show them that there is no need to fear the dark. |
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| 3. What words would you use to describe Ella? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scared: of the dark.• Brave: because she tries to find Ollie.• Smart: because she stops to think about what they should do next when they are lost.• Kind: because she does not leave Ollie alone in the woods. |
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| 4. What words would you use to describe Ollie? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Perceptive: because he finds the owl who helps them.• Capable: because he uses his keen sense of smell and hearing to find their way back home.• Loyal: because he stays by Ella's side until they find their way home. |
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QUESTION

ANSWER

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|---|--|
| <p>1. What is Ella afraid of at the beginning of the story?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ella is afraid of being alone in the dark. While she was playing with Ollie, it was sunny, but then a storm came in and made it very dark. |
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| <p>2. What does Ella do to show that she is brave?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Even though she is afraid, when Ella and Ollie become separated, she stays and tries to find Ollie. |
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| <p>3. Why is Ella no longer afraid of the dark?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ella saw the woodland creatures actually having fun and playing in the dark and the rain. The animals were playing!• There were:<ul style="list-style-type: none">– Flowers that had grown in the sudden rainfall.– Hundreds of fireflies dancing, making glittery twinkle light.– Animals splashing in the pool where the rain had gathered. |
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| <p>4. How did you feel when the story talked about the sunny day turning dark?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual child response. For example, did the child feel afraid, nervous, anxious? |
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QUESTION

ANSWER

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| <p>1. What are the main things that happen in the story that Ella has to overcome?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• It suddenly becomes dark.• Ella and Ollie become disoriented and lost.• Ella becomes separated from Ollie and tries to find him.• They find a fork in the path as they go back home and are not sure which way to take. |
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| <p>2. Ella starts her day thinking she will play ball with Ollie in the sunshine, but then everything changes. What does Ella do to cope with the changes?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ella stays calm and does not panic.• Ella takes the time to think about how she should deal with the changes.• Ella relies on her friends to help her as well. |
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| <p>3. Can you describe a time when you had to deal with things changing suddenly? How did you manage?</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual child response. |
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QUESTION

ANSWER

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- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. What do Ella and Ollie do to find their way back home? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• They look for help from others who may be in a better position to find a solution. |
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| 2. Who helps Ella and Ollie find their way back home? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First, there is an owl who flies to the top of a tree to see which direction they should take to find their home.• Then, when Ella and Ollie are walking back home, there is a fork in the path, and they need to choose which way to take. They rely on the animals who become their friends to help them go home. There were squirrels, little birds, deer, rabbits, raccoons, chipmunks, and foxes too. |
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| 3. Describe a time you helped someone who needed it? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual child response. |
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| 4. If your friend asks for help, what would you say? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual child response. |
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| 5. Do you remember a time when you were not able to do something, and others helped you? How did that make you feel? | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Individual child response. |
|--|--|
-



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

BROOK

1. A small stream of water.
2. A big bird with huge claws.

CHIPMUNK

1. A small furry animal with stripes along its back.
2. A new type of snack.



CHATTER

1. To talk a lot about little things.
2. A big saw used to cut wood.

COURAGE

1. Ability to face fear.
2. A place where you park your car.

DIN

1. A big metal box used for construction.
2. A loud, constant noise.



FIREFLY

1. Equipment used by firefighters.
2. A little beetle whose body lights up in the dark.

GLITTERY

1. To shine and sparkle.
2. The seeds on top of a bagel.



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

HOOT

1. The sound an owl makes.
2. A small house made with logs and grass.

HOWL

1. A quiet, light sound.
2. A long, loud sound.



PINECONE

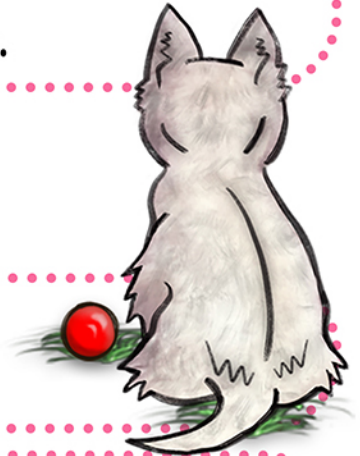
1. A waffle that holds ice cream.
2. The fruit on a pine tree.

RACCOON

1. A furry brown animal with black rings on its tail.
2. A furry black animal with white stripes on its tail.

RUCKUS

1. A loud, noisy commotion.
2. A machine used to cut the grass.



SPLAT

1. A type of coat.
2. A slapping sound.

SQUIRREL

1. A small furry animal with a bushy tail.
2. A big fish that glows in the dark.

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STORY WRITING



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Let's
write a
story!

You can use Ella and
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your imagination to tell a story about them. Or you
can choose your own characters. Your story should be about
one of these topics: friendship; overcoming fear; or,
working together to achieve a goal.

