

Susan Striker

Anti – Coloring Books



Anti-Coloring Book

These pages are from THE ANTI COLORING BOOK #3

by Susan Striker. This book was designed to give students an alternative to coloring and creative thinking activities.

These pages can be used with all four stages of creativity.

Have the students finish the page to make the picture their own. Make sure you emphasize the importance of doing exactly what they ask at the bottom of the picture.

Discussion can be done about the picture before one starts the assignment. This discussion can include brainstorming how to finish picture, using flexibility to change the idea one has to get started, talk about one idea they can all agree on and elaborate on it through a round table discussion, have their original ideas flow around the table before the pencil is even picked up, etc.

Once the picture is done assign something to be written on the back. One can explain picture, make a journal entry out of the picture, create the beginning of a creative story, brainstorm what it represents now and the future, delve into the concept on the front with an open discussion and end with the best choices, etc.

You can use you own ideas to make this a creative enrichment lesson, a DI lesson, A fill in for RTI and a stepping stone for creativity and gifted.



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Congratulations Susan!

Susan Striker was named Elementary Art Educator of the Year by the Connecticut Art Education Association



Susan Striker

Hear Susan's ideas on her Young at Art/Anti-Coloring Book page on [Facebook](#)

See Susan teaching on YouTube and TeacherTube: [Magic Window Lettering Book Binding](#)

About Susan Striker - Best Selling Author, App Creator, Award Winning Teacher, Innovative Educator and Founder of Young At Art



TalismanPhoto June, 2010

Susan Striker is the author of the best-selling *Anti-Coloring Book®* series with over one million books in print all over the world. Designed to stimulate creativity and encourage problem solving and critical thinking, the books help children draw their own pictures as well as their own conclusions about life. She also wrote *Please Touch®* (Simon & Schuster) which teaches parents and educators how to stimulate creativity through movement, music, art and play. *Young at Art®* (Henry Holt) is a comprehensive text about the value and significance of early childhood art. That book clearly demonstrates the important link between early scribbles and later literacy.

Ms. Striker teaches art in an elementary school in Greenwich, Connecticut, where her school won the National Reading Award. Among the considerations of the judges was her literature based art program. She has a unique style of motivating children to create by integrating art with music and literature. She has had a long, successful career teaching art to young children, has taught art education methodology to university students and developed art curricula. She shares her innovative teaching ideas in workshops for parents and teachers in schools and universities all over the country. Ms. Striker's work has been the subject of numerous television shows, both local, national and international.

In 1984 Ms. Striker founded Young at Art, a private art school in Manhattan, offering classes to young children. "Its aim", she explains, "was to spark creativity, generate fantasy and unleash imaginative thinking." There she held classes for children, ages one through five, and gave birthday parties where art activities were the focus of the day. Her school was not only the talk of the town, but was featured in newspaper and magazine articles as far away as Japan. Her dream is to see her

Susan Striker

art classes for young children brought to children of all economic backgrounds throughout the world, so she offers several curricula with videos of her teaching.

Ms. Striker has a solid reputation as an expert in art education. She acted as a consultant for the popular television show *Thomas the Train*, has written many magazine articles and contributes regularly to *School Arts*. Susan's Young at Art curriculum for preschool and kindergarten art was awarded **Connecticut's Celebration of Excellence for Creativity in the Classroom**.

In 2000 she won the **Distinguished Teacher Award** in Greenwich. In March, 2004 *Teaching K-8*, a national magazine written for elementary school teachers featured Ms. Striker as the Author of the Month, in honor of National Youth Art Month. In 2008 - Susan received the highly competitive 2008 Connecticut Art Education Association Award, **Outstanding Elementary Art Educator**, for significant contributions to the field of art education.

Ms. Striker lives in Easton, Connecticut. She is divorced and has one son, Jason, who lives in Colorado. Her readers know Jason very well, as he appeared in or on the cover of all of the books she wrote after his birth in 1979.

[Contact Susan Striker](#)

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Susan Striker: Outside the Lines, by Katherine Romano

With her Anti-Coloring Book series, this vivacious author is leading kids to the road to self-expression

Susan Striker has never been one for blending in with the crowd. With her popular series, *The Anti-Coloring Book*, celebrating its 26th year of publication, Susan Striker has made a career for herself out of not being afraid to go against the tide. We found that clearly in evidence when we visited her at her home in Easton, CT this past April. From the brilliant purple carpet underfoot, to the lively and oddly entrancing Oaxacan animal sculptures on her walls and the dish of lilac-hued M&M's on her coffee table, Susan's home is a literal palette of all the things (and colors) she loves best. When she threw open her raspberry-colored front door with a vibrant scarf artfully draped over one shoulder and ushered us to a seat on one of her plush red couches, we knew we were in for a colorful afternoon, to say the very least.

The birth of the anti-coloring book. An art teacher for, as she puts it, "180 years," Susan went to graduate school in the 1970s where she hoped to be learning new and exciting teaching techniques. She was disappointed to find that much of what she had learned 10 years earlier in college was still being taught — the general consensus was that art teachers hated the idea of coloring books and that parents just weren't seeing the detrimental effects coloring books had on their children's budding creativity. Susan vocalized her feelings about this idea so much in class, that her professor decided devising a creative alternative to coloring books would be her sole objective for the duration of the course. By the end of the semester, Susan had pooled all of her best art lessons into a coloring book format. When she presented her ideas at the end of the semester, she got a round of applause from her classmates and the beginning of a revolutionary idea for a series of books for children.



The vibrant world of *Anti-Coloring Book* author Susan Striker.

Full of anti-color. With prompts like, "Today is your birthday and inside this box is the present you want most in the world. Can you see it?" "Draw the worst nightmare you ever had" and "Can you change this pair of scissors into something completely different?" *The Anti-Coloring Book* almost immediately caught on with kids and grown-ups alike. "What's important about my books, I think, is that kids are learning about problem-solving and that there's no one right answer," Susan commented. Soon after publishing the first *Anti-Coloring Book* in 1978, Susan realized she had a font of ideas that could take the series in a number of directions. She saw that just her son Jason's interests alone could provide a wealth of new material for the series. Both *The Superpowers Anti-Coloring Book* (out of print) — "My son wore a cape at all times when he was little," she laughed — and *The Circus Anti-Coloring Book* (Holt, 1994) were written with and for Jason.



Susan Striker (left) shows Kate Romano some of her favorite pages from *The Superpowers Anti-Coloring Book*.

New endeavors. While taking a break from teaching to be at home with Jason, Susan began teaching art classes from her home and hosting birthday parties that were filled with awesome kid-centered activities that involved the guests making the loot bags and decorating the cake themselves. "My home became the place to be, I guess," she said. "My friends would tell me that they loved sending their kids to my house because I'd let them paint - something they weren't allowed to do at home." And from that, yet another great idea was born.

