

Mr. Rabbit and the Lovely Present

Book by Charlotte Zolotow

Unit study by Christa Stepien

Printables by Ami

Social Studies

Birthdays

It is the little girl's mother's birthday. Does your child know when his birthday is? Discuss with your child the way that we celebrate birthdays. You might have a party, presents, cake and ice cream. Do you have any special traditions? If not, maybe you would like to start one!

Complete the My Birthday simple fold and the Birthday Traditions simple fold. Add them to your lapbook.

Presents

Has your child ever given a present? At what events do people give presents to others? Birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, wedding, birth of a baby, etc. What considerations should you take before getting a present for someone? The little girl in the story has thought about what her mother likes, what she already has, if she has enough money for it, and how her mother would feel upon receiving it. Pick a person in your child's life and see if they can think of a present that would be good for them!

The Mother

We learn a little something about the mother from the story, even though we never “meet” her. We know the things she does not like, we know the things she likes, and we know that she likes birds in trees. Why would the mother like birds in trees? What does this mean? It means that the mother does not like birds to be caged; she believes that they belong free. Does this tell us anything about her? She must like animals and feel compassion for them. Does the girl's mother sound like someone that your child would like?

The Little Girl

We learn about the little girl by reading the story as well. She is thoughtful because she is taking so much time to consider her options for what gift she would like to give her mother. She is resourceful because she went to a friend to get help about what present to give her mother. She is kind because she is polite to the rabbit and thanks him for his help at the end. The little girl says that she “would if she could” give the sun and the

stars to her mother. Why does she say this? One can assume that she thinks they are beautiful, and she wants to give her mother only the best things. She must love her mother very much! Based on what your student has learned about the little girl, does she sound like someone that they would like? We can learn quite a bit about people based on the way they act and speak. You may wish to remind your child of this!

Birthday Party Etiquette

Reading this book lends itself to lots of birthday discussion. It might be a good time to discuss birthdays and etiquette at parties. Sometimes it's hard to be the guest, the one giving a gift, and not the one getting all the gifts. Remind your student of the different ways he should act during a birthday party.

Language Arts

List Making

Your child may be interested in making two lists: things that the mother likes, and things that the mother does not like. List making can be useful in decision making, and is a good skill for your child to have!

Add to the Story

The story is relatively predictable after a certain point. Mr. Rabbit never just guesses the right gift for the little girl's mother, but has to go through questions.

1. They name the color, and say that she can't give her mother the color. "Something [that color], maybe."
2. They pick something that color that she can't give her mother (Impossible or too expensive).
3. They name something she already has.
4. They name a bird.
5. They name something she doesn't like.
6. They name a fruit.

Note: The formula varies with "blue." Instead of something she doesn't have they name the stars, which the girl would give her if she could. Still, it's consistent enough.

Have your child write (or dictate) the conversation between Mr. Rabbit and the little girl using orange, pink, and purple, using this same formula. If they can't think of something with that color, do what the author did with blue, and modify the formula a bit.

The End

The last page has only the two words “The End”. Point these out to your child and tell them what they say. Perhaps your child will start pointing these words out in other books that you read!

Quotation Marks

This story is mostly a conversation between Mr. Rabbit and the little girl. Point the quotation marks out to your child. Can he find some on another page? Note that quotations marks indicate when a character is speaking.

Art

Primary and Secondary Colors

This book deals with colors. This may be a good time to introduce primary colors (red, blue, yellow) and secondary colors (purple, green, orange) to your child. Give them pastels (Crayola makes some) or paints and let them experiment with mixing colors.

Rainbow

You may wish to discuss the colors of the rainbow with your child. The colors are: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and violet. ROY G BIV is a popular acronym that helps people remember these colors. If your child can't spell, it may not be useful to him to know that at this point, but it may interest him that people use acronyms and spelling to help them remember facts that may otherwise be difficult to remember

Drawing

Your child may be interested in drawing a picture with all of the different fruit trees and bushes. How colorful it would be!

Draw the fruits that the girl gives her mother as gifts. Cut and paste them on to the basket (in printables section).

Illustrator

If your child does not know that an illustrator is the person who draws the pictures for a book, introduce them to the concept. Maurice Sendak illustrated *Where the Wild Things Are* as well as the *Little Bear Books*. You may wish to show these to your child, and share with them that the illustrator is the same.

