

SAMMY'S BIG DREAM!

Deluxe Story Set

Interact with the Story in 6 ways!

READ THE STORY

STORY QUIZ & REVIEW

COLOR

WRITE

ILLUSTRATE

LISTEN

109 ACTIVITIES!



AGES
7+

GRADES
2, 3

Thank you for being a champion of children, families, financial education, big dreams, and esteem building.

Sammy Rabbit's Dream Big Education Initiative aims to help kids build great habits and life skills: money, reading, critical thinking, choice making, leadership, and more.

Saving and investing are powerful habits. They transform lives. They teach discipline, delayed gratification, and goal setting. They build financial know-how. That means a person is better positioned to become self-sufficient, prepared to handle financial emergencies, and to make one's dreams come true. This book can help lay a firm foundation for a bright financial future for kids.

Sammy Rabbit believes great habits and life skills give all kids better futures. And, that is what we want, kids to have better and brighter futures! We want them to be financially secure and independent. That's good for them, their family, and our community!

You can learn more about Sammy as well as find additional free and low cost resources on his website, SammyRabbit.com. Enjoy Sammy's Big Dream!

Team Sammy



SAMMY'S BIG DREAM!

Deluxe Story Set

The Deluxe Story Set offers users 6 ways to enjoy and interact with Sammy's Big Dream! It includes the following:

- Read & Color (2 ways to interact!) - Section 1
- Story Quiz & Review - Section 2
- Write the Story! - Section 3
- Illustrate the Story! - Section 4
- Audio Story



Sammy's Big Dream!

In the story, Sammy has a big dream: to ride the world's first space roller coaster. Read along as he works, earns, saves and gives to make the dream come true for himself and a friend! The story is a catalyst for conversation and learning about the aforementioned great money habits and other important life skills like setting goals, planning, working with others, being determined and not giving up to easily.

SECTION 1

**READ AND
COLOR THE
STORY**

Sammy's Big Dream - Read & Color

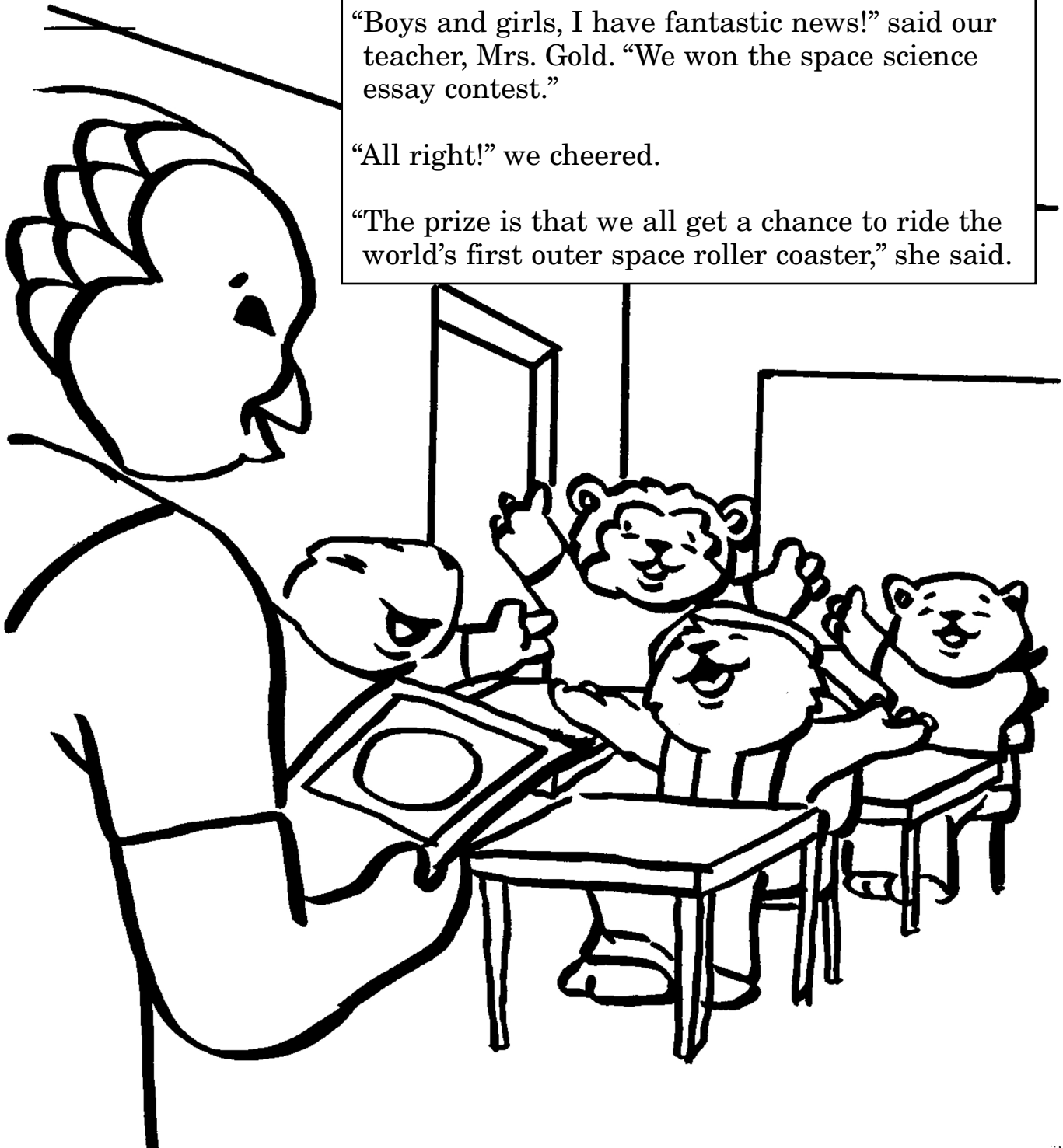
This is the Deluxe Story Set version of Sammy's Big Dream - Read & Color.

It all began the day after holiday vacation ended.

“Boys and girls, I have fantastic news!” said our teacher, Mrs. Gold. “We won the space science essay contest.”

“All right!” we cheered.

“The prize is that we all get a chance to ride the world’s first outer space roller coaster,” she said.