Susan opened her first art school for children, Young at Art, in New York City in 1984. The operation has now become a successful franchise with studios in both Westport and Fairfield, CT — and, hopefully, more locations are on the horizon. In fact, the cornerstone on which she built her school also moved her to write her book of the same name. Young at Art was directed to parents and centered on ways to encourage a child's creative thinking. While working on the book, Susan was inspired to write the "Ten Cardinal Rules for Teaching Creative Art," (above) a philosophy by which she feels all teachers should live. "I don't think a lot of people are aware that what a child experiences when creating his or her own art really affects how he or she learns later on," she said.

During our afternoon together, Susan Striker showed us pages and pages of child-crafted artwork she's held dear to her heart throughout her career. She talked in-depth about many of the ideas she's hoping to express in future books, but most of all she spoke at length about her love for kids and her dedication to helping their creativity bloom. In the middle of her ruminations, she paused and leaned forward. "I can tell I've convinced you," she said. Without a doubt, you can call us convinced.



Susan Striker shows us one of her many favorites of kid-created art. She has taught art at Cos Cob Elementary for close to 10 years. "It's the first time in my career I've had all the materials and support I need," she said, "I love teaching."

Ten Cardinal Rules for Teaching Creative Art

1. Counteract your own expectations of how an art project should be completed, and let the child's imagination decide how the art materials will be used.
2. Never draw, paint or write on a child's art work.
3. Never point out accidental similarities to realistic objects.

4. Never show a child "how" to draw or entertain a child by making realistic pictures.
5. Don't ask "What is it?" or "What are you making?" "What" it is is not as important as "How" it is being made.
6. Never give a child coloring books, dot to dot, magic paint with water, molds, drawing machines, drawing computers or similar anti-art toys.
7. Never encourage children to participate in art contests or other forms of competition that pit child against child.
8. Encourage a child to come up with many different solutions to problems, rather than only one correct answer.
9. Don't scold for drawing on unacceptable surfaces. Offer paper and say, "Oh good, I see you feel like drawing."
10. Do not rush a child to the next level of development.

Susan Striker, *Young at Art* (Owl Books, 2001)

Katherine Romano, associate editor *Teaching K-8 magazine*.

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THE
ANTI-COLORING
BOOKS[®]
by **Susan Striker**



Can you change this pair of scissors into something completely different? Turn the paper any way you want to.