Caldecott Honor Book

Show your child the silver medal on the front of the book. This is an award for the most distinguished illustrated picture book of the year. It is given out every year. There is a literary award for the best children's book written in the previous year called the Newbery Award. That metal is gold in color. The next time you take a trip to the library, look at the books and see if you can find any with medals on them!

Math

Cooking: Fruit Salad

Let your child make a fruit salad using five ingredients. Have your child decide how many of each fruit he wants. Let him count them when you buy them at the store. This will probably involve remembering the number for each fruit so that he can type the code into the scale.

If your child knows how to write numbers he may be interested in bringing a small pad of paper and pencil so that he can write down the number to remember it. If not, tell him the number and let him push the buttons on the scale. You may wish to discuss how much each fruit weighs...which weighs the most and which weighs the least.

If you want, help him add up how much the fruit will cost (possibly with a calculator, because it's easier that way at the store), and help him use money to buy it. If you don't want to use a calculator, you can let your child estimate the cost by rounding up, and let your child use dollars to pay.

Let your child cut up the fruit with careful supervision.

Introduce your child to the concept of cutting something in half or in fourths. Have your child cut each fruit into a different number of pieces.

If you are using grapes or berries that do not need to be cut, let your child count them and put them in the bowl. Enjoy!

Counting

Count your way from 1-20 to get through the maze.

Science

Fruit Trees and Bushes

Fruit can grow on a tree or on a bush. Look at the story with your child. Where does

each present that the little girl gets for her mother grow? The apple grows on a tree. The banana grows on a tree, although the little girl may have gotten her banana from a picnic. The pear grows on a tree. Grapes grow on a vine. If your child made up their own parts of the story with different colors in the language arts lesson, discuss those fruits and where they grow. Would the little girl and Mr. Rabbit be able to find them in the forest?

Where Food Comes From

The little girl is looking for a present, so she asks her friend, Mr. Rabbit, to help. Mr. Rabbit lives in the forest. How can you tell? Does Mr. Rabbit find the things that the little girl gives her mother in a store? Do we find those things in a store? How do they get there? The fruit is picked from the trees or bushes, and is taken (by truck or airplane, mostly) to where they need to go. If taken by airplane, the fruit is then taken by truck to the store.

The next time you are at the grocery store, see if you can find any labels or signs on or near the fruit that says where they come from.

Determine the different places your fruit for your fruit salad came from. Find these on the map. You might even want to place a little “sticker” on the map with the fruit, so your student can remember where it came from.

How does your student think fruit from various places gets to her?

Why does the fruit have to travel so far? Not all food grows well in every area of the world. It needs the right kind of soil and weather conditions to grow.

Picking Fruit

Has your child ever picked fruit? If she has, talk about it with her. How could they tell that the fruit was ready? Did they enjoy it? Was it a lot of work? If you are doing this unit at a time that you can go and pick some fruit that’s in season, your child may enjoy doing that!

Materials and information on this website may be used for your own personal and school use. **Material may not be shared electronically or be used for resale.**

© Homeschool Share

Directions: Cut out book as one piece. Fold in half. Inside the book, draw pictures representing your birthday traditions.

Record your student's birthday date under the other simple fold.



