



An Activity Guide for  
Classrooms, Book Groups,  
and Families

*By Elaine Vickers*



For three ten-year-old girls, their once simple worlds are starting to feel too big.

Painfully shy Grace dreads starting fifth grade now that her best friend has moved away.

Jada hopes she'll stop feeling so alone if she finds the mother who left years ago.

And Malia fears the arrival of her new baby sister will forever change the family she loves.

When the girls each find a mysterious treasure box in their library and begin to fill the box with their own precious things, they

start to feel less alone. But it's up to Grace, Jada, and Malia to take the treasures and turn them into something more: true friendship.



“An endlessly endearing story of three girls’ pursuit of friendship and the beauty and challenge of what it means to be 10.” –Kirkus Reviews (starred review)

“Debut novelist Vickers has created three appealing, diverse characters with distinct talents and voices. A sweet story of friendship.” –School Library Journal

“Themes of sharing, trust, and family never overshadow the story’s heart: a natural longing for friendship and the unfettered joy of finding it.” –Publishers Weekly

“Endearing. The setting and gracefully embedded ethnic differences add freshness to a story with a message that will stand the test of time: friendship is like magic.” –Booklist

“Perfect for young readers with creative minds.” –Deseret News

LIKE MAGIC

By Elaine Vickers

[www.elainevickers.com](http://www.elainevickers.com)

HarperCollins Children’s Books

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## Paint Your Own Butterflies

### What you need:

A window

Any color paper (light colored paper works best)

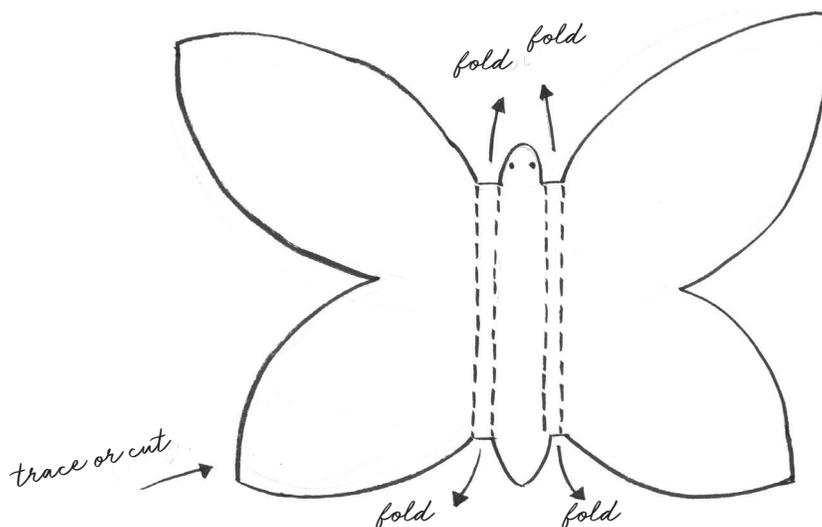
Colored pencils, markers, watercolors, glitter, etc

Butterfly template (below)

Thread (optional)

### What to do:

1. Ask an adult to copy this page and cut out the template, OR, simply fold back all the pages except this one (to keep your activity book intact).
2. Tape the template to a bright sunny window. Take a piece of paper, place it over the taped template, and trace.
3. Color the butterfly using markers, colored pencils, watercolors, or whatever you like! Look at pictures of actual butterflies to see what kind of markings they have. If you want, you can color both sides of the paper so they match.
4. Fold the butterfly's wings up as indicated on the template to make the wings stand up from the body.
5. Bonus: You can put your butterfly on a string to make it flutter in the sky!



## Strawberry Peach Surprise Ice Cream

*“Jada and Patrick . . . talked about the things they wanted to find in the maze of boxes—bracelets and beads for Jada, books and running shoes for Patrick. The ice-cream maker for both of them, so they could make their specialty: strawberry-peach surprise. (The surprise was that they actually agreed on the best flavor of homemade ice cream).”*

### *What you need:*

- 1 cup of chopped strawberries, stems removed
- 2 cups of finely chopped peeled peaches
- 1 ½ cups sugar - divided
- Juice of ½ lemon
- 2 large eggs
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 cups heavy or whipping cream



### *What to do:*

1. Combine the peaches, strawberries, and ½ cup of sugar and the lemon juice in a bowl. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours; stir every 30 mins.
2. Remove the peaches and strawberries from the refrigerator and drain the juice into another bowl. Cover and return the fruit to the refrigerator.
3. In a big bowl, whisk the eggs until light and fluffy. Slowly whisk in the remaining 1 cup sugar, a little at a time, then whisk until completely blended. Add in the cream and milk, and whisk. Stir in the fruit juice.
4. Transfer the mixture to an ice cream maker and freeze following the manufacturer's instructions.
5. About 2 minutes before the mixture is done, add the chilled peaches and strawberries and keep mixing until the ice cream is ready. Enjoy! Freeze the leftovers... if you have any!