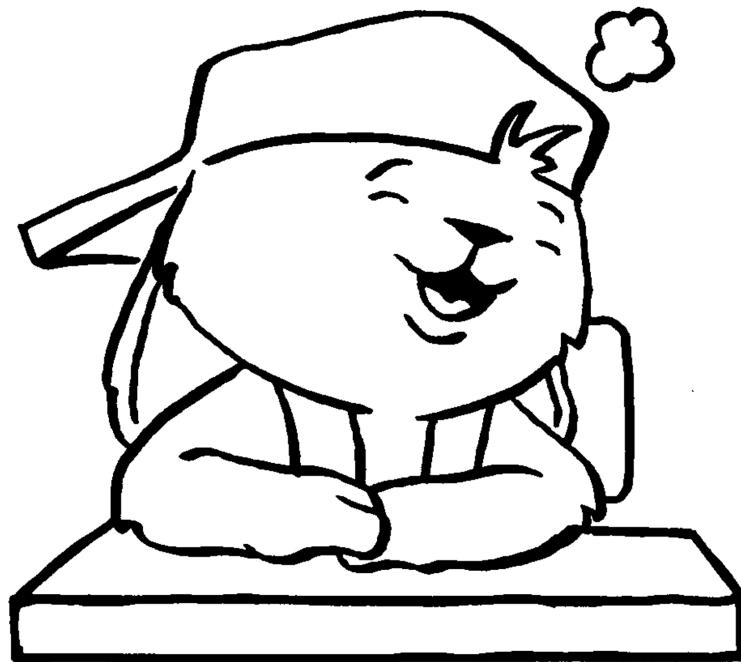
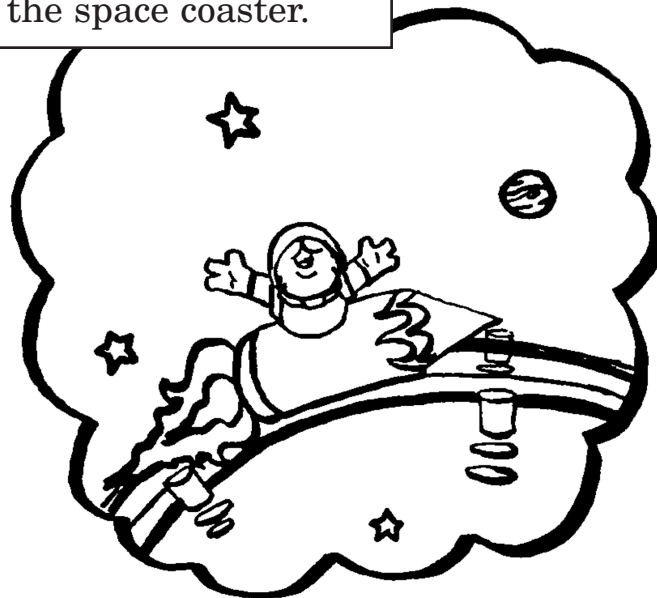


Sammy says:

Be PREPARED for good news!

“Calm down, kids. There are two conditions,” said Mrs. Gold. “You will need permission to go from your parents, and you will also need three-hundred dollars each to help pay for the trip.”

Mrs. Gold was right. The news was fantastic. It gave me goosebumps imagining myself riding the space coaster.



Sammy says:

DREAM. IMAGINE.

I immediately began to think and plan how to make this big dream come true!



Sammy says:

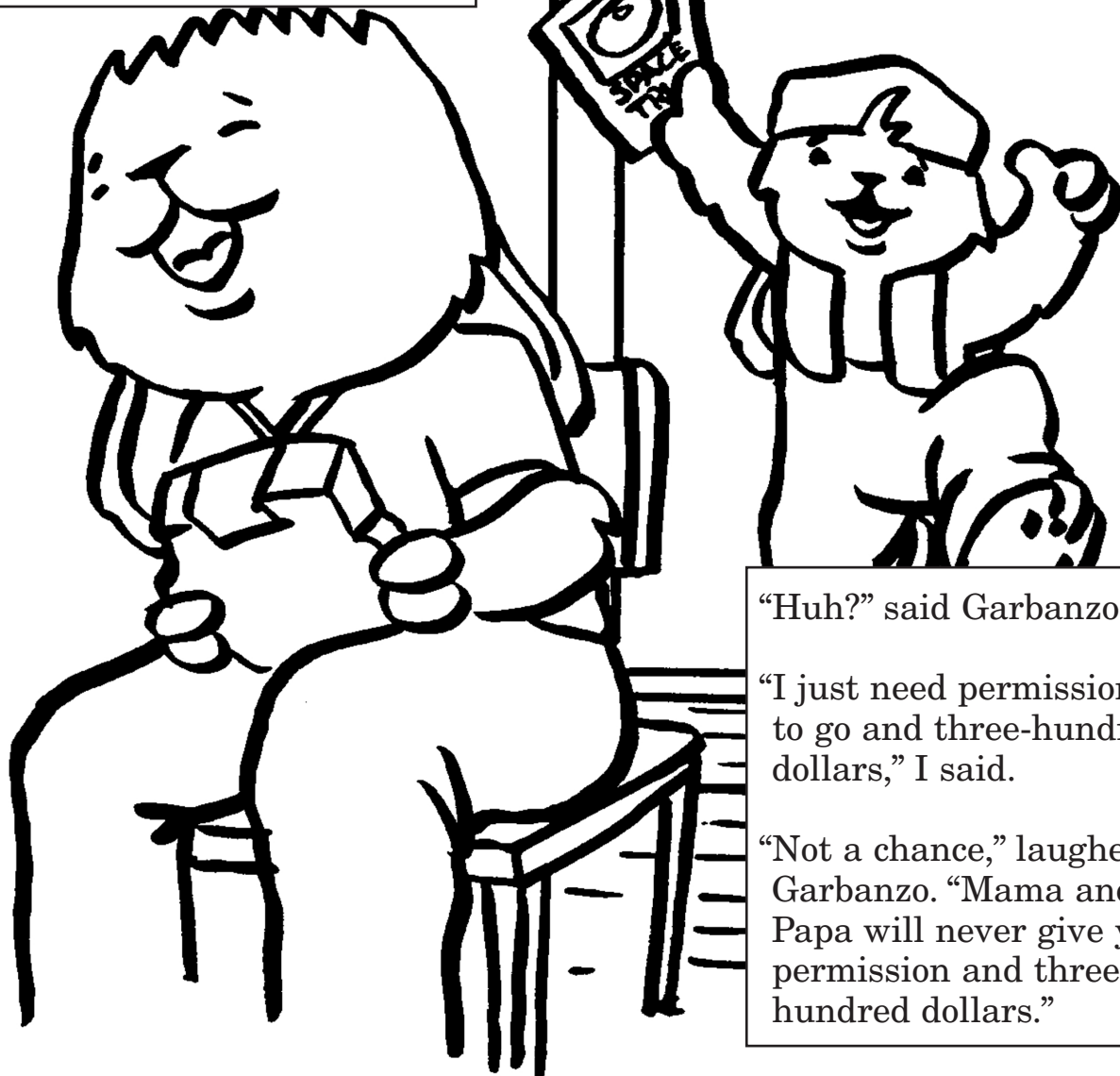
THINK. PLAN.

