

The Legend of Lightning Larry



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Literature based unit study by Michelle Light

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BIBLE & CHARACTER

Bible Study: Paul's Conversion

Read the story of Paul's conversion (Acts 9). God's blinding light could be paralleled to Larry's bolts of light. Discuss Paul's attitude and change of heart.

Good vs. Evil

Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good. Romans 12:21

→ Lapbook component: Bible Verse Boot Shape

When Larry is faced with opposition from those that wish to do evil. He overcomes it. He shoots his bolts of light (just like Jesus' love) into the evil gang members' hearts. The love in turn transforms them into loving, peaceful citizens that care for others. Discuss with your child how Jesus has done this same thing in our hearts.

You can also discuss good vs. evil as you do the following:

Make two columns: "Evil Deeds" & "Good Deeds" List under each heading what the outlaws did when they were evil and then what they did when they were good. You could include Paul's evil vs. good deeds from the Bible lesson as well. This lesson could lead into even further discussion of sin and righteousness as you see fit for your student.

Possible Memory Verses

Proverbs 15:1 A soft answer turns away wrath.

Matthew 5:9 Blessed are the peacemakers.

James 3:18 Peacemakers who sow in peace raise a harvest of righteousness.

LANGUAGE ARTS

The story is available on the author's website, but the illustrations are great, so if it is available at your library, get it! You can also hear the story in the author's voice on this website. This is a fun treat for the kids.

Tall Tales

Most tall tales have some elements of truth but much has been exaggerated. You may wish to read some other tall tales with your student. (Paul Bunyan, John Henry, Davy Crockett). While Davy Crockett existed, many stories about him are not true. Lightning Larry is not a real person but an imaginary person the author has made up. Legends are stories that are passed down from one generation to another.

Tall Tales have various characteristics (see list below). Discuss the characteristics of tall tales with your student. Which ones are noted in the story? You may wish to read some other tall tales with your student to compare to *The Legend of Lightning Larry* and note which characteristics are found in those tall tales, too.

→ Lapbook component: Tall Tales Tri-fold

Tall Tale Characteristics

The main character can accomplish great feats using strength, skill, or wits

The main character is helped by a powerful object or animal

The main character has super-human abilities

The author uses exaggerations

The setting of the story begins with the hero as a child

The plot of the story is humorous (funny) and impossible

The main character has one or more companions (i.e. Johnny Appleseed's animals)

The story includes lots of action

The main character solves a problem, defeats villains, or overcomes an obstacle

The main character dies or disappears at the end

Other Tall Tales to Read

Johnny Appleseed retold by Steven Kellogg

Paul Bunyan retold by Steven Kellogg

Paul Bunyan and Other Tales by Jane Mason

Pecos Bill retold by Steven Kellogg

Mike Fink retold by Steven Kellogg
American Tall Tales by Mary Pope Osborne

You may also wish to discuss with your student that stories in the Bible are credible (true). Stories like David and Goliath, Daniel in the Lion Den, Noah, Moses, Jonah, etc. are all real stories that include miracles (not magic) through the power of God and they are not made up from men's exaggeration but have been given to us by God.

Alliteration

The Title of the Book is an Alliteration (same initial consonant sound Legend Lightning Larry). Does your student think this is a good title? The next time your student writes a story, encourage him to use alliteration in the title.

Adjectives

Adjectives are words that describe nouns. The tall grass, the blue sky, the wild pig. Discuss the outlaws names and the meanings. Discuss the adjectives that describe each character.

Go-along book for learning about adjectives: *Many Luscious Lollipops* by Ruth Heller

Dictionary Skills/Adjectives/Alliteration

Make up new names for your outlaws: Make two lists. One titled "Bad or Old Names" the other titled "New or Good Names". List the old names and then grab a dictionary and see if you can give the outlaws new names to go along with their new hearts. If your child is too young to look it up themselves-show them how to use a children's dictionary and read through some words that coordinate with that letter and let them choose a new adjective: Example: Moldy Mike could now be Merciful Mike, or Magnificent Mike. Have your child make up or choose an alliterated name to describe him or herself. Example-- *Likable Lexi, Extraordinary Elijah, Quiet Quinton, etc.*

→ Lapbook Component: Alliteration Mini-book

Onomatopoeia

If you have discussed onomatopoeia before, see if your student can find an example in this story (*zing*).

→ Lapbook Component: Onomatopoeia Mini-book

Vocabulary

commotion- noisy excitement and confusion

scowl- to make a frowning expression

ferocious- mean, angry, wild or threatening in appearance

shuddered- to tremble with fear or horror

plunked- to drop or set down suddenly

traitor- one who is unfaithful

puzzled- confused; someone who doesn't understand

saloon- a place of business for the sale of drinks, usually alcoholic

showdown- time to show who is the best

draw- reach for your gun and bring it out

outlaw- the "bad guy"; criminal, lawbreaker

→ Lapbook Component: Vocabulary Cowboy Hat Shape Book

Alphabetical Order

Alphabetize the names of the characters in the story.

Creative Writing

Create a wanted poster for an outlaw.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Geography Detective

Perhaps your child could become a detective and uncover clues to see if the author may have had a particular state in mind when he decided to name this town. They could write clues and facts to go with their theory. (Cottonmouth snakes are a big clue!) Your student may even want to help you write a letter to the author asking what state this story is set in.

Map Making

Have your child draw a map or build a Lego city of Brimstone. Designate the bank and the saloon, the Okey-Dokey Corral, and other places that may exist in a town (a general store, a jail, etc.) Many of these old towns only consisted of one or two

streets where all the businesses were. Discuss what kinds of stores and businesses would be important to a town in those days.

History: The Old West

Discuss the details in the text and in the illustrations that clue us in as to the setting of this story (cowboys, disputes being settled with guns, the clothes of the characters, the desert looking surrounding on the first page, the use of the word outlaws, etc.

As the West was being discovered, some new towns were springing up. By 1849 80,000 people from all over the globe had arrived in California for the “Gold Rush.” Owning and carrying guns in that day were common. Disputes were often settled with a gunfight because there was little to no local law enforcement throughout the Old West. The roots of the Old West were grown in greed, adventure, and survival; sometimes it is referred to as the WILD West. Can your student guess why?

The American Old West comprises the history, myths, legends, stories, beliefs and cultural meanings that collected around the Western United States in the 19th century.

History: Past vs. Present

Look at the towns, the people’s dress, the buildings, the modes of transportation, lighting used, etc. Compare them to present day things.

→ Lapbook Component: Past vs. Present Strip Book

Culture: Cowboy Clothes

Have children draw or trace (or print) a [picture of Lightning Larry](#). Label the clothing.