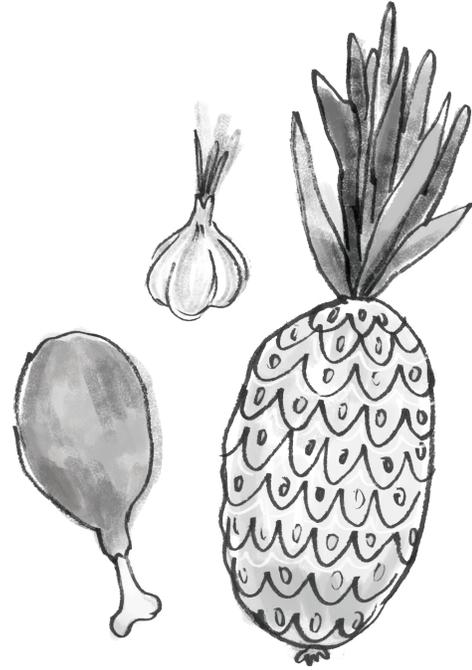
Makes generous 1 quart.

## Huli Huli Chicken

*“Malia didn’t know many words in Hawaiian, but she knew ‘huli’ meant ‘turn,’ and that was how they made the chicken. Since she was very small, Malia had loved to watch her dad painting on the flavor with his big basting brush as the chicken turned...‘What do you think,’ he’d ask. ‘Should I huli some more?’ Malia would nod, even though it tasted perfect, and he’d pick her up and spin her around.”*

### *What you need:*

- 1 adult to help you with the grilling
- 2 ½ pounds chicken
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- ½ cup ketchup
- ½ cup soy sauce
- 1 tsp garlic
- 1 tsp fresh chopped ginger
- ⅓ cup chicken broth



### *What to do:*

1. Mix all the ingredients except the chicken in a small bowl to make a marinade. Save ½ cup of the marinade for later. Take the rest and put it in a 1-gallon-sized plastic resealable bag. Put the chicken in the bag. Seal the bag and shake the chicken around in it. Make sure all the chicken is covered in the marinade. Refrigerate the chicken for 8 hours or overnight.
2. You can cook the chicken on an outdoor grill or a grill pan on the stove. If you are using an outdoor grill, ask an adult to use tongs and a paper towel covered in oil to coat the rack. If you’re using a grill pan, put a little oil on the pan. This helps the chicken to not stick.
3. Grill the chicken on medium heat for 6-8 mins on each side. Use the marinade you saved and a kitchen brush to put more sauce on the chicken as it cooks. Make sure the inside of the chicken is 165°F before you take it off the grill.
4. Serve hot with rice.

## Answers to Like Magic's Top 5 Science Questions

(Plus a couple of experiments to try on your own!)

*Grace says only moths come from cocoons, not butterflies. Is that true?*

Yes! A cocoon is a silk casing that moths and other insects spin to protect themselves during metamorphosis. A chrysalis seems similar, but instead of silk, it's actually a hard skin made of protein that appears after the caterpillar attaches itself to a leaf. So a cocoon is a separate covering and chrysalis is a hardened skin of the animal itself!



*One of the first things Jada looks for when she gets to Salt Lake City is the Great Salt Lake. How much salt is in the Great Salt Lake? And why is the lake so salty?*

The Great Salt Lake has about 4.9 billion tons of salt dissolved in it. That's a lot of salt! The reason it's so salty is because there are lots of tributaries (rivers and streams) that flow into it, but nothing ever flows out. Even fresh water has a little salt in it, so there's always salt coming in that just sticks around when the water evaporates.

### Try It Yourself

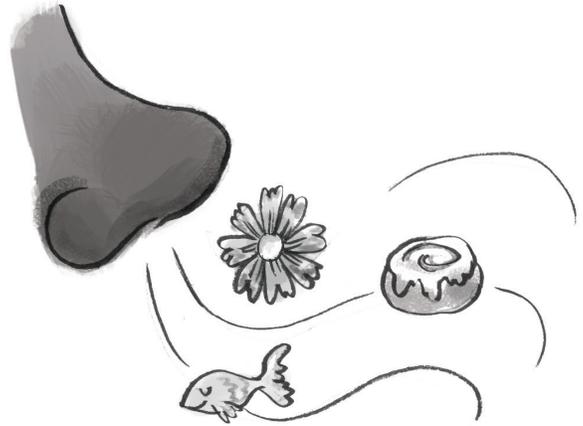


Have you ever noticed that it's easier to float in salt water (like the ocean) than fresh water? That's because salt water is more dense, which results in a greater buoyant force that makes things float. To see this for yourself, get a glass of water and gently drop an egg in. It sinks, right? Now see if you can dissolve enough salt in the water to make the egg float. (You may want to take the egg out so you can stir things up.)

How much salt did it take? Do you think it would work if you dissolved other substances like sugar instead of salt? Why or why not?

*Everybody in the restaurant can smell when Malia's huli-huli sauce starts to burn. How do our noses know?*

Our noses are actually pretty amazing! They help us breathe by bringing air molecules into our bodies—and that's exactly how they help us smell too. Your nose contains special cells called olfactory receptor cells that can recognize different molecules called odorants. What does that mean? As the air molecules come into your body, those special cells are able to recognize some of them and send a signal to your brain.