Try this page for yourself, print it out and get creative!
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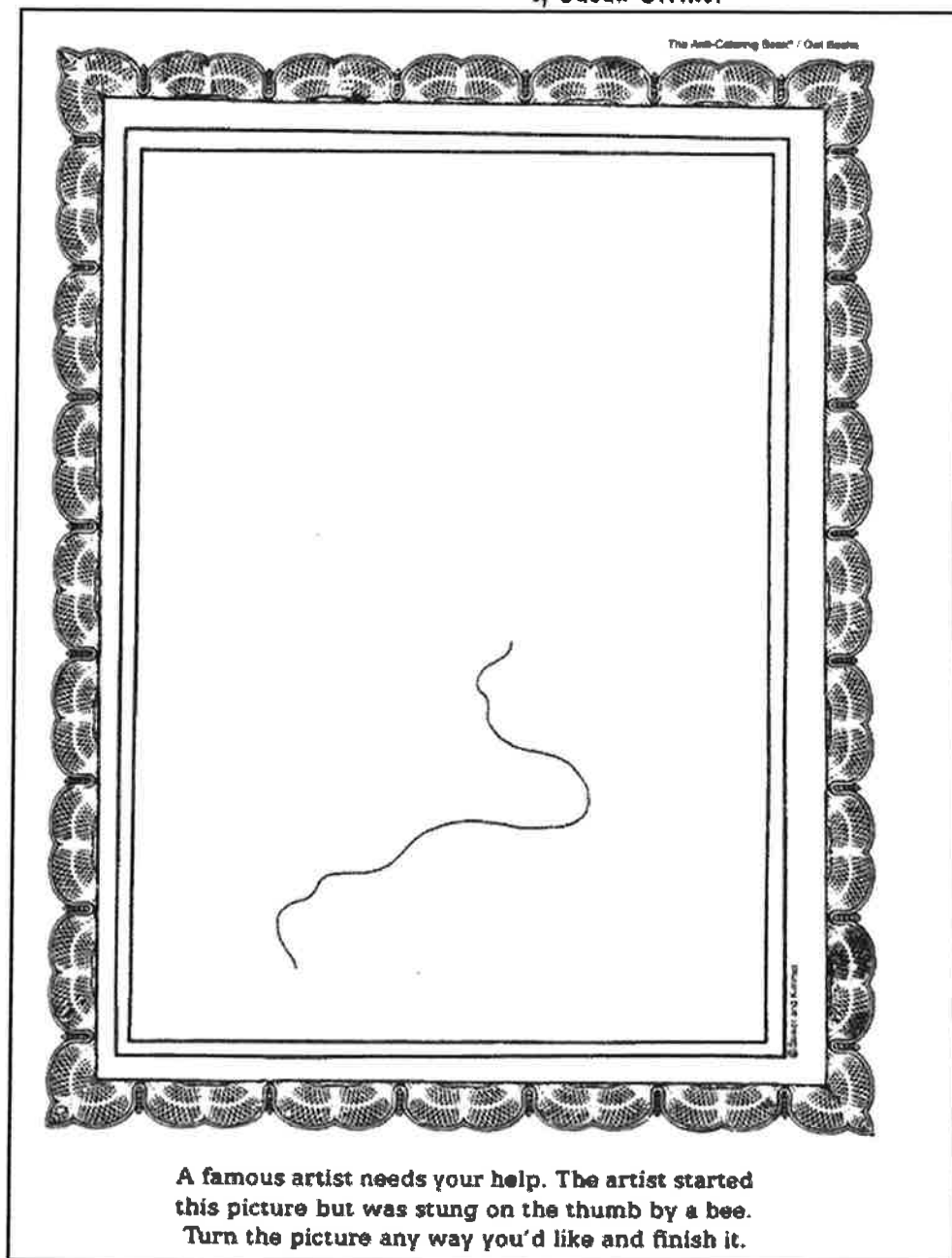
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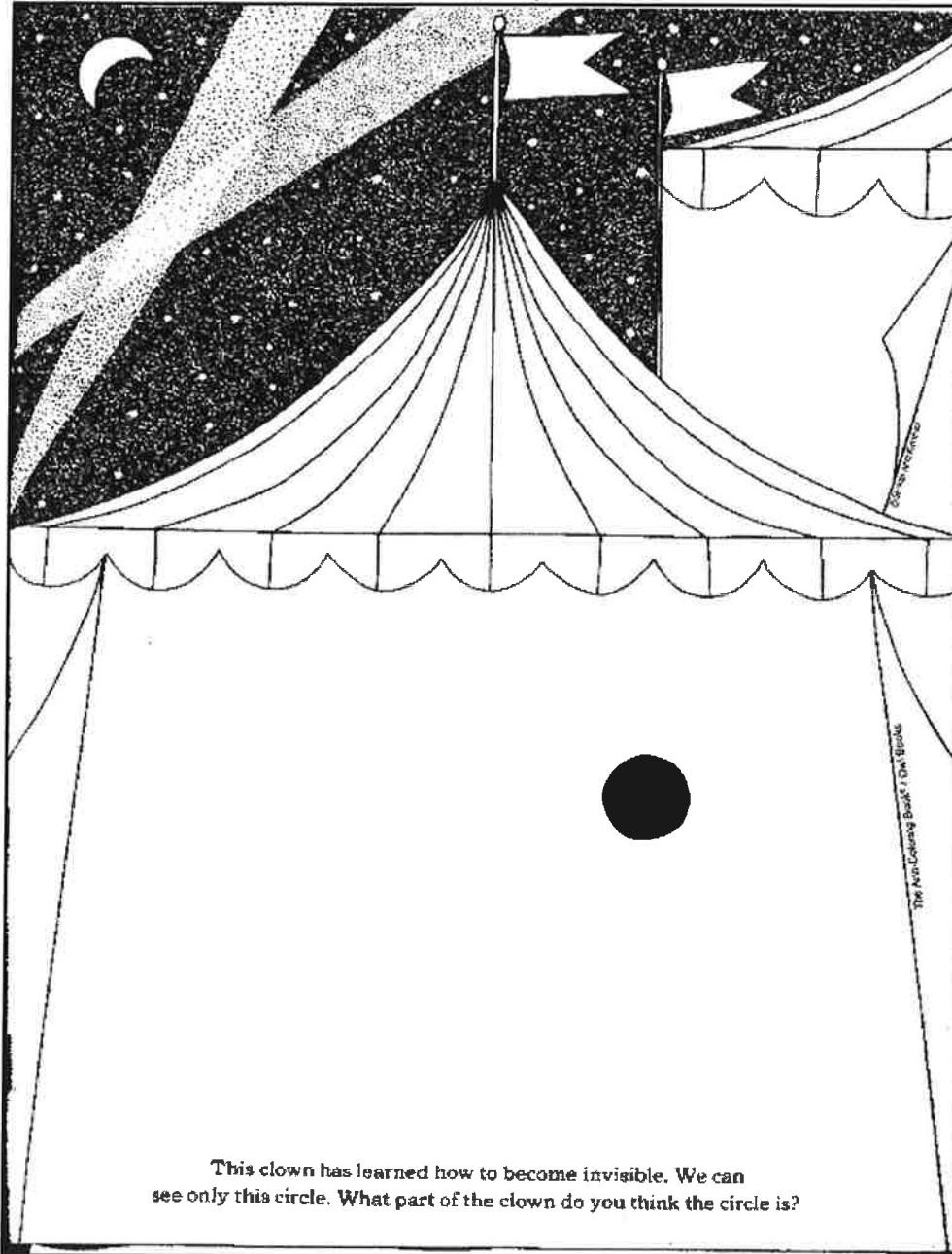
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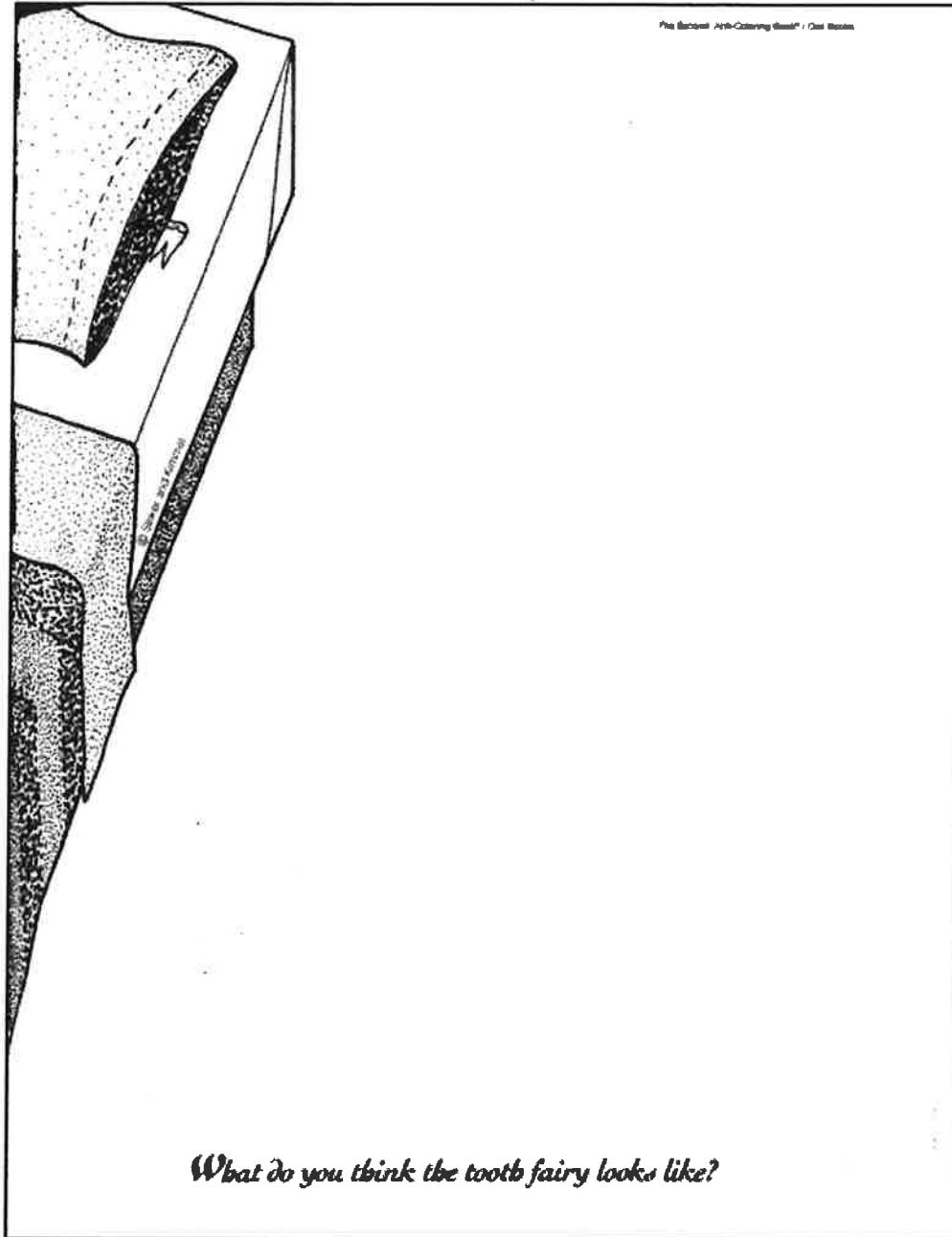
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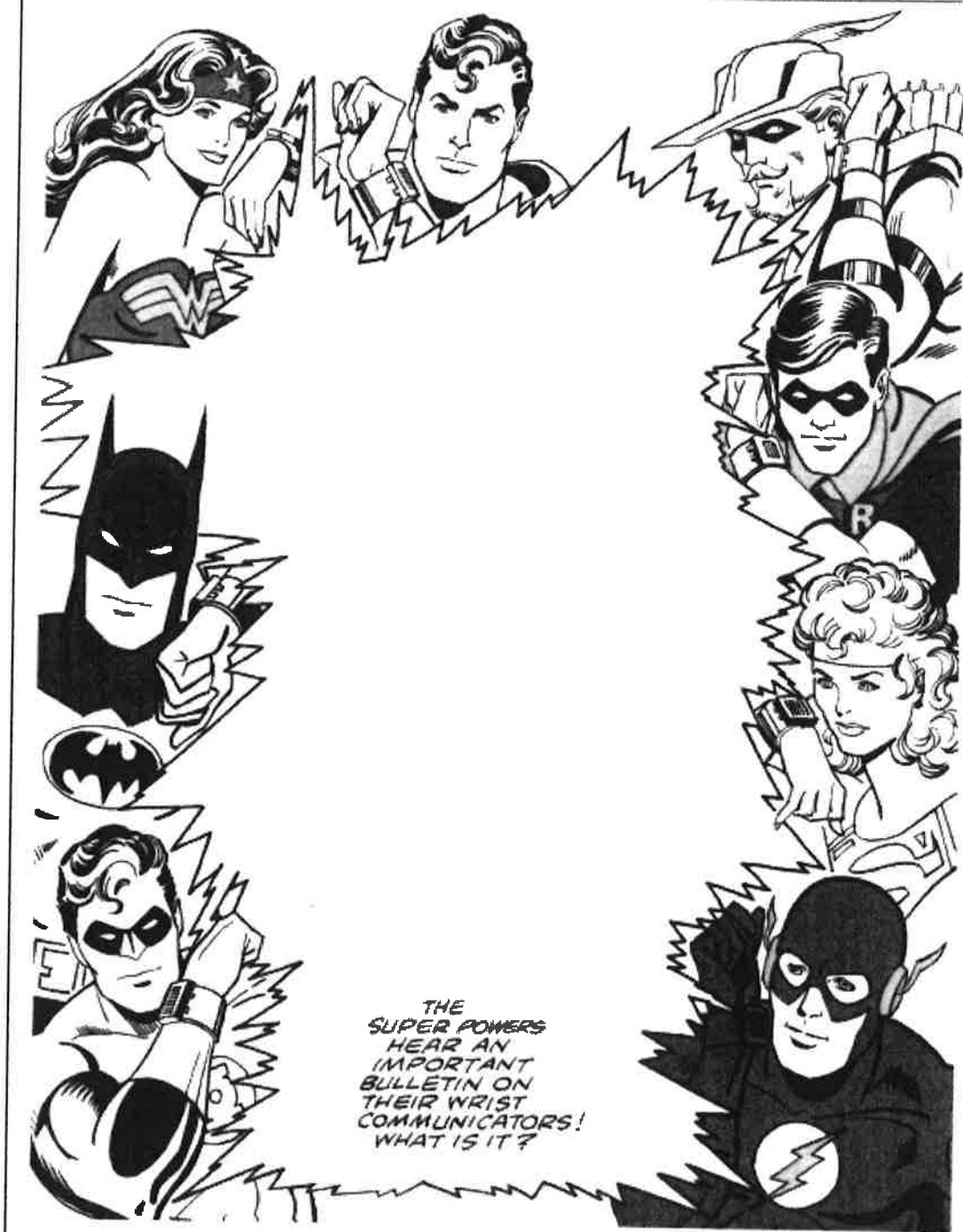
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Third
The ~~Second~~ Anti-Coloring Book

