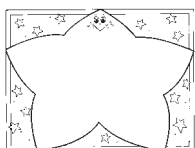


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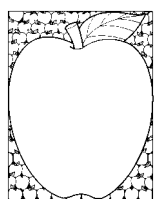
7. Sparkling Star



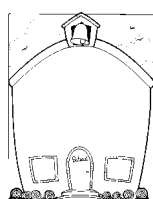
10. Radiant Rainbow



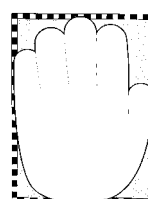
13. Lively Leaf



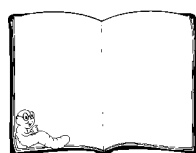
16. Adorable Apple



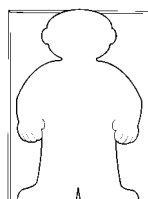
19. Snazzy Schoolhouse



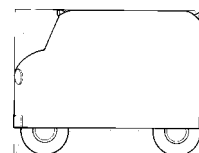
22. Helping Hand



25. Bookworm Book



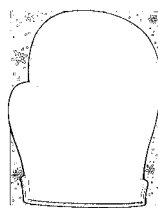
28. Darling Doll



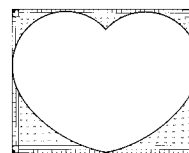
31. Busy Bus



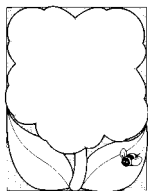
34. Sweet Snowman



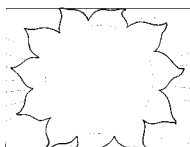
37. Marvelous Mitten



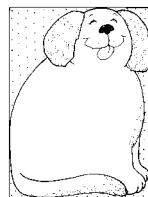
40. Happy Heart



43. Fragrant Flower



46. Summer Sun



49. Delightful Dog



52. Cuddly Cat



55. Clever Cow



58. Precious Pig



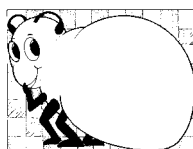
61. Friendly Frog



64. Bubbly Bird



67. Merry Mouse



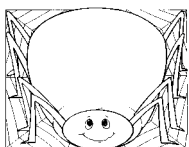
70. Awesome Ant



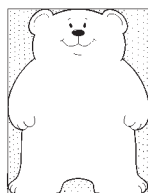
73. Bashful Bug



76. Beautiful Butterfly



79. Silly Spider



82. Brave Bear



85. Enormous Elephant



88. Opulent Octopus



91. Wonderful Whale

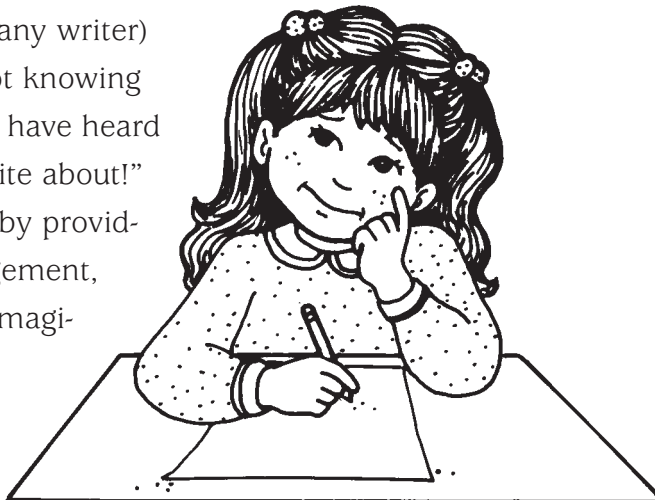


94. Dapper Dinosaur

Writing Center Prompts

Introduction

There is nothing worse for young writers (or any writer) than staring at a blank sheet of paper and not knowing where to begin. As a teacher, you most likely have heard students complain, “I don’t know what to write about!” One way you can inspire children to write is by providing them with lots of modeling and encouragement, along with motivational ideas to spark their imaginations and get their creative juices flowing.