Chaps-are made from leather-hides-to protect the horse rider from getting chapped legs due to riding all the time. (Discuss with your child what might happen if chaps were not available.)

Spurs: metal spikes that were mounted to boots -used to help make the horses go.

Holster- a special belt and leather pouch to hold a gun.

Bandana- worn around the neck as a neckerchief

Cowboy Boots

Cowboy Hat- also known as a Stetson

SCIENCE

The Cottonmouth Snake

The local saloon was named after the cotton-mouth snake. Also known as the Water Moccasin. The cotton mouth is a poisonous snake. In abundance in Texas- especially around rivers, lakes and streams. They are found in the south eastern states and as far west as mid-Texas, and as far north as Southern Illinois. Thought to be an aggressive snake, however it does not chase but will stand its ground. When scared it will open its mouth showing its inner white lining, hence the name cottonmouth. Its bite is more lethal than the copperhead.

Shadows and Telling Time

Discuss the absence of clocks and how the sun determined the meeting time (high noon). How did the cowboys determine when to do things? They were dependent on the sun (Where is the sun in the sky at "high noon"?).

Shadow Experiment:

Take a small object (such as a teacup outside) and place it on a poster board. Let your student trace around the shadow (if you don't have a poster board, you can set the object on pavement or on the sidewalk and use sidewalk chalk). Go out every hour and trace the shadow again. What happens? Where is the shadow at 8 am? 10 am? Noon? 2 pm? etc.

→ Lapbook Component: Shadows Flap Book

Have your student write the time (of his observation) on the clock and draw the object and its shadow under the flap.

APPLIED MATH

Ten

(Ten Paces) The story mentions a gunfight. (You can view these on many of the old movies). The fighters meet in the center of town. They stand back to back and walk

10 paces forward each-then they turn around and draw their guns. How many paces apart in distance are they now? (20) What if they continue on for 10 more paces? Practice this with your child. Counting the steps and turning around and figuring the math.

Applied Math: Currency

Play Bank. Have your student be the banker and convert the currency from coins to dollars or from dollars to coins.

Counting-Grouping

Count any number of objects on the pages. Candles in chandelier, etc. You could begin skip counting or grouping with your younger child.

ART

Drawing Facial Expressions

Look at the illustrations of the people's faces. Can your student draw faces similar to those in the story? Encourage your student to try different expressions- a mean look (scowl); a happy face (after conversion via lightning bolt!)

Humor in Art

The details in the illustrations are so funny! If your student hasn't noticed any by the 3rd or 4th day, you may want to point out some of Toni Goffe's funny pictures. Notice the page where Curt is going to "fight" Larry. Look at the chandelier! What about when Stinky Steve is robbing the 79th National Savings and Loan? (People are holding their noses!) When he brings the money back, even the cat has a clothespin on her nose! One illustration shows a dog waiting for a drop of lemonade (by the band).

What other funny things can your student find?

JUST FOR FUN

Recipes

Lemonade

Larry's favorite drink-real freshly squeezed lemonade. Squeeze a lemon into a glass. Add water and sugar to taste. Add ice to make it good and cold. Enjoy!

Cowboy Delight

Ingredients:

- 1/2-pound bacon, cut into 1 inch pieces
- 1/2-pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup diced green bell pepper
- 1/2 cup chopped onion
- 1 (1.25 ounce) package chili seasoning mix
- 1 (14.5 ounce) can canned peeled and diced tomatoes
- 1 (15 ounce) can baked beans

Directions: In a large skillet over medium heat, fry bacon pieces until browned. Crumble the ground beef into the skillet with the bacon, and stir in the green pepper and onion. Continue to cook until the beef is no longer pink. Drain off any excess grease. Stir in the chili seasoning mix until the meat is coated. Add the tomatoes and beans to the skillet, mix well, and simmer for 15 to 20 minutes.

MORE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

Story Writing Activity: [Ideas for your child to write his own cowboy story](#)

If your student does this, you could make a pocket to store the story in for her lapbook.

Science: Snakes

If your older student is interested, have him research the snakes that live in your neck of the woods

Science: Desert Animals

Do further research on desert animals, plants, insects and birds. Another common insect of the southwestern area of the US is the scorpion.

Science: Brimstone

The name of the town is Brimstone. The word brimstone means sulfur. Your child could look up the word and study more about Brimstone. There are also many Bible references to brimstone associated with judgment. Why do you think this is so?

Legendary Lawmen

The story mentions Wild Bill Hickock and Wyatt Earp. Your older students can do further study to find out who are these people and why they are mentioned in this story.

History

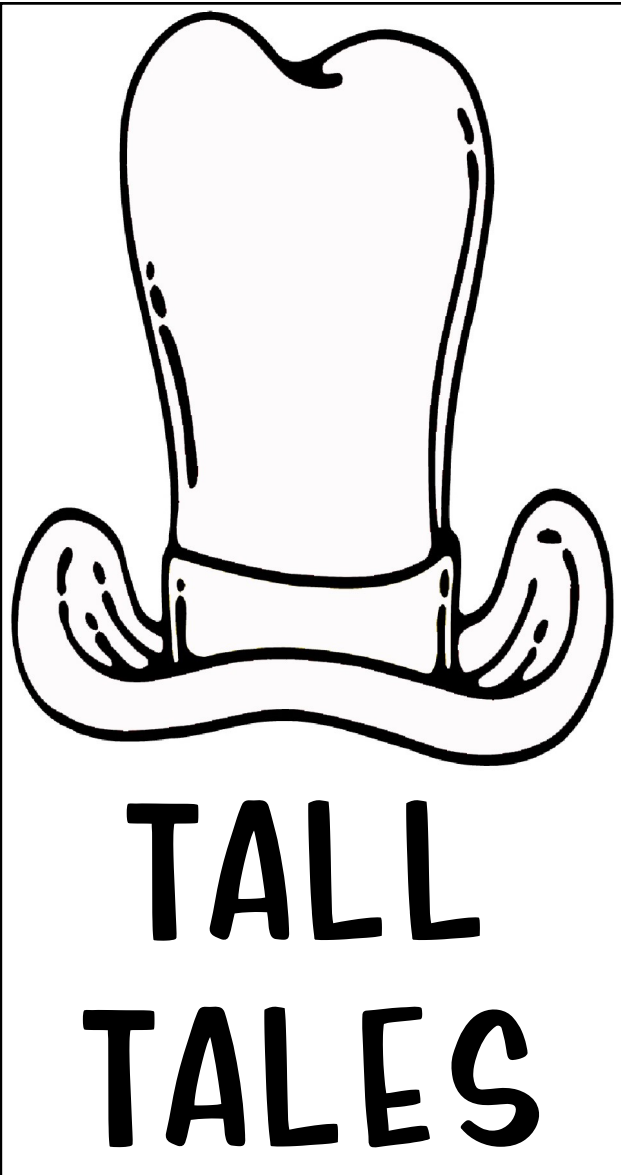
Study more about banking.

