

Literature for Big Kids

Make this summer count by reading interesting, classic stories with your big kid! Kids will read fables and excerpts from classic literature, and even make their own stories with these activities that keep them learning to avoid the summer slide.

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Name: _____

Date: _____

STONE SOUP

One day, in a small village next to a flowing river, two hungry wanderers showed up looking for ingredients to make a delicious soup. Since the two had no money, none of the villagers were willing to give them any vegetables or meat. With no ingredients, the two went down to the river and filled their pot with water. They then placed a large stone in the pot and began boiling the water. Soon, a curious villager asked them what they were doing. One of the men answered, "We are cooking stone soup, but we are still missing a few ingredients to finish it properly." The villager said she did not mind giving them some ingredients, if she could have some as well. The two men said they would be happy to share with the entire village once the soup was ready. After the word spread, many villagers brought spices, vegetables and meat to add to the soup. In the end, everyone enjoyed the hearty soup!



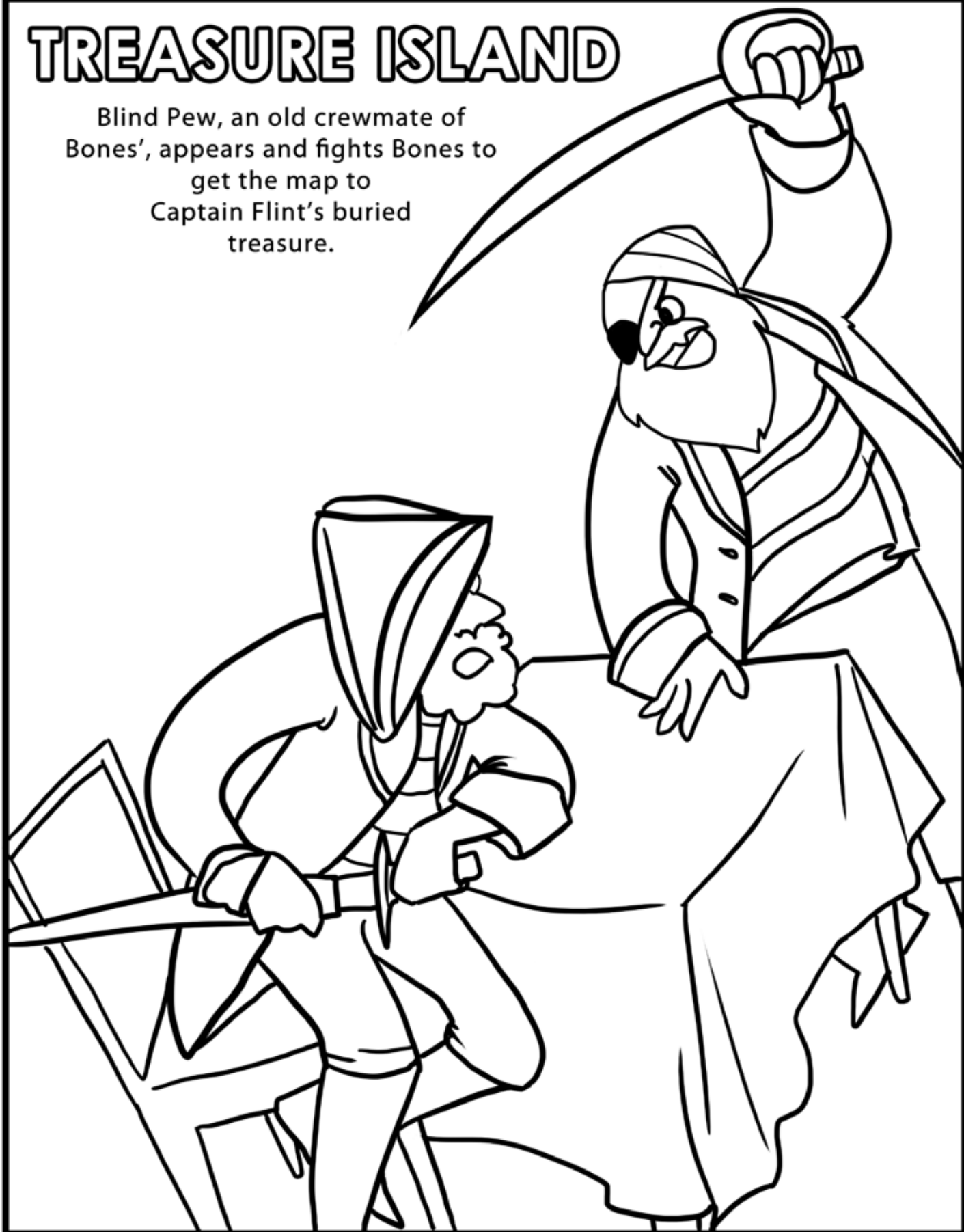
TREASURE ISLAND

Jim Hawkins meets Billy Bones who secretly tells him about the famous Captain Flint and his buried treasure. Bones warns him of a one-legged man.



TREASURE ISLAND

Blind Pew, an old crewmate of Bones', appears and fights Bones to get the map to Captain Flint's buried treasure.



TREASURE ISLAND

Pirates attack the Hawkins' inn looking for Bones and the treasure map. However, Jim has already run away with the map.



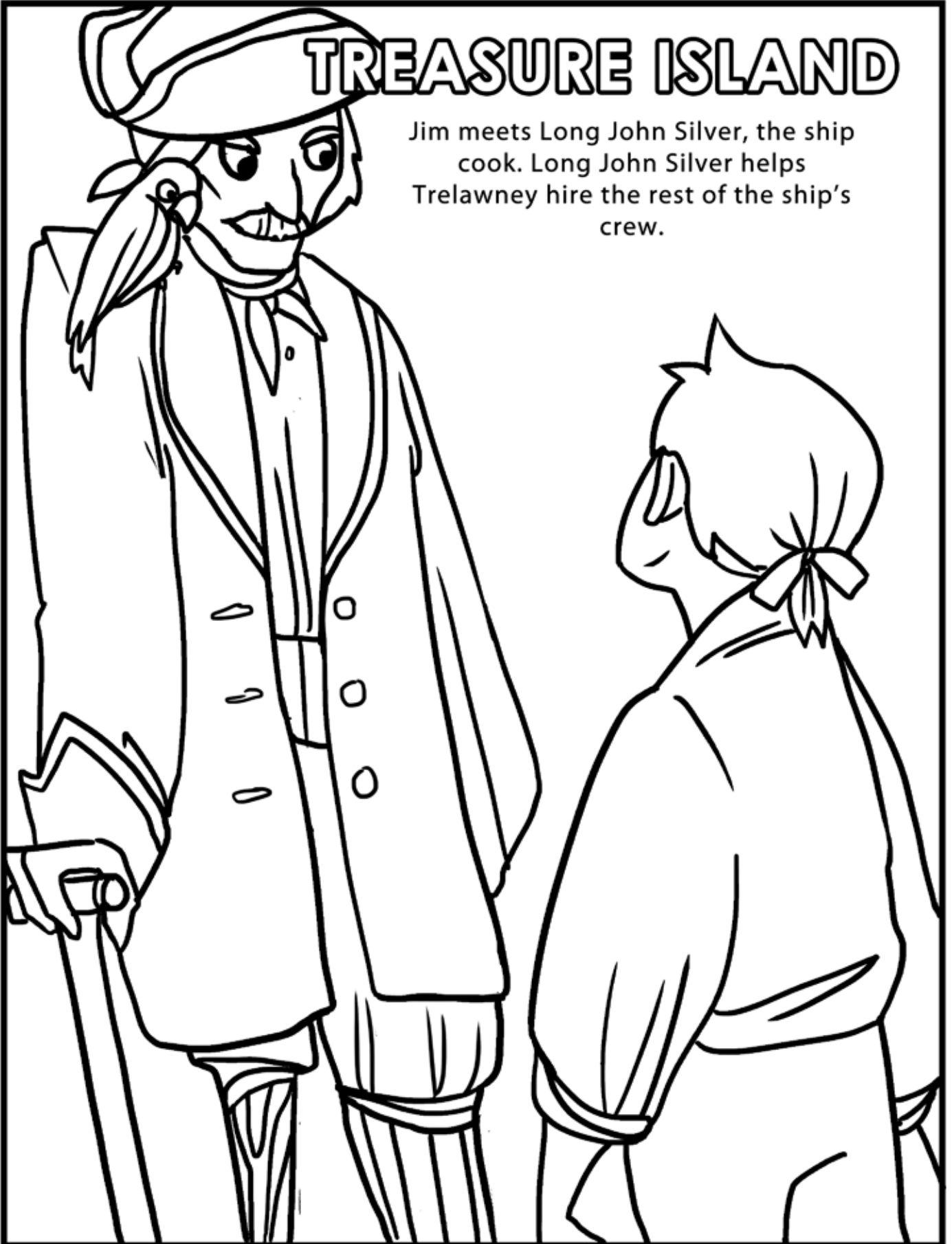
TREASURE ISLAND

Jim takes the map to Dr. Livesey. He, Squire Trelawney and Jim examine the map together. It shows the detailed location of Flint's treasure. Trelawney immediately wants to hunt the treasure down so they buy a ship and hire a crew.



TREASURE ISLAND

Jim meets Long John Silver, the ship cook. Long John Silver helps Trelawney hire the rest of the ship's crew.





TREASURE ISLAND

While onboard, Jim overhears some of the crew planning a mutiny to take the treasure.

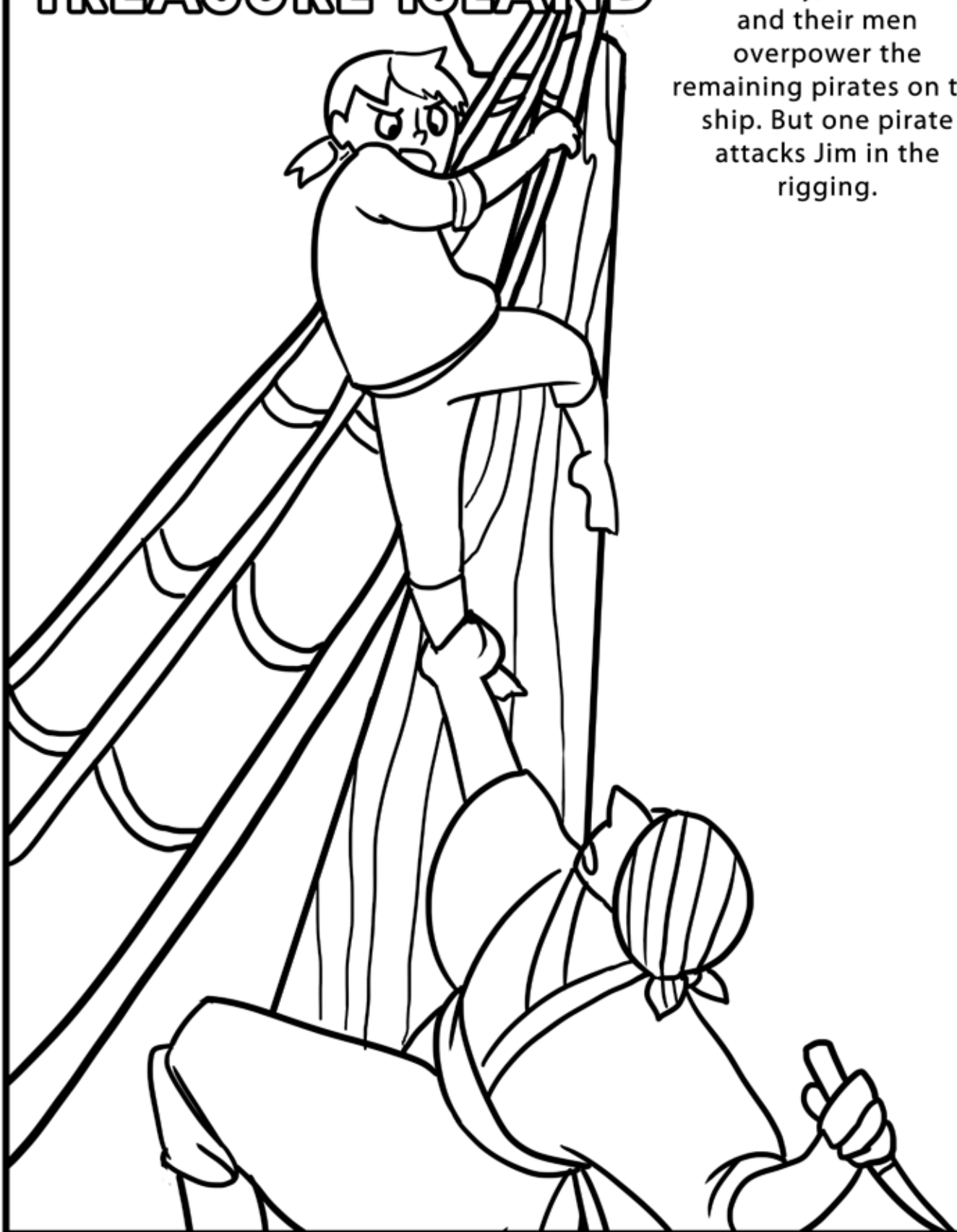


TREASURE ISLAND

When they reach Treasure Island most of Long John Silver's mutinous men go ashore first. Jim runs away and meets Ben Gunn. Ben Gunn had been left on the island by Captain Flint.