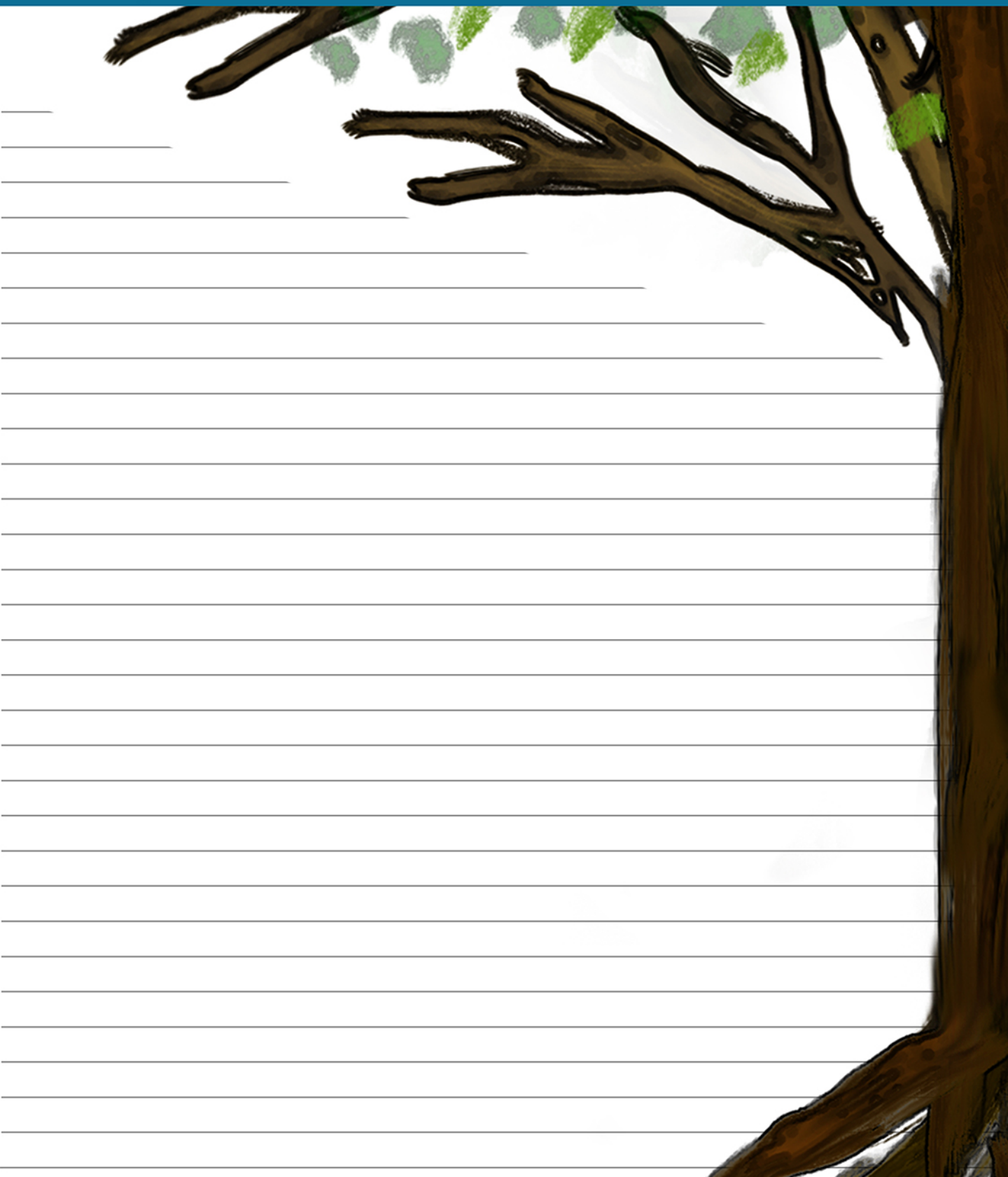
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WORD FIND



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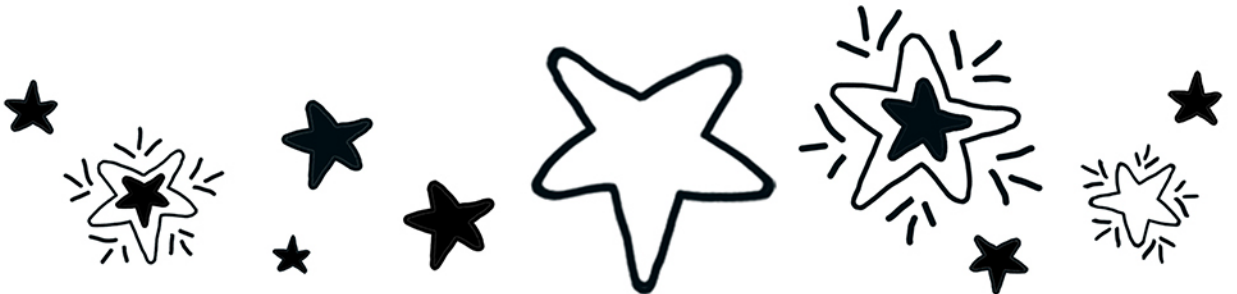
* Find The Hidden Word *