Page #	Activity Page/Recommended Book
1	<i>"What is your earliest memory?"</i>
2	<i>"Can you guess what these children just found?"</i>
3	<i>"The king and queen live in the grandest castle ever imagined."</i>
4	<i>"You have been asked to design new playground equipment for the park."</i>
5	<i>"When you say your prayers what do you pray for?"</i>
6	<i>"Here is the prize-winning entry in the cake decorating contest."</i>
7	<i>"Design costumes and scenery for your favorite fairy tale."</i>
8	<i>"How do you look when you make your funniest face?"</i>
9	<i>"When you hold a seashell up to your ear, what do you think of?"</i>

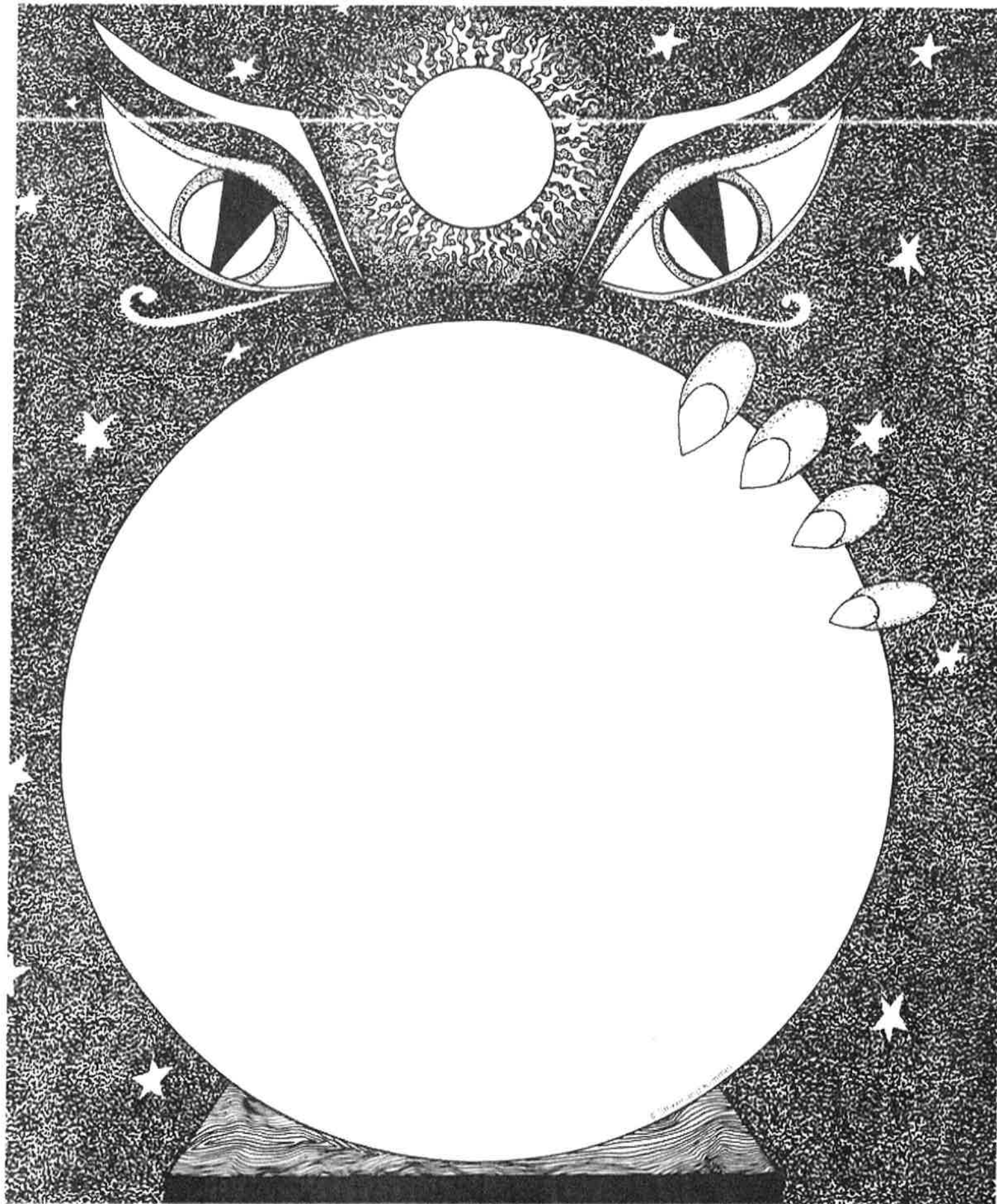
10	<i>"What's the best idea you've ever had?"</i>
11	<i>"You have designed the world's most spectacular new pinball machine."</i>
12	<i>"Did you ever stare at the changing images in a fire?"</i>
13	<i>"Design a T-shirt."</i>
14	<i>"This is the key to _____"</i>
15	<i>"What do you think of when you hear your favorite song?"</i>
16	<i>"Design a bumper sticker to put on your car."</i>
17	<i>"You are a talented jewelry designer. The piece you are working on now is a gift for your mother."</i>