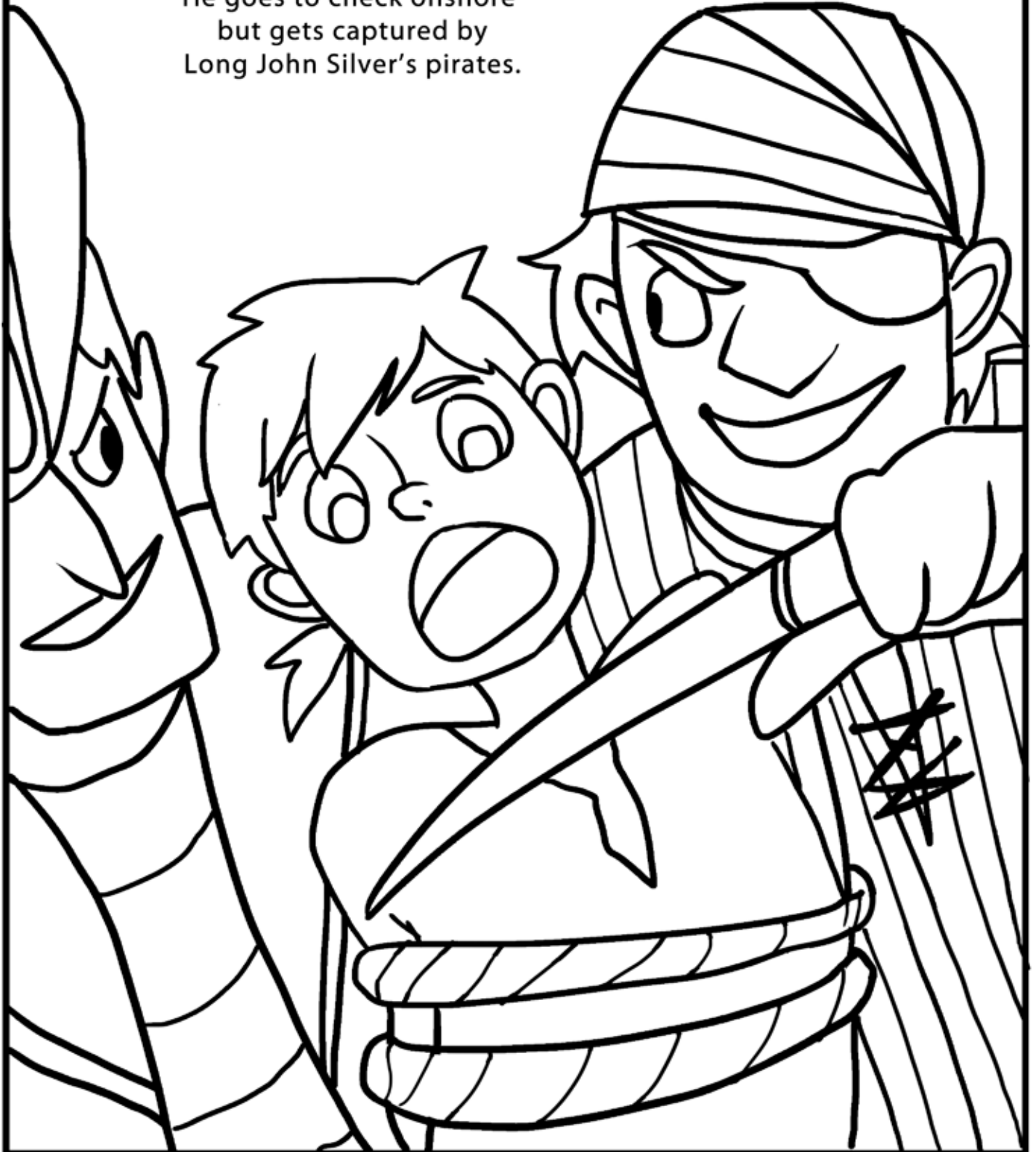
TREASURE ISLAND

Trelawney, Dr. Livesey and their men overpower the remaining pirates on the ship. But one pirate attacks Jim in the rigging.



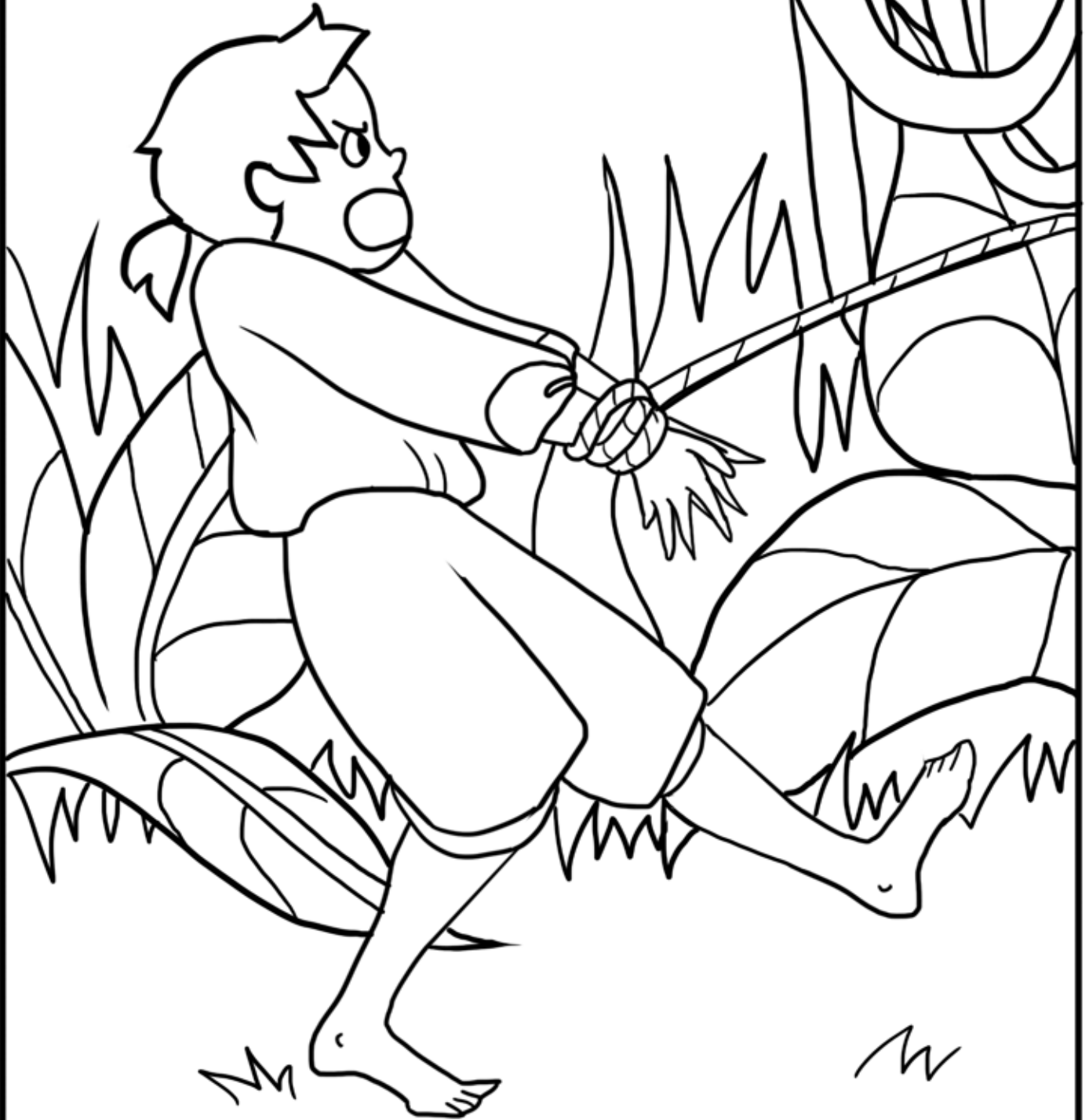
TREASURE ISLAND

Jim defeats the pirate in the rigging.
He goes to check onshore
but gets captured by
Long John Silver's pirates.



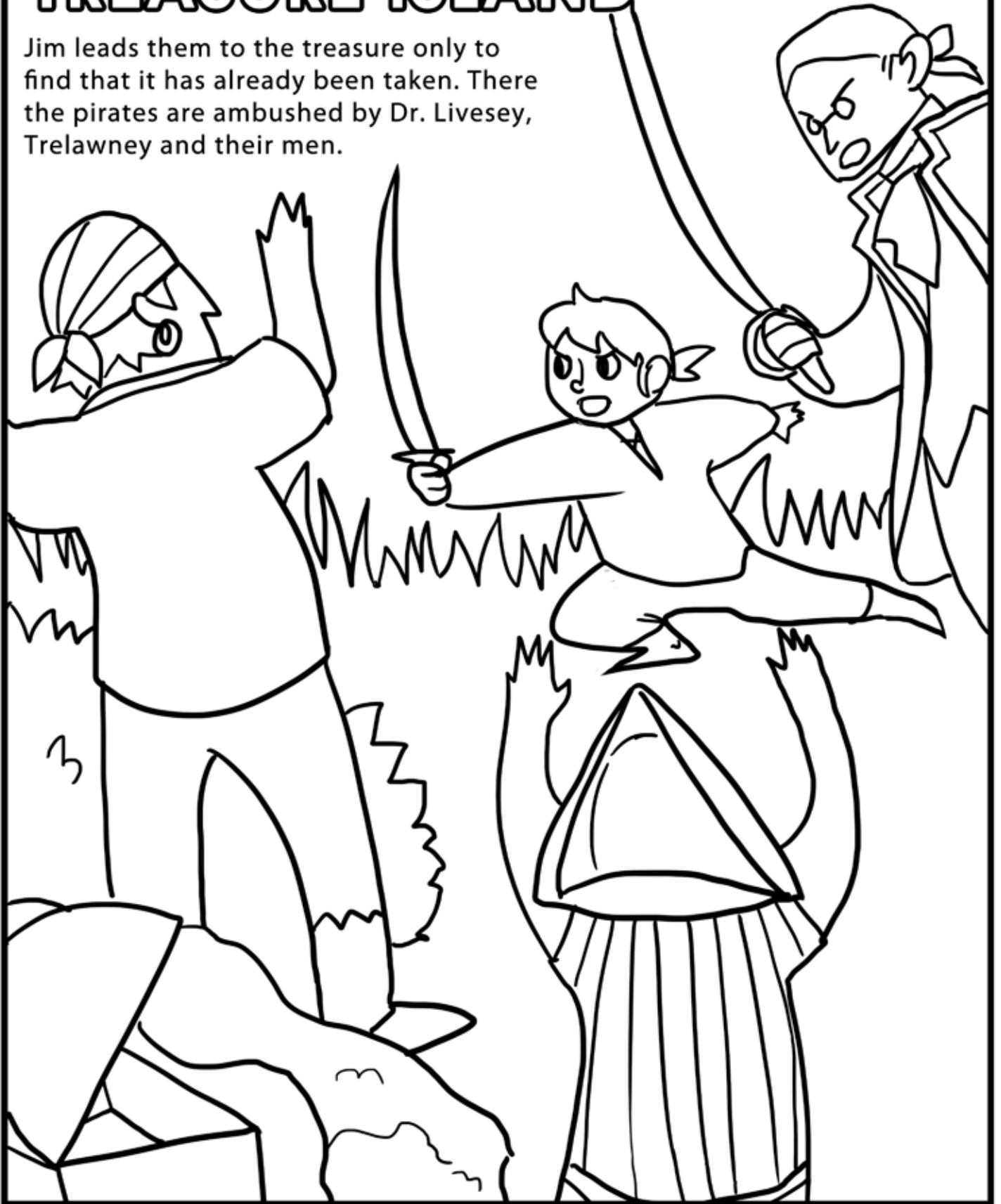
TREASURE ISLAND

Silver's men want to overthrow him so he uses Jim to read the map to get to where the treasure is.