Birthday Traditions

My
Birthday





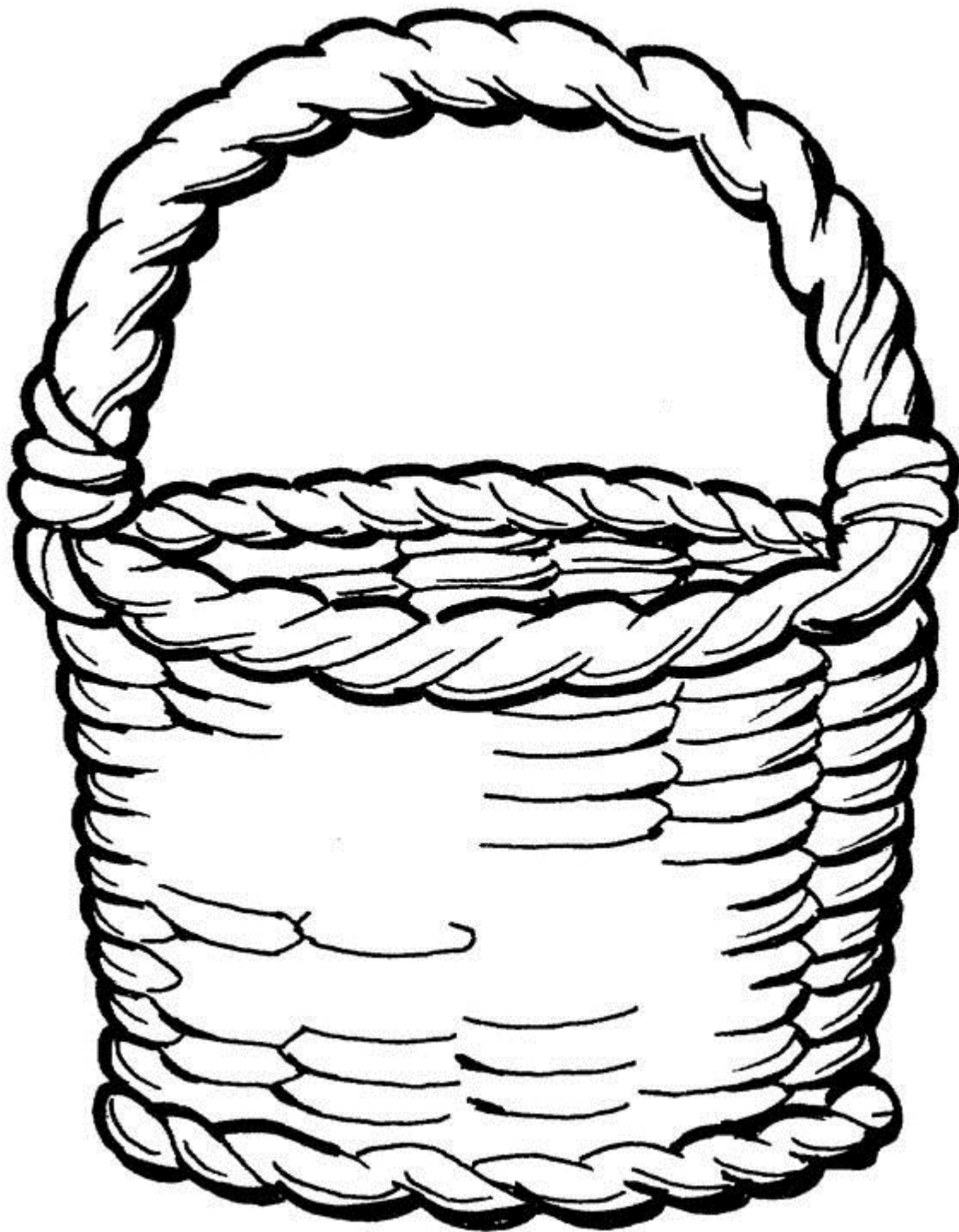
Cut on solid lines. Fold on dotted. Let your student choose four people she knows to “give” gifts to.



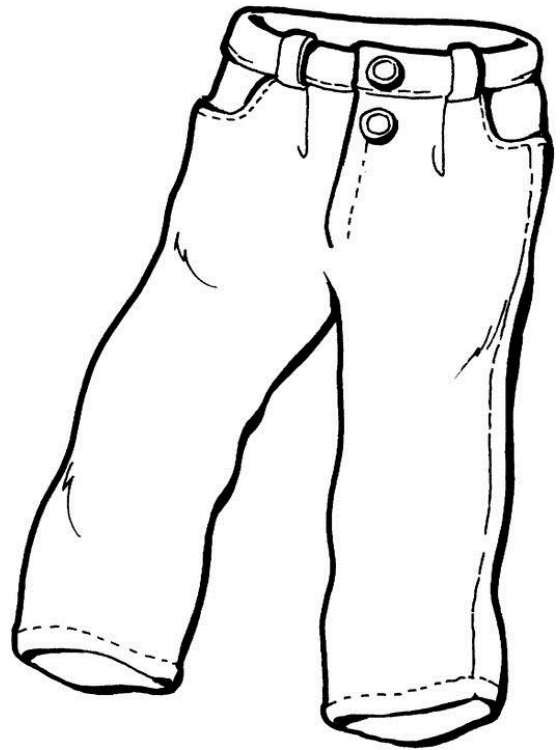
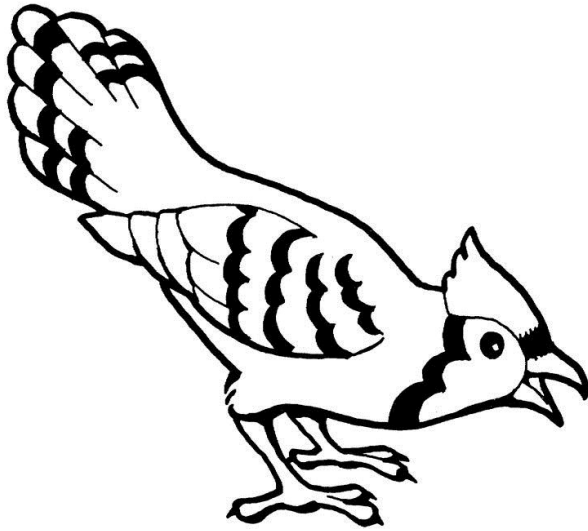
Draw pictures under the flaps of the gifts, or go “shopping” in a magazine and cut and paste the gift under the flap.