How many odorants can you smell? Well, scientists are now saying the human nose can recognize around one trillion different odors, meaning it knows the difference between one trillion different molecules that might be finding their way up your nose. (This also means that there are actual molecules of whatever you're smelling inside your nose! When you smell fresh bread or flowers or soap, there are actual molecules of those things going inside your nose. Unfortunately, this is true for less pleasant smells too...)

*Malia, Jada, and Grace all survive a windstorm in the story. How does the wind blow things around if it's just air? And why does it make me cold, even when it's warm outside?*

Air is made of molecules, and generally, these molecules are moving all the time in all different directions, colliding with everything (including our bodies!), and bouncing all over the place. Every time one of those collisions happens, there's a little force or push that results. In a room where the air seems still, those collisions are happening equally all over your body, so you don't notice it. When the air molecules are all moving the same direction, the collisions all push the same way. That can be a really powerful force—and that's what we call wind!

As for the question of why wind makes you cold, it comes back to that same idea of air molecules moving around. As they move, they sort of mix

things together, including heat. So if your body is giving off heat (which it is, anytime the air around you is cooler than your body temperature), the wind is blowing away the warm air near your body, mixing things up and making you give off that heat more quickly. And the more heat your body gives up to the air around it, the cooler you feel!

### *Try It Yourself*

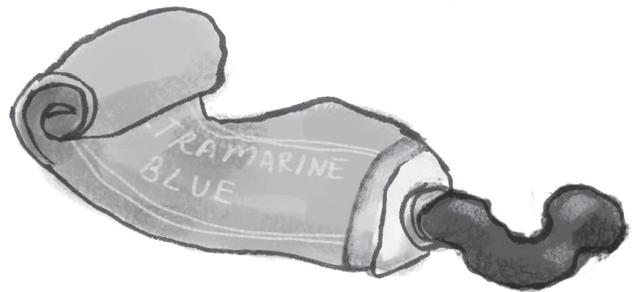


Get two little bowls of something hot (like soup) and two little bowls of something cold (like ice cream). Set one bowl of each in front of a large fan and leave one bowl of each where the air will be still. Now that you know that wind doesn't necessarily make things cold (it just mixes up the air and the heat), make some predictions. Which soup will cool down more quickly? Which ice cream will melt first? Now you're ready to make some observations and do some taste-tests every few minutes. What happened? Was your prediction correct? How else could you experiment with wind?

*When Jada opens the paint tube, paint starts squirting out on its own. Does that really happen at higher elevations? Why?*

Yes! Lots of things puff up or even explode at higher altitudes because the higher you go, the lower the air pressure. So why does that happen? Well, remember the air molecules that are always colliding with everything? Air pressure is the force of those collisions on a surface.

If something is packaged at a lower altitude, there are more molecules and more of those tiny collisions. If we then take our package to a higher



elevation where the air is thinner, there's now more pressure (from more molecules and more collisions) inside the package than the air around the package. Air always flows from higher pressure to lower pressure—and if it has a chance to do that quickly by popping out of the paint tube like it does on Jada, that's exactly what it will do.



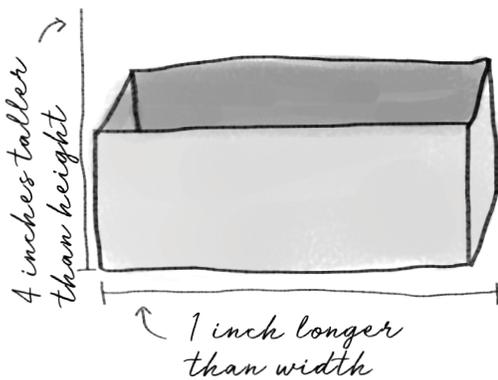
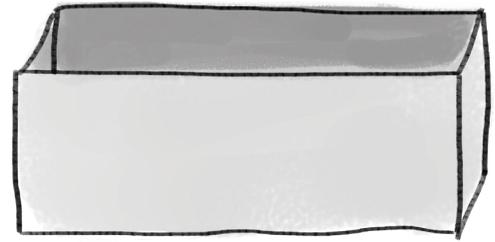
## Make Your Own Harp

### What you need:

- A strong cardboard box
- Two pieces of stiff cardboard
- Clear glue
- Strong scissors
- Ruler
- Pen or pencil
- Rubber bands

### What to do:

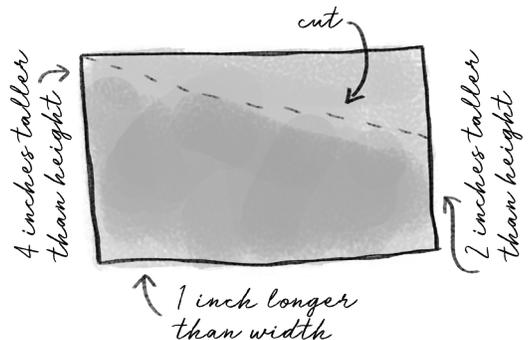
1. Choose a cardboard box that is the right size for your rubber bands to stretch across. You might have to experiment to find one that is the right size. Make sure it's a strong box so that the bands don't bend the sides at all. It should also be wider than it is tall, like a shoebox.