TREASURE ISLAND

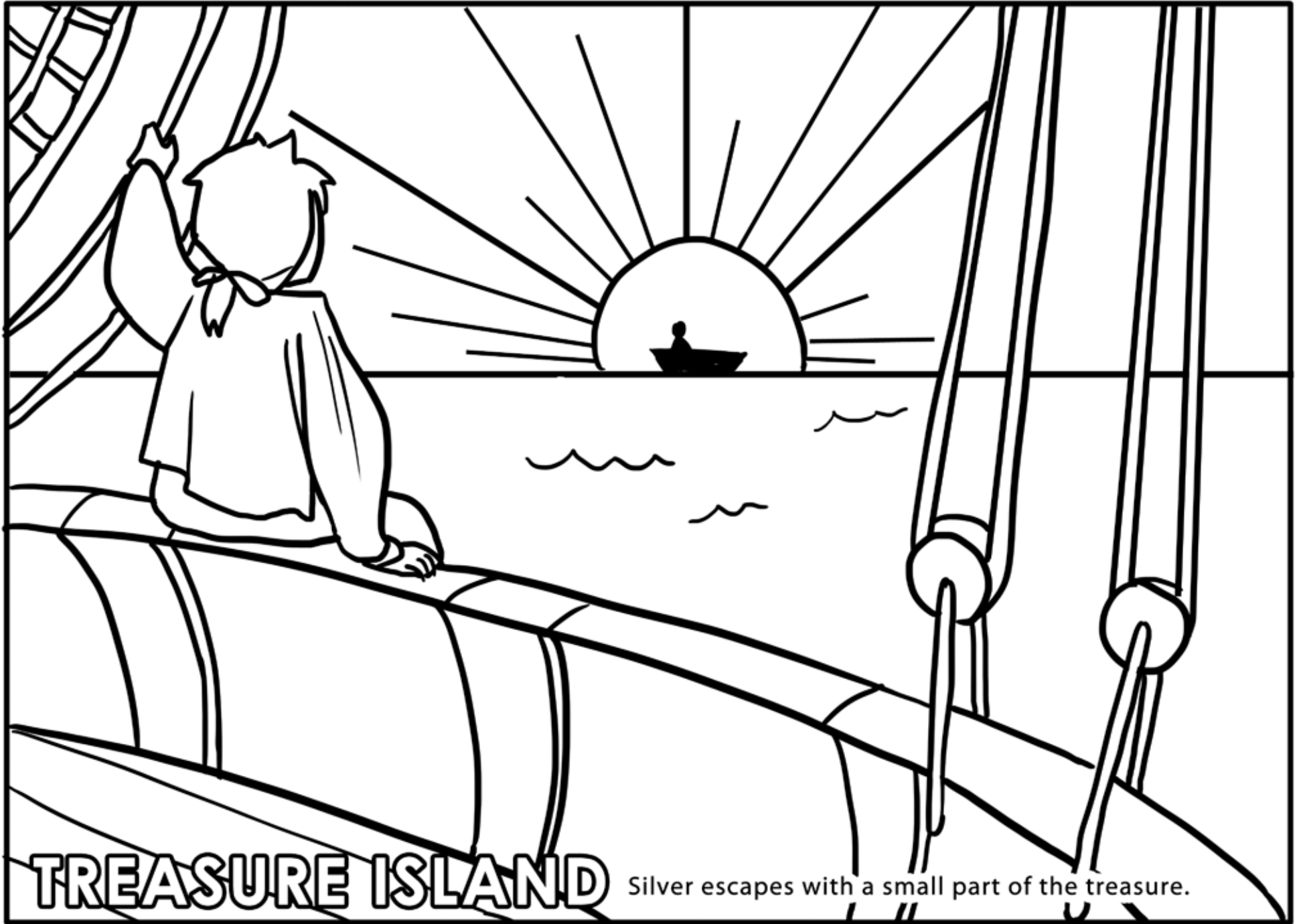
Jim leads them to the treasure only to find that it has already been taken. There the pirates are ambushed by Dr. Livesey, Trelawney and their men.



TREASURE ISLAND

They go to Ben Gunn's cave where Gunn has hidden the treasure for months. It is divided with the loyal crew members and they leave the pirates on the island.





TREASURE ISLAND

Silver escapes with a small part of the treasure.

Write a Collaborative Story



In third grade, writing starts to take on greater significance, and as kids learn to express themselves through the written word there's no end to the possibilities! This fun writing activity takes a regular task—writing a story—and transforms it into a collaborative writing experience that's sure to reveal hilarious results! Here's how to get started on this activity, which makes for a great group or party game.

What You Need:

- Lined paper and pens

What You Do:

1. The first person should start writing a story. Do not reveal what you are writing about to anyone else! Use your imagination - the zanier the better. When you have written about a paragraph, fold the paper down so that only the last line can be seen. Pass the paper to the next person.
2. The second person should read the visible line, and then continue the story! When she's finished, fold the paper over again so that only the last line of her paragraph is visible to the next person.
3. Repeat until everyone has participated. Then, unfold the paper and read the silly story aloud!

The Three Billy Goats Gruff

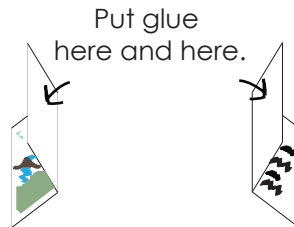
make your own mini book

How to Make the Mini Book

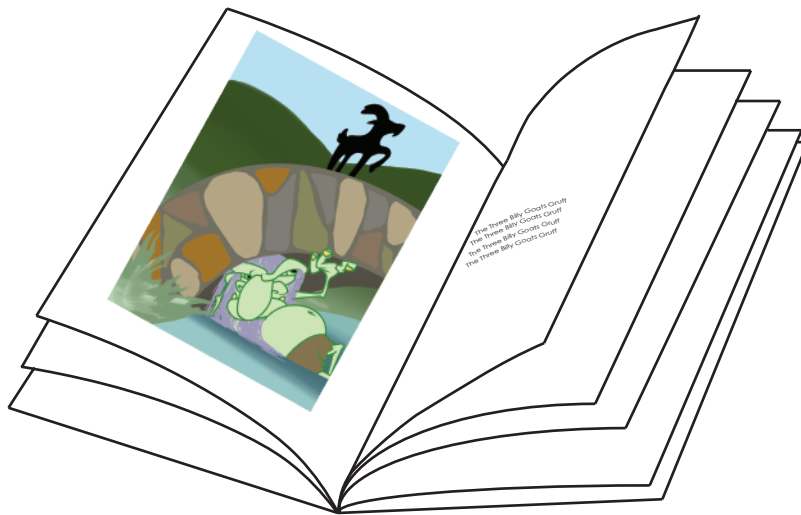
What You Need:

The story pages
Paste or a glue stick

1. Print out the story pages and fold each in half on the dotted line.
2. Fold page one so that the image is on the outside. This will be the book cover.
3. Fold page two the opposite way of page one, so that the image and text face each other.
4. You'll want to fold the rest of the pages the same as page two.
5. Time to glue! Take page two and page three and put a thin layer of paste on the backsides of the paper. Make sure to get the edge.



6. Line up the papers corner to corner and press the two halves together. You'll be gluing the backside of all the pages to each other so that when you flip through the book the picture is on the left and the story is on the right.
7. Wrap the cover page around the book and glue it in place.



Your finished book should look something like this.
Happy reading!

The Three Billy Goats Gruff



Once upon a time there were three billy goats, all named Gruff.



Goats eat a lot, you know, and one day they found that their grassy hill was becoming bare. There was more grass to eat on the other side of the river.

The smallest Gruff decided to go first. To get there he had to cross a bridge. Under the bridge lived a great big troll.



Trip, trap, trip, trap, trip, trap went the bridge.

“Who comes crossing my bridge?” said the troll.

“It is only I, Little Billy Goat Gruff,” said the billy goat, with a tiny voice.

“I will eat you up!” said the troll.



“Oh you do not want to do that. I am too little,” said the billy goat. “Wait, and my big brother will come along. He’s bigger than me. He will make a much better meal.”

“Be gone then! I will wait for a bigger, better meal,” said the troll.

And with that the little billy goat quickly crossed to the other side.



After a little while the bridge shook.

Trip, trap, trip, trap, trip, trap.

“Who comes crossing my bridge?”
yelled the troll.



“It is I, Medium Billy Goat Gruff.”

“I will eat you up!” cried the troll, coming closer.

“If you wait just a little my big brother will come along. Don’t eat me. He is much bigger.”

“Be gone then,” said the troll.



And then TRIP, TRAP, TRIP, TRAP, TRIP, TRAP. The bridge groaned under a very heavy goat.

“Now who comes crossing my bridge?” demanded the troll, now very angry indeed.



“It is I! Big Billy Goat Gruff.”

“Now I’m coming to gobble you up!” yelled the troll.

“Well, come along,” said the biggest billy goat Gruff.



The troll ran at him. Big Billy Goat Gruff thumped the troll hard in the chest with his big antlers.

The troll went right off the bridge and into the water, where he hurt his foot. He had wanted the biggest mouthful for himself and ended up all wet instead.



The three billy goats had their fill of grass from the hills on that side of the river.

The End

Cú Chulainn



Cú Chulainn (pronounced “Koo Hullin”) is a hero in Irish mythology. Like many other mythological heroes, such as Achilles and Heracles of Greek myth, Cú Chulainn is a demigod—the child of a god and a human. He has the ability to turn into a terrifying, near invincible monster during battle. However, as a monster, he goes into a frenzy and does not recognize friend from foe.

Cú Chulainn’s mother is Deichtine, the princess from Ulster, an area in northern Ireland, and his father is Lugh, a god of light and healing, similar to the Greek god Apollo. Cú Chulainn spends his youth with a foster family and learns how to be a great warrior.

The Hound of Culann

A famous legend of Cú Chulainn shows how he earned his name, which means “Culann’s Hound.” When he was born, he was named Sétanta. When Sétanta is a boy, the king of Ulster is impressed by his skills as a warrior and invites him to a feast held at the home of Culann the Smith. Sétanta arrives late to the feast. The king forgets about him and does not stop Culann from leaving his ferocious hound to protect the house while they eat.