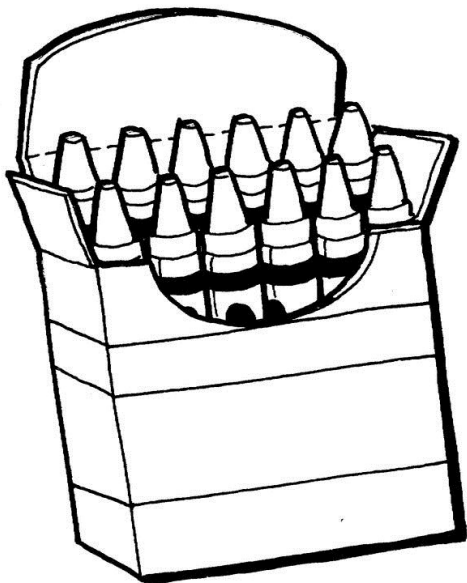
A Birthday Present for Mother



blue

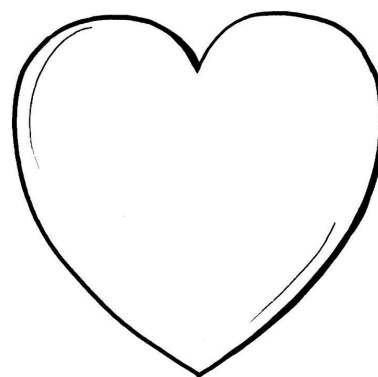
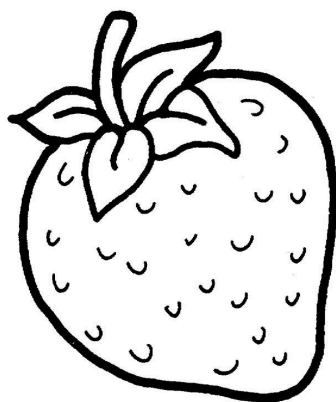
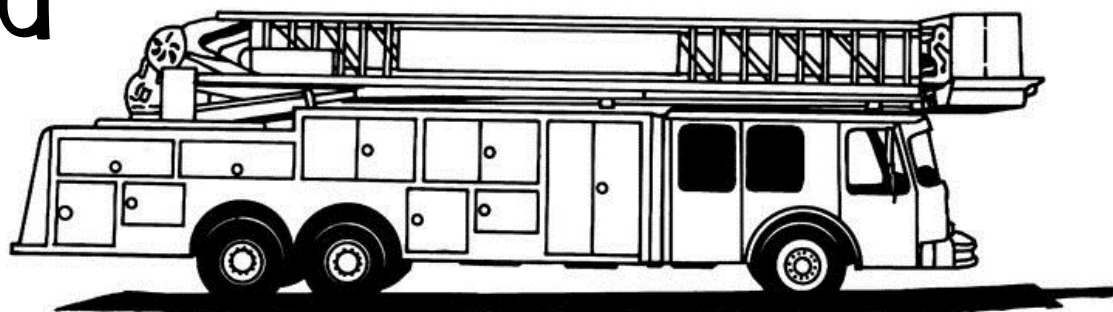


