

Welcome to the

CANDLEWICK

Read to Us!

STORY-HOUR KIT

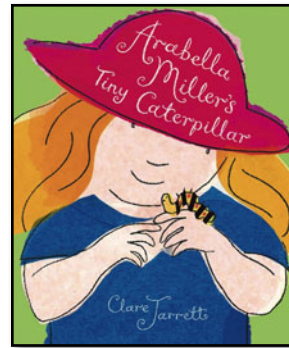
A Shortcut to Your Story Hour

Young children love to be read to—at home, in day care or preschool, and in story hours at libraries and bookstores. And now, here is a story-hour kit that makes it easy and fun to use Candlewick books not only to engage and entertain but also to foster the skills that will lead to children's reading success.

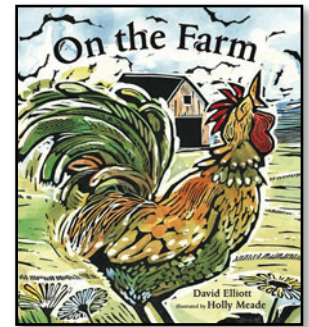
Research has long shown that exposing children to stories as early as possible encourages the brain development that leads to success in reading, and that children who enter school with early literacy skills are better able to benefit from reading instruction in the classroom. Likewise, children who start school with low literacy skills are more likely to have difficulty throughout their school years—in fact, knowledge of alphabet letters at the start of kindergarten is a strong predictor of reading ability in tenth grade. Involving children in literacy projects before they enter school not only helps prevent a pattern of poor reading skills; it also sows the seeds for cultivating a lifelong delight in reading.

Included in Candlewick's Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit are two easy-to-prepare activities for each of the books recommended, inspired by the American Library Association's Ready to Read program. These enticing projects—created to appeal to a range of ages—are designed to boost children's narrative skills, letter knowledge, print awareness, vocabulary, print motivation, and phonological awareness, all of which are important foundations for learning to read and write. A cover sheet with a table of contents explains how each project can be used to advance children's literacy skills, how to involve children in the stories, and especially how to make reading fun. Also included is a handout for parents and caregivers (developed by Oregon's Multnomah County Library) on ways to "Help Your Child Get Ready to Read." We hope you enjoy our story-hour kit and have lots of fun with its projects!

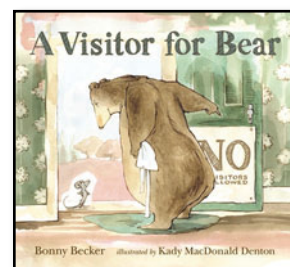
Books to be used with this Candlewick Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit



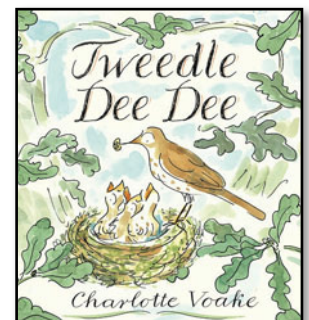
Arabella Miller's Tiny Caterpillar
written and illustrated
by Clare Jarrett
ISBN: 978-0-7636-3660-9
Ages 3–7



On the Farm
by David Elliott
illustrated by Holly Meade
ISBN: 978-0-7636-3322-6
Ages 3–5



A Visitor for Bear
by Bonny Becker
illustrated by
Kady MacDonald Denton
ISBN: 978-0-7636-2807-9
Ages 2–6



Tweedle Dee Dee
written and illustrated
by Charlotte Voake
ISBN: 978-0-7636-3797-2
Ages 3–5

Contents and Directions

1. **Arabella Miller's Tiny Caterpillar: Song Sheet**

The text of *Arabella Miller's Tiny Caterpillar* can be sung to the tune of "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and acted out with finger play as you read and sing. Included are suggested hand motions to accompany the song, as well as lyrics to three other familiar songs that are sung to the same tune — one is the all-important ABCs!

