



Telling Tales

EDUCATOR'S

GUIDE

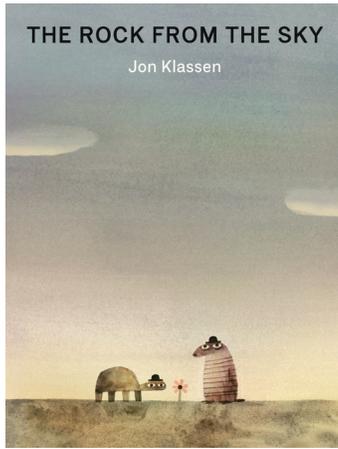
tellingtales.org



TellingTalesOrg

Our thanks to the following partners who made this program possible.





THE ROCK FROM THE SKY

BY JON KLASSON

Ages: 4-8 | 2021, Candlewick Press | **ISBN:** 9781536215632

Winner of the 2010 Governor General's Award for English-Language children's illustration, The Caldecott Medal and the Kate Greenaway Medal, Jon Klassen is a celebrated Canadian creator of children's books. In 2018, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada, recognized "for his transformative contributions to children's literature as an illustrator and author." Born in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Jon Klassen currently lives in Los Angeles, California, with his wife and two children.

Jon tells us a story that is a little bit funny and a little bit scary. It's about a turtle, a mole and a snake who nearly get squashed by a rock.

Q. What other unwelcome surprises do you think the turtle, the mole and the snake have to avoid to stay safe? Do you think those surprises come from the sky or from somewhere else?

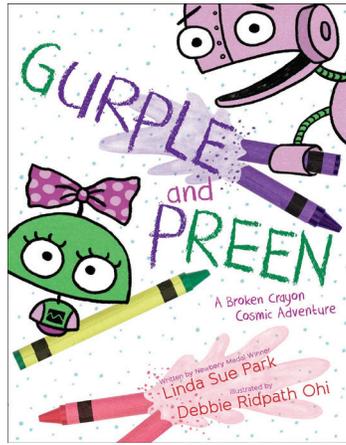
Activity: Try drawing other objects that might fall from the sky and land in Turtle's spot. Use your imagination. Be as silly or as scary as you like.

Reflection: What do you think might cause a rock to fall from the sky? What do you think caused your object to fall from the sky?

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Jon drew his snake character with a beret on its head. Try drawing or describing other funny accessories you would add to Jon's characters. Think of a reason why each character has its own accessories. For example, why is the snake wearing a beret?





GURPLE & PREEN

BY DEBBIE RIDPATH OHI

Ages: 4-6 | August 2020, Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers | **ISBN:** 9781534431416

Debbie Ridpath Ohi is the author of *Where Are My Books?*. Her illustrations also appear in *Sea Monkey and Bob*, written by Aaron Reynolds; *I'm Bored* (a New York Times Notable Book); and *Naked!*, written by Michael Ian Black, as well as ten Judy Blume chapter books and middle grade titles.

Debbie shows us how things like crayons, elastic bands, spoons and candy wrappers help her imagine new characters and story ideas. Gurple & Preen are two outer-space robots who Debbie invented from a broken grey crayon.

Q. Who was your favourite character that Debbie drew? (You can pick more than one!) What is it about this character that you like?

Activity: Choose an object and use it to draw your own character. You can use one of Debbie's objects, or find something completely different.

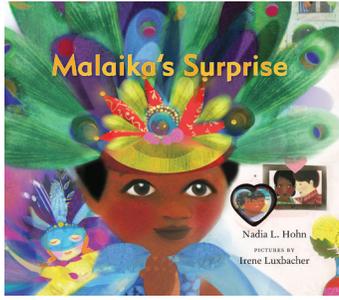
Reflection: What surprised you the most about how your character turned out? Did Debbie's idea about how to invent a character help you invent yours?

BONUS ACTIVITY:

- What is your character's name? Where does your character live? How does your character spend most of their time?
- Try writing your character into its own story.

[Click here](#) for more print-ready resources from Debbie!





MALAIKA'S SURPRISE

BY NADIA L. HOHN

Ages: 4-8 | 2021, Groundwood Books | **ISBN:** 9781773062648

Nadia L. Hohn is a writer and educator. Her first picture book, *Malaika's Costume*, won the Helen Isobel Sissons Canadian Children's Story Award and the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) Children's Literature Award. She is also the author of *Malaika's Winter Carnival*. Nadia's writing is inspired by her childhood memories, Jamaican heritage, Black culture, world travels, and social issues.

Nadia describes different kinds of surprises we might experience. Some make us feel happy, like getting a new toy, a piece of cake or a surprise birthday party. But some surprises, like moving to a new school, leave us feeling a little scared.

Q. Think of a time when you were surprised. How did that experience make you feel? Were you happy? Nervous? Maybe both?

Activity: Draw a picture of yourself learning about the surprise for the first time. Write or think of a few words that describe how you felt.