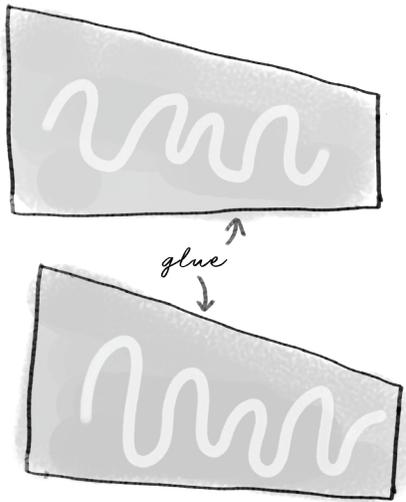


2. Real harps have a part called the neck. It's a long piece that holds the strings of a harp in place. You will make one out of the sheets of strong cardboard. With the box placed on the table so the open part is facing the ceiling, measure the width of your box. Then measure the height. The neck should be 1 inch longer than the width of your

box and 4 inches taller than the height.

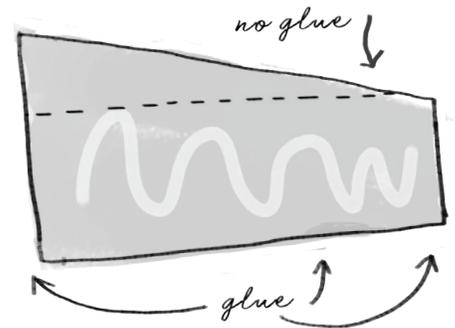
3. On the piece of strong cardboard, measure out two rectangles using the dimensions you just took from your box. Cut out the rectangles.





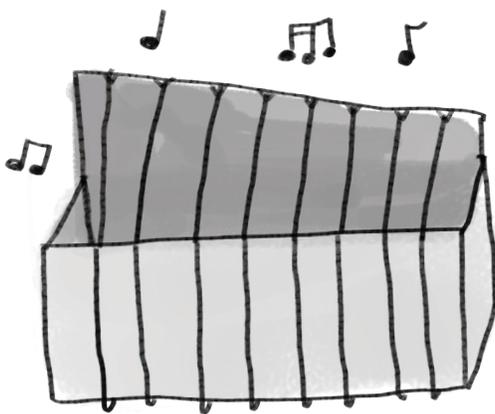
4. Draw a line from one end of the long side of the cardboard to the other. It should slope down so that one side of the cardboard is 4 inches taller than your box and the other side is 2 inches taller than your box. Do the same to the second piece of cardboard. Cut along that line to make a sloped edge.

6. Glue the two cardboard pieces together.



side of the glued cardboard pieces, measure one inch increments. At each of these spots, cut a little v shape. These little vs will hold your rubber bands in place. The amount of vs you can cut will depend on how long your cardboard is.

7. On the sloped



8. Put glue on one side of the neck. Make sure not to put the glue above the highest point of the smaller side. With the cardboard box open to the ceiling, place the neck against the back of the box so that the sloped end with the vs is facing up. Press it to secure the glue. You might need to hold it for a little while to let the glue dry.

9. Make sure the glue is totally dry. Then stretch your rubber bands so that they go around the box and settle into the little vs. You will have to wiggle them around a bit to

make sure they are evenly placed around the box.

10. You can now play songs on your harp by plucking your rubber band “strings.” See if you can play some of your favorite songs!

## Draw an Oak

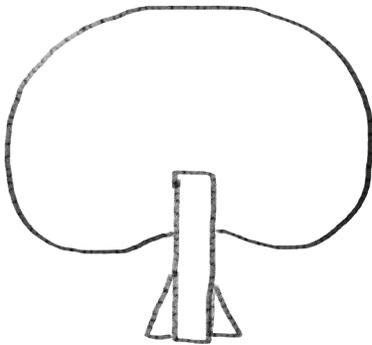


Their leaves are long with many lobes.

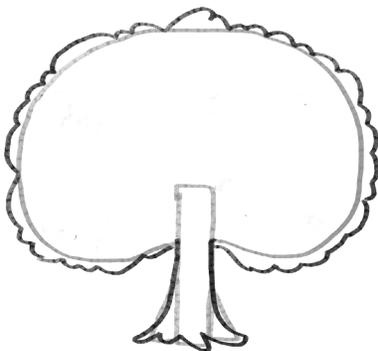
Oaks have big crowns and sturdy trunks. Their roots spread out to keep them upright.



Oak trees produce acorns.



1. Start with a large half circle to make the crown. Create a sloping trunk with a rectangle and two triangles. When you are drawing a tree, draw the basic shape first. You can erase the lines you don't need.



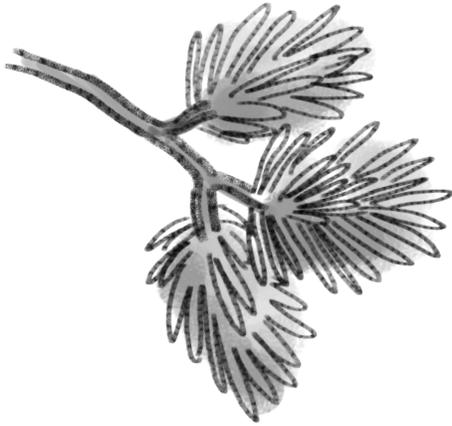
2. Next, draw the outline of the leaves and roots coming from the trunk.