As soon as the bell rang, I ran home as fast as I could.

“Mama! Papa!” I yelled.

“They’re not home,” said my brother, Garbanzo.

“Guess who is going to ride the world’s first space coaster?” I bragged.



“Huh?” said Garbanzo.

“I just need permission to go and three-hundred dollars,” I said.

“Not a chance,” laughed Garbanzo. “Mama and Papa will never give you permission and three-hundred dollars.”

Sammy says:

Be READY for challenges.

Just then, my parents came home.

“Mama! Papa!” I began. “My class won the space science essay contest. We get to ride the world’s first space coaster. May I go? The whole trip only costs three-hundred dollars. It would be a big dream come true!”

“Three-hundred dollars!” gasped Papa.

“Pleeeeeease, Papa?” I begged. “I will never ask for anything again.”



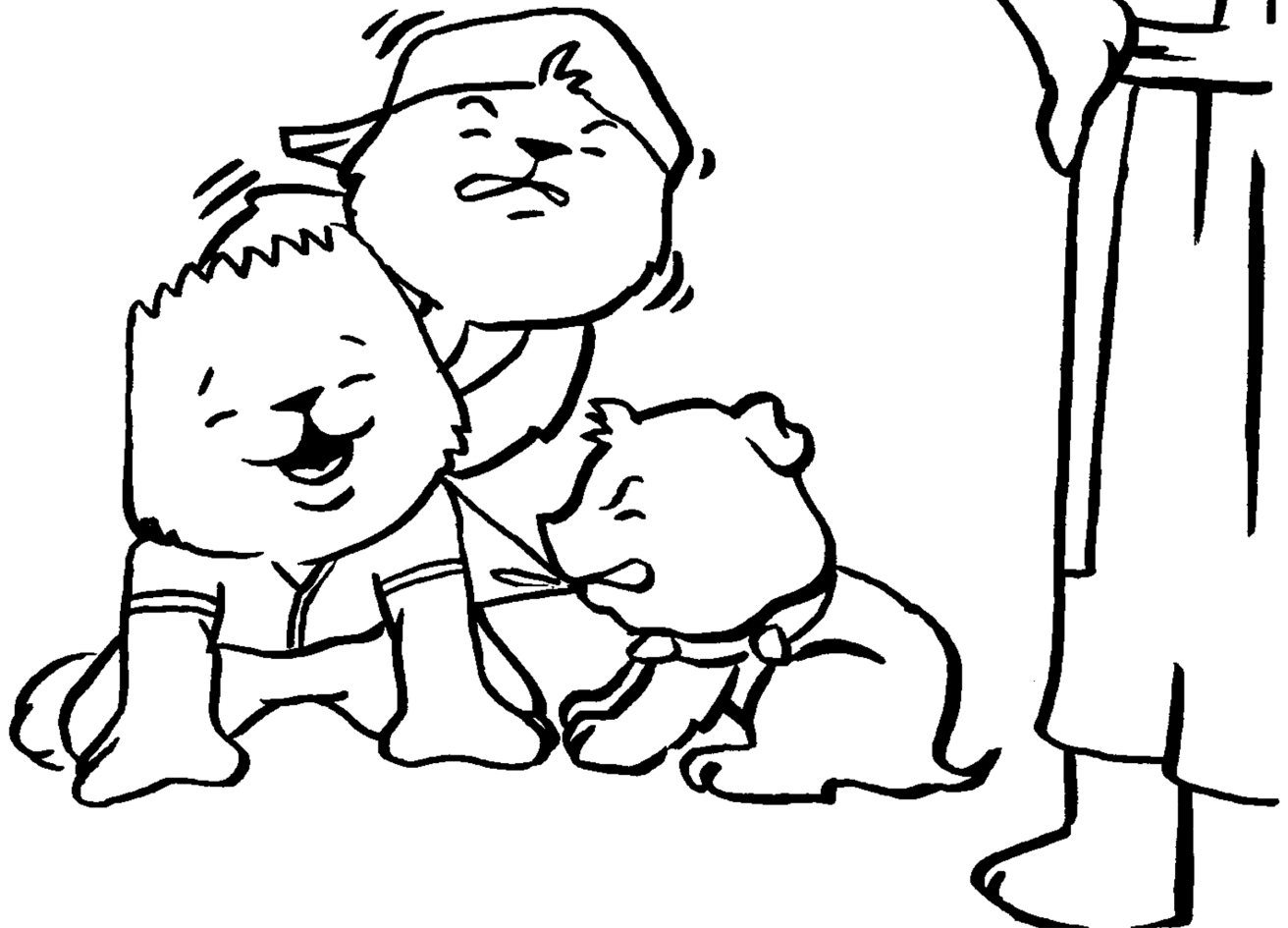
Sammy says:

Take ACTION.

“You cannot give him three-hundred dollars,” said Garbanzo.

That was when I jumped on Garbanzo and tackled him.

“Sammy, get off your brother!” said Mama.
“Let Papa and me talk this over.”