Reflection: Nadia shared ideas about what she does when a surprise leaves her feeling a little scared or uncertain. Do you need to do anything special to get used to something new or surprising?

BONUS ACTIVITY:

Malaika and Adele love to make masks and costumes for carnival. Gather pieces of fabric, paper or other objects to decorate Malaika's face and headdress from the cover art created by illustrator Irene Luxbacher.

[Click this link to see how Irene does it.](#)

[Click here](#) for more ideas from Nadia about how to teach the Malaika series.





Illustration by Irene Luxbacher copyright 2020.
Malaika's Surprise, written by Nadia L. Hohn, Greenwood Press, 2020.

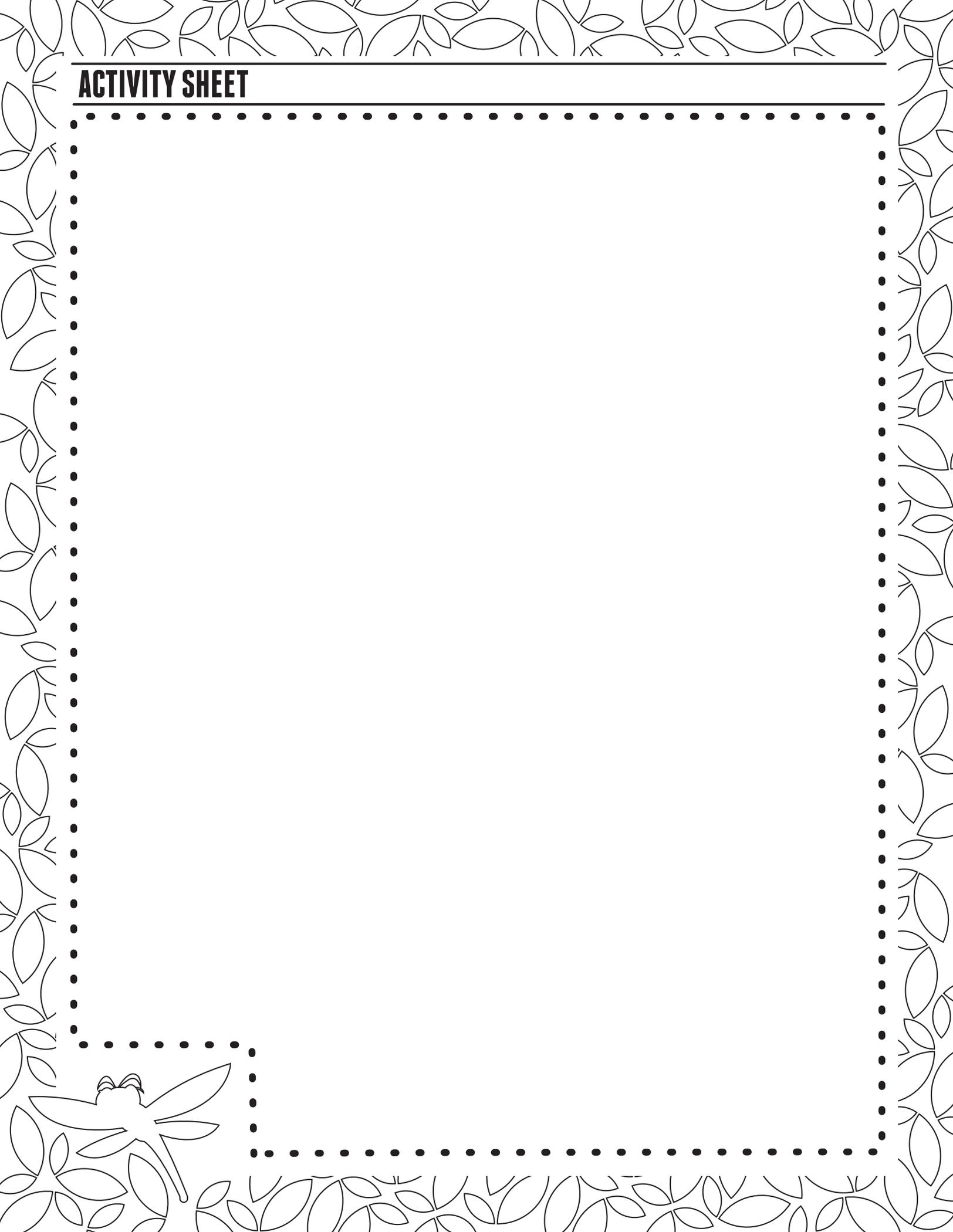
ACTIVITY SHEET

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dotted border, intended for drawing or free writing.

A series of ten horizontal solid lines for writing.



ACTIVITY SHEET



A large rectangular area defined by a dotted line, intended for writing or drawing.