my book of colors

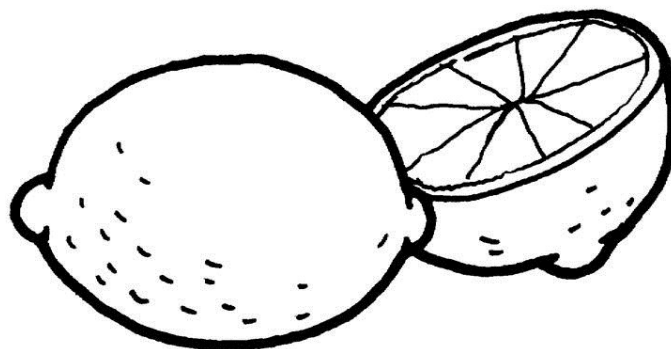
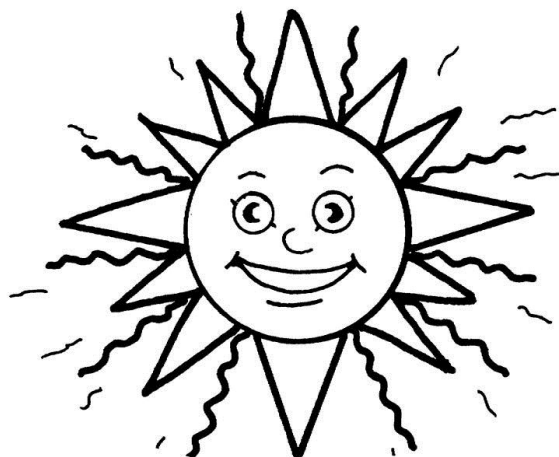
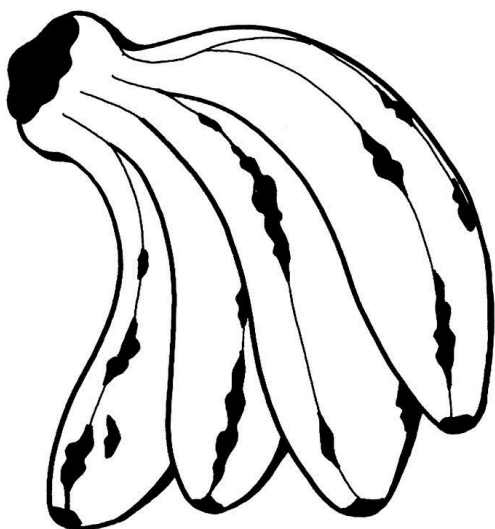


by

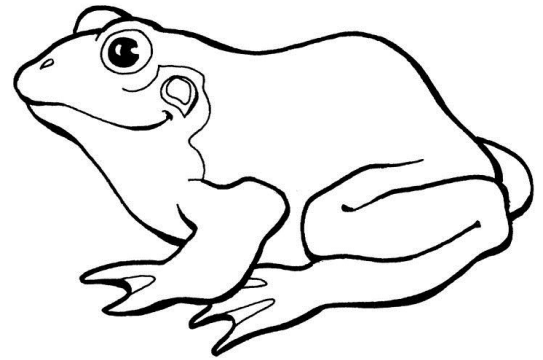
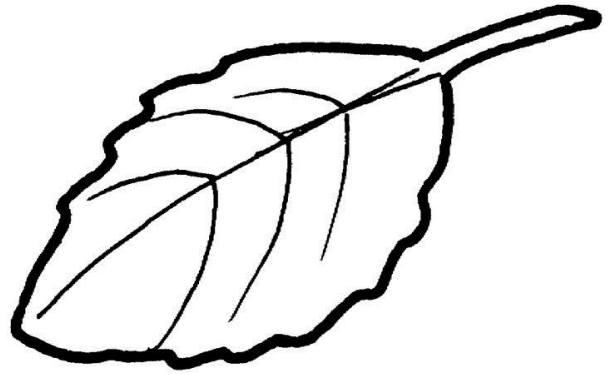
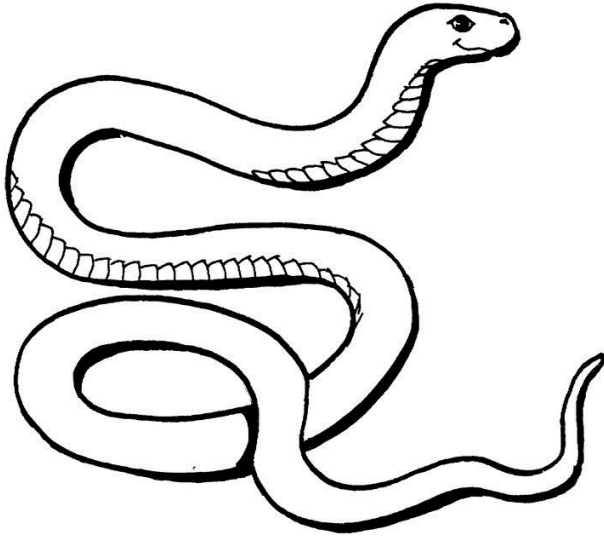
red