When Sétanta came to the Smith’s home, the hound attacks him, and he kills it in self defense. The guests come to see what happened, and Culann is devastated. Sétanta swears to raise a new hound to replace it, and to guard Culann’s home himself in the meantime. From then on, Sétanta is called Cú Chulainn.

Use a dictionary to find the definitions of the words below. Circle the adjectives that describe Cú Chulainn:

feeble

stalwart

faint

gallant

cowardly

base

timid

daring

dutiful

noble

audacious



Táin Bó Cúailnge: An Irish Epic

Táin Bó Cúailnge, which means “The Cattle Raid of Cooley” and is also called The Táin (pronounced “toy-n”), is an Irish epic tale about a war in the 1st century A.D. between the lands of Ulster and Connacht, and the legendary hero who fought for Ulster, Cú Chulainn.



Ailill and Medb were king and queen of Connacht. One day, as they sat on their thrones, they began comparing their riches. In every possession the king and queen were equally wealthy, except for one thing—King Ailill had a great bull called Finnbhennach. In the whole world, only one other bull was worth as much as Finnbhennach, and its name was Donn Cúailnge. Donn Cúailnge belonged to Dáire mac Fiachna, the cattlelord of Ulster.

Queen Medb became jealous of her husband’s wealth, and sent messengers to negotiate with Dáire to keep his legendary bull in her own herd for a year. At first, Dáire was willing, but when he learned that Medb planned to take the bull by force even if he didn’t accept the offer, he was offended and sent the messengers away.

So the queen of Connacht raised up an army and rode out with them to capture the bull. Meanwhile, the entire Ulster army was cursed with a crippling illness by the goddess Macha, who hated the Ulster king. None could lift a sword except for one valiant warrior, Cú Chulainn, who was only seventeen years old.

Cú Chulainn met the army out on the ford, and invoked the right of single combat—fighting one person at a time. Queen Medb sent man after man to face him, and he defeated every one. Cú Chulainn defended Ulster this way for many months.





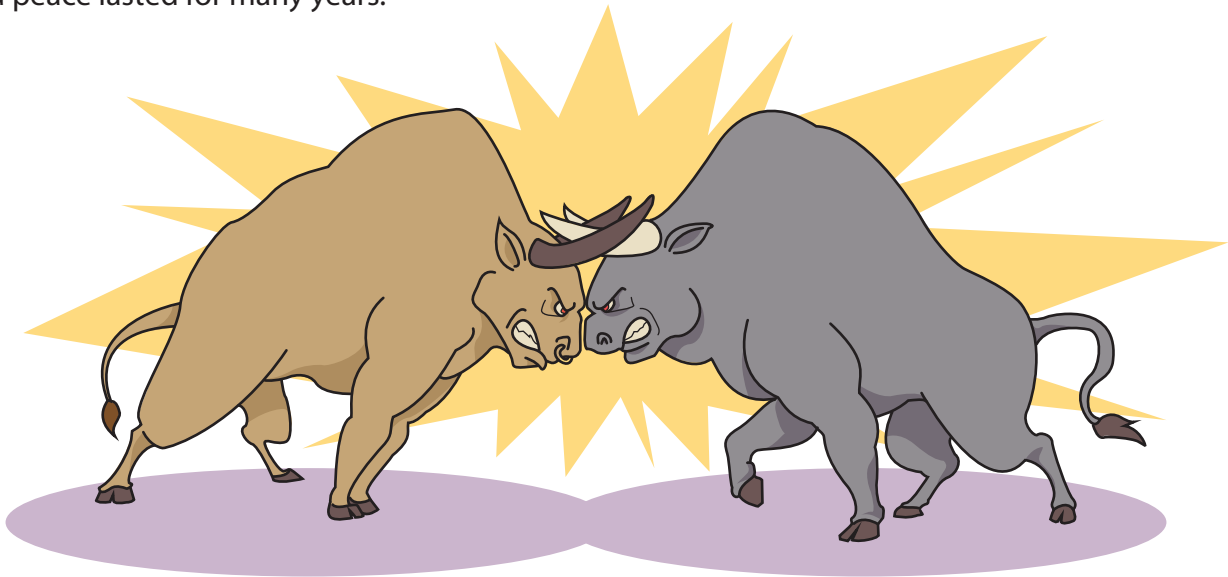
Táin Bó Cúailnge: An Irish Epic (Continued)

After Cú Chulainn's attack, Queen Medb sent his foster father, Fergus, to fight him. Not wanting to harm Fergus, Cú Chulainn made a deal with him that he would surrender if Fergus surrendered when they met again. Cú Chulainn won the next battle against his foster brother, Ferdiad, after three days of fighting.

The Ulstermen began to recover from their illness. When their strength returned, they prepared for a final battle to put an end to Queen Medb's plans. Fergus led the Connacht army and they fought the Ulstermen as Cú Chulainn was recovering from wounds. Finally, Cú Chulainn joined the battle. Fergus kept his promise and withdrew his forces, causing the Connacht army to retreat. The Ulstermen won the war, but Queen Medb was still able to capture the bull, Donn Cuailnge.



However, when Donn Cuailnge and King Aillil's bull, Finnbhennach, met, they fought, ramming their long horns into one another. Although Donn Cuailnge won, both bulls died from the wounds they had given each other. Aillil and Medb realized that their war had been futile, and that they must make peace with Cú Chulainn and the Ulstermen. The Connacht people returned to their home, and peace lasted for many years.





Reading Comprehension

1. Why did Fergus fight Cú Chulainn?

2. How does Ulster win the war against Connacht?

3. Is Cú Chulainn similar to any heroes in other stories? What are some qualities he has in common with other well-known heroes from ancient or modern times?

4. Circle the adjectives that describe Queen Medb.

placid

idle

avaricious

relentless

formidable

imperious

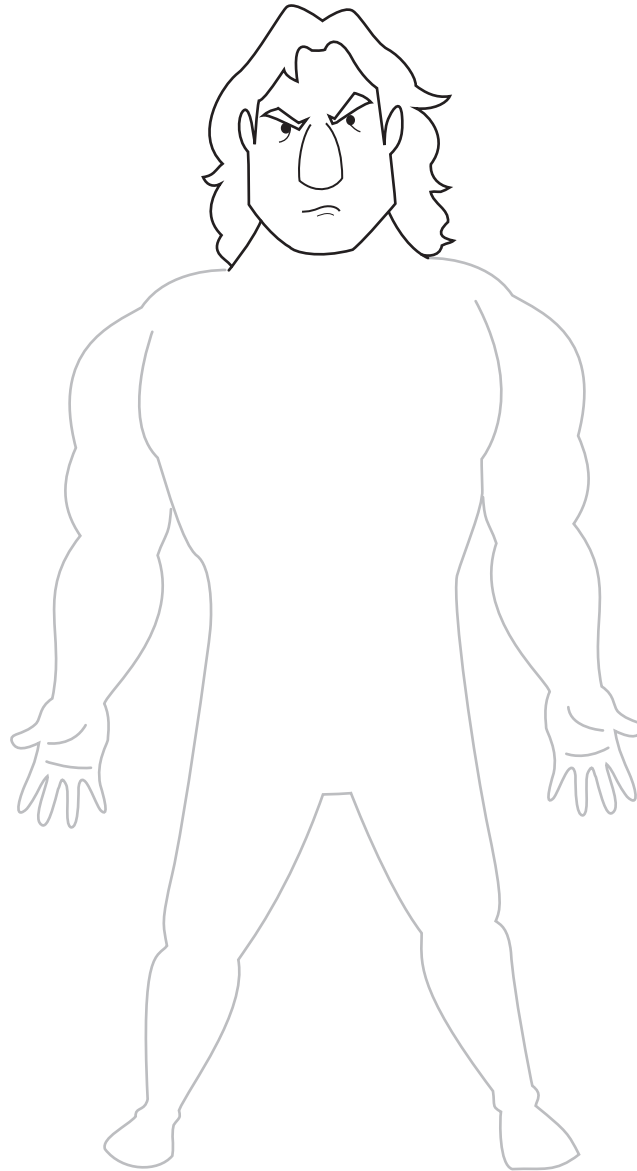
covetous

altruistic

blithe



Finish the picture by drawing Cú Chulainn's superhero costume.



Make a Story with Magnetic Words



In his famous rhyming book *Green Eggs and Ham*, Dr. Seuss creates an imaginative story out of only 50 small words. Can your young learner do the same? This Seuss-inspired project turns into a fun activity to be played over and over again to reinforce reading skills and creativity. Your child will be delighted to form unique stories and read them aloud to a captive family audience!

What You Need:

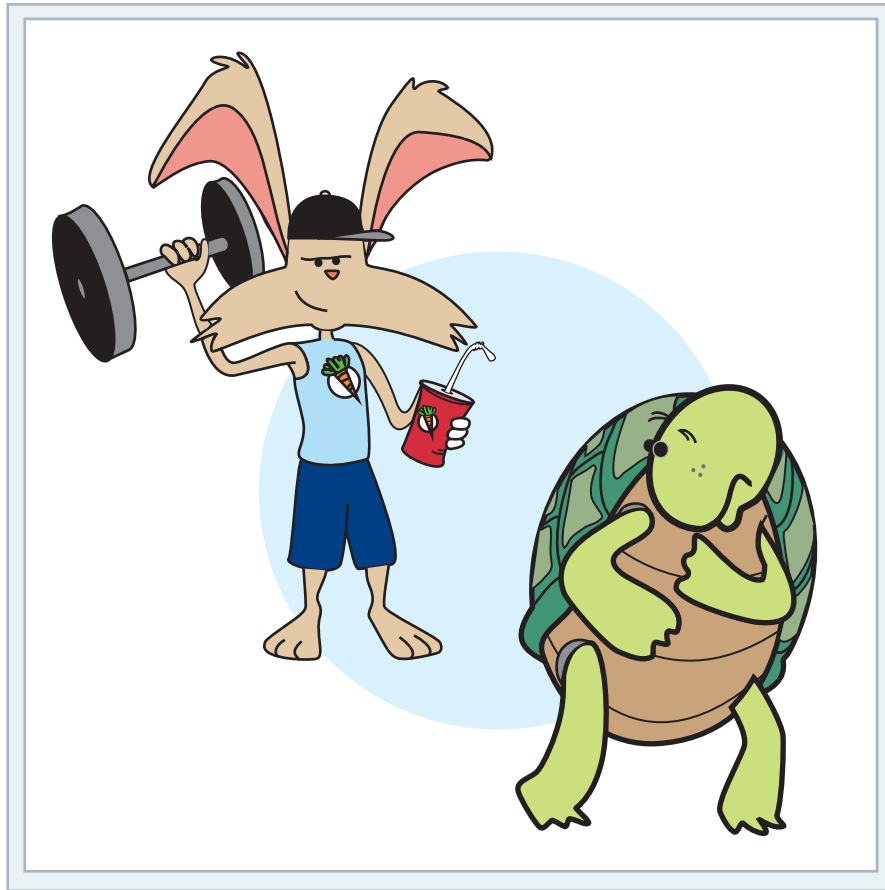
- "Green Eggs and Ham" by Dr. Seuss
- Magnetic sheet with one blank side (found at craft stores)
- Permanent markers
- Magnetic surface (such as your refrigerator or a cookie sheet)
- Scissors

What You Do:

1. Have your child go through and make a list of each word that is used in *Green Eggs and Ham*. Instruct her to write each different word that is used only once. When she is done writing, there should be 50 words on her list.
2. On the magnetic sheet, help her write out the 50 words using permanent marker. She can either write the words in all capitals or in all lowercase. Leave enough space between each word so that they are easy to cut out.
3. Have her carefully cut out all of the words as separate pieces.
4. Ask her to place all of the words onto the magnetic surface.
5. Challenge her to make a story using the words! If she wishes, you can also make a few more magnetic words, such as one with your child's name on it, in order to personalize her set of words. Perhaps see if she can come home every day and spell out something about her day in magnets using the words of Dr. Seuss.