This project helps build phonological awareness and letter knowledge.

2. **Arabella Miller's Tiny Caterpillar: Make a Caterpillar into a Butterfly**

To create a 3-D butterfly, gather the following materials: egg cartons, scissors, fuzzy pompoms, googly eyes, glue, markers or crayons, and copies of the provided butterfly outline.

Before story hour, take an egg carton and separate the lid from the bottom. Cut each bottom piece lengthwise between the two rows of egg pockets, giving you two rows of six pockets. Cut the rows in half in the other direction, leaving you with four segments, each containing three pockets. Continue until you have enough segments for the group.

After reading the story, give each child a section of an egg carton (cups face downward) and have him or her decorate it with the materials provided to create his or her own caterpillar. Then have children color the butterfly wings using markers or crayons. The final step is to glue the caterpillar to the middle of the butterfly. (This step can be a little tricky for young children, who may need adult assistance.)

Now, through craft metamorphosis, the caterpillar has become a butterfly! Note that there are many caterpillar and butterfly facts at the end of the book that you can share as you do this metamorphosis project.

This project encourages print motivation.

3. **On the Farm: Match the Rhyming Words**

On the Farm is written in simple verse that includes rhyming words. After reading the story, hand out the sheet and ask children to match the words that rhyme.

This project helps build phonological awareness and letter knowledge.

4. **On the Farm: Coloring Sheet**

Pass out copies of the coloring sheet. As the children color, ask whether they are coloring the barn, the tractor, the farmer, or the cow.

This project helps focus on vocabulary.

5. **A Visitor for Bear: Make a NO Sign**

Perhaps every child's favorite sight word (and often the one they learn to spell first) is *no*. As you read the story, point out Bear's NO VISITORS ALLOWED sign. Then have children create their own signs stating NO _____ (children fill in the blank), using words, illustrations, or both.

This project helps build letter knowledge.

6. **A Visitor for Bear: Finger Puppets**

After reading the story, have children color and cut out the finger puppets. Encourage children to retell the story with their puppets or make up new stories for Bear and the mouse.

This project helps build narrative skills.

7. **Tweedle Dee Dee: Leaf Cutouts Activity**

Before reading the story, pass out "leaves," each of which has on it the name of something found in the tree. As you read the story and come to one of these words, ask that children who have the appropriate leaf hold it up and sing out the word (more than one child can have a given word). This helps engage children in the story and encourages them to follow along. When the story is over, you may want to give each child a set of leaves to cut out, then ask each of them to put the words in the order found in the book.

This project helps build vocabulary and narrative skills.

8. **Tweedle Dee Dee: Maze**

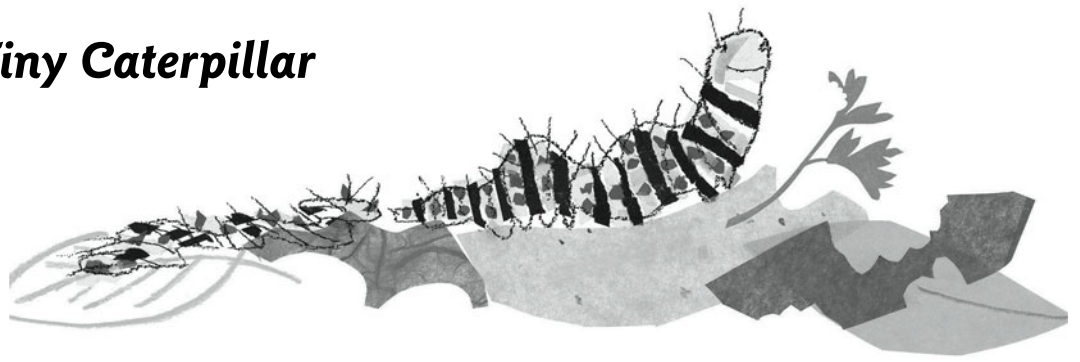
After reading the story, pass out the maze. Help the children find the tree in the maze by spelling out *Tweedle Dee Dee*.