3. Then put in a few leaves and branches here and there. If you draw every leaf, it will look too busy.

## Draw an Evergreen

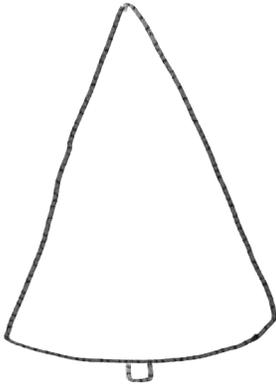
Evergreen trees have long sharp leaves called needles.



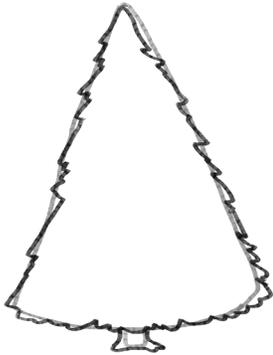
Some evergreens produce pinecones.



1. Start with a cone shape with a small rectangle at the bottom.



2. Like with the oak, draw the outline over the shapes and erase what you don't need later. Make jagged little lines to indicate needles.



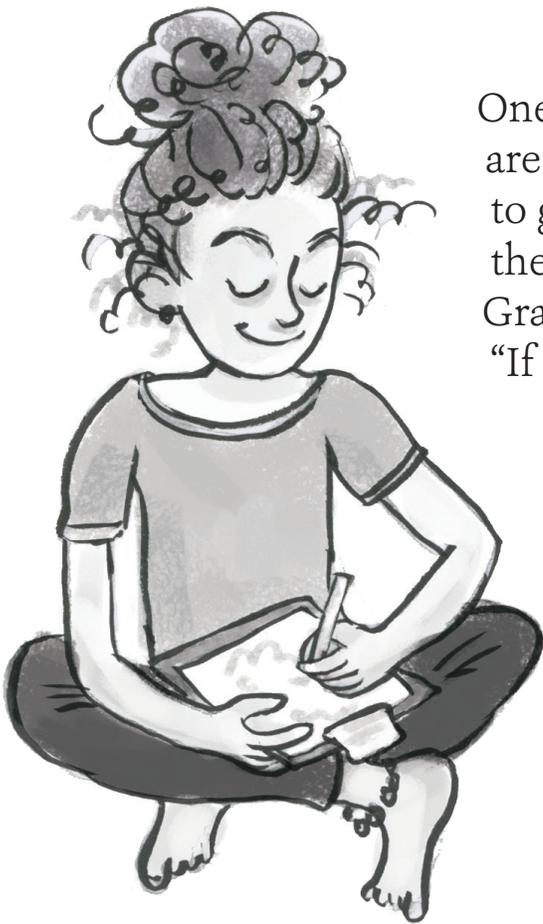
3. Finally, put in more lines on the inside of the tree. Make them tighter together at the top and looser at the bottom to show the depth of the tree.



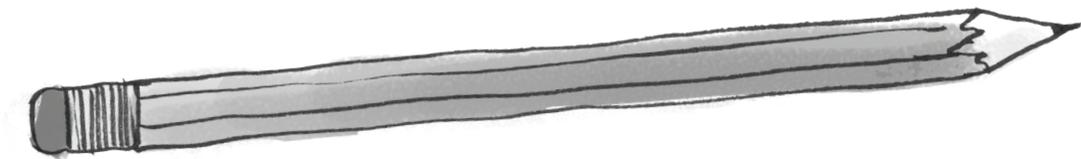
## Riddles

I have many feathers to help me fly.  
I have a body and head, but I'm not alive.  
It is your strength which determines how far I go.  
You can hold me in your hand, but I'm never thrown.  
What am I?

(Hint: You'll find one of these in *Like Magic*.)