Clothing Design (occupation tie-in)

Let your student be a fashion designer! Trace over or draw clothing and design new chaps, new boots, a new shirt, new handkerchief for Larry. perhaps one for every day of the week. Design new dresses and hats for the ladies.

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Directions: Choose a book to use (one with lines or one without lines).

Cut out book (on next page) as ONE PIECE. Fold each side in on solid black line. Cut out the "Tall Tales" title on this page and glue it on the front of your book.

If you don't like the headings on the book provided, simply take a piece of paper, fold it into thirds and write your own headings. You can still use the "Tall Tales" title on your cover.

Characteristics of a Tall Tale

Examples from

Other Tall Tale Titles

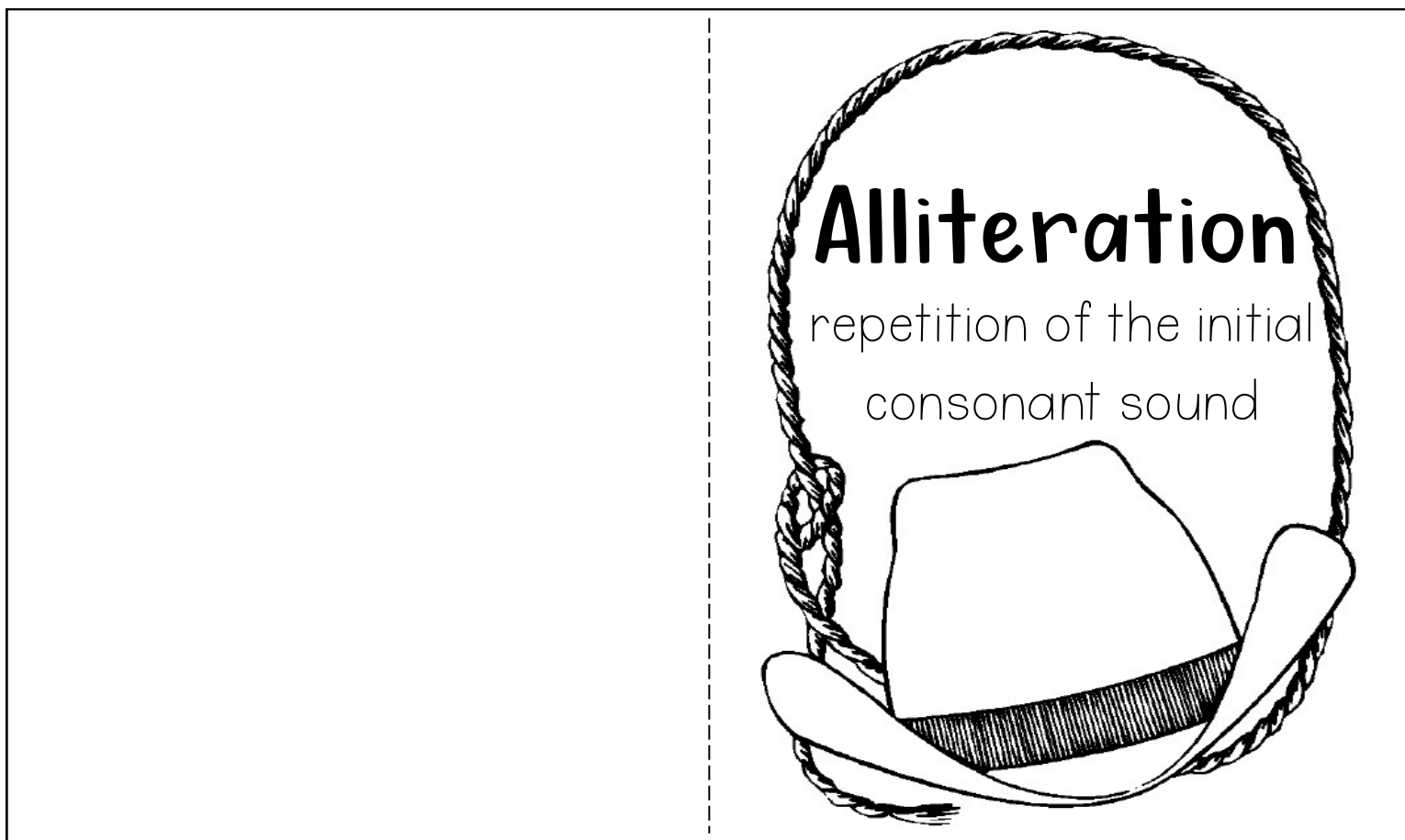
Characteristics of a Tall Tale

Examples from

Other Tall Tale Titles

Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half.

Cut out the charts on the next page. After you teach the alliteration lesson, have your student record the names of the outlaws. Encourage your student to create new names (using alliteration also) for the outlaws. A good guy can't be called, "Evil-Eye!"