This project helps build letter knowledge.

9. **"Help Your Child Get Ready to Read" Handout**

The National Research Council recommends that children enter school with six specific early literacy skills that serve as the foundation for learning to read and write. These skills, which are incorporated into Candlewick's Read to Us! Story-Hour Kit, are listed and explained on the enclosed "Help Your Child Get Ready to Read" handout. You may want to keep copies on hand to pass out to parents and other caregivers.

Arabella Miller's Tiny Caterpillar Song Sheet



1. Arabella Miller's Tiny Caterpillar: Selected Words and Hand Motions

Little Arabella Miller met a tiny caterpillar.
One day when she was climbing trees,
she found him crawling on her sleeve.
She said, "Hello, Caterpillar,
my name's Arabella Miller."

(Pretend to hold a caterpillar in your hand.)
(Raise one hand over the other to imitate climbing.)
(Make one hand crawl up an arm.)
(Wave to your arm.)
(Point to your chest.)

2. Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star

Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
how I wonder what you are!
Up above the world so high,
like a diamond in the sky!
Twinkle, twinkle, little star,
how I wonder what you are!



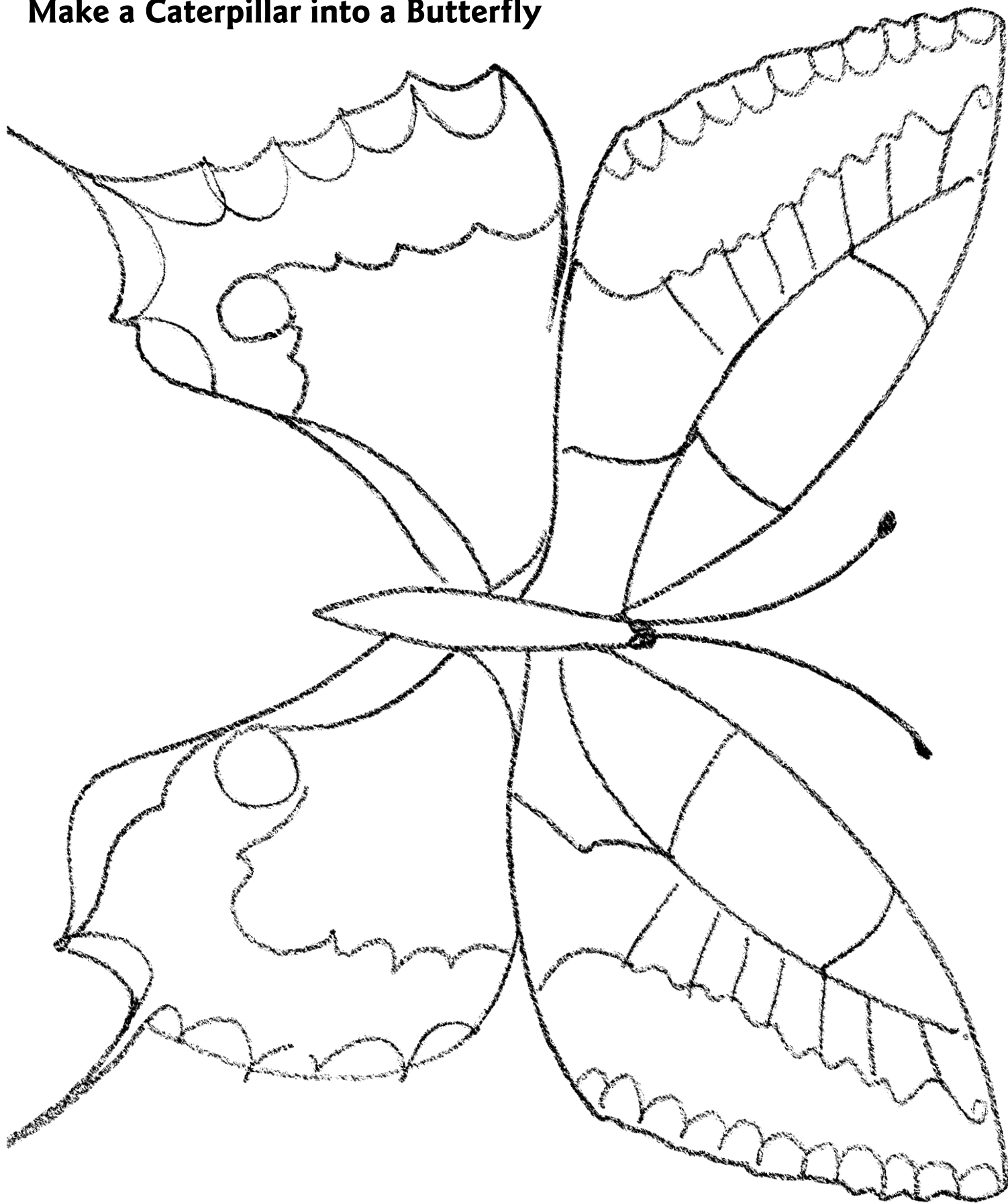
3. The Alphabet Song

A, B, C, D, E, F, G,
H, I, J, K, L, M, N, O, P,
Q, R, S, T, U, V,
W, X, Y, and Z.
Now I know my ABCs.
Next time won't you sing with me?

4. Baa, Baa, Black Sheep

Baa, baa, black sheep,
have you any wool?
Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full.
One for the master,
one for the dame,
and one for the little boy
who lives down the lane.
Baa, baa, black sheep,
have you any wool?
Yes, sir, yes, sir, three bags full.