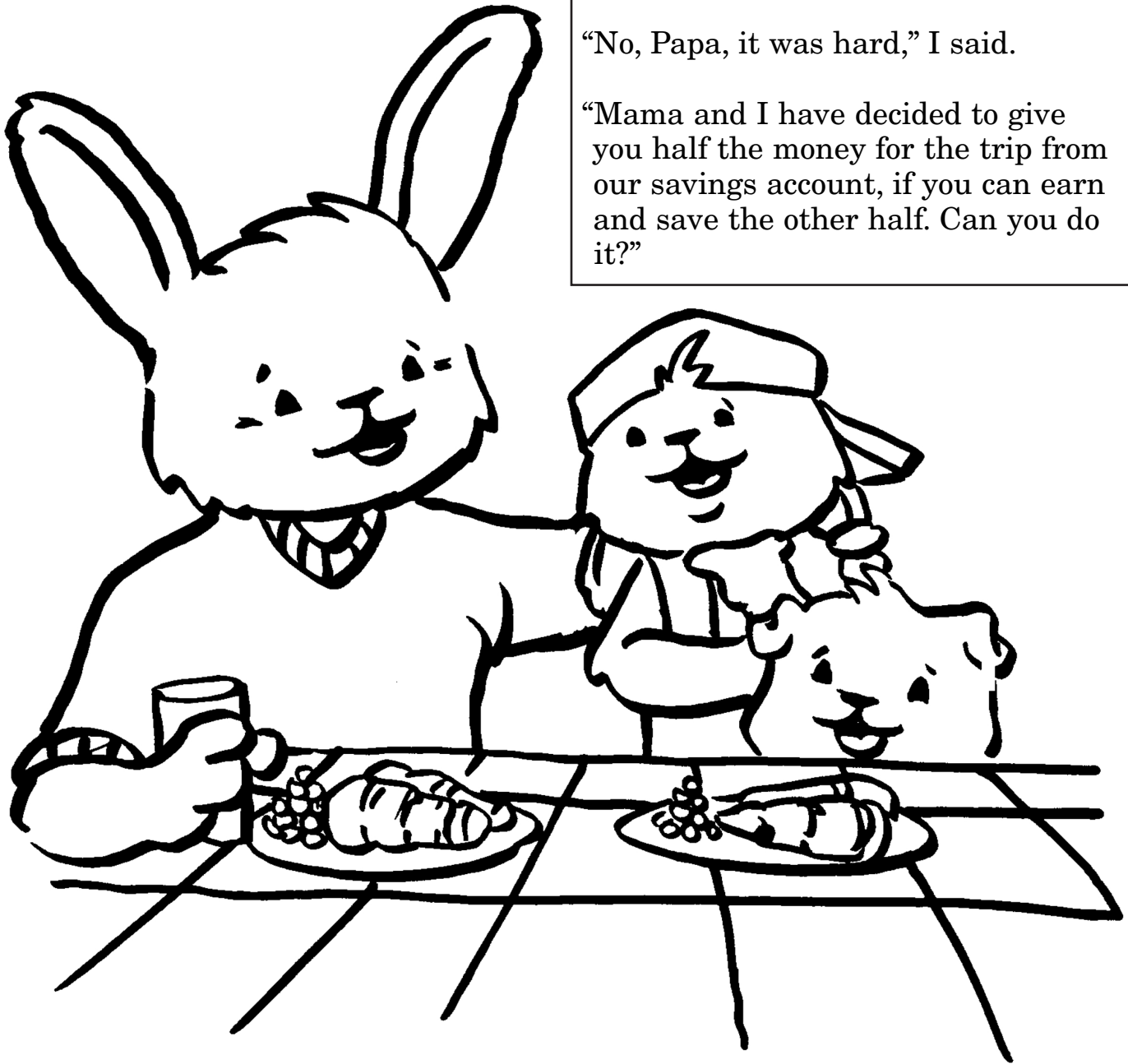
Sammy says:

Stay FOCUSED.

That night, Papa said, “Sammy, I know that winning the essay contest was not easy.”

“No, Papa, it was hard,” I said.

“Mama and I have decided to give you half the money for the trip from our savings account, if you can earn and save the other half. Can you do it?”



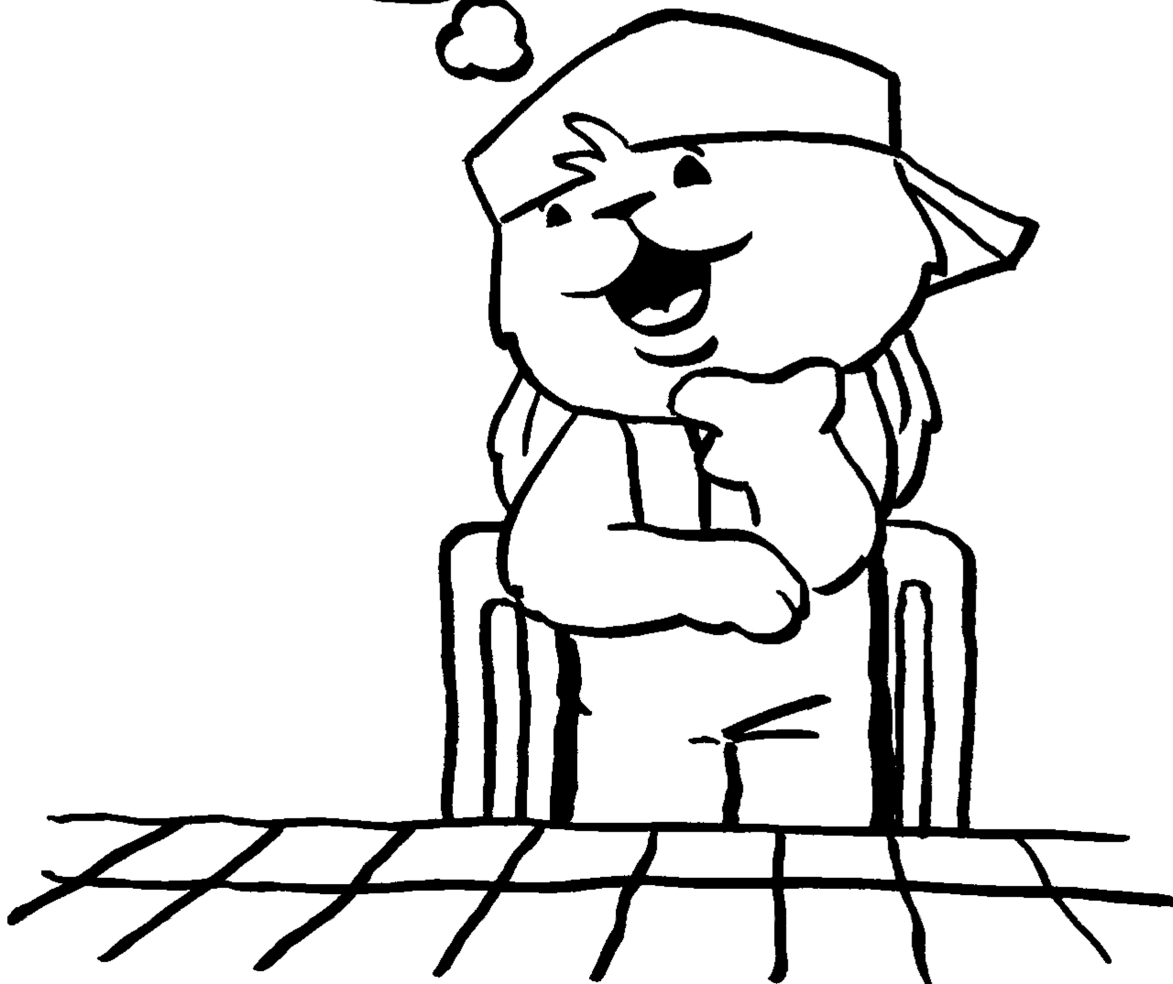
Sammy says:

BELIEVE in you!