Writing Center Prompts is a resource that will help you to create an exciting writing center in your classroom. You’ll find great story ideas and prompts, writing frames, and related book titles that will inspire even the most reluctant writer. The writing ideas allow children to work at their own level and pace, experience success in a variety of writing formats, and develop confidence in their writing ability.



How to Use This Book

Writing Center Prompts is filled with special stationery your students will love! Thirty fun shapes are presented with three pages for each shape—a writing ideas page, a blank shape page, and a lined shape page.

Writing Ideas Page

This page includes a list of books related to a particular theme, several story starters and prompts, and one or two writing frames. Here are some suggestions for using each section.

- *Literature Connection*

The books listed in this section are perfect for reading aloud and for inspiring your class to write a variety of stories, poems, or letters to book characters. Keep these books (and others that have the same theme) in a tub at the writing center, along with the shape stationery.

- *Story Ideas and Prompts*

Several writing prompts are provided to encourage students to try different forms of writing, including narrative, descriptive, expository, persuasive, and creative writing. At least one prompt for each shape is directly related to a book in the Literature Connection. Look for these icons before the prompts, and use them to create a balanced writing program:

N Narrative Writing

D Descriptive Writing

E Expository Writing

P Persuasive Writing

C Creative Writing

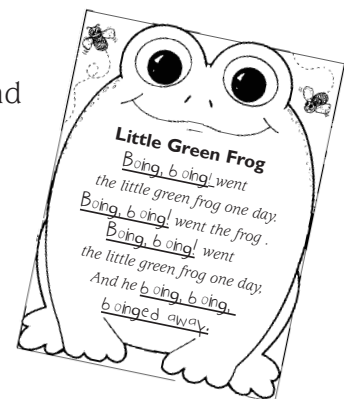
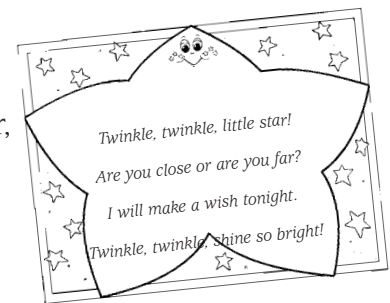
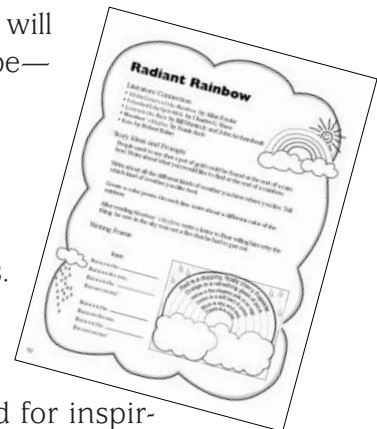
How can you get your students to write? The key is to provide plenty of modeling. Before assigning children to the writing center, explain the writing prompts carefully, and do several examples together. In addition, create word lists and encourage students to refer to a classroom word wall when they write independently.

- *Writing Frames*

One or two open-ended writing frames are provided to support beginning writers. More experienced writers will enjoy using the frames as springboards for their own ideas.

The frames can be used in a variety of ways:

- Write the frame on a chart and have students copy the frame and fill it in with their own words.
- Write the frame on the shape before reproducing it. Estimate how much room students will need. Some frames are long and may not fit on one page, so you may need to write out the frame over several pages.
- Write the frame on regular lined paper, so students have more space to write. Students can use the shape as a cover for their “book.”

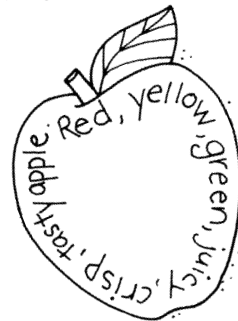
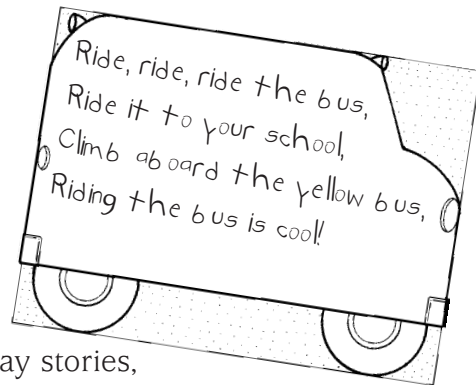