Weather Words!

ooo



CLOUDS
SUNNY
COLD
RAIN
SNOW
HOT
THUNDER
LIGHTNING
WIND
FOG
WARM
ICE
STORM



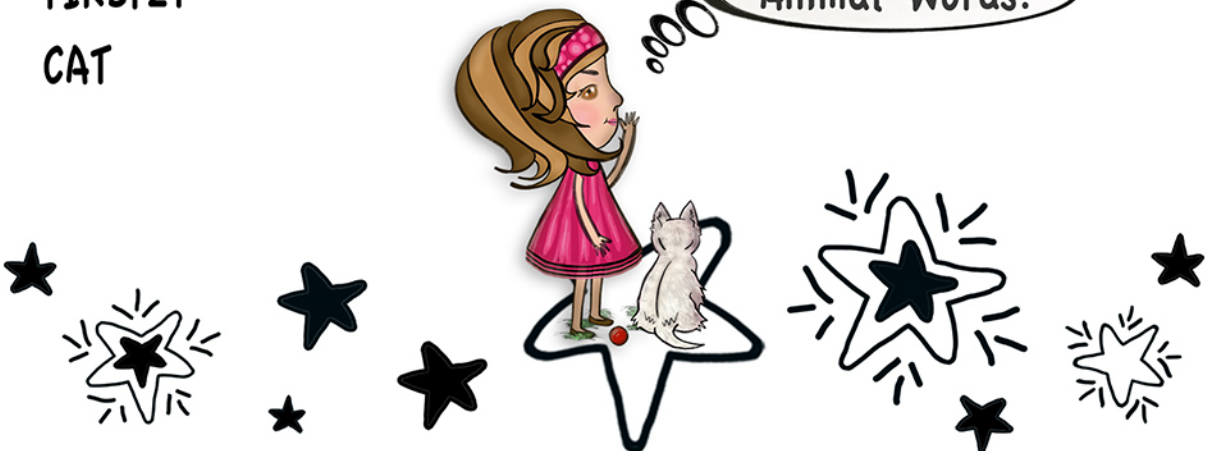


★ Find The ★ Hidden Word ★

RABBIT
CHIPMUNK
DEER
FOX
RACCOON
BIRD
SQUIRREL
LION
BEAR
OWL
DOG
FIREFLY
CAT



Animal Words!



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WORD FIND



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★ Find The ★ Hidden Word ★



TREE
GRASS
STREAM
MOSS
ROOTS
BRANCH
TRUNK
LAKE
FLOWER
PATH
CLEARING
MEADOW
WATER



ooo Woodland Words!





Which Symbol Comes ★ Next In Each Row? ★

1



Which one comes next?



2



Which one comes next?



3



Which one comes next?



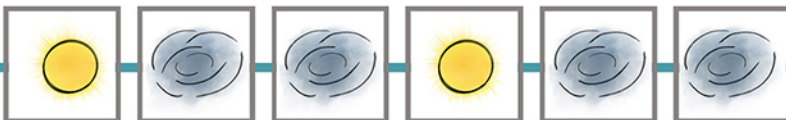
4



Which one comes next?



5



Which one comes next?





★ Which Symbol Comes ★ Next In Each Row? ★

1



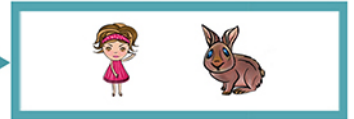
Which one comes next?



2



Which one comes next?



3



Which one comes next?



4



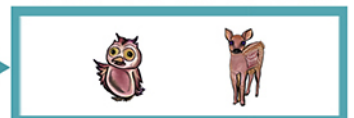
Which one comes next?



5



Which one comes next?





★ Match The Picture ★ ★ With The Word ★

Leaf



Flower

Raccoon



Tail

Sun



Tree

Fox



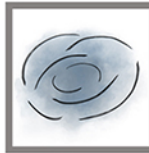
Cloud

Dog



Girl

Star



Firefly





★ Match The Picture ★ ★ With The Word ★

Dog



Deer

Rabbit



Bird

Girl



Squirrel

Tree



Drop

House



Owl

Chipmunk



Ball



A cartoon illustration of a young girl with brown hair styled in a bun, wearing a pink headband with white polka dots and a pink top. She is smiling and has her arms raised in a celebratory gesture.

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This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There is no handwriting or other markings on the paper.