I remembered the secret
Auntie Squirly had taught me:
Saving is a great habit!

“I can do it!” I said.

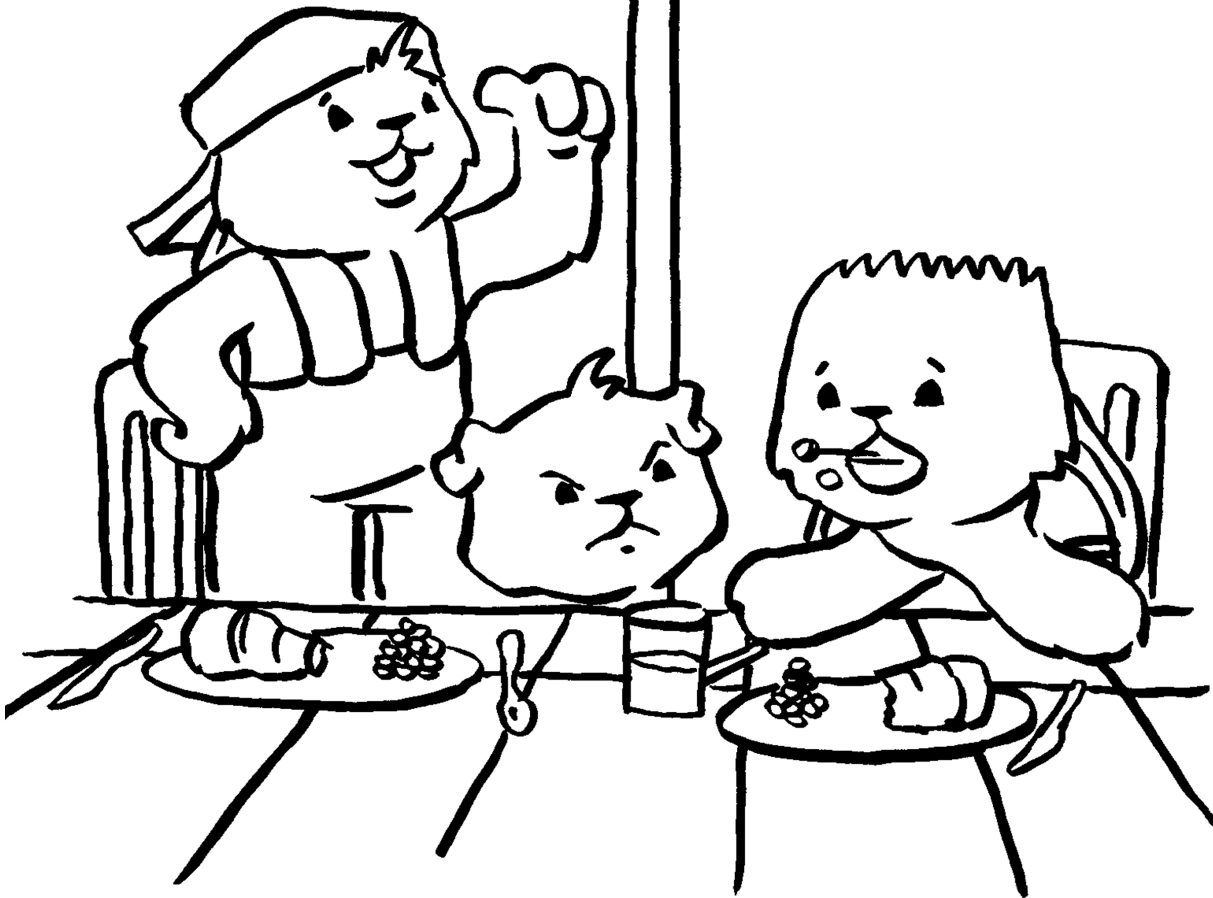


Sammy says:

SAVING is a GREAT HABIT!

The announcement startled Garbanzo. “You must be kidding, right, Sammy? You will never be able to earn and save one-hundred-fifty dollars in time for the trip.”

“I only need to earn and save one-hundred dollars,” I said. “I already have fifty dollars in my savings account.”