Using the Shape Pages

Blank Shape Pages

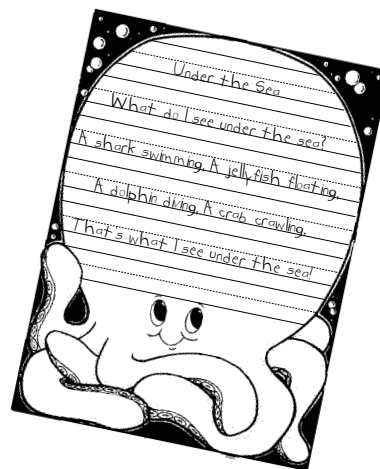
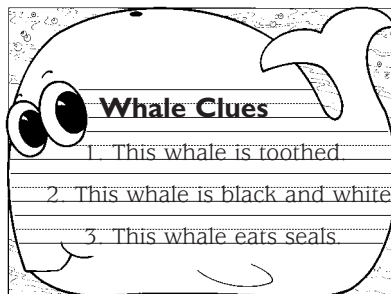
The uses for these charming pages are endless! The fun shapes will enliven and enhance the writing activities for students. The pages can be used as is, or individual shapes can be cut out. Here are some suggestions:

- Have students write directly on the shapes to display stories, poems, and other writings.
- Have students use the pages to illustrate their writing.
- Create shape books. Use one of the pages for a cover, and then staple the student's work together.
- Let students use the pages to write themed book reviews.
- Staple together several seasonal pages (such as the snowman) to create a seasonal journal for each student.
- Have students copy poems on the pages, and place the pages in a box to make a classroom poetry collection.
- Use appropriate shapes (such as the apple, star, sun, or heart) for letting students create concrete poems.
- Use the pages to write notes or invitations to parents.
- Write notes of praise or encouragement, and pass them out to every student.
- Write phonics words on related shapes (such as short *a* words on the cat shape or *ar* words on the star shape), and let students use the words for word work.
- Use the shapes as patterns for art projects or room decorations.
- Use the pages for creating worksheets.
- Use the pages to write weekly or monthly newsletters.



Lined Shape Pages

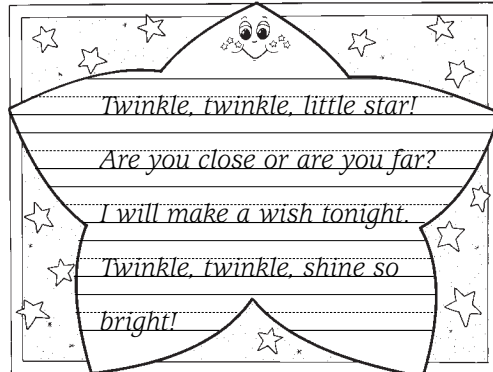
The lined shape pages are ideal for all writing activities as well as handwriting practice.



Sparkling Star

Literature Connection

- *Draw Me a Star* by Eric Carle
- *The First Starry Night* by Joan Shaddox Ison
- *Laura's Star* by Klaus Baumgart
- *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star* by Iza Trapani



Story Ideas and Prompts

- C** Place gold or silver star stickers on black paper to create a constellation. Write a story telling how the constellation was formed in the sky.
- E** Write a report about stars. Here are some questions you might answer:
 - *Why do stars twinkle?*
 - *Why can't stars be seen during the day?*
- N** After reading *Laura's Star*, write a story about your own special star. Use star stickers to decorate the story.
- D** What makes you special? What makes you a star? Write about your “star qualities”!
- C** Read Iza Trapani's version of *Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star*. Write a new version of the song.