Old Name	New Name

Old Name	New Name

Vocabulary Words

the bad guy;
criminal, lawbreaker



noisy excitement
and confusion



to make a frowning
expression



mean, angry, wild
or threatening
in appearance

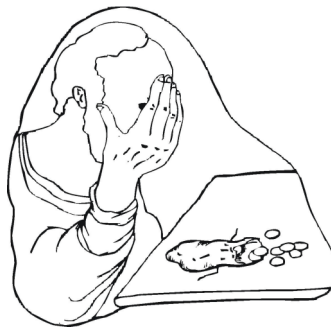


to tremble with
fear or horror



to drop or set
down suddenly

one who is unfaithful





confused; someone
who doesn't



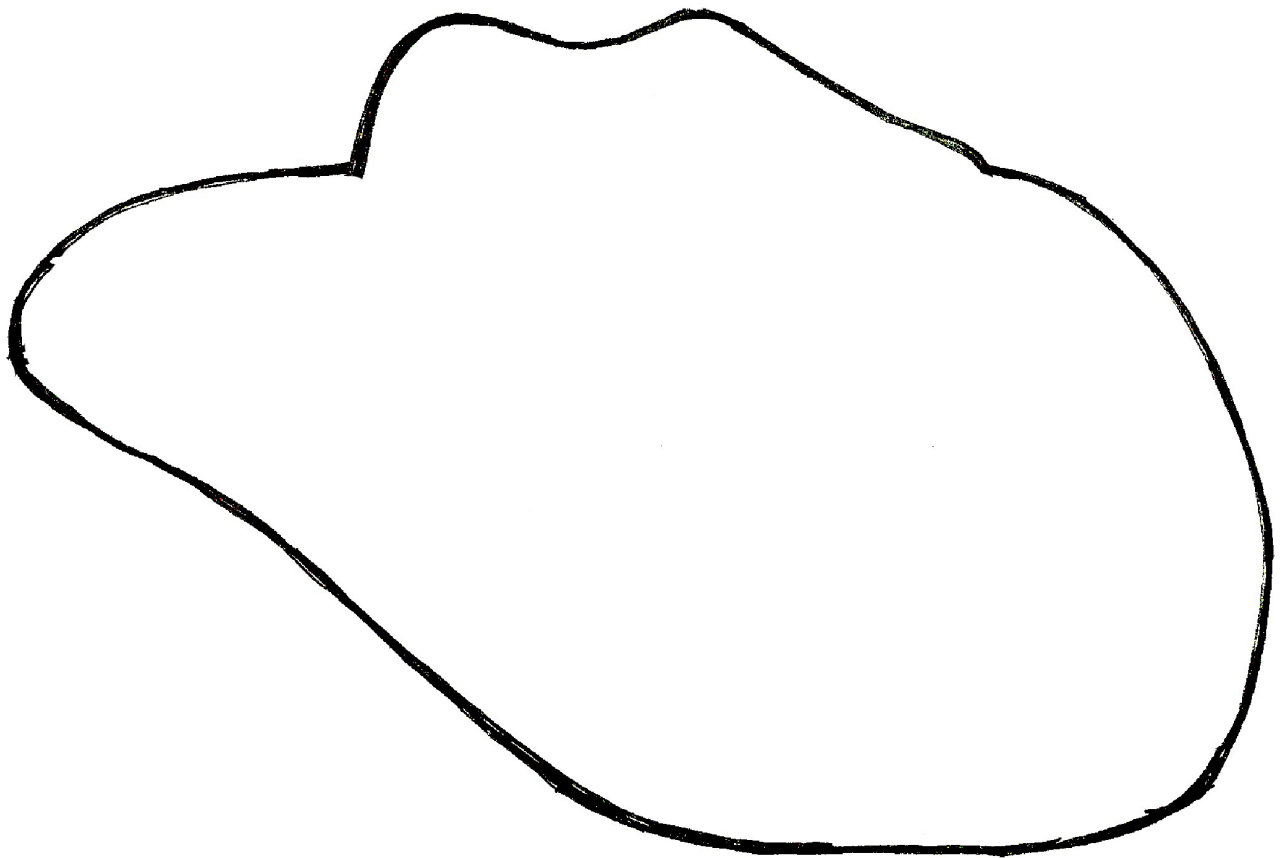
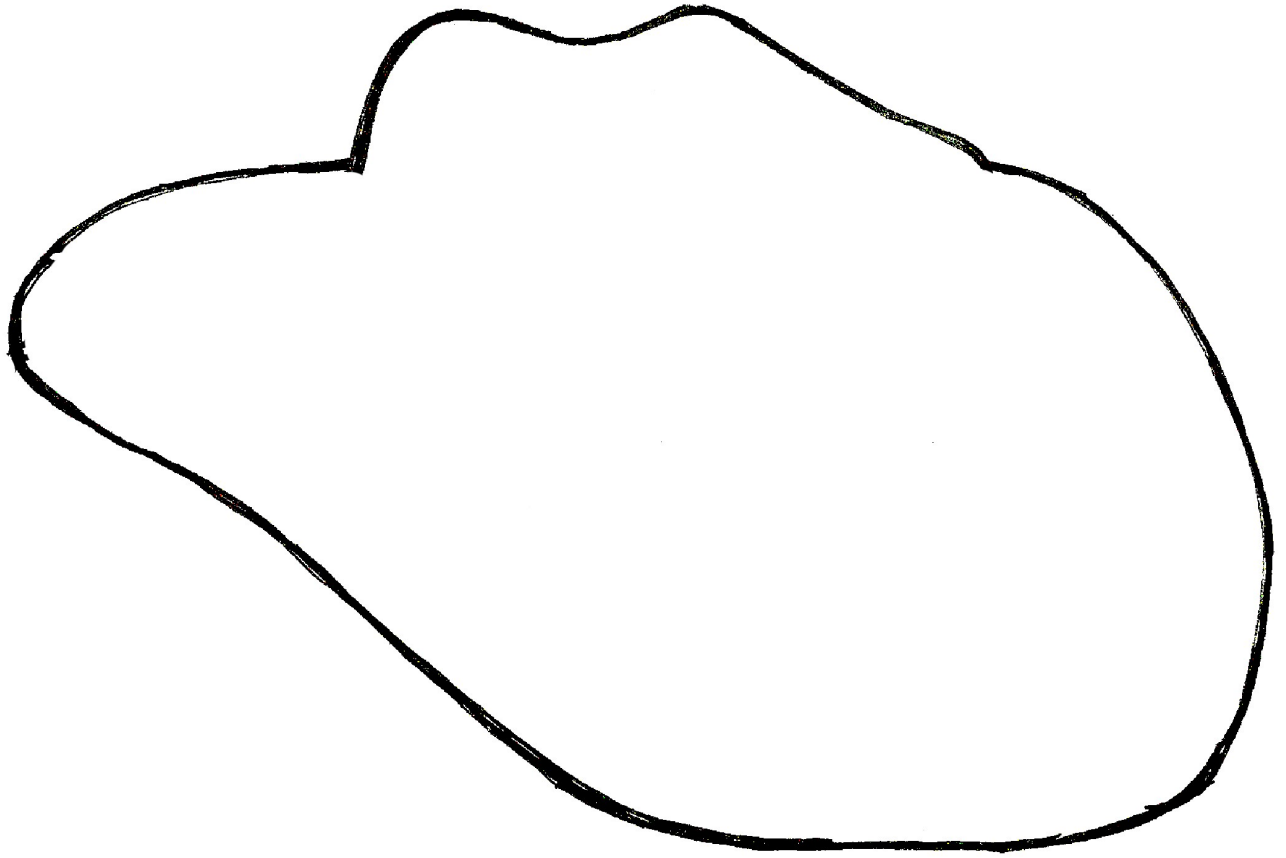
a place of business
for the sale of drinks