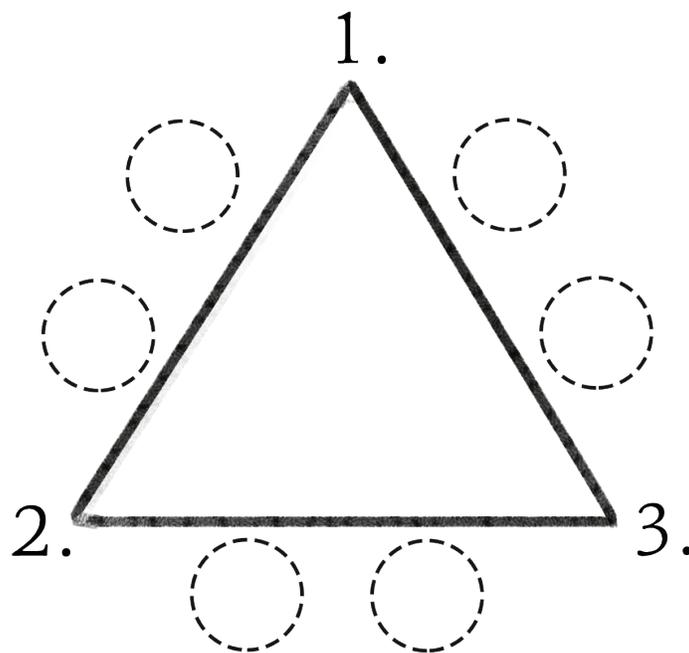


One day, Jada asks Malia how old her three cousins are that are moving in across the street. "You'll have to guess," Malia says. "Here's your clue: if I multiply their ages by each other, the answer is 72." Jada and Grace decide they need another hint, so Malia says, "If I add their ages together, it's the same as the number on their house." Jada and Grace run to look at the house number, but when they do the math, it's still not enough information. "I'll give you one more hint," says Malia. "The oldest one is a really good singer." Now Grace and Jada can solve the puzzle! How do they do it? And how old are the cousins?



## Riddles

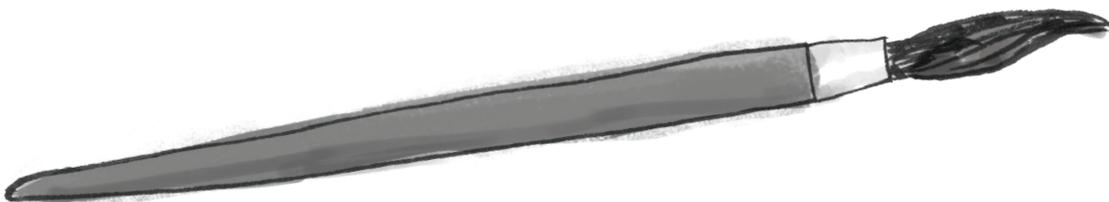
Since there are three main characters in this book, let's do a triangle riddle. On the triangle below, can you arrange the numbers 4-9 (2 per side) so the numbers along each side add up to 17? For an even better challenge, draw another triangle and try to figure out how to arrange the numbers 1-9 so that each side adds up to 20!



For hints and answers to the riddles, go to [elainevickers.com/answers](http://elainevickers.com/answers).

But first, try your best to work them out on your own! The harder you work, the better you'll feel when you figure them out. I know you can do it!

And for more fun math and logic puzzles, have an adult help you search online, or check out *The Moscow Puzzles: 359 Mathematical Recreations* by Boris Kordemsky.



## How to Fold a Paper Star

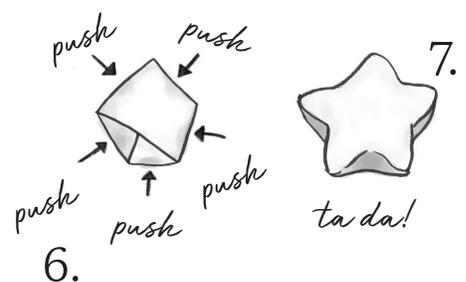
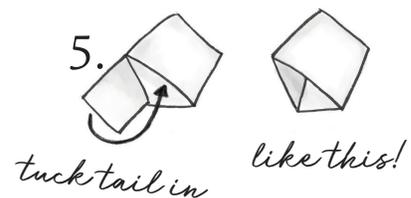
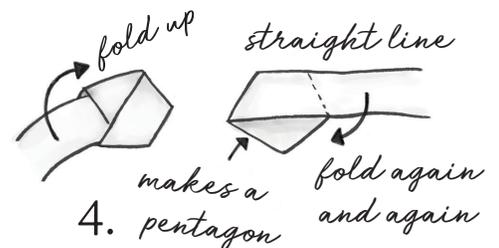
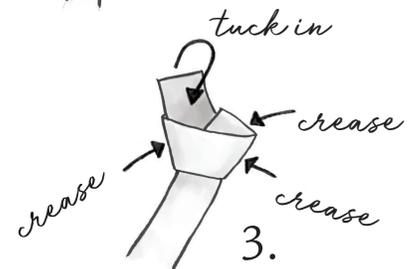
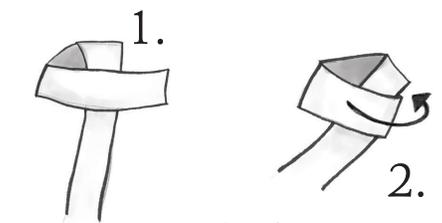
*"[Grace and Katie had] folded paper stars and wished on them, then tucked them between the floorboards of the reading attic for safekeeping."*