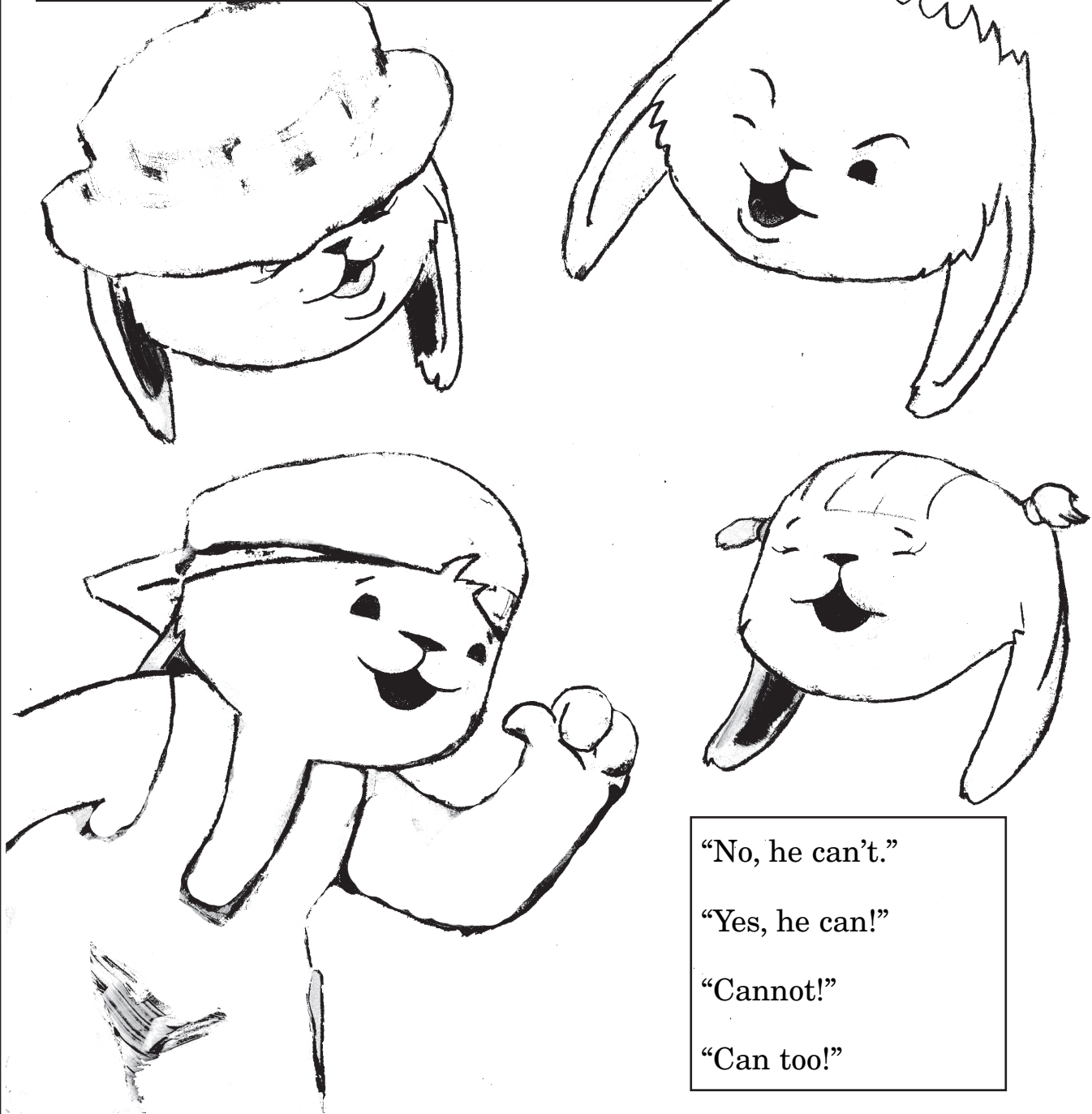


Sammy says:

SAVINGS helps us be PREPARED.

“You will not be able to save one-hundred dollars either,” said Garbanzo.

“Maybe Sammy can do it,” said my sisters, Dyme and Penny.



“No, he can’t.”

“Yes, he can!”

“Cannot!”

“Can too!”

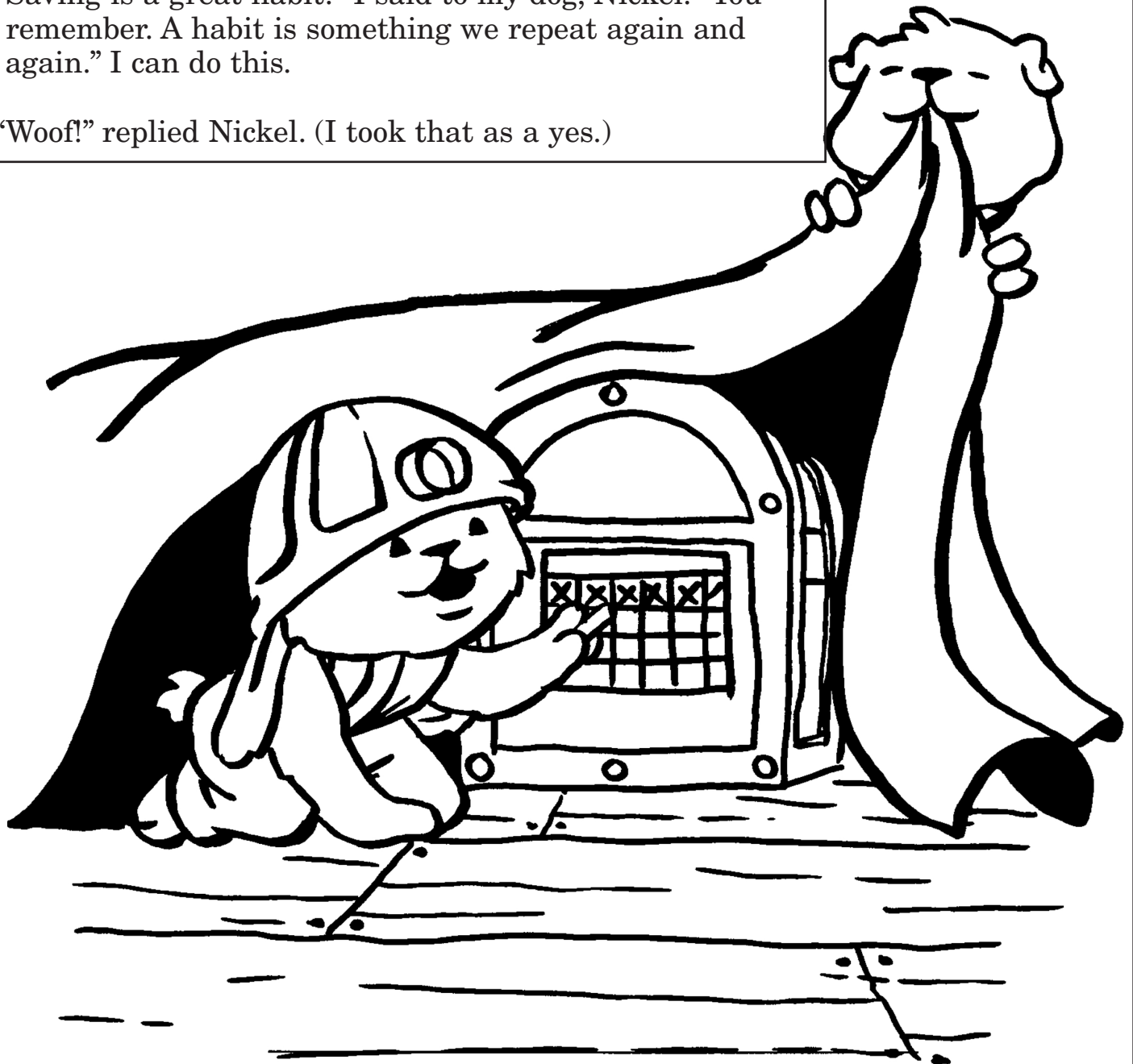
Sammy says:

Stay POSITIVE.

I left them arguing and ran down the hall to my room. I had to write down my new plan and goal. I counted the days on my calendar. It was exactly one-hundred days to blast off. *If I save one dollar a day, I can go*, I thought.

“Saving is a great habit!” I said to my dog, Nickel. “You remember. A habit is something we repeat again and again.” I can do this.