Writing Frames

A Shining Star

_____ is a shining star!
_____ is a star because _____.
Here are the ways this “star” shines bright:

Star Light, Star Bright

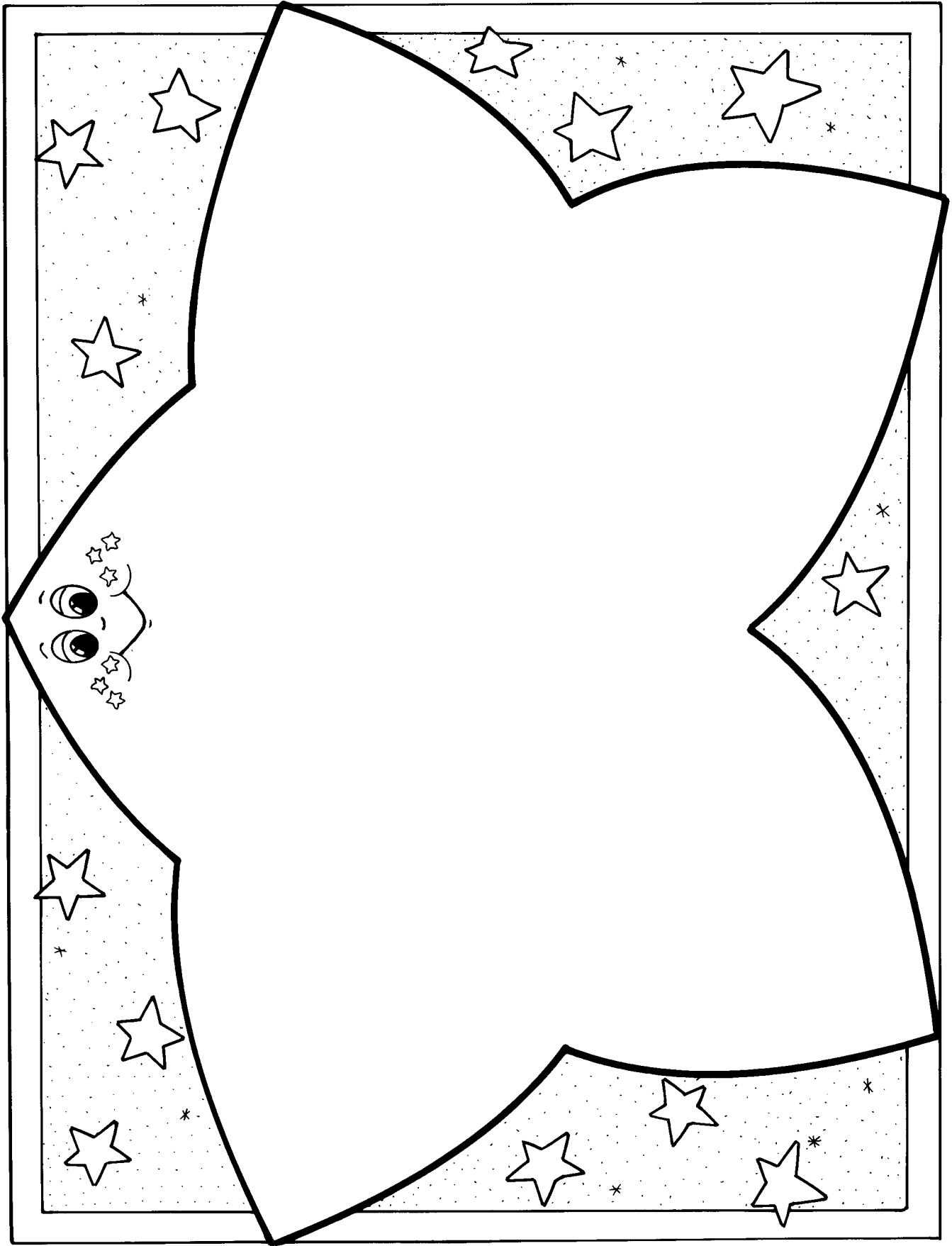
Star light, star bright,
I will make a wish tonight.