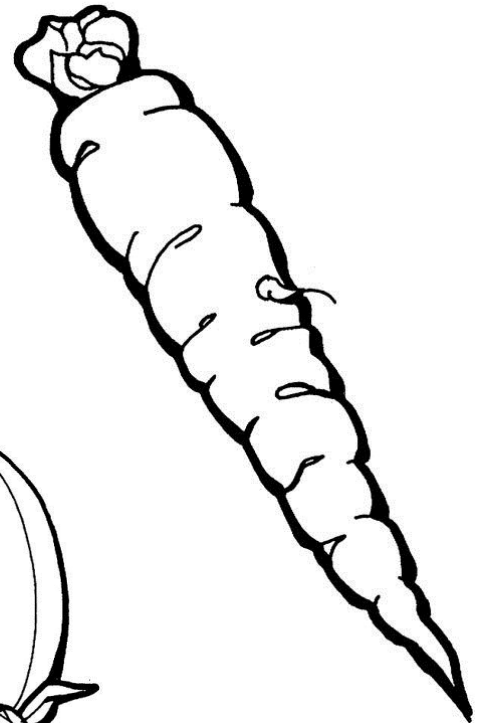
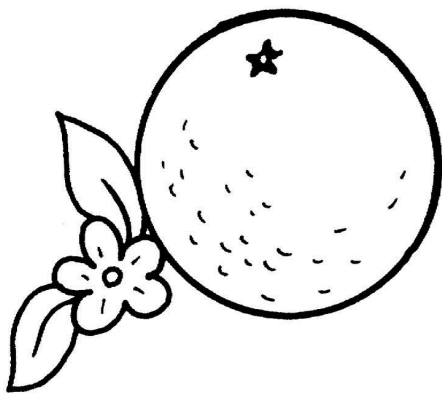
yellow



green



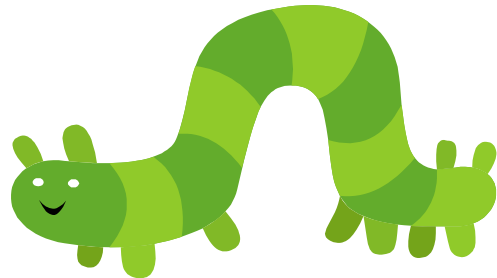
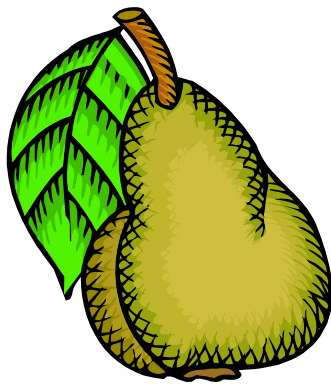
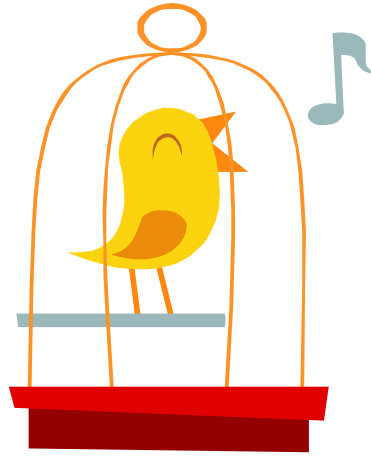
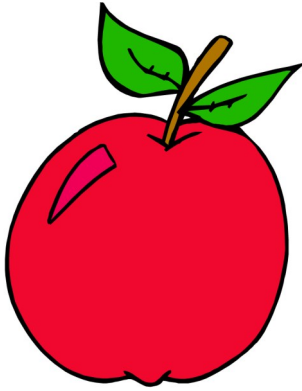
orange



Cut books out. Fold on lines (matchbook style). Draw a happy face (mom likes) and a sad face (mom does not like) on the outside of the matchbooks.