18	<i>"What trick can this great magician do?"</i>
19	<i>"When you're sick in bed, what toys and games do you enjoy playing with?"</i>
20	<i>"What poster will you carry in the protest march?"</i>
21	<p><i>"Make three wishes on this magic lantern."</i></p> <p>Horowitz, Jordan. <u>Aladdin and the Magic Lamp</u>. New York: Cartwheel Books, 1993.</p> <p>Zemach, Margot. <u>The Three Wishes: An Old Story</u>. New York: Harper Collins, 1986.</p>
22	<i>"You are the secretary of the treasury of a new nation. Design its money."</i>
23	<i>"Build a snowman and snowwoman, and dress them in clothes your family has around the house."</i>
24	<i>"Archaeologists must reconstruct a prehistoric animal from these newly discovered bones."</i>

25	<i>"Would you like to make your own movie?"</i>
26	<p><i>"What is the worst thing a dragon might do?"</i></p> <p>Bateson-Hill, Margaret. <u>Lao Lao of Dragon Mountain</u>. New York: Zero to Ten Ltd., 1998.</p> <p>Nolen, Jerdine. <u>Raising Dragons</u>. San Diego: Harcourt Brace & Company, 1998.</p>
27	<p><i>"Can you turn this leaf into something completely different?"</i></p> <p>Buscaglia, Leo. <u>The Fall of Freddie The Leaf</u>. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1982.</p>
28	<p><i>"What would someone have to do to earn this award from you?"</i></p> <p>Clifton, Lucille. <u>Everett Anderson's Friend</u>.</p>
29	<i>"Whose feet are these?"</i>
30	<p><i>"Have you ever had a dream come true?"</i></p> <p>Lionni, Leo. <u>Matthew's Dream</u>. New York: Random House, 1991.</p>
31	<i>"What would have to happen to break your heart?"</i>
32	<p><i>"What has the ship's captain sighted?"</i></p> <p>Cooney, Barbara. <u>Hattie and the Wild Waves</u>. New York: Viking, Published by the Penguin Group, 1990.</p> <p>Lee, Huy Voun. <u>At the Beach</u>. New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1994.</p>

33	<i>"If you family moved, where would you want to go?"</i>
34	<i>"Design your own board game."</i> <u>Jumanji.</u>
35	<i>"What do you daydream about?"</i> Cazet, Denys. <u>Daydreams: Stories and Pictures.</u> New York: Orcahrd Books, 1990. Farmer, Patti. <u>Bartholomew's Dreams.</u> Barron's Educational Services, 1994. Greenfield, Eloise. <u>Daydreamers.</u> New York: The Dial Press, 1981. Keats, Ezra Jack. <u>Dreams.</u> New York: Macmillan Publishing Co., Inc., 1974.
36	<i>"What do you wish for?"</i> United Nations. <u>My Wish for Tomorrow.</u> New York: tambourine Books, 1995.
37	<i>"What amazing tale does this parrot have to tell?"</i>
38	<i>"Knit a pair of crazy socks for your best friend."</i> McElmurry, Jill. <u>Mad About Plaid.</u> New York: Harper Collins Publishers, 2000. Sharratt, Nick. <u>My Mom and Dad Make Me Laugh.</u> Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1994.

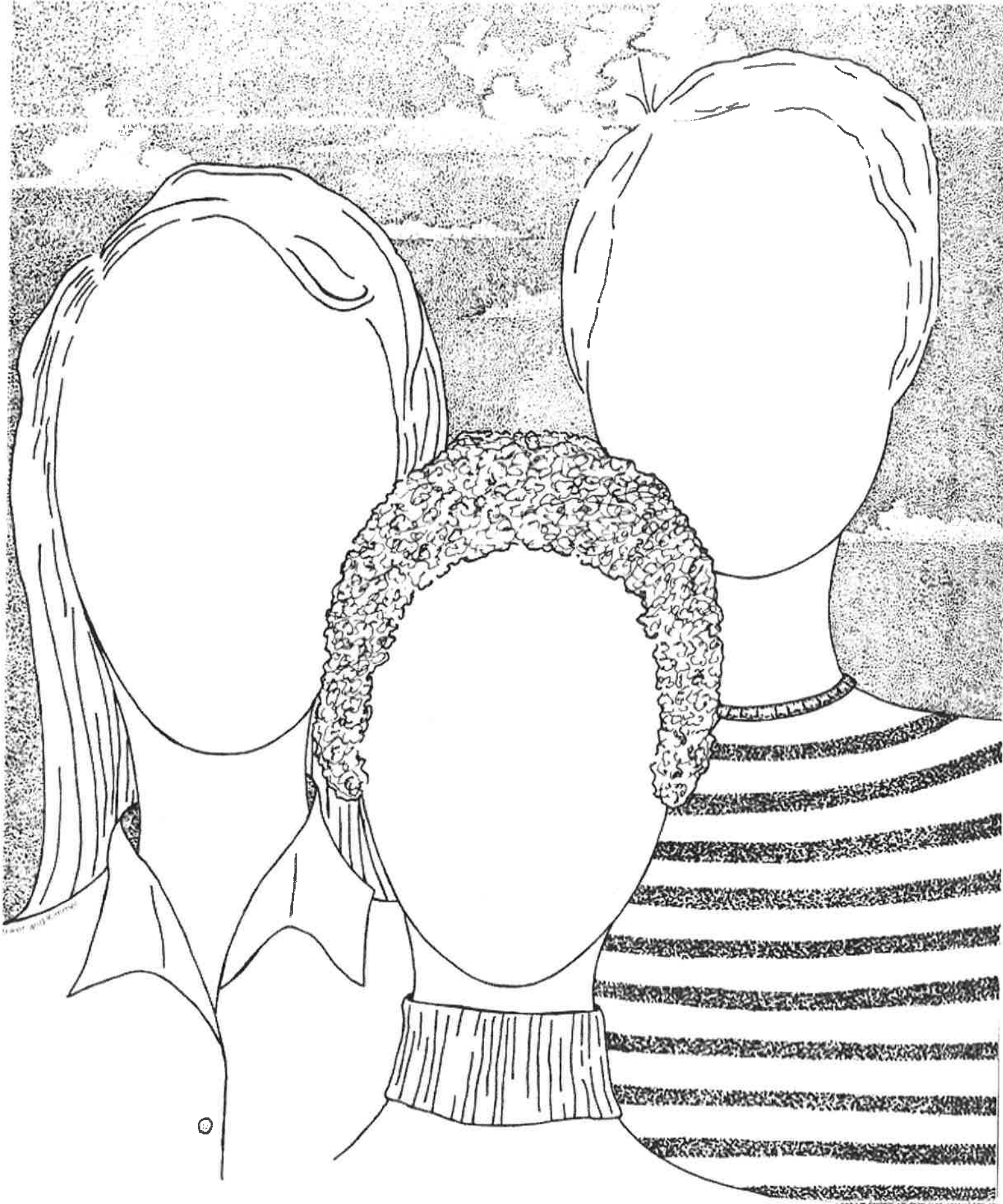
39	<i>"This car can go back in time. Where would you like to go in it?"</i>
40	<i>"Design a billboard to discourage people from smoking."</i>
41	<i>"Your X-ray vision sees what is hidden in the pocket."</i>
42	<p><i>"Who is the winner in the contest for the ugliest person in the world?"</i></p> <p>Crowley, Arthur and Annie Gusman. <u>The Ugly Book</u>. Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1982.</p> <p>Gregorie, Caroline. <u>Uglypuss</u>. New York: Henry Holt and Co., Inc., 1994.</p>
43	<i>"You and your team of divers just discovered buried treasure."</i>
44	<p><i>"What kind of pictures do you like to see?"</i></p> <p>Hest, Amy. <u>Jamaica Louise James</u>. Cambridge, MA: Candlewick Press, 1984.</p>
45	<i>"This person is looking at the most beautiful sight in the world."</i>