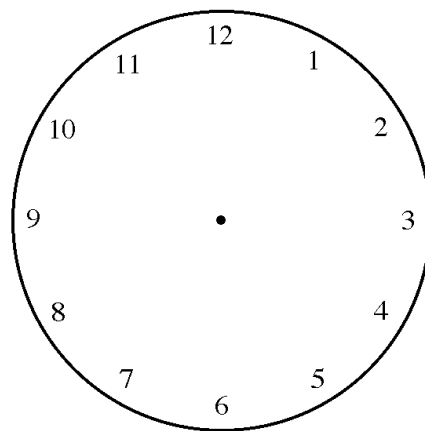
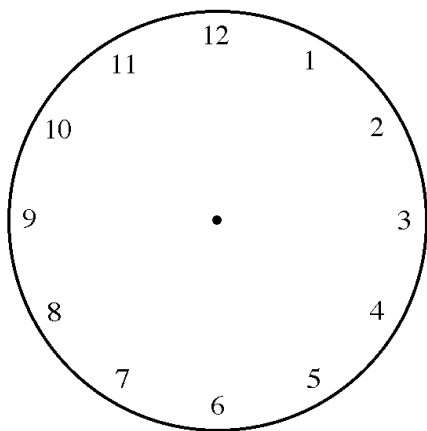
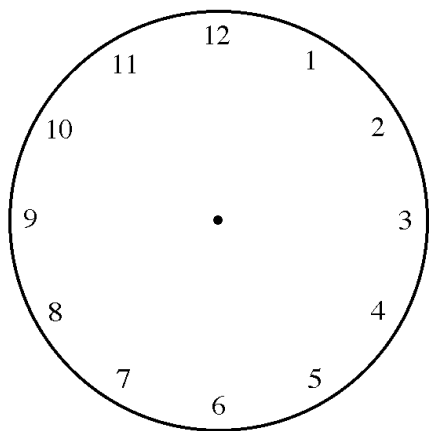
time to show
who is the best



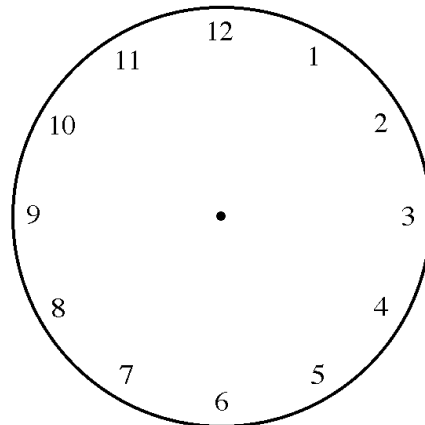
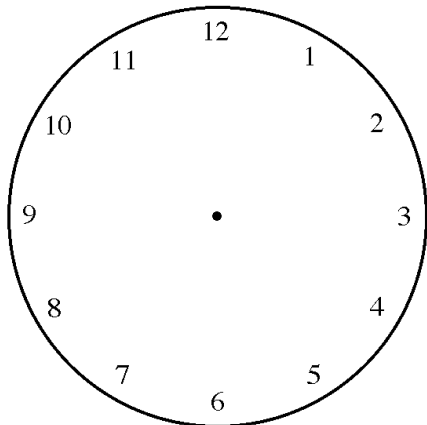
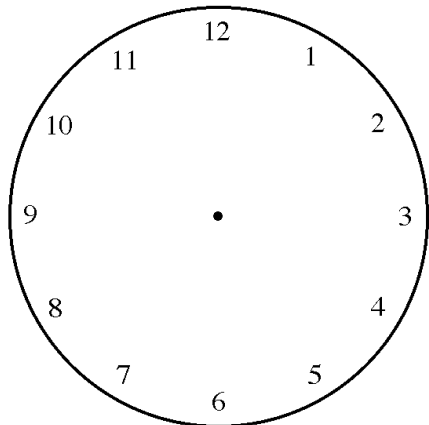
reach for your gun
and bring it out



Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half. Unfold. Fold the left side under. Fold the right side under. Turn the book over and cut on the lines between the clocks (creating six flaps). Fold in half again. "Shadow Observation" should be your front cover.