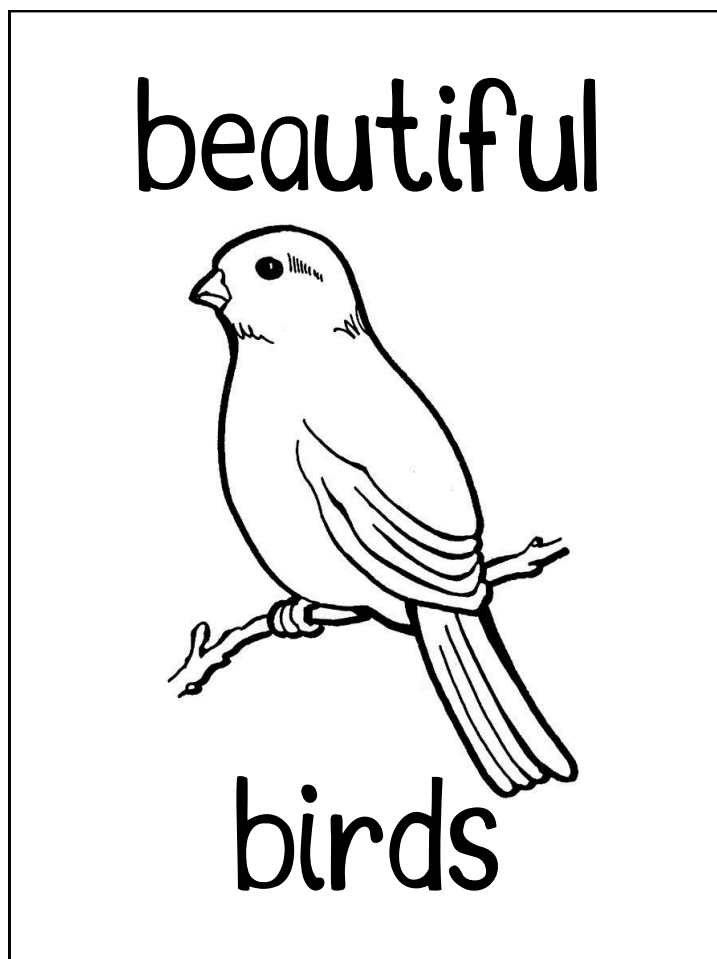
mom likes	mom does not like

Directions: If you want to make stickers for your student, print this page on a full label sheet. Cut and paste items to the inside of the appropriate matchbooks.

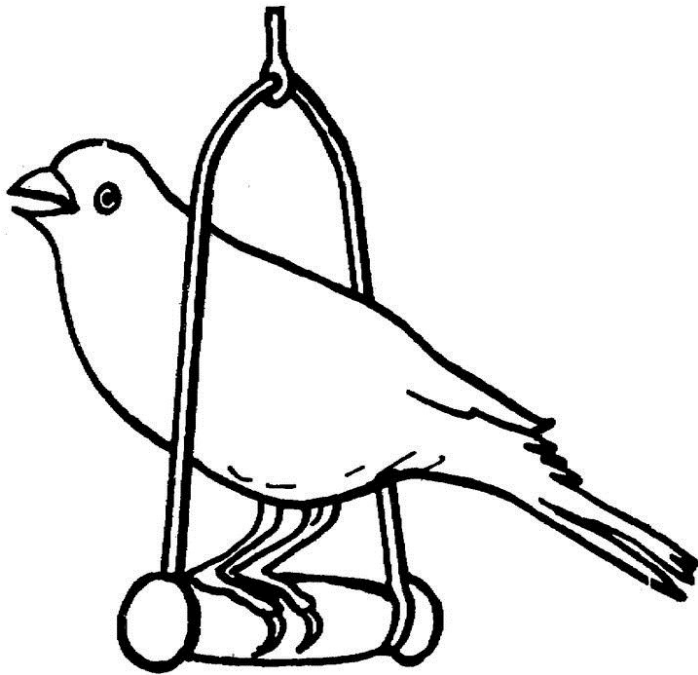


Directions: Cut out all five pieces. Color the birds the appropriate colors. Your student can use her imagination to color the bird on the cover page.

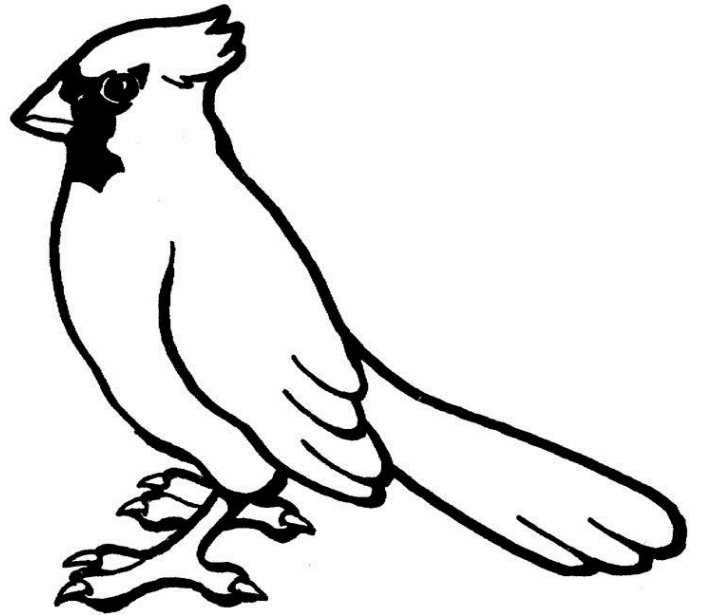
Stack pages together with cover on top and staple at the top of the book.