Do you see your future in this crystal ball?



Today is your birthday. Inside
this box is the present you
want most in the world.
Can you see it?

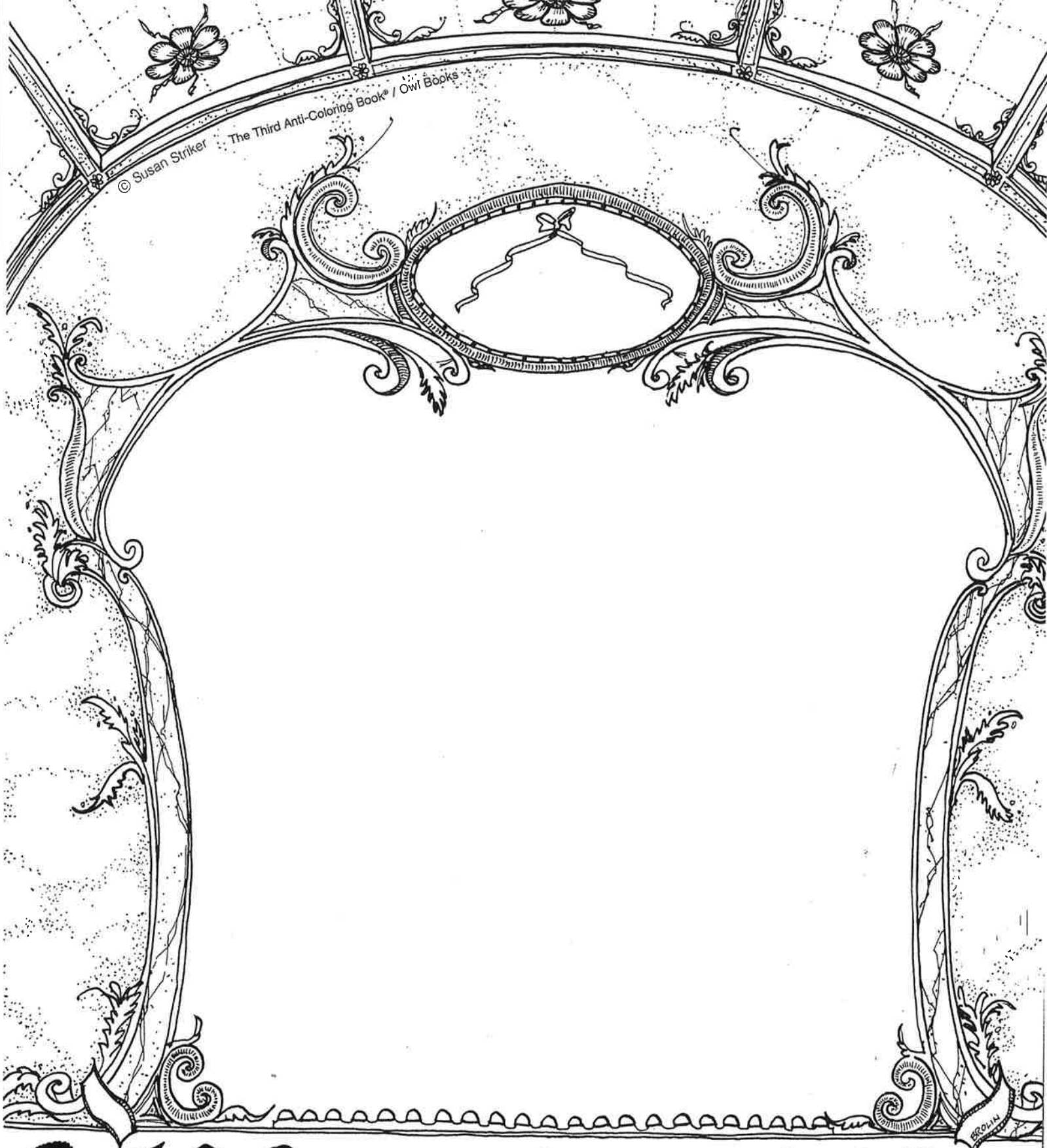


What do people do with their faces to show
how they are feeling?