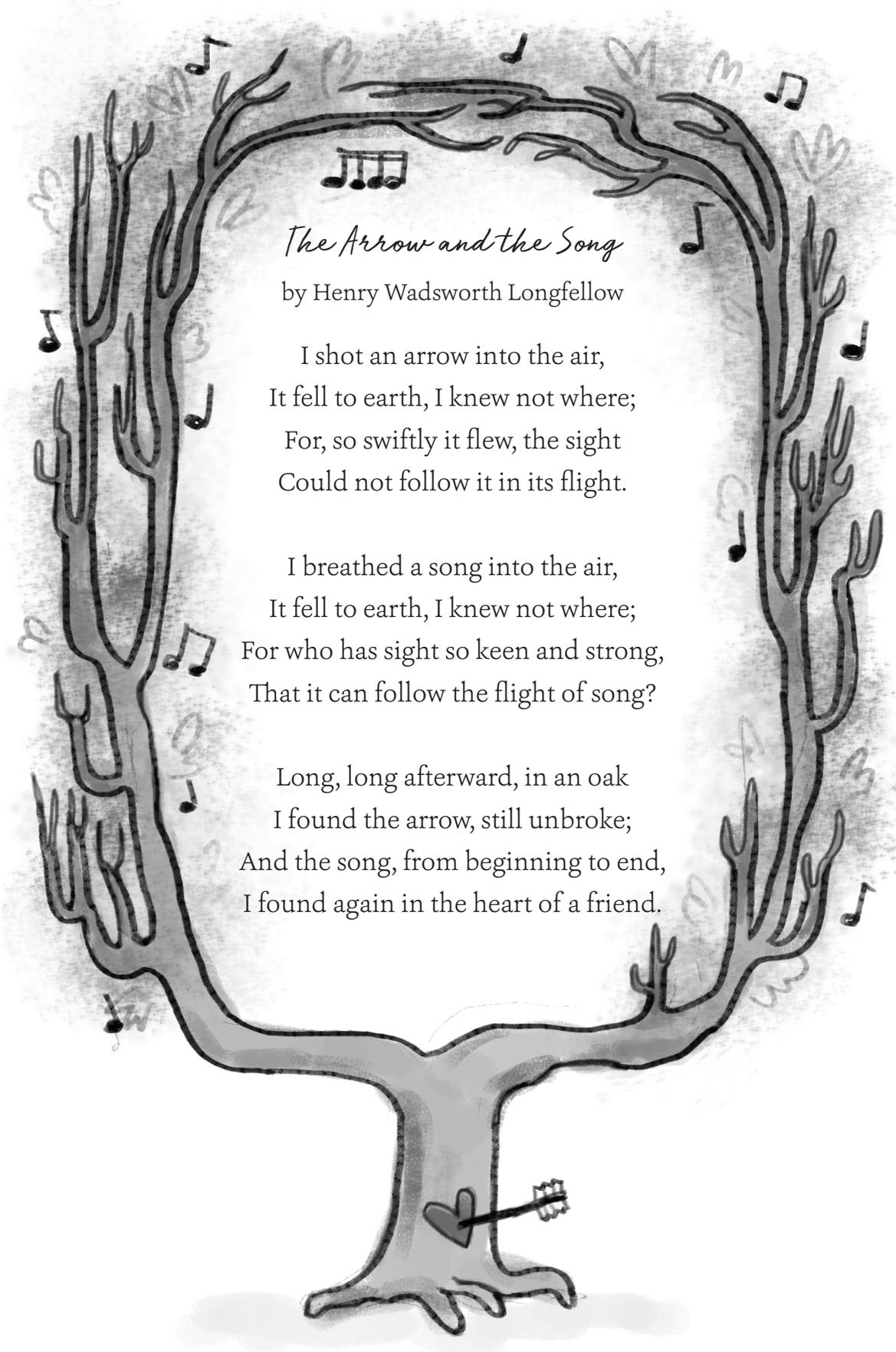
### What you need:

Strips of paper 8.5" x 0.5", any color you like

### What to do:

1. Take 1 1/2 inches of the end and loop it to the left and over the rest of the strip. Leave a 1/2 inch tab hanging off the of the folded loop. (Most of the strip of paper will hang down in your hand.)
2. Insert the small tab from the folded end into the loop like tying a knot at the end of the paper strip.
3. Gently pull the tab through to finish the knot. There will be a bit of excess paper sticking out. Fold that tiny bit down and tuck it into the front of the knot. It should be shaped like a pentagon with a tail made by the rest of the strip hanging down.
4. Fold the tail up so it creates the lower left side of the pentagon. Then fold it over the pentagon again, wrapping it over and over. Leave only a small tab.
5. Tuck the tab into the fold on one side of the pentagon. You will have a flat pentagon shape made of paper folded over and over.
6. Push each side of the pentagon in the middle using your nail.
7. The sides should puff up; now you have a paper star! You can write wishes, fortunes, or secret messages on your paper strips to make it more fun!





*The Arrow and the Song*

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I shot an arrow into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For, so swiftly it flew, the sight  
Could not follow it in its flight.

I breathed a song into the air,  
It fell to earth, I knew not where;  
For who has sight so keen and strong,  
That it can follow the flight of song?

Long, long afterward, in an oak  
I found the arrow, still unbroke;  
And the song, from beginning to end,  
I found again in the heart of a friend.

*Discussion Questions and Reading Guide*

1. If you went to the library and borrowed the treasure box, what would you hope to find inside? What treasure would you leave for the next person to find?



2. How are Grace, Jada, and Malia different? How are they similar? How are you and your friends alike, and how are you different? What would happen if you were all exactly the same?