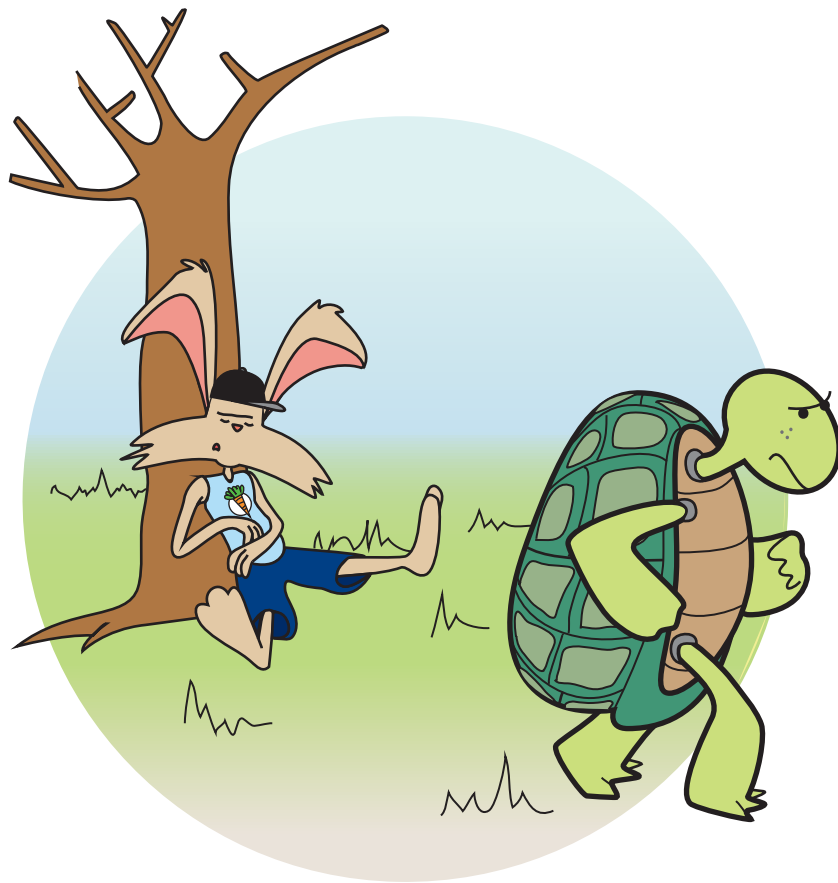
The Tortoise and the Hare

Read the beginning of this classic fable, and then make a prediction about what you think will happen next!



Once upon a time there was a tortoise and a hare who were having a bit of an argument about who was faster. The only way to settle this was to have a race. The tortoise and hare both agreed on a route and started off the race. The hare shot ahead and ran swiftly for some time.

Who do you think will win the race? Why?



Seeing that he was far ahead of the tortoise, the hare thought he'd sit under a tree and get a break in before he finished the race. As he sat under the tree, the hare soon fell asleep. Then, slowly but surely, the tortoise plodded on past and finished the race in first place! The hare was left snoozing under the tree, unaware that he had just lost to the tortoise.

What was the moral of the story?

1

Monitor for Meaning:
The Hound of the Baskervilles

Arthur Conan Doyle, 1902

Sherlock Holmes is a detective that solves tricky crimes and mysteries. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is the most famous Sherlock Holmes story, and it has to do with a ghostly hound that's preying on the residents of Baskerville Hall. In this excerpt, you will discover the great mystery of Baskerville Hall and learn about the characters in this story.

Read the excerpt. Then reread the excerpt and answer the "Stop and Think" questions throughout the text.

"I have in my pocket a manuscript," said Dr. James Mortimer.

"I observed it as you entered the room," said Holmes. "It is an old manuscript. The exact date is 1742."

Mortimer drew it from his pocket. "This paper was given to me by Sir Charles Baskerville, whose sudden death created much excitement in Devonshire. I was his personal friend as well as his medical attendant. He was a strong-minded man, sir, shrewd and practical, and yet he took this document very seriously, and his mind was prepared for just such an end as did eventually overtake him."

I looked over his shoulder at the yellow paper and the faded script. At the top was written: "Baskerville Hall," and below in large, scrawling figures: "1742."

"It appears to be a statement of some sort." "Yes, it is about a legend which runs in the Baskerville family."

"But I understand that it is something more modern and practical upon which you wish to consult me?"

"Most modern. A pressing matter, which must be decided within twenty-four hours. The manuscript is short and is intimately connected with the affair. With your permission I will read it to you."

Holmes leaned back in his chair, placed his fingertips together, and closed his eyes, with an air of resignation. Dr. Mortimer turned the manuscript to the light and in a high, cracking voice read the curious, old narrative:

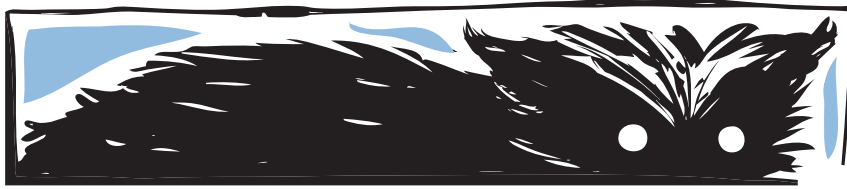
Stop and Think!

1. Using context clues, what is a manuscript?

2. What information might you discover from the manuscript?

3. What text evidence tells you the script is old?

(continued)



"In the time of the Great Rebellion, Baskerville Manor was held by a man named Hugo. Now, saints have never flourished in these parts, but there was in him a certain cruelty which made his name known through the West. Hugo fell in love (if it could be called that) with the daughter of a yeoman who held lands near the Baskerville estate. But the young maiden rejected him, for she feared his evil name.

"One day, Hugo, with five or six of his wicked companions, went down to the farm and carried off the maiden. When they brought her back, the maiden was placed in an upper chamber, while Hugo and his friends sat down to a long carouse. Now, the poor lass was terrified by the shouting and terrible oaths she heard below. At last, in the stress of her fear, she snuck down under the eaves and ran homeward across the moor.

"Some time later Hugo went upstairs to take food and drink to his captive, and found the chamber empty. Filled with anger, he ran downstairs and sprang upon the great table, crying aloud that he would give over his body and soul to the Powers of Evil if he could find her.

"While the revellers stood aghast at his fury, they cried out that they should put the hounds upon her. Hugo ran from the house, shouting to his friends to saddle his mare and unkennel the hounds, and giving the hounds one of the maid's handkerchiefs, he sent them off full cry in the moonlight over the moor. Then the whole of them took horse and started in pursuit. They rode swiftly, following the road back towards the maiden's home.

"They had gone a mile or two when they passed a night shepherd of the moorlands, and they cried to him to know if he had seen her. The man was so crazed with fear that he could hardly speak, but at last he said that he had indeed seen the unhappy maiden, with the hounds upon her track. "I have seen more than that," said he, "for Hugo Baskerville passed me upon his black mare, and there ran behind him such a black dog as God forbid should ever be at my heels." The squires cursed the shepherd and rode onward. But soon their skins turned cold, for there came a-galloping across the moor Hugo's black mare, an empty saddle trailing behind him. The revellers rode close together, for a great fear was on them, but they still followed over the moor.

Stop and Think!

4. Based on the manuscript, what has happened so far?

5. At this point in the retelling, what are two of the mysteries in the story?

(continued)

"At last they came upon the hounds. These dogs, though known for their valour, were whimpering in a cluster at the head of a deep valley, some slinking away and some gazing down the narrow valley before them. Most of them would by no means advance, but the boldest three rode forward down the hill. At the bottom stood two great stones, still to be seen there, which were set by forgotten peoples in the days of old. The moon was shining bright upon the clearing, and there in the centre lay the unhappy maid. But it was not the sight of her body, nor was it the body of Hugo Baskerville lying near her, which raised the hair upon the heads of these three daredevils, but it was that standing over Hugo was a foul thing, a great, black beast, shaped like a hound, yet larger than any hound any mortal eye has rested upon. As they looked the thing tore at Hugo Baskerville, and as it turned its blazing eyes and dripping jaws upon them, the three shrieked with fear and rode for dear life, still screaming, across the moor. One, it is said, died that very night of what he had seen, and the other two were but broken men for the rest of their days.

"Such is the tale of the hound which is said to have plagued the family ever since. I hereby ask that you refrain from crossing the moor in those dark hours when the powers of evil are exalted."

Stop and Think!

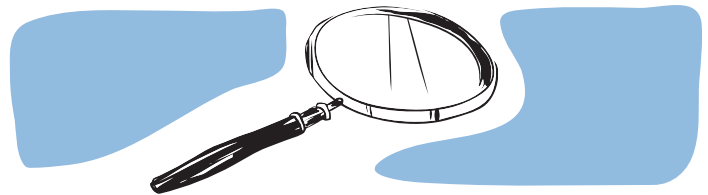
6. Based on the manuscript, what has happened so far?

When Dr. Mortimer had finished reading, he pushed his spectacles up on his forehead and stared across at Sherlock Holmes. Holmes yawned.

"Well?" said he. "Do you not find it interesting?"

"To a collector of fairy tales."

Dr. Mortimer drew a folded newspaper out of his pocket.



Stop and Think!

7. Summarize the newspaper article.

(continued)

8. What are some phrases or sentences that show Sherlock Holmes' interest in Sir Charles Baskerville's death?

"Now, Mr. Holmes, here's something a little more recent. This is the Devon County Chronicle of May 14th of this year. It is an account of the death of Sir Charles Baskerville which occurred a few days ago."

Holmes leaned a little forward and his expression became intent. Dr. Mortimer readjusted his glasses and began:

"The recent death of Sir Charles Baskerville has cast a gloom over the county. Though Sir Charles had resided at Baskerville Hall for a only a short time, his amiability of character and extreme generosity won the affection and respect of all who had met him.

"Sir Charles, as is well known, made large sums of money in South African speculation, returning to England with his gains. It was his desire that the whole country-side should profit by his good fortune. His generous donations to local and county charities have been frequently chronicled in these columns.

"The circumstances of Sir Charles' death are not entirely clear, but enough has been done to dispose of those rumours to which local superstition has given rise. There is no reason to suspect foul play, or to imagine that death could be from anything but natural causes.

"The facts of the case are simple: Sir Charles Baskerville was in the habit of walking down the famous Yew Alley of Baskerville Hall every night before going to bed. On the 14th of May he went out as usual for his evening walk. At twelve o'clock the butler, finding the hall door still open, became alarmed, and went in search of his master. The day had been wet, and Sir Charles's footmarks were easily traced down the alley and out a gate which leads out on to the moor. It was at the far end of it that his body was discovered."

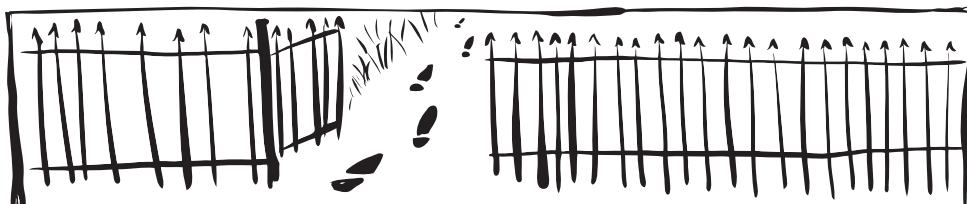
Dr. Mortimer refolded his paper and replaced it in his pocket.

"Those are the public facts, Mr. Holmes, in connection with the death of Sir Charles Baskerville." "These are the public facts?" said Holmes.

"They are."

"Then let me have the private ones." Holmes leaned back and put his fingertips together.

"In doing so," said Dr. Mortimer, who had begun to show signs of some strong emotion, "I am telling things which I have not confided to anyone. My motive for withholding it from the coroner's inquiry is that a man of science like myself must shy away from superstition. For this reason, I thought that I was justified in telling less than I knew, since no practical good could result from it, but with you there is no reason why I should not be perfectly frank.