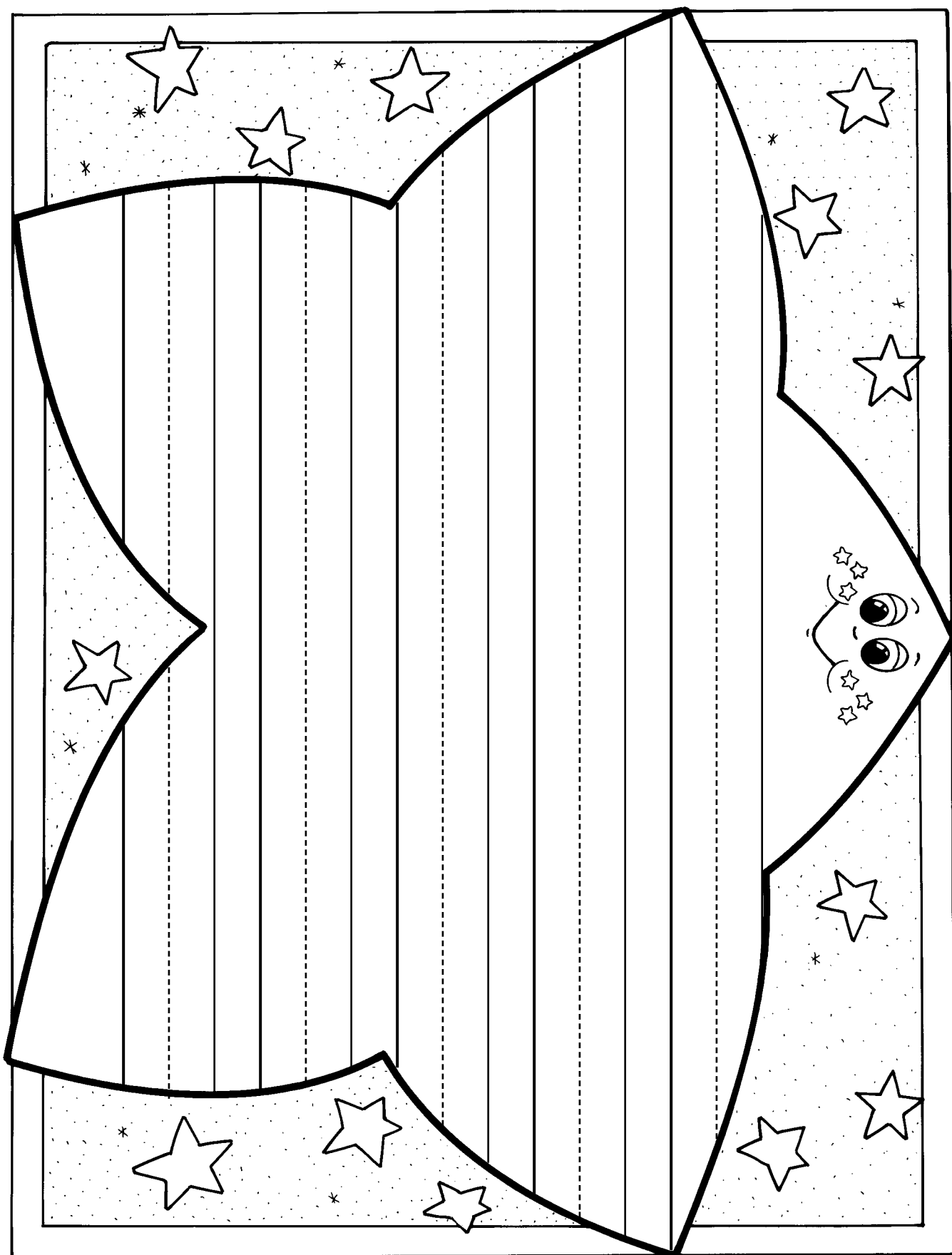
I wish _____.

I wish _____.

I wish _____.

And I wish my wishes come true!





Radiant Rainbow

Literature Connection

- *All the Colors of the Rainbow* by Allan Fowler
- *Listen to the Rain* by Bill Martin Jr. and John Archambault
- *Moonbear's Skyfire* by Frank Asch
- *Rain* by Robert Kalan



Story Ideas and Prompts

- N** People used to say that a pot of gold could be found at the end of a rainbow. Write about what you would like to find at the end of a rainbow.
- P** Write about all the different kinds of weather you have where you live. Tell which kind of weather you like best.
- C** Create a color poem. On each line, write about a different color of the rainbow.
- E** After reading *Moonbear's Skyfire*, write a letter to Bear telling him why the thing he saw in the sky was not a fire that he had to put out.

Writing Frame

Rain

Rain on the _____,

Rain on the tree,

Rain on the _____,

But not on me!

Rain on the _____,

Rain on the sea.

Rain on the _____,

But not on me!