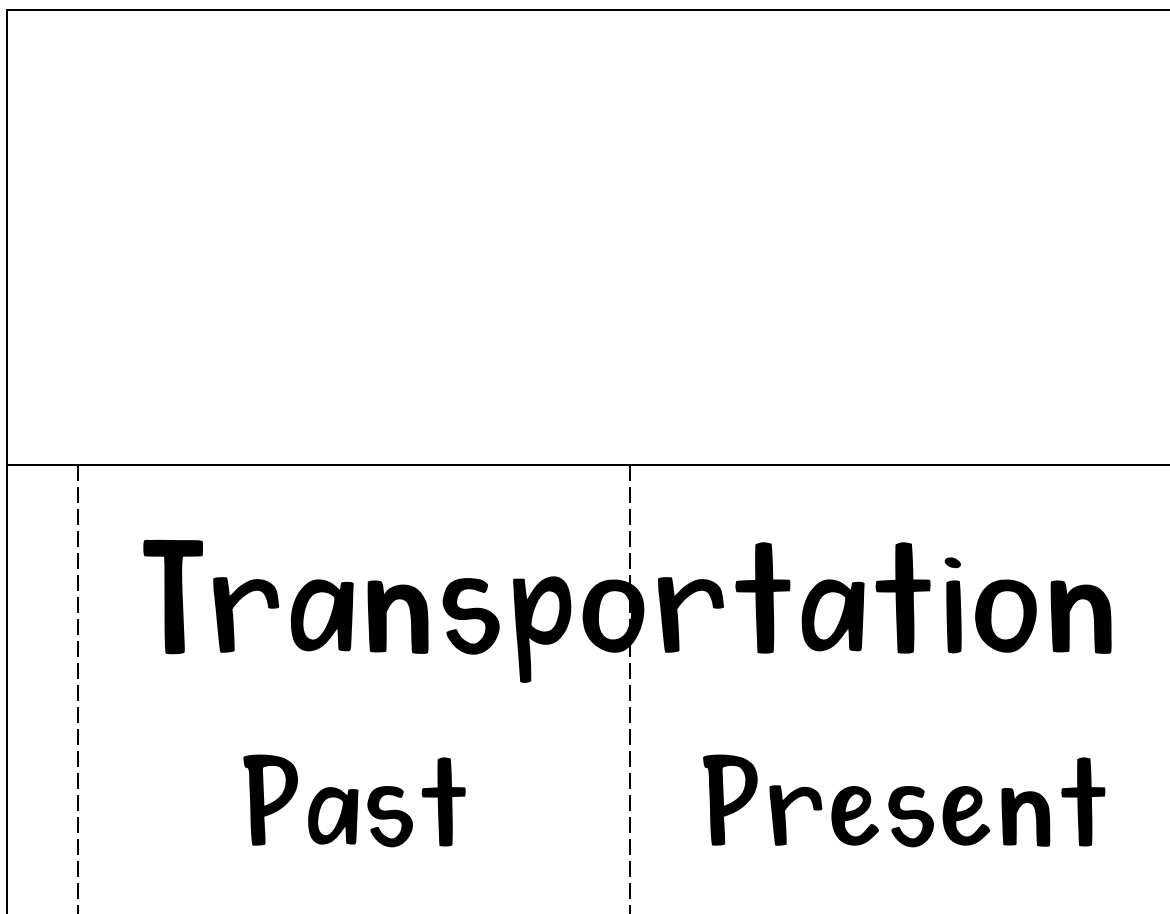
Shadow Observation

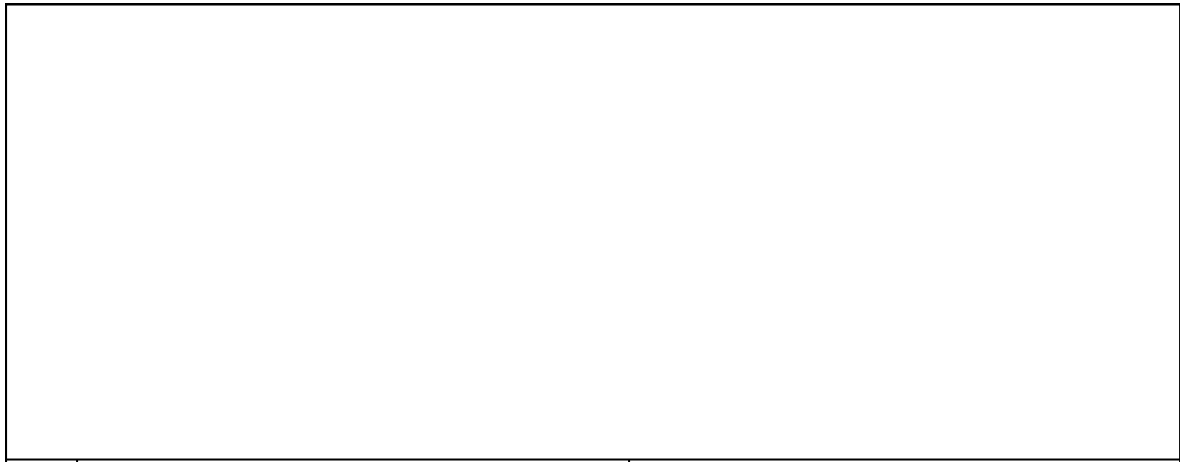


Directions: Cut out each rectangle (solid black lines). Fold like a hotdog on center gray line. Unfold. Cut dotted gray lines. Repeat steps with each rectangle.

Stack rectangles together with cover (Past and Present) on the front and staple on the left side as shown in picture below.

Let your student paste the appropriate pictures under each flap.





Lighting

Past

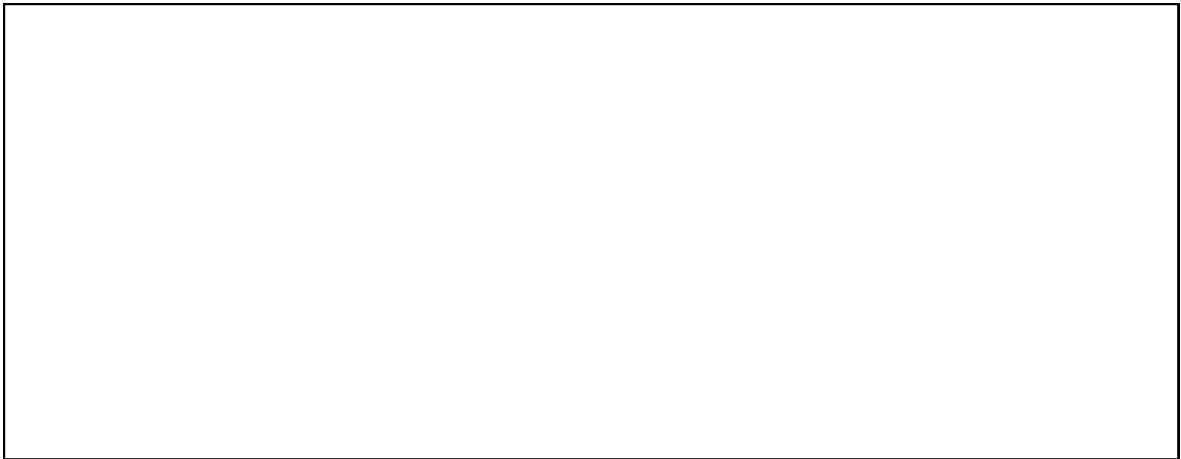
Present



Clothing

Past

Present



Law Enforcement

Past

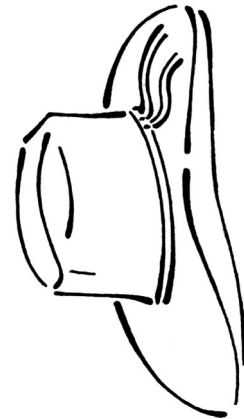
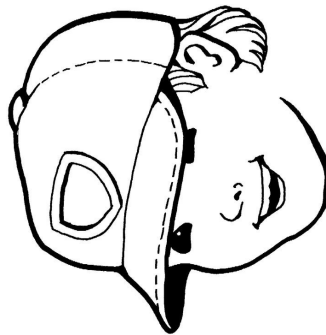
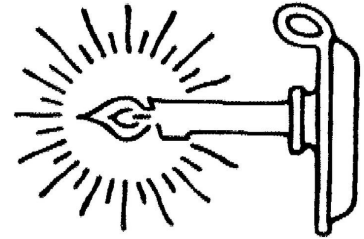
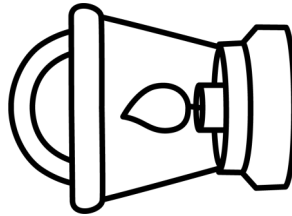
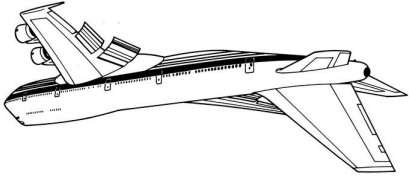
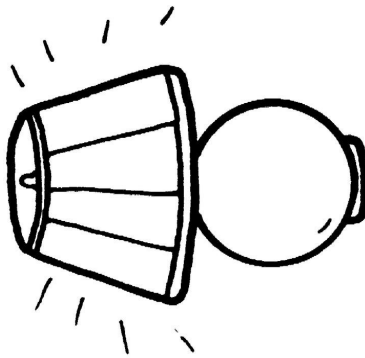
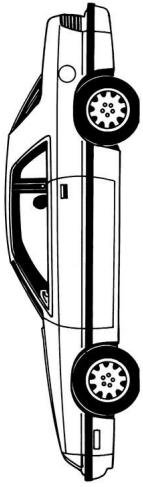
Present