Arabella Miller's Tiny Caterpillar
Make a Caterpillar into a Butterfly



On the Farm
Match the Rhyming Words

ram

knows

struts

guard

crows

gold

stall

Billy

yard

bam

mice

guts

silly

horn

old

night

corn

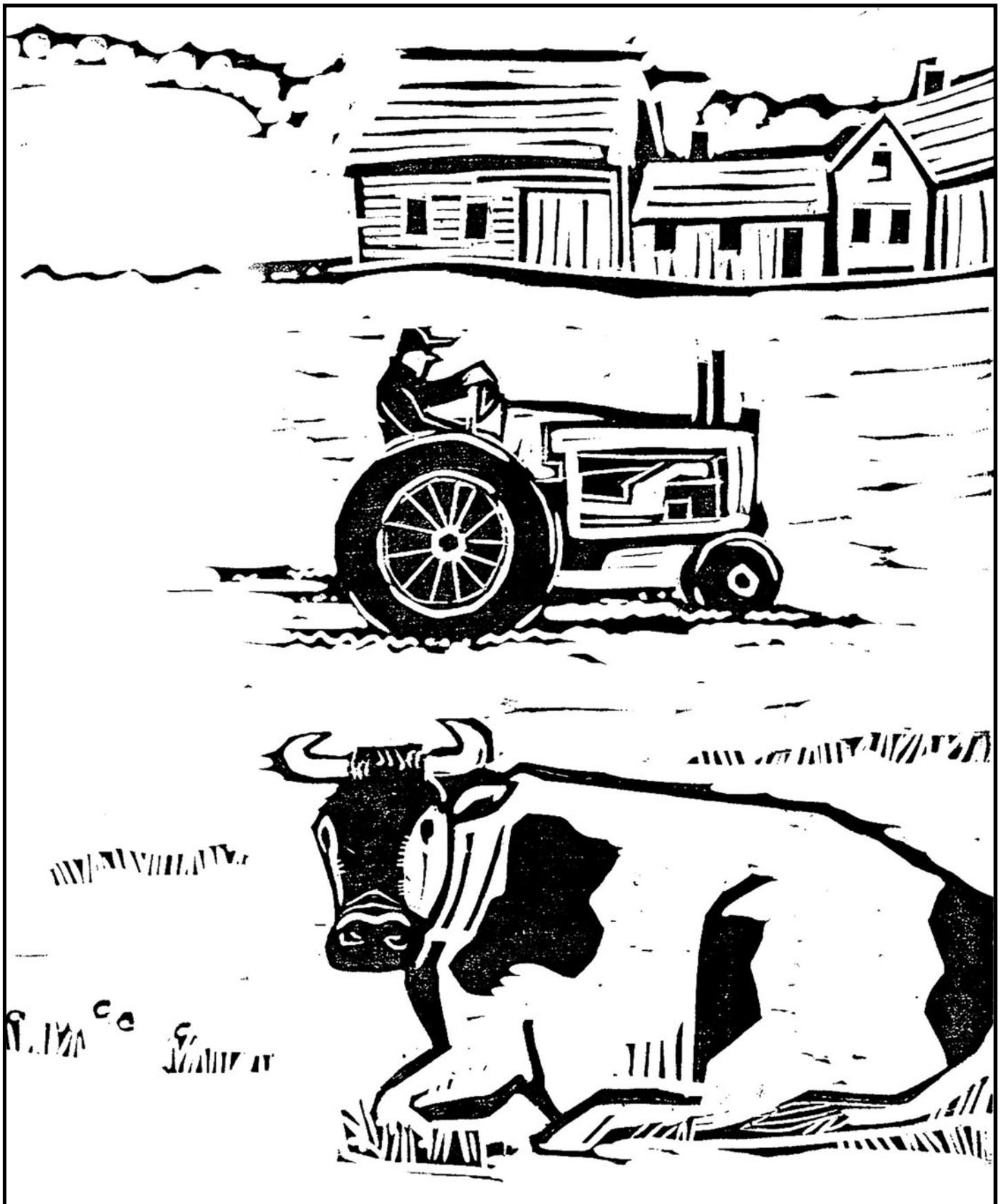
tall

light