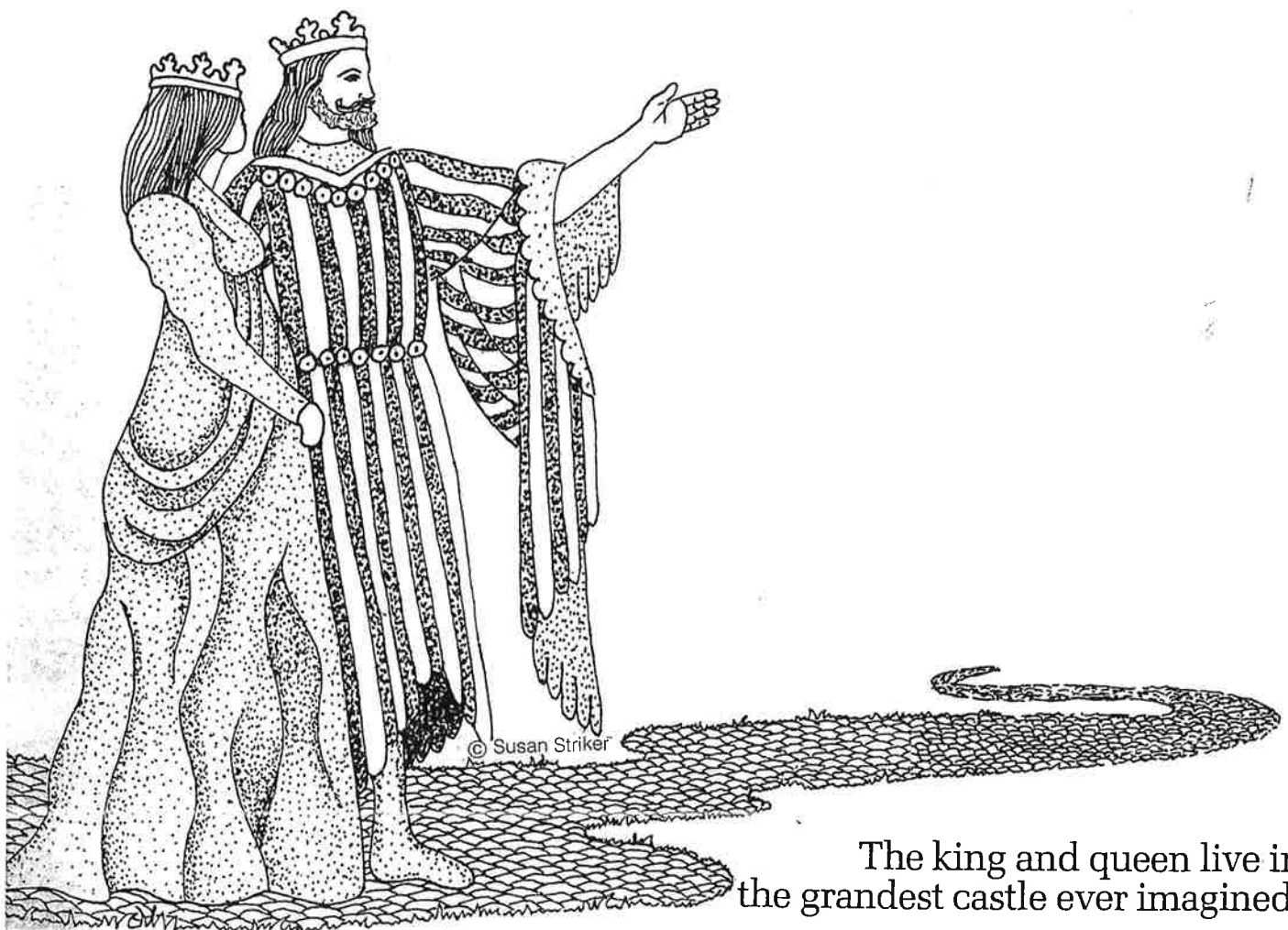
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Here is the prize-winning entry in the cake decorating contest.

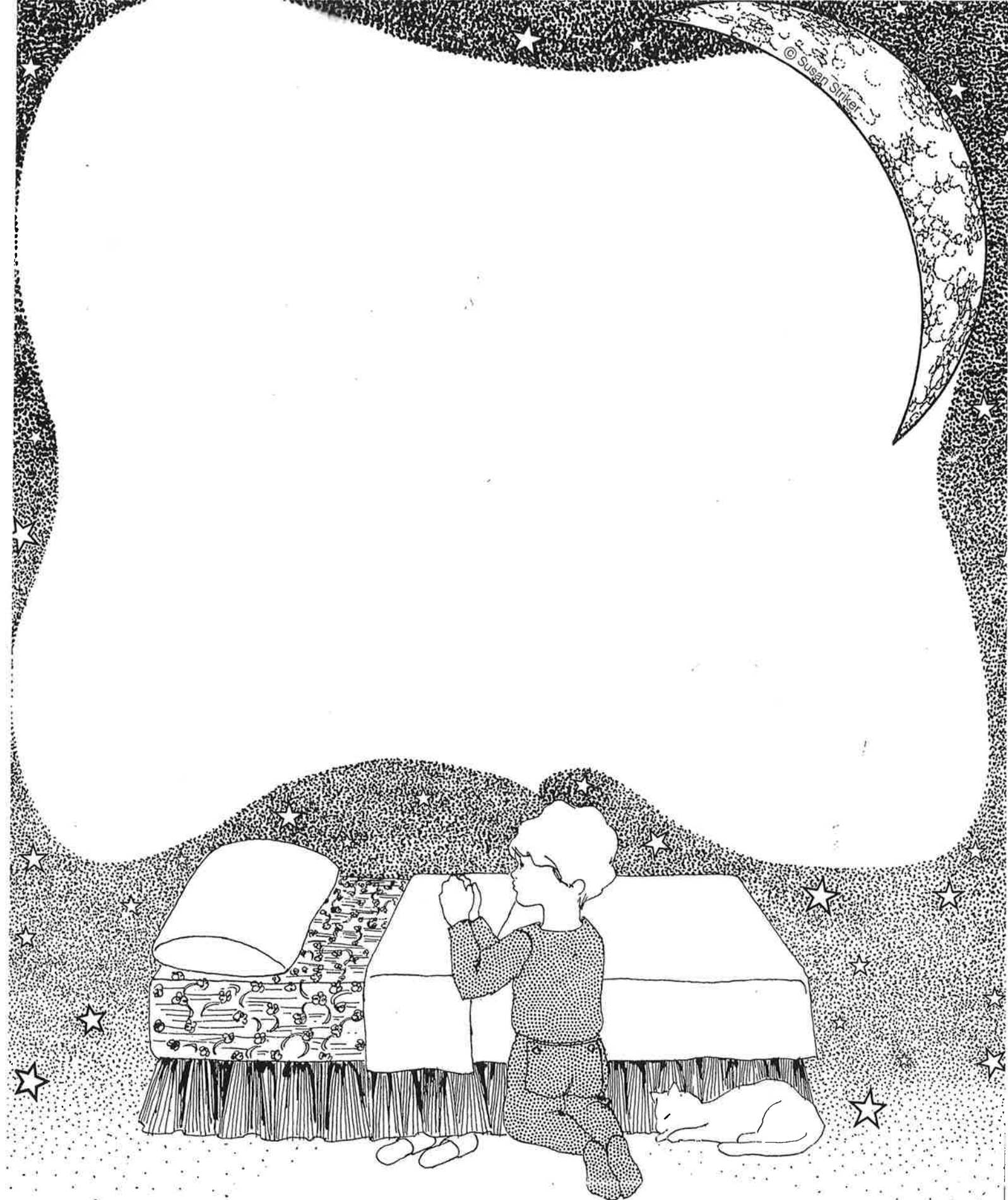
© Susan Striker The Third Anti-Coloring Book® / Owl Books



Design costumes and scenery
for your favorite fairy tale.