Past and Present

Front Cover

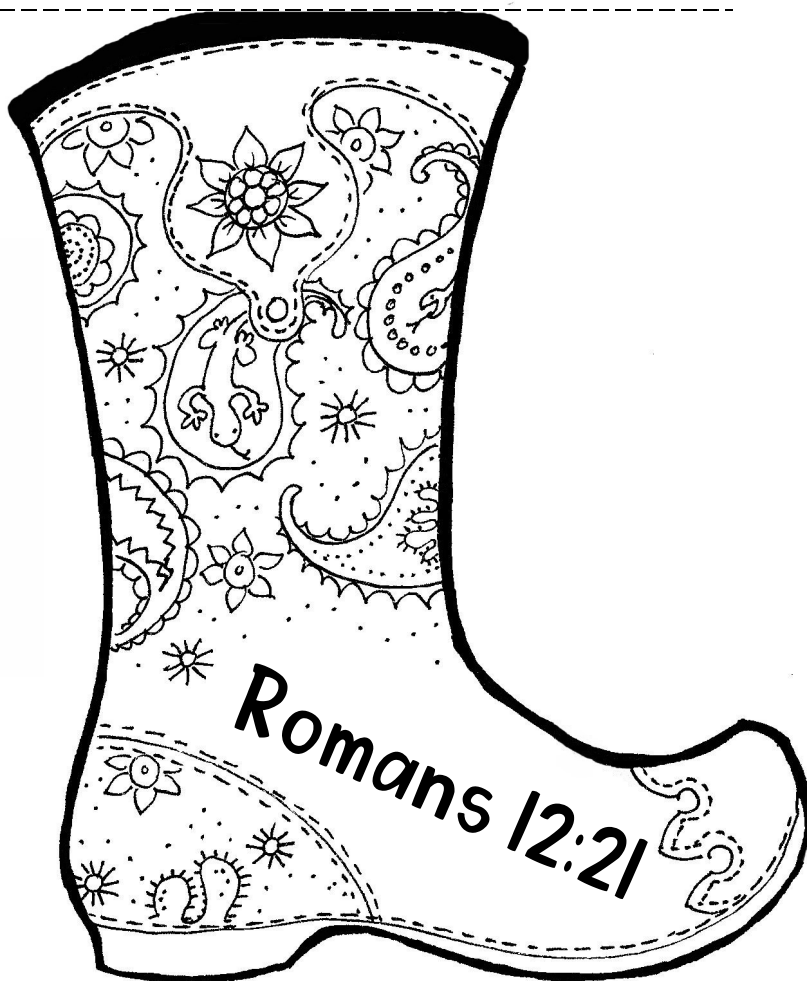


Directions: Use these images with the past and present book.



Directions: Fold paper in half on the dotted line. Cut out boot (you should not cut on the folded part of the boot; this is where the book will connect).

Let your older student write Romans 12:21 in

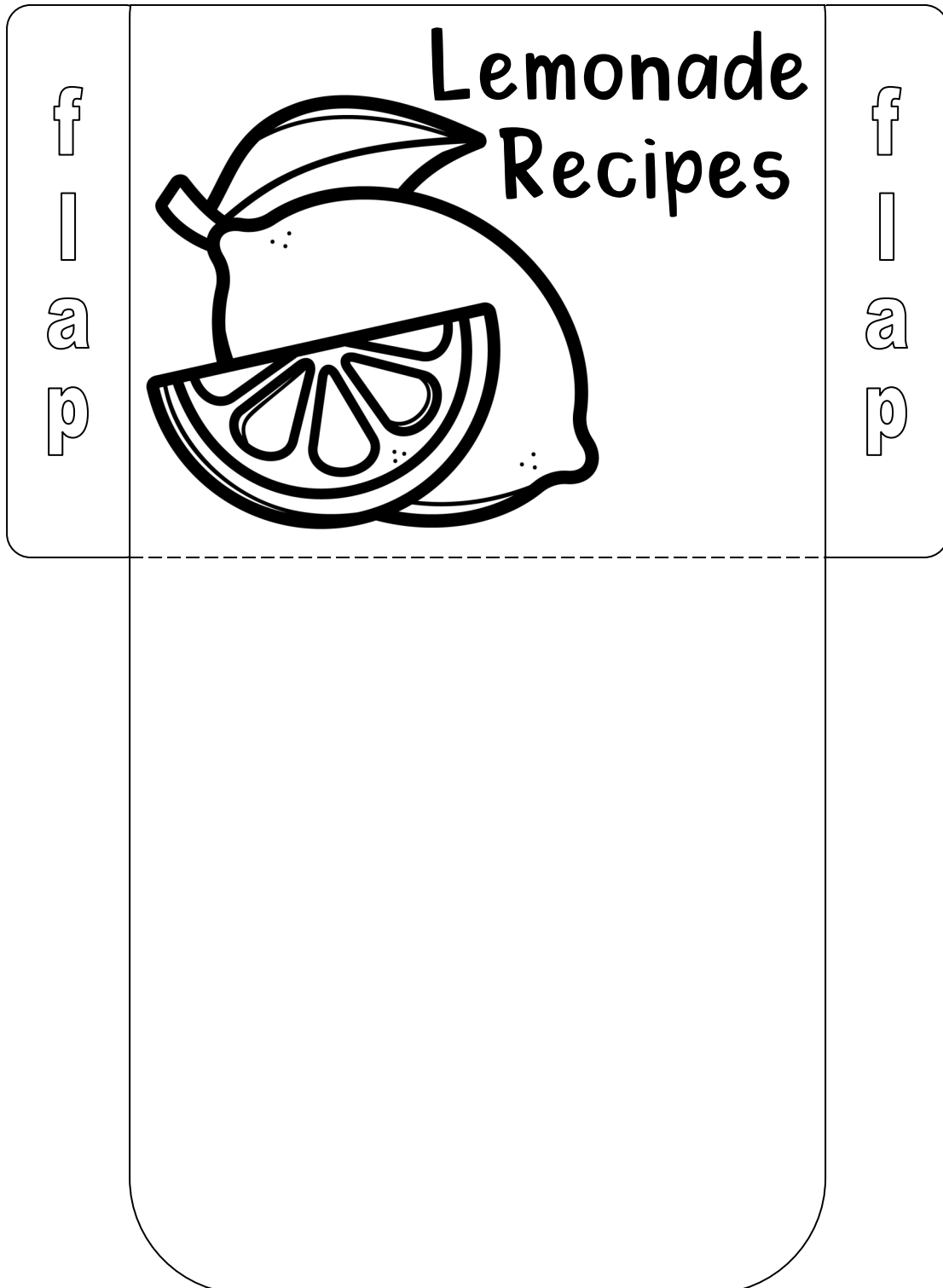


**Do not be
overcome
by evil, but
overcome
evil with
good.**

Romans 12:21

Directions: Cut out pocket as one piece. Fold back up (behind front). Fold flaps around and glue to the back.