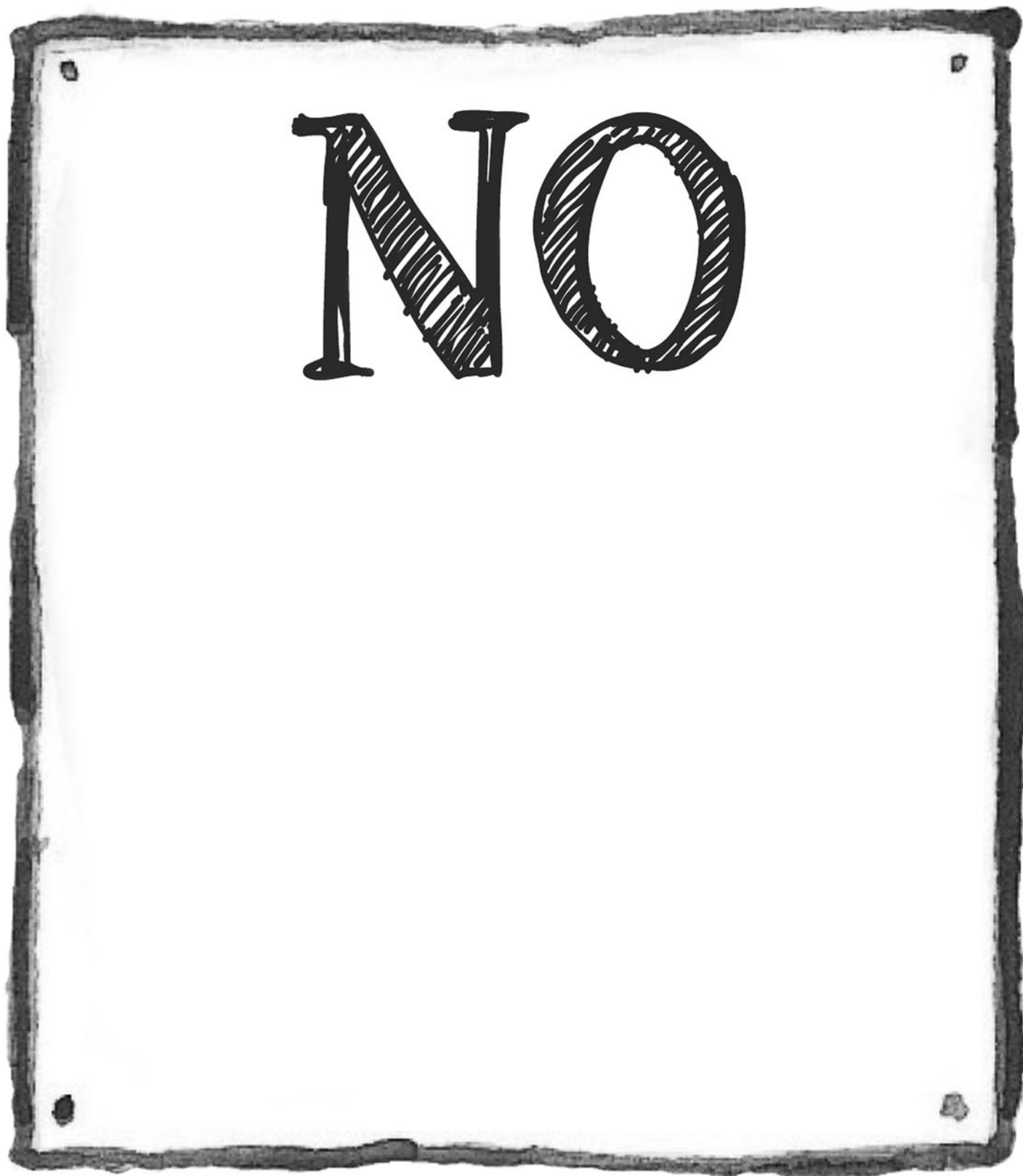
twice



On the Farm
Coloring Sheet



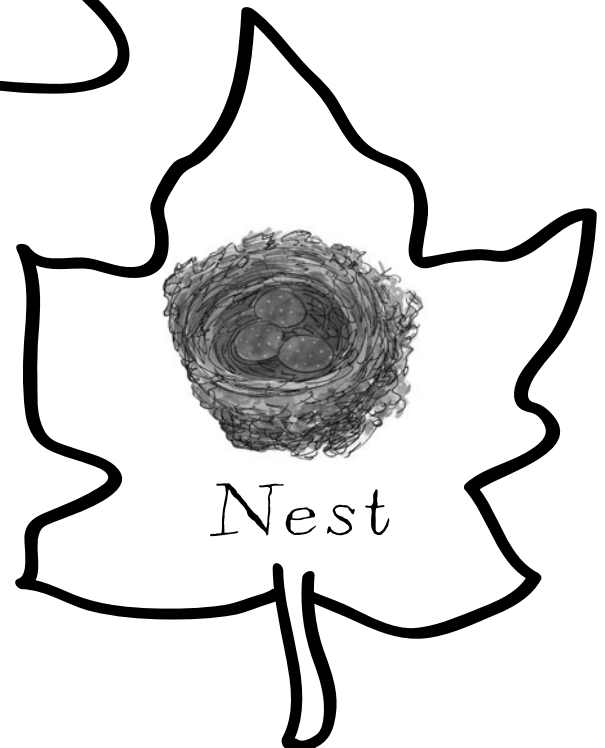
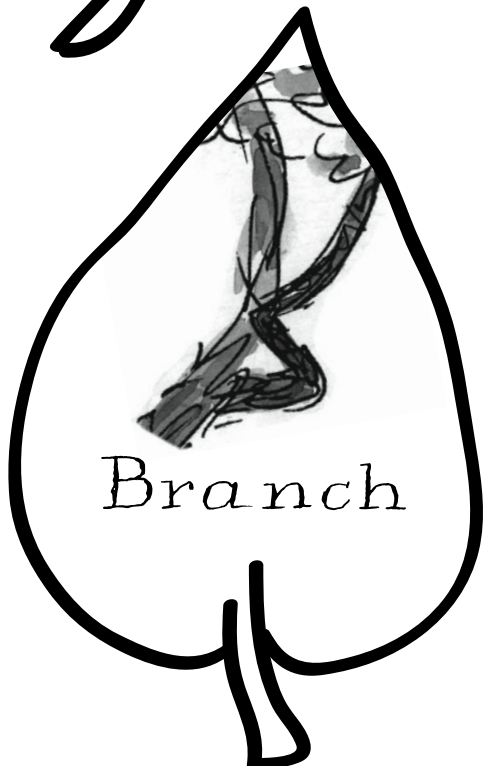