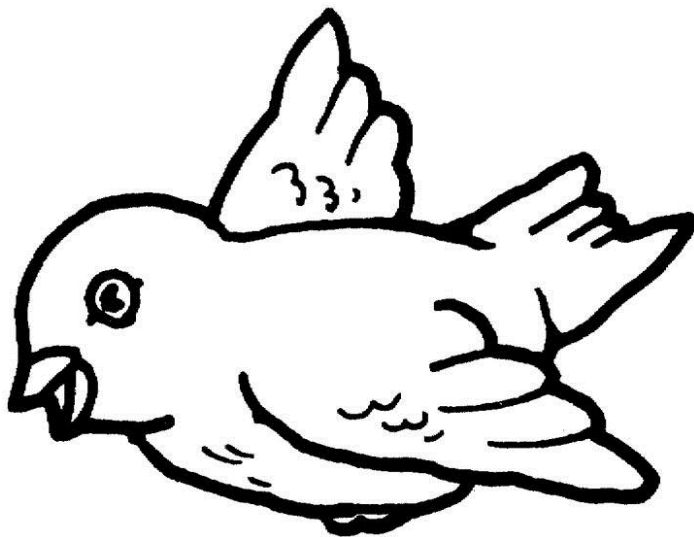
a yellow canary



a red cardinal

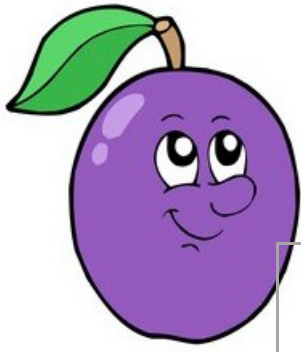


a blue bluebird

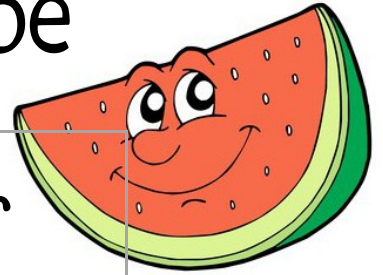


a green parrot



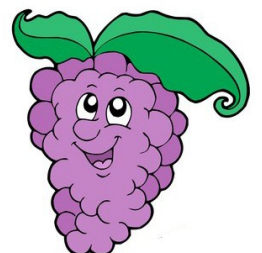
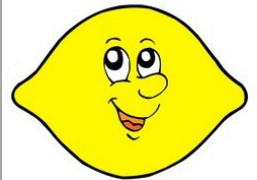
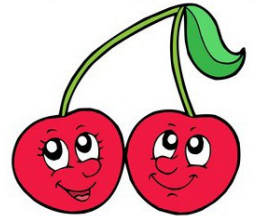
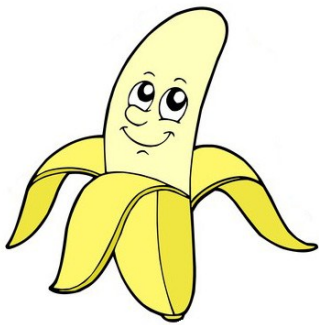
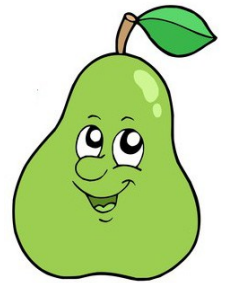
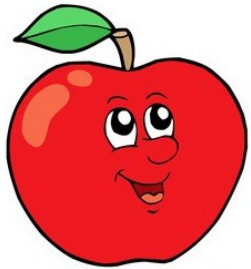


my fruit salad recipe



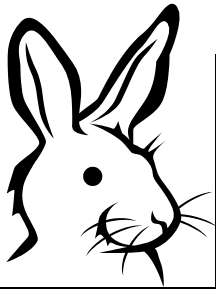
kind of fruit

number



kind of fruit	number

Help the girl find her way to Mr. Rabbit



	20	7	6	4	5
7	19	8	5	10	6
1	18	9	4	8	7
20	17	10	3	15	19
8	16	11	2	1	4
3	15	12	7		
21	14	13	5		