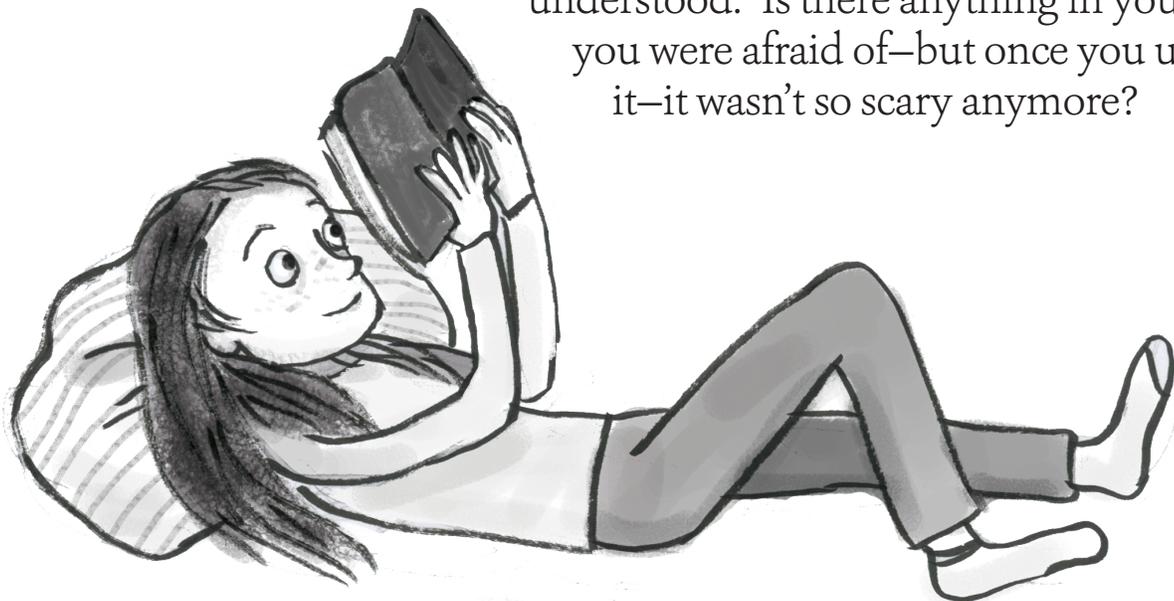
3. One of the themes of the book is the power of art (paintings, music, poetry) to connect people. Is there a piece of art that means something to you in your life? Who would you share it with, and why?

4. Which of the girls had the biggest challenge to overcome? Which girl was most like you? Which girl would you be most likely to be friends with in real life, and why?

5. Grace, Jada, and Malia each had to face things that scared them in this book. How do you face the things that scare you? What helps you be brave?

6. Malia and Grace see a quote in the hospital by a famous scientist, Marie Curie.

It says, "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood." Is there anything in your life that you were afraid of—but once you understood it—it wasn't so scary anymore?



7. Malia and Grace each have a place they can go when they need to feel safe. (The library and the cathedral.) How does the idea of a place to feel safe tie into Jada's story? Where do you go to feel safe?

8. Grace describes her perfect school as having "quiet, comfy corners for reading and long tables where she could spread her stories before her." What would your perfect school be like?



9. Jada, Malia, and Grace cross paths several times during the book during moments that might seem small but end up changing their lives. Can you remember the moment when you met your best friends? How did it happen? When did you know that they might change your life?

*More from the Book*

*Like Magic* is full of paintings, poems, and music. Here are some of the artists and pieces you'll find in the story so you can find them online—and in the real world.

- *Brownstones* by Jacob Lawrence is part of the collection of Clark Atlanta University Art Galleries
- *The Child's Bath* by Mary Cassatt can be found at the Art Institute of Chicago
- *Like Magic* also mentions Minerva Teichert and Pablo Picasso, whose art can be found online and around the world.
- The sculpture Jada sees that's a head formed of hundreds of tiny books and butterflies is called *Psyche* and was created by Ralph Helmick and Stu Schechter. Of course, it can be found at the Salt Lake City Public Library.
- "Ave Maria" by Johann Sebastian Bach and Charles Gounod
- *New World Symphony* by Antonín Dvořák



## *About the Author*

Elaine Vickers is a third-generation educator who teaches chemistry to her college students and all kinds of things to her three kids. She always wanted to be a writer and a teacher, except when she wanted to be an architect, an artist, a pediatrician, a judge, or a famous actress.



## *If You Liked This Book, You May Like*

*The Penderwicks* by Jeanne Birdsall

*Raymie Nightingale* by Kate DiCamillo

*Criss Cross* by Lynn Rae Perkins

*Moon Over Manifest* by Clare Vanderpool

*Amina's Voice* by Hena Khan

*The Epic Fail of Arturo Zamora* by Pablo Cartaya

*Every Soul a Star* by Wendy Mass

*As Brave as You* by Jason Reynolds

*One for the Murphys* by Lynda Mullaly Hunt

*Out of My Mind* by Sharon M. Draper

*Save Me a Seat* by Sarah Weeks and Gita Varadarajan

*Summerlost* by Ally Condie

*The Great Good Summer* by Liz Garton Scanlon

*Finding Perfect* by Elly Swartz

*Paper Chains* by Elaine Vickers

Activity guide illustrations, recipes, and graphic design by Kinsey Beckett

[illustration.skbeckett.com](http://illustration.skbeckett.com)