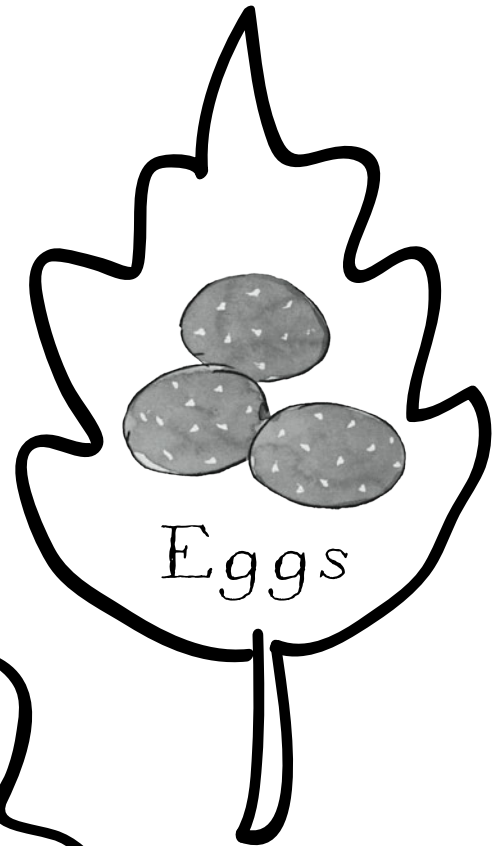
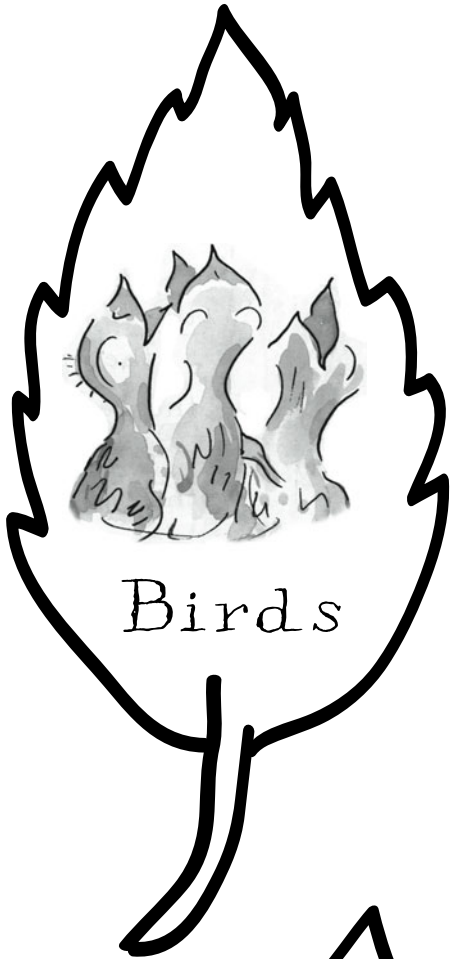
A Visitor for Bear
Make a NO Sign