(continued)

Stop and Think!

9. Why did Dr. Mortimer keep some information from the public record and only tell Sherlock Holmes?

"The moor is very sparsely inhabited, and those who live near each other are thrown very much together. For this reason I saw a good deal of Sir Charles Baskerville. Sir Charles was a quiet man, but a shared interest in science kept us together. He had brought back much scientific information from South Africa, and many an evening we spent together discussing it.

"Within the last few months it became increasingly plain to me that Sir Charles was strained to the breaking point. He had taken this legend of the hound to heart—so much so that, although he would walk in his own grounds, he would not go out upon the moor at night. Incredible as it may appear to you, Mr. Holmes, he was honestly convinced that a dreadful fate overhung his family, and certainly the fates of his ancestors were not encouraging. The idea of some ghastly presence haunted him, and on more than one occasion he asked me whether I had on my medical journeys at night ever seen any strange creature or heard the baying of a hound.

"I can remember driving up to his house in the evening some three weeks before he died. He happened to be at his hall door. I had descended from my gig and was standing in front of him, when I saw his eyes fix themselves over my shoulder, and stare past me with an expression of the most dreadful horror. I whisked round and had just time to catch a glimpse of something which I took to be a large black calf passing at the head of the drive. So excited and alarmed was he that I was compelled to go down to the spot where the animal had been and look around for it. It was gone. I stayed with him all evening, and he showed me the narrative which I read to you. I mention this small episode because it assumes some importance in view of the tragedy which followed, but I was convinced at the time that the matter was entirely trivial and that his excitement had no justification.

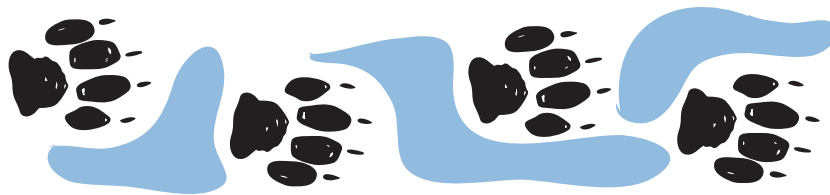
"I suggested he go to London. His heart was, I knew, affected, and the constant anxiety in which he lived was having a serious effect upon his health. I thought that a few months of distraction would send him back a new man. On the night of Sir Charles's death the butler, who made the discovery, sent for me. I was able to reach Baskerville Hall within an hour of the event. I checked and corroborated all the facts which were mentioned: I followed the footsteps down the alley, I saw the spot at the gate where he seemed to have waited, I remarked the change in the shape of the prints after that point, I noted that there were no other footsteps save those of the butler, and finally I examined the body, which had not been touched until my arrival. Sir Charles lay on his face, his arms out, his fingers dug into the ground, and his features convulsed with some strong emotion to such an extent I could hardly recognize him. There was certainly no physical injury of any kind.

"But one false statement was made by the butler. He said that there were no traces on the ground near the body. He did not observe any. But I did—some little distance off, but fresh and clear."

"Footprints?"

"Footprints."

"A man's?"



Dr. Mortimer looked strangely at us for an instant, and his voice sank almost to a whisper as he answered:

"Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

(continued)

GLOSSARY

yeoman: a man that owns and cultivates a small landed estate

carouse: a noisy, lively drinking party

moor: an open area of land that can have very wet soil, moss, and grass

COMPARE AND CONTRAST CHARACTERS

10. Write four personality traits of each character in the chart below.

Sherlock Holmes				
Dr. Mortimer				
Sir Charles Baskerville				
Hugo Baskerville				

11. What two characters are the most alike?

12. What two characters are the most different?

13. What do you imagine Sherlock Holmes will do with all the information Dr. Mortimer shared with him?

Reread this piece of the text.

“In doing so,” said Dr. Mortimer, who had begun to show signs of some strong emotion, “I am telling things which I have not confided to anyone. My motive for withholding it from the coroner’s inquiry is that a man of science like myself must shy away from superstition. For this reason, I thought that I was justified in telling less than I knew, since no practical good could result from it, but with you there is no reason why I should not be perfectly frank.”

14. Use text evidence from the whole excerpt to explain why Dr. Mortimer got emotional retelling details about Sir Charles’ death?

The Story of Doctor Dolittle

by Hugh Lofting

Doctor John Dolittle has an amazing ability. He is able to talk with animals and understand their language. In this selection from The Story of Doctor Dolittle, Doctor Dolittle has traveled to Africa to help sick animals in the monkey kingdom.

The Eighth Chapter: The Leader of the Lions

John Dolittle now became dreadfully, awfully busy. He found hundreds and thousands of monkeys sick—gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, dog-faced baboons, marmosets, gray monkeys, red ones—all kinds. And many had died.

The first thing he did was to separate the sick ones from the well ones. Then he got Chee-Chee and his cousin to build him a little house of grass. The next thing: he made all the monkeys who were still well come and be vaccinated.

And for three days and three nights the monkeys kept coming from the jungles and the valleys and the hills to the little house of grass, where the Doctor sat all day and all night, vaccinating and vaccinating.

But so many were sick, there were not enough well ones to do the nursing. So he sent messages to the other animals, like the lions and the leopards and the antelopes, to come and help with the nursing.

But the Leader of the Lions was a very proud creature. And when he came to the Doctor's big house full of beds he seemed angry and scornful.

"Do you dare to ask me, Sir?" he said, glaring at the Doctor. "Do you dare to ask me—ME, THE KING OF BEASTS, to wait on a lot of dirty monkeys? Why, I wouldn't even eat them between meals!"

Although the lion looked very terrible, the Doctor tried hard not to seem afraid of him.

"I didn't ask you to eat them," he said quietly. "And besides, they're not dirty. They've all had a bath this morning. YOUR coat looks as though it needed brushing—badly. Now listen, and I'll tell you something: the day may come when the lions get sick. And if you don't help the other animals now, the lions may find themselves left all alone when THEY are in trouble. That often happens to proud people."

"The lions are never IN trouble—they only MAKE trouble," said the Leader, turning up his nose. And he stalked away into the jungle, feeling he had been rather smart and clever.



What Happened?

What was the first thing Doctor Dolittle did?

What did Doctor Dolittle want the lions to do?

What does Doctor Dolittle say happens to proud people?

Name: _____

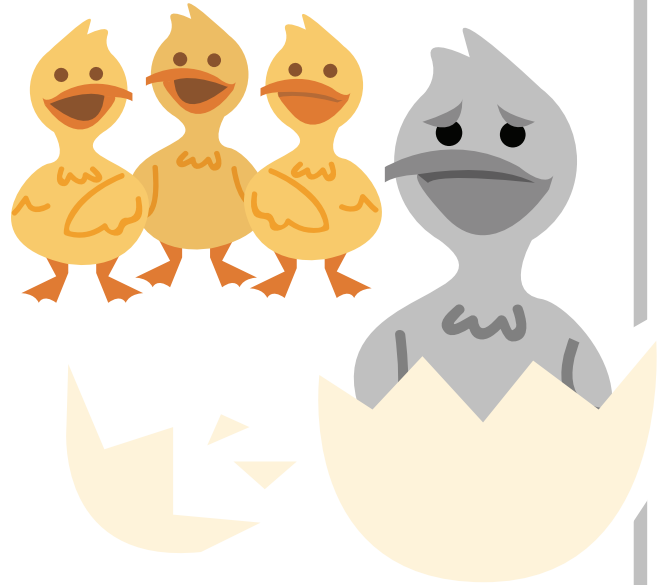
Date: _____

THE UGLY DUCKLING

by Hans Christian Andersen

It was a beautiful spring morning on a small farm near the woods. In a cool, shaded corner, a duck built a warm nest to sit on her four precious eggs. Strangely, one of the eggs was much larger than the rest.

To her excitement, the eggs started to rumble and crack. One, two, three eggs popped open, and three little ducklings poked their heads into the world. At the same time, the biggest egg began to crack as well. To the mother's surprise, a big, gray duckling stumbled out of the egg! Although he was different, and not as cute as the other ducklings, she loved him nonetheless.



The next day, the duck introduced her family to the other animals on the farm. Seeing the strange gray duckling, the pig, mallard and mouse all burst out laughing. The poor duckling bowed his head in shame. He felt like he didn't belong. That night, as his family slept near the barn, the gray duckling decided to leave to find people that liked him for who he was.

Before long, he ran into a kind old woman, her rooster and her cat. She invited him into her home, and they all treated him like family. Over time, the little gray duckling began to grow. Although he was happy, he always felt something was missing.

One day, as he stared out on the pond, he saw a family of beautiful swans wading in the cool breeze. He wanted to go swimming with them. As he approached the pond, he saw his reflection for the first time. The ugly duckling had grown into a beautiful swan! From below, the cat and rooster happily watched their friend fly high in the sky. Finally, the little gray duckling had found himself.

Answer Sheets

Literature for Big Kids

The Tain

The Hound of the Baskervilles

Reading Comprehension: Dr. Dolittle

Cú Chulainn



Cú Chulainn (pronounced “Koo Hullin”) is a hero in Irish mythology. Like many other mythological heroes, such as Achilles and Heracles of Greek myth, Cú Chulainn is a demigod—the child of a god and a human. He has the ability to turn into a terrifying, near invincible monster during battle. However, as a monster, he goes into a frenzy and does not recognize friend from foe.

Cú Chulainn’s mother is Deichtine, the princess from Ulster, an area in northern Ireland, and his father is Lugh, a god of light and healing, similar to the Greek god Apollo. Cú Chulainn spends his youth with a foster family and learns how to be a great warrior.

The Hound of Culann

A famous legend of Cú Chulainn shows how he earned his name, which means “Culann’s Hound.” When he was born, he was named Sétanta. When Sétanta is a boy, the king of Ulster is impressed by his skills as a warrior and invites him to a feast held at the home of Culann the Smith. Sétanta arrives late to the feast. The king forgets about him and does not stop Culann from leaving his ferocious hound to protect the house while they eat.

When Sétanta came to the Smith’s home, the hound attacks him, and he kills it in self defense. The guests come to see what happened, and Culann is devastated. Sétanta swears to raise a new hound to replace it, and to guard Culann’s home himself in the meantime. From then on, Sétanta is called Cú Chulainn.

Use a dictionary to find the definitions of the words below. Circle the adjectives that describe Cú Chulainn:

feeble

stalwart

faint

gallant

cowardly

base

timid

daring

dutiful

noble

audacious



Táin Bó Cúailnge: An Irish Epic

Táin Bó Cúailnge, which means “The Cattle Raid of Cooley” and is also called The Táin (pronounced “toy-n”), is an Irish epic tale about a war in the 1st century A.D. between the lands of Ulster and Connacht, and the legendary hero who fought for Ulster, Cú Chulainn.



Ailill and Medb were king and queen of Connacht. One day, as they sat on their thrones, they began comparing their riches. In every possession the king and queen were equally wealthy, except for one thing—King Ailill had a great bull called Finnbhennach. In the whole world, only one other bull was worth as much as Finnbhennach, and its name was Donn Cúailnge. Donn Cúailnge belonged to Dáire mac Fiachna, the cattlelord of Ulster.

Queen Medb became jealous of her husband’s wealth, and sent messengers to negotiate with Dáire to keep his legendary bull in her own herd for a year. At first, Dáire was willing, but when he learned that Medb planned to take the bull by force even if he didn’t accept the offer, he was offended and sent the messengers away.

So the queen of Connacht raised up an army and rode out with them to capture the bull. Meanwhile, the entire Ulster army was cursed with a crippling illness by the goddess Macha, who hated the Ulster king. None could lift a sword except for one valiant warrior, Cú Chulainn, who was only seventeen years old.