Cut out cards on the next page and add them to your pocket. A blank card is provided for you to add another lemonade recipe if you desire.



Lemonade

Fizzy

2 medium lemons

1 1/2 cups sugar

2 cups milk

3 cups club soda, chilled

2 drops yellow food coloring (optional)

Additional sugar

Remove ends from lemons and discard.
Remove lemon peel with a knife; set aside.
Quarter lemons; squeeze juice into a bowl.
Remove and discard white membrane. Place
the peel and pulp in a blender or food proces-
sor; cover and process until coarsely chopped.

Lemonade

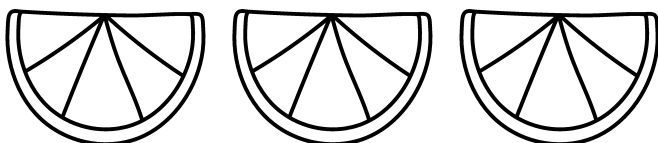
1 3/4 cups white sugar

8 cups water

1 1/2 cups lemon juice

In a small saucepan, combine sugar and 1
cup water. Bring to boil and stir to dissolve
sugar. Allow to cool to room temperature,
then cover and refrigerate until chilled.

Remove seeds from lemon juice, but leave
pulp. In pitcher, stir together chilled syrup,
lemon juice and remaining 7 cups water.



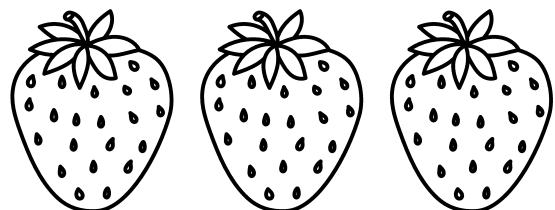
Strawberry Lemonade



1 (12 fluid ounce) can frozen lemonade
concentrate, thawed

4 1/2 cups water

1 (10 ounce) package frozen strawberries,
thawed and mashed

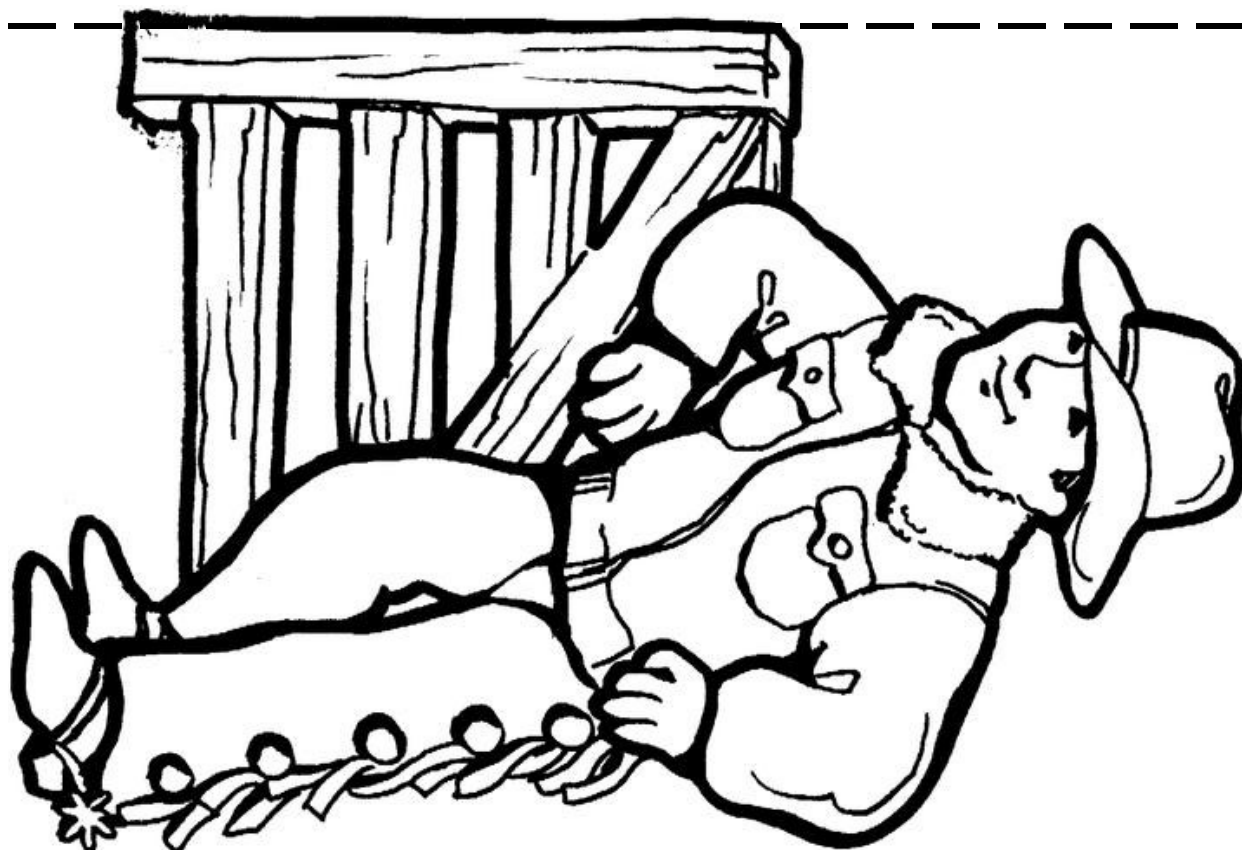
In a large pitcher, mix together lemonade
concentrate and water. Stir in strawberries.



 <p>What noise does Larry's gun make?</p>	 <p>This is an example of . . .</p>

Directions: Cut book out as one piece. Fold in half on the solid black line. Cut the dotted line (creating two flaps). Let your student record his answers inside (ZING and Onomatopoeia).

Directions: Fold on dotted line. Cut around shape (do not cut on the fence fold; this is what will hold your book together. Let your older student use this book to write about cowboys.





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