A Visitor for Bear Finger Puppets



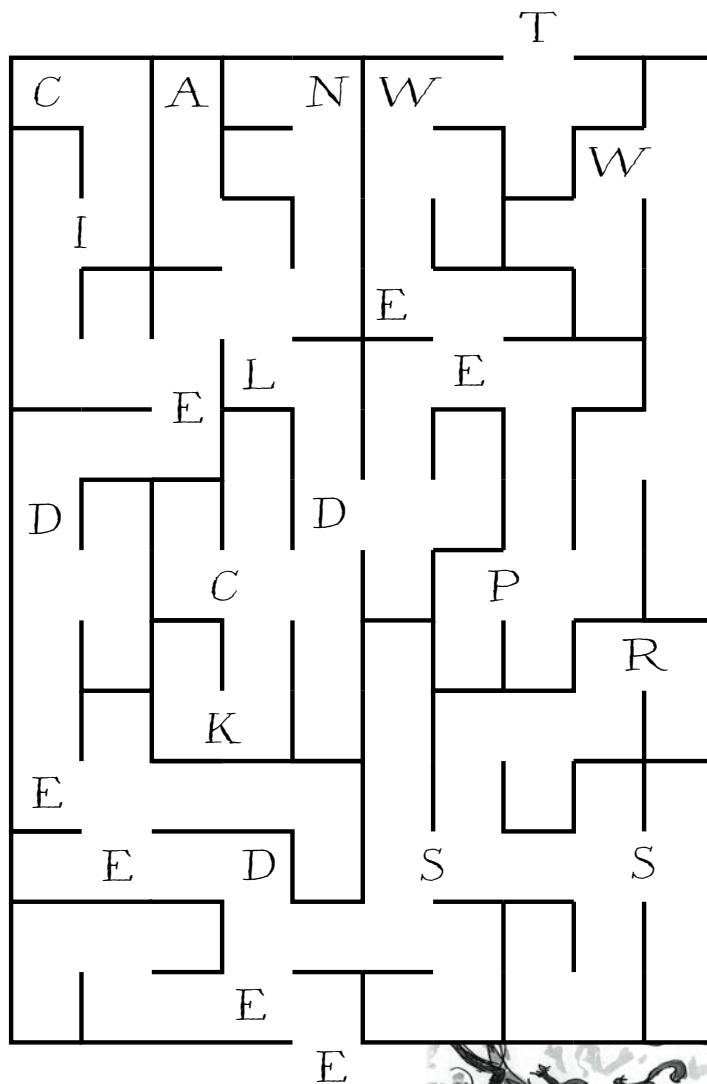
Tweedle Dee Dee
Leaf Cutouts Activity



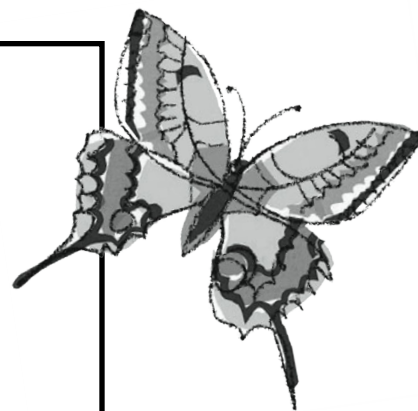
Tweedle Dee Dee

Maze

Help the children find the tree by spelling out *Tweedle Dee Dee*.



Help Your Child Get Ready to Read



Narrative Skills

Tell stories together, encourage pretend play, and let your child be a storyteller.

Letter Knowledge

Help your child identify the first letter in his or her name and find it in books, on street signs, and on package labels.

Print Awareness

Help your child discover how to hold a book and turn the pages.

Vocabulary

Teach your child the specific names for things, such as vegetables in the grocery store.

Print Motivation

Find books that speak to your child's interests, and share them often.

Phonological Awareness

Sing songs, play games, and share rhymes to help your child play with the smaller sounds in words.

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