Cú Chulainn met the army out on the ford, and invoked the right of single combat—fighting one person at a time. Queen Medb sent man after man to face him, and he defeated every one. Cú Chulainn defended Ulster this way for many months.





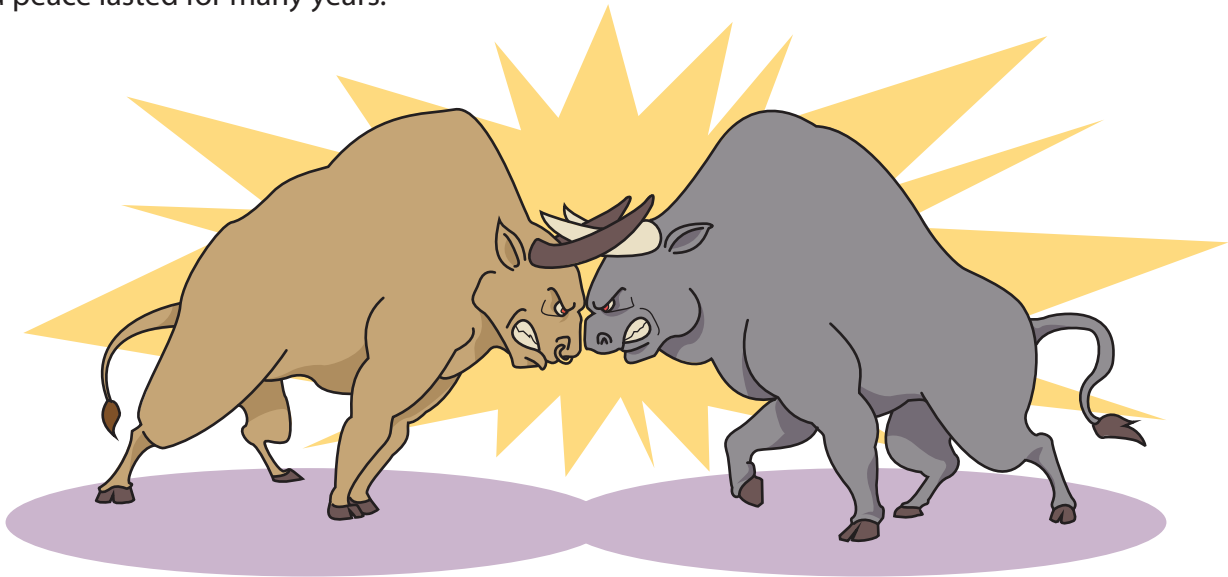
Táin Bó Cúailnge: An Irish Epic (Continued)

After Cú Chulainn's attack, Queen Medb sent his foster father, Fergus, to fight him. Not wanting to harm Fergus, Cú Chulainn made a deal with him that he would surrender if Fergus surrendered when they met again. Cú Chulainn won the next battle against his foster brother, Ferdiad, after three days of fighting.

The Ulstermen began to recover from their illness. When their strength returned, they prepared for a final battle to put an end to Queen Medb's plans. Fergus led the Connacht army and they fought the Ulstermen as Cú Chulainn was recovering from wounds. Finally, Cú Chulainn joined the battle. Fergus kept his promise and withdrew his forces, causing the Connacht army to retreat. The Ulstermen won the war, but Queen Medb was still able to capture the bull, Donn Cuailnge.



However, when Donn Cuailnge and King Aillil's bull, Finnbhennach, met, they fought, ramming their long horns into one another. Although Donn Cuailnge won, both bulls died from the wounds they had given each other. Aillil and Medb realized that their war had been futile, and that they must make peace with Cú Chulainn and the Ulstermen. The Connacht people returned to their home, and peace lasted for many years.





Reading Comprehension

1. Why did Fergus fight Cú Chulainn?

Queen Medb sent him to fight Cu Chulainn so he could claim the bull from Ulster for the queen.

2. How does Ulster win the war against Connacht?

Fergus had previously promised to surrender the next time he met Cu Chulainn. In the final battle, when Cu Chulainn returned to the war, Fergus kept his promise and withdrew his forces. This caused the Connacht army to retreat and the Ulster army to win.

3. Is Cú Chulainn similar to any heroes in other stories? What are some qualities he has in common with other well-known heroes from ancient or modern times?

Student answers will vary, but may include: Cu Chulainn is similar to many other heroes, like Hercules. Both Cu Chulainn and Hercules were born into nobility. They share traits of bravery and loyalty, and both engaged in battles and had other turmoil.

4. Circle the adjectives that describe Queen Medb.

placid

idle

avaricious

relentless

formidable

imperious

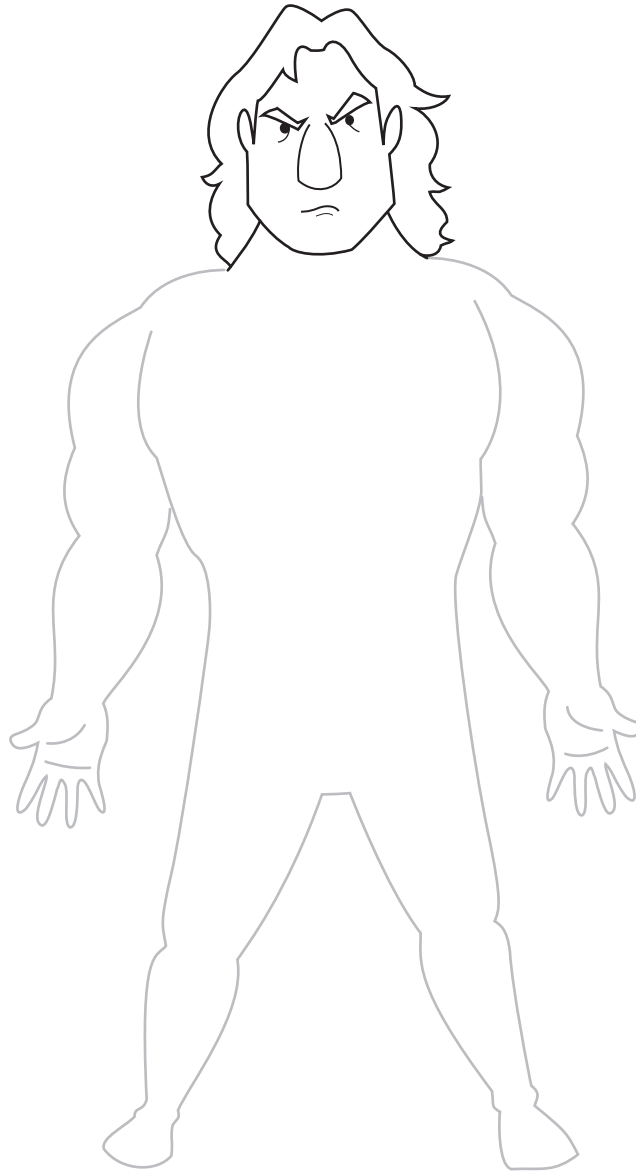
covetous

altruistic

blithe



Finish the picture by drawing Cú Chulainn's superhero costume.



Monitor for Meaning: *The Hound of the Baskervilles*

Arthur Conan Doyle, 1902

Sherlock Holmes is a detective that solves tricky crimes and mysteries. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* is the most famous Sherlock Holmes story, and it has to do with a ghostly hound that's preying on the residents of Baskerville Hall. In this excerpt, you will discover the great mystery of Baskerville Hall and learn about the characters in this story.

Read the excerpt. Then reread the excerpt and answer the “Stop and Think” questions throughout the text.

"I have in my pocket a manuscript," said Dr. James Mortimer.

"I observed it as you entered the room," said Holmes. "It is an old manuscript. The exact date is 1742."

Mortimer drew it from his pocket. "This paper was given to me by Sir Charles Baskerville, whose sudden death created much excitement in Devonshire. I was his personal friend as well as his medical attendant. He was a strong-minded man, sir, shrewd and practical, and yet he took this document very seriously, and his mind was prepared for just such an end as did eventually overtake him."

I looked over his shoulder at the yellow paper and the faded script. At the top was written: "Baskerville Hall," and below in large, scrawling figures: "1742."

"It appears to be a statement of some sort." "Yes, it is about a legend which runs in the Baskerville family."

"But I understand that it is something more modern and practical upon which you wish to consult me?"

"Most modern. A pressing matter, which must be decided within twenty-four hours. The manuscript is short and is intimately connected with the affair. With your permission I will read it to you."

Holmes leaned back in his chair, placed his fingertips together, and closed his eyes, with an air of resignation. Dr. Mortimer turned the manuscript to the light and in a high, cracking voice read the curious, old narrative:

Stop and Think!

1. Using context clues, what is a manuscript?

A manuscript has information on paper that can have “intimate” details. The text mentions that the manuscript has information from 1742 and is yellow, so the manuscript in this story is old and has sensitive information. The author also mentions that date is written with “scrawling figures,” so I can guess a manuscript is hand-written.

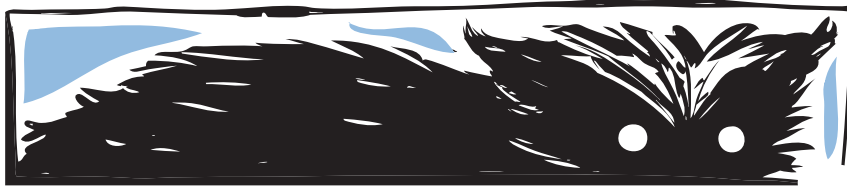
2. What information might you discover from the manuscript?

Dr. Mortimer says the manuscript has details that are “intimately connected” to the legend of Baskerville. A legend is popularly regarded as historical but not authenticated, so the details can be contested.

3. What text evidence tells you the script is old?

The author tells me the paper is yellow and written in 1742. Dr. Mortimer also says the manuscript is old.

(continued)



"In the time of the Great Rebellion, Baskerville Manor was held by a man named Hugo. Now, saints have never flourished in these parts, but there was in him a certain cruelty which made his name known through the West. Hugo fell in love (if it could be called that) with the daughter of a yeoman who held lands near the Baskerville estate. But the young maiden rejected him, for she feared his evil name.

"One day, Hugo, with five or six of his wicked companions, went down to the farm and carried off the maiden. When they brought her back, the maiden was placed in an upper chamber, while Hugo and his friends sat down to a long carouse. Now, the poor lass was terrified by the shouting and terrible oaths she heard below. At last, in the stress of her fear, she snuck down under the eaves and ran homeward across the moor.

"Some time later Hugo went upstairs to take food and drink to his captive, and found the chamber empty. Filled with anger, he ran downstairs and sprang upon the great table, crying aloud that he would give over his body and soul to the Powers of Evil if he could find her.

"While the revellers stood aghast at his fury, they cried out that they should put the hounds upon her. Hugo ran from the house, shouting to his friends to saddle his mare and unkennel the hounds, and giving the hounds one of the maid's handkerchiefs, he sent them off full cry in the moonlight over the moor. Then the whole of them took horse and started in pursuit. They rode swiftly, following the road back towards the maiden's home.

"They had gone a mile or two when they passed a night shepherd of the moorlands, and they cried to him to know if he had seen her. The man was so crazed with fear that he could hardly speak, but at last he said that he had indeed seen the unhappy maiden, with the hounds upon her track. "I have seen more than that," said he, "for Hugo Baskerville passed me upon his black mare, and there ran behind him such a black dog as God forbid should ever be at my heels." The squires cursed the shepherd and rode onward. But soon their skins turned cold, for there came a-galloping across the moor Hugo's black mare, an empty saddle trailing behind him. The revellers rode close together, for a great fear was on them, but they still followed over the moor.

Stop and Think!

4. Based on the manuscript, what has happened so far?

Dr. Mortimer read the manuscript and shared details about the cruel and corrupt Hugo. Hugo had kidnapped a maiden and she escaped. Now Hugo and his fellow partygoers are searching for her in the moorlands. The shepherd who sees her shares that he saw Hugo and a large black dog chasing the maiden.