The king and queen live in
the grandest castle ever imagined.



*When you say your prayers,
what do you pray for?*

The Second Anti-Coloring Book

Link	Book	Caption
http://www.amazon.com/Aikos-Flowers-Rui-Umezawa/dp/0887764657	Aiko's Flowers Tundra Books, 1999	1. Make a beautiful arrangement of your favorite flowers.
http://www.amazon.com/What-Happens-Your-Food-Flaps/dp/0794506437	Smith, Alistair What Happens to Your Food? Usborne Books, 2003	2. What does it look like inside your stomach after you eat a big meal?
http://www.amazon.com/A-Journey-Paradise-Anne-Siberell/dp/0805012125	Siberell, Anne A Journey to Paradise New York: Henry Holt and Company, 1990	3. Build your idea of a paradise right in your own backyard. Original: What is your idea of Paradise?
http://www.amazon.com/Biggest-Kiss-Paula-Wiseman-Books/dp/1442427698	Walsh, Joanna The Biggest Kiss Simon & Schuster/Paula Wiseman Books, 2011	4. You have just won a contest, and your prize is to kiss anyone. Whom do you choose?
https://www.amazon.com/Drawing-Lessons-Bear-David-McPhail/dp/0316563455/	McPhail, David Drawing Lessons From a Bear 2000	5. If animals could draw, what would their artwork look like?
http://www.amazon.com/Liang-and-the-Magic-Paintbrush-Demi/dp/0316563455/	Liang and the Magic Paintbrush Square Fish, 1988	6. This is a magic brush. What can you do with it?
http://www.amazon.com/There's-a-Nightmare-in-My-Closet-Mayer-Mercer/dp/0140547126	Mayer, Mercer There's a Nightmare in My Closet New York: Dial, 1968	7. Why are people afraid to visit cemeteries at night?
http://www.amazon.com/Mr-Tanen-Trouble-Maryann-Cocca-Lettier/dp/0807553069	Cocca-Lettier, Maryann Mr. Tanen's Tie Trouble Albert Whitman & Company, 2011	8. Wouldn't this person look better in a necktie designed by you?
http://www.amazon.com/Curious-George-Gets-a-Medal-Rey-H-A/dp/0395185599	Rey, H. A. Curious George Gets a Medal HMH Books for Young Readers, 1974	9. Award yourself a medal for what you know you do best.
http://www.amazon.com/My-Place-in-Space-Hirst-Robin-and-Sally-Orchard-Books/dp/0531084590	Hirst, Robin and Sally My Place in Space Orchard Books, 1990	10. Construct a city on another planet.
http://www.amazon.com/Real-Tooth-Fairy-Marilyn-Kaye/dp/0152013350	Kaye, Marilyn The Real Tooth Fairy Voyager Books, 1990	11. What do you think the tooth fairy looks like?
http://www.amazon.com/Toys-Tillog-Jenkins-Emily-Yearling/dp/0385736614	Jenkins, Emily Toys Tillog Yearling, 2008	12. What new project is this toy designer working on?
https://www.amazon.com/Funny-TV-A-Middle-School-Story-Patterson-James/dp/0316301094	Patterson, James Funny TV: A Middle School Story 2015	13. Produce a new TV show. (Need new caption)
http://www.amazon.com/If-You-Went-Away-From-Home-for-a-Long-Time-Who-Portrait-Would-You-Take-With-You-Sheehan-Monica-Love-Is-You-&Me-Little-Simon/dp/1442407654	Sheehan, Monica Love is You & Me Little Simon, 2010	14. If you went away from home for a long time, whose portrait would you take with you?
http://www.amazon.com/Childrens-Garden-Carole-Lexa-Schaefer/dp/0805019588	Schaefer, Carol Lexa In the Children's Garden Henry Holt & Co, 1994	15. The people who built this house are waiting for the garden to be planted before moving in.

	using only things you find on the street?	Iggy Peck Architect Harry N. Abrams, 2007	Peck-Architect-Andrea-Beatty/dp/081091106X http://www.amazon.com/Looking-Down-Steve-Jenkins/dp/0618310983	
27.	What do you see outside an airplane window?	Jenkins, Steve Looking Down HMH Books for Young Readers: Reprint edition (May 19, 2003)		
28.	You are the first person on Mars. Whom - or what - do you meet?	McNaughton, Colin Here Come the Aliens Candlewick Press, 1995	http://www.amazon.com/Here-Come-Aliens-Colin-McNaughton/dp/0744543940	
29.	Would you like to get married some day? What will your wedding be like?	Johnson, Angela The Wedding Scholastic, 1999	http://www.amazon.com/Wedding-Angela-Johnson/dp/0531301397	
30.	Whom do you like to visit?	Stern, Robert A. M. The House that Bob Built Rizzoli, 1991	http://www.amazon.com/House-That-Built-Robert-Stern/dp/084781369	
31.	You are the only one who knows that this living room rug is a magic carpet.	Heller, Nicholas The Front Hall Carpet Greenwillow, 1990	http://www.amazon.com/Front-Hall-Carpet-Nicholas-Heller/dp/068805272X	
32.	What do you think a garden looks like from the eyes of a little insect? OR This bug has just met a new species of bug no one has ever seen before.	Demi Demi's Secret Garden Henry Holt & Co, 1993	http://www.amazon.com/Demi's-Secret-Garden-Demi/dp/0805025537	
33.	Build a castle in the sand.	Nolan, Dennis The Castle Builder Aladdin Paperbacks, 1993	http://www.amazon.com/Castle-Builder-Dennis-Nolan/dp/0689717032	
34.	More and more people are building houses underground. Design one for yourself. Change to: Would you like to live on a houseboat?	Doucet, Sharon Arms Alligator Sue Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2003	http://www.amazon.com/Alligator-Sue-Sharon-Arms-Doucet/dp/0374302189	
35.	What does the spaceship commander see on the screen?	Tolan, Jane Commander Toad Puffin Books, 1996	http://www.amazon.com/Commander-Toad-Space-Jane-Tolan/dp/0698113551	
36.	What do you see when you look through a magnifying glass?	Banya, Istvan Zoom New York: Viking, 1995	http://www.amazon.com/Zoom-Banya-Istvan-Picture-Puffin/dp/0140557741	
37.	Presenting the king and Queen. OR Presenting the king and Queen wearing royal clothing designed by you.	Paterson, Katherine The King's Equal Harper Collins, 1999	http://www.amazon.com/Kings-The-King's-Equal-Chapter-Books/dp/00644420906	
38.	What kind of boat would you like to travel around the world in?	Morrissey, Dean Ship of Dreams Harry N. Abrams, 1994	http://www.amazon.com/Ship-of-Dreams-Morrissey/dp/0810938480	http://www.amazon.com/Magic-Boat-Demi/dp/0805011412