5. At this point in the retelling, what are two of the mysteries in the story?

The larger mystery is about the big black dog. This is the mystery the author will address throughout the whole story. Another, more immediate, mystery is about where Hugo and the maiden might be. We may get that answer soon in the story.

"At last they came upon the hounds. These dogs, though known for their valour, were whimpering in a cluster at the head of a deep valley, some slinking away and some gazing down the narrow valley before them. Most of them would by no means advance, but the boldest three rode forward down the hill. At the bottom stood two great stones, still to be seen there, which were set by forgotten peoples in the days of old. The moon was shining bright upon the clearing, and there in the centre lay the unhappy maid. But it was not the sight of her body, nor was it the body of Hugo Baskerville lying near her, which raised the hair upon the heads of these three daredevils, but it was that standing over Hugo was a foul thing, a great, black beast, shaped like a hound, yet larger than any hound any mortal eye has rested upon. As they looked the thing tore at Hugo Baskerville, and as it turned its blazing eyes and dripping jaws upon them, the three shrieked with fear and rode for dear life, still screaming, across the moor. One, it is said, died that very night of what he had seen, and the other two were but broken men for the rest of their days.

"Such is the tale of the hound which is said to have plagued the family ever since. I hereby ask that you refrain from crossing the moor in those dark hours when the powers of evil are exalted."

Stop and Think!

6. Based on the manuscript, what has happened so far?

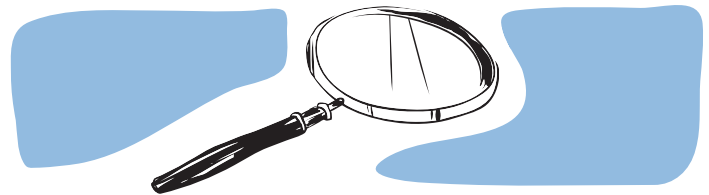
In the manuscript, the cruel Hugo Baskerville abducts a maiden and she escapes. Hugo pledges to give anything to find her, and a big black dog appears to chase them. Onlookers find the big black dog and it tears Hugo apart while they watch in terror.

When Dr. Mortimer had finished reading, he pushed his spectacles up on his forehead and stared across at Sherlock Holmes. Holmes yawned.

"Well?" said he. "Do you not find it interesting?"

"To a collector of fairy tales."

Dr. Mortimer drew a folded newspaper out of his pocket.



Stop and Think!

7. Summarize the newspaper article.

The newspaper recounts the details of Sir Charles Baskerville's death. It also makes the reader believe Sir Charles is loved and appreciated because of his generosity.

8. What are some phrases or sentences that show Sherlock Holmes' interest in Sir Charles Baskerville's death?

“Then let me have the private ones.’ Holmes leaned back and put his fingertips together.” I know Sherlock Holmes is interested because he openly asks for more information, and then he puts his fingertips together to show he is listening intently.

Also, when the author says, “Holmes leaned a little forward and his expression became intent,” he is showing that Holmes is listening closely and wants to know more information.

"Now, Mr. Holmes, here's something a little more recent. This is the Devon County Chronicle of May 14th of this year. It is an account of the death of Sir Charles Baskerville which occurred a few days ago."

Holmes leaned a little forward and his expression became intent. Dr. Mortimer readjusted his glasses and began:

"The recent death of Sir Charles Baskerville has cast a gloom over the county. Though Sir Charles had resided at Baskerville Hall for a only a short time, his amiability of character and extreme generosity won the affection and respect of all who had met him.

"Sir Charles, as is well known, made large sums of money in South African speculation, returning to England with his gains. It was his desire that the whole country-side should profit by his good fortune. His generous donations to local and county charities have been frequently chronicled in these columns.

"The circumstances of Sir Charles' death are not entirely clear, but enough has been done to dispose of those rumours to which local superstition has given rise. There is no reason to suspect foul play, or to imagine that death could be from anything but natural causes.

"The facts of the case are simple: Sir Charles Baskerville was in the habit of walking down the famous Yew Alley of Baskerville Hall every night before going to bed. On the 14th of May he went out as usual for his evening walk. At twelve o'clock the butler, finding the hall door still open, became alarmed, and went in search of his master. The day had been wet, and Sir Charles's footmarks were easily traced down the alley and out a gate which leads out on to the moor. It was at the far end of it that his body was discovered."

Dr. Mortimer refolded his paper and replaced it in his pocket.

"Those are the public facts, Mr. Holmes, in connection with the death of Sir Charles Baskerville." "These are the public facts?" said Holmes.

"They are."

"Then let me have the private ones." Holmes leaned back and put his fingertips together.

"In doing so," said Dr. Mortimer, who had begun to show signs of some strong emotion, "I am telling things which I have not confided to anyone. My motive for withholding it from the coroner's inquiry is that a man of science like myself must shy away from superstition. For this reason, I thought that I was justified in telling less than I knew, since no practical good could result from it, but with you there is no reason why I should not be perfectly frank.



Stop and Think!

9. Why did Dr. Mortimer keep some information from the public record and only tell Sherlock Holmes?

The author clearly writes why Dr. Mortimer does not tell anyone about the hound footprints near Sir Charles' body when he writes, "My motive for withholding it from the coroner's inquiry is that a man of science like myself must shy away from superstition." He was afraid of harming his reputation by spreading details about "superstitions."

"The moor is very sparsely inhabited, and those who live near each other are thrown very much together. For this reason I saw a good deal of Sir Charles Baskerville. Sir Charles was a quiet man, but a shared interest in science kept us together. He had brought back much scientific information from South Africa, and many an evening we spent together discussing it.

"Within the last few months it became increasingly plain to me that Sir Charles was strained to the breaking point. He had taken this legend of the hound to heart—so much so that, although he would walk in his own grounds, he would not go out upon the moor at night. Incredible as it may appear to you, Mr. Holmes, he was honestly convinced that a dreadful fate overhung his family, and certainly the fates of his ancestors were not encouraging. The idea of some ghastly presence haunted him, and on more than one occasion he asked me whether I had on my medical journeys at night ever seen any strange creature or heard the baying of a hound.

"I can remember driving up to his house in the evening some three weeks before he died. He happened to be at his hall door. I had descended from my gig and was standing in front of him, when I saw his eyes fix themselves over my shoulder, and stare past me with an expression of the most dreadful horror. I whisked round and had just time to catch a glimpse of something which I took to be a large black calf passing at the head of the drive. So excited and alarmed was he that I was compelled to go down to the spot where the animal had been and look around for it. It was gone. I stayed with him all evening, and he showed me the narrative which I read to you. I mention this small episode because it assumes some importance in view of the tragedy which followed, but I was convinced at the time that the matter was entirely trivial and that his excitement had no justification.

"I suggested he go to London. His heart was, I knew, affected, and the constant anxiety in which he lived was having a serious effect upon his health. I thought that a few months of distraction would send him back a new man. On the night of Sir Charles's death the butler, who made the discovery, sent for me. I was able to reach Baskerville Hall within an hour of the event. I checked and corroborated all the facts which were mentioned: I followed the footsteps down the alley, I saw the spot at the gate where he seemed to have waited, I remarked the change in the shape of the prints after that point, I noted that there were no other footsteps save those of the butler, and finally I examined the body, which had not been touched until my arrival. Sir Charles lay on his face, his arms out, his fingers dug into the ground, and his features convulsed with some strong emotion to such an extent I could hardly recognize him. There was certainly no physical injury of any kind.

"But one false statement was made by the butler. He said that there were no traces on the ground near the body. He did not observe any. But I did—some little distance off, but fresh and clear."

"Footprints?"

"Footprints."

"A man's?"



Dr. Mortimer looked strangely at us for an instant, and his voice sank almost to a whisper as he answered:

"Mr. Holmes, they were the footprints of a gigantic hound!"

GLOSSARY

yeoman: a man that owns and cultivates a small landed estate

carouse: a noisy, lively drinking party

moor: an open area of land that can have very wet soil, moss, and grass

COMPARE AND CONTRAST CHARACTERS

10. Write four personality traits of each character in the chart below.

Sherlock Holmes	curious	arrogant	intuitive	thoughtful
Dr. Mortimer	studious	friendly	rational	well-spoken
Sir Charles Baskerville	wealthy	charitable	superstitious	studious
Hugo Baskerville	cruel	obsessive	impulsive	quick-tempered

11. What two characters are the most alike?

I think Dr. James Mortimer and Sir Charles Baskerville are the most alike.

12. What two characters are the most different?

I think Sir Charles and Hugo Baskerville are the most different.

13. What do you imagine Sherlock Holmes will do with all the information Dr. Mortimer shared with him?

Student answers will vary. The response should be creative. The best answers will be based on some of the character traits about Sherlock Holmes already mentioned in the excerpt.

Reread this piece of the text.

“In doing so,” said Dr. Mortimer, who had begun to show signs of some strong emotion, “I am telling things which I have not confided to anyone. My motive for withholding it from the coroner’s inquiry is that a man of science like myself must shy away from superstition. For this reason, I thought that I was justified in telling less than I knew, since no practical good could result from it, but with you there is no reason why I should not be perfectly frank.”

14. Use text evidence from the whole excerpt to explain why Dr. Mortimer got emotional retelling details about Sir Charles’ death?

Answers will vary, but can mention that Dr. Mortimer was close with Sir Charles. The author mentions, “[Dr. Mortimer] was [Sir Charles’] personal friend as well as his medical attendant,” which means the two men were close. They spent time together discussing science. Students can also mention that Dr. Mortimer got emotional about discussing the “superstition” that he wasn’t sure he believed. Or at least he didn’t want to believe it as a “man of science” who likes to “shy away from superstition.”

The Story of Doctor Dolittle

by Hugh Lofting

Doctor John Dolittle has an amazing ability. He is able to talk with animals and understand their language. In this selection from The Story of Doctor Dolittle, Doctor Dolittle has traveled to Africa to help sick animals in the monkey kingdom.

The Eighth Chapter: The Leader of the Lions

John Dolittle now became dreadfully, awfully busy. He found hundreds and thousands of monkeys sick—gorillas, orangutans, chimpanzees, dog-faced baboons, marmosets, gray monkeys, red ones—all kinds. And many had died.

The first thing he did was to separate the sick ones from the well ones. Then he got Chee-Chee and his cousin to build him a little house of grass. The next thing: he made all the monkeys who were still well come and be vaccinated.

And for three days and three nights the monkeys kept coming from the jungles and the valleys and the hills to the little house of grass, where the Doctor sat all day and all night, vaccinating and vaccinating.

But so many were sick, there were not enough well ones to do the nursing. So he sent messages to the other animals, like the lions and the leopards and the antelopes, to come and help with the nursing.

But the Leader of the Lions was a very proud creature. And when he came to the Doctor's big house full of beds he seemed angry and scornful.

"Do you dare to ask me, Sir?" he said, glaring at the Doctor. "Do you dare to ask me—ME, THE KING OF BEASTS, to wait on a lot of dirty monkeys? Why, I wouldn't even eat them between meals!"

Although the lion looked very terrible, the Doctor tried hard not to seem afraid of him.

"I didn't ask you to eat them," he said quietly. "And besides, they're not dirty. They've all had a bath this morning. YOUR coat looks as though it needed brushing—badly. Now listen, and I'll tell you something: the day may come when the lions get sick. And if you don't help the other animals now, the lions may find themselves left all alone when THEY are in trouble. That often happens to proud people."

"The lions are never IN trouble—they only MAKE trouble," said the Leader, turning up his nose. And he stalked away into the jungle, feeling he had been rather smart and clever.



What Happened?

What was the first thing Doctor Dolittle did?

He separated the sick monkeys from the well ones.

What did Doctor Dolittle want the lions to do?

He wanted them to help with nursing the monkeys

What does Doctor Dolittle say happens to proud people?

They are often left all alone when they are in trouble.