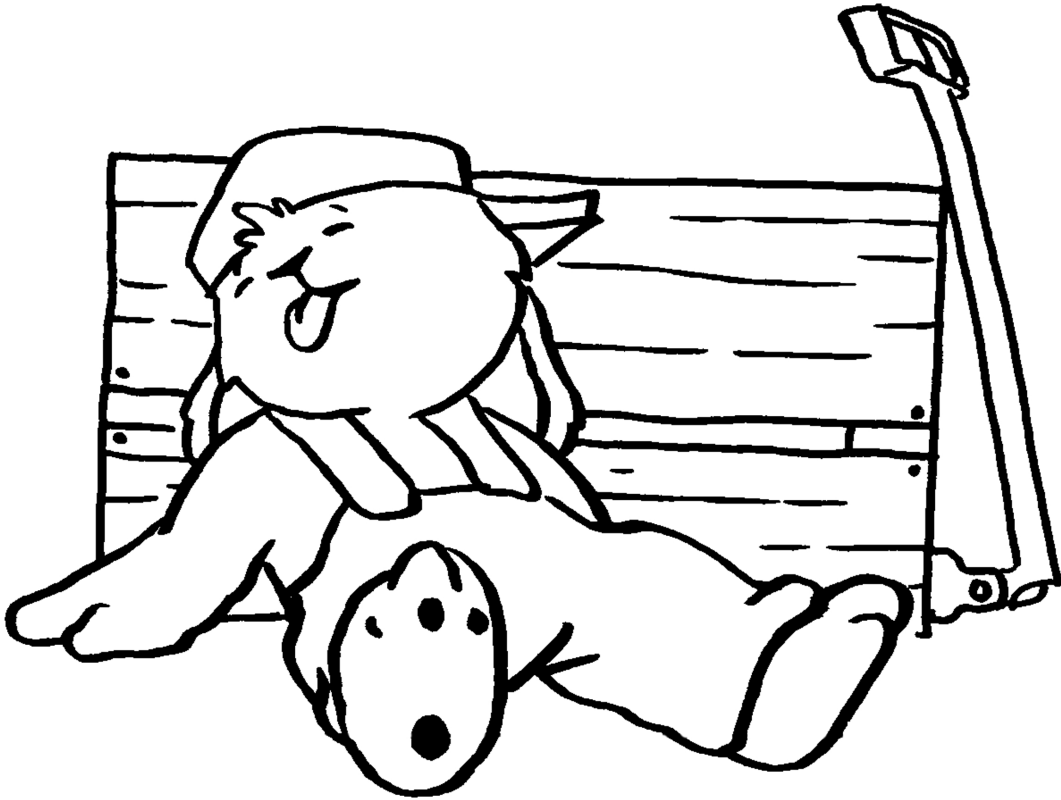
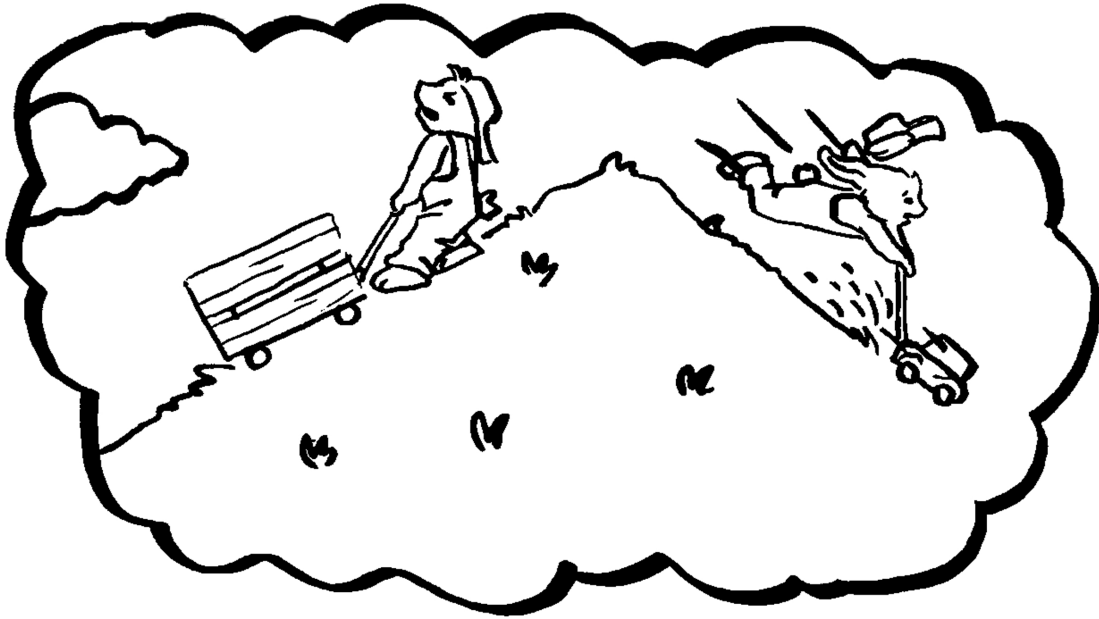
“Woof!” replied Nickel. (I took that as a yes.)



Sammy says:

SET GOALS.

I worked and saved every day for weeks.
I did not stop even to play with my friends.
I was determined to reach my goal.



Sammy says:

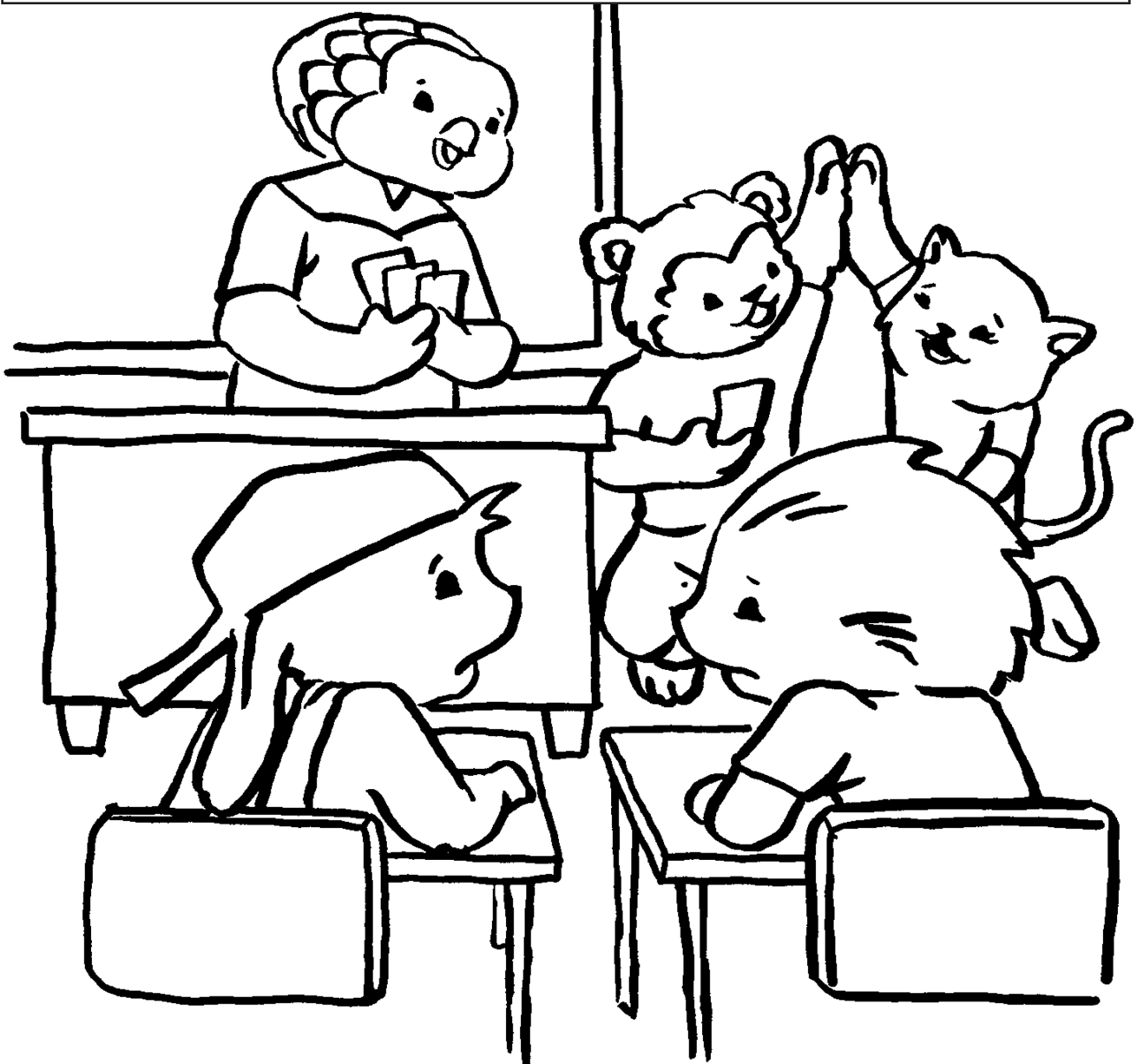
WORK. EARN. SAVE.

Everything was all right until some of the kids in my class lined up early one morning to buy their tickets for the space coaster.

“Sammy,” they asked. “When are you going to buy your ticket?”

“I am not sure,” I said. “I have to save some more money first. How did you earn and save your money so fast?”

“We did not need to,” they replied. “Our parents just gave us the money.”



Sammy says:

Stay STRONG when things aren't fair.

Snap! I broke the pencil I was holding.

“That is not fair,” I growled.

“Take it easy, Sammy,” said my friend, Jammer. “Breaking your pencil will not help. But we could work and save together. That might help.”

“We could try, I guess.” I sighed.



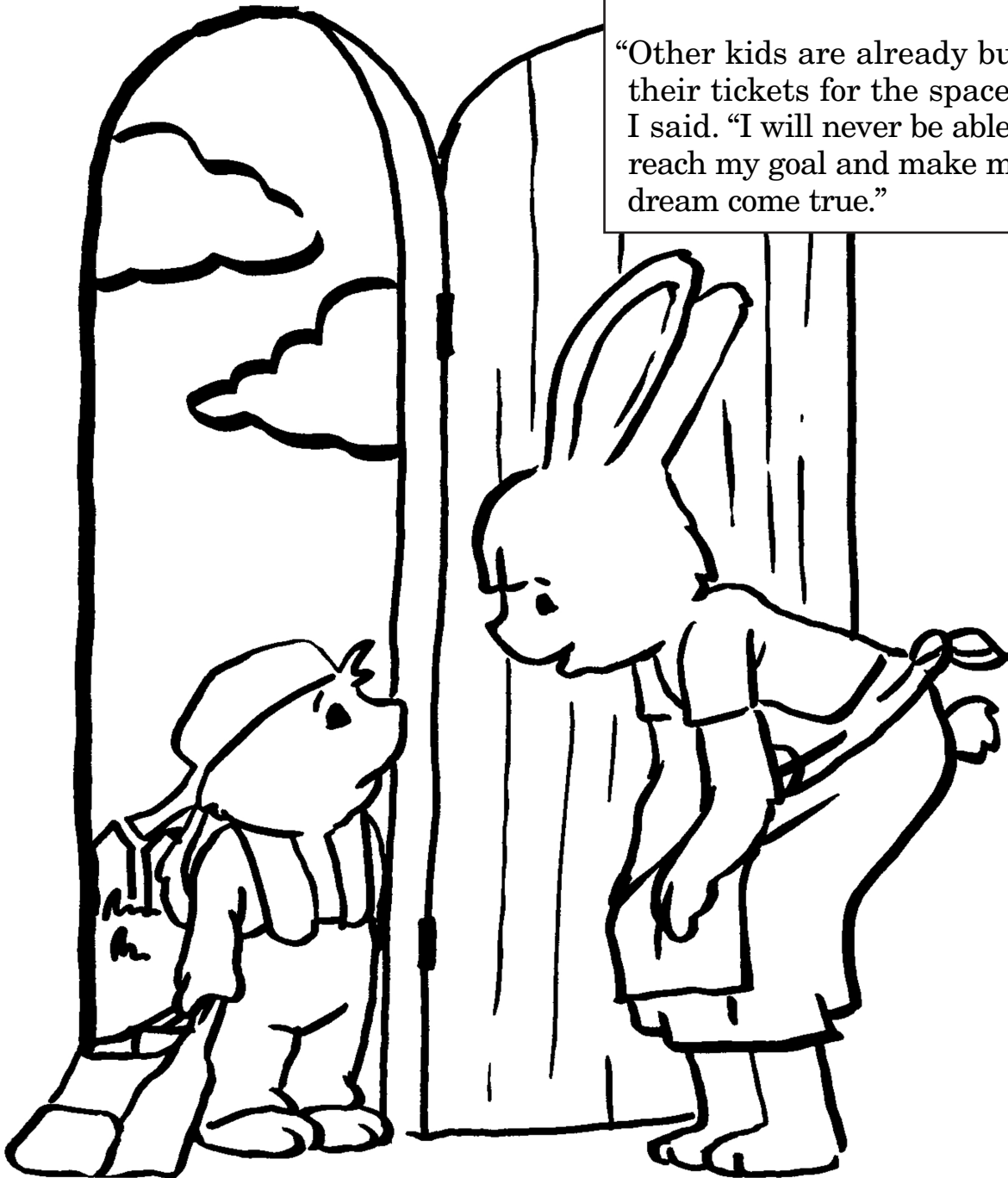
Sammy says:

Get good people on your TEAM.

When I got home, Mama knew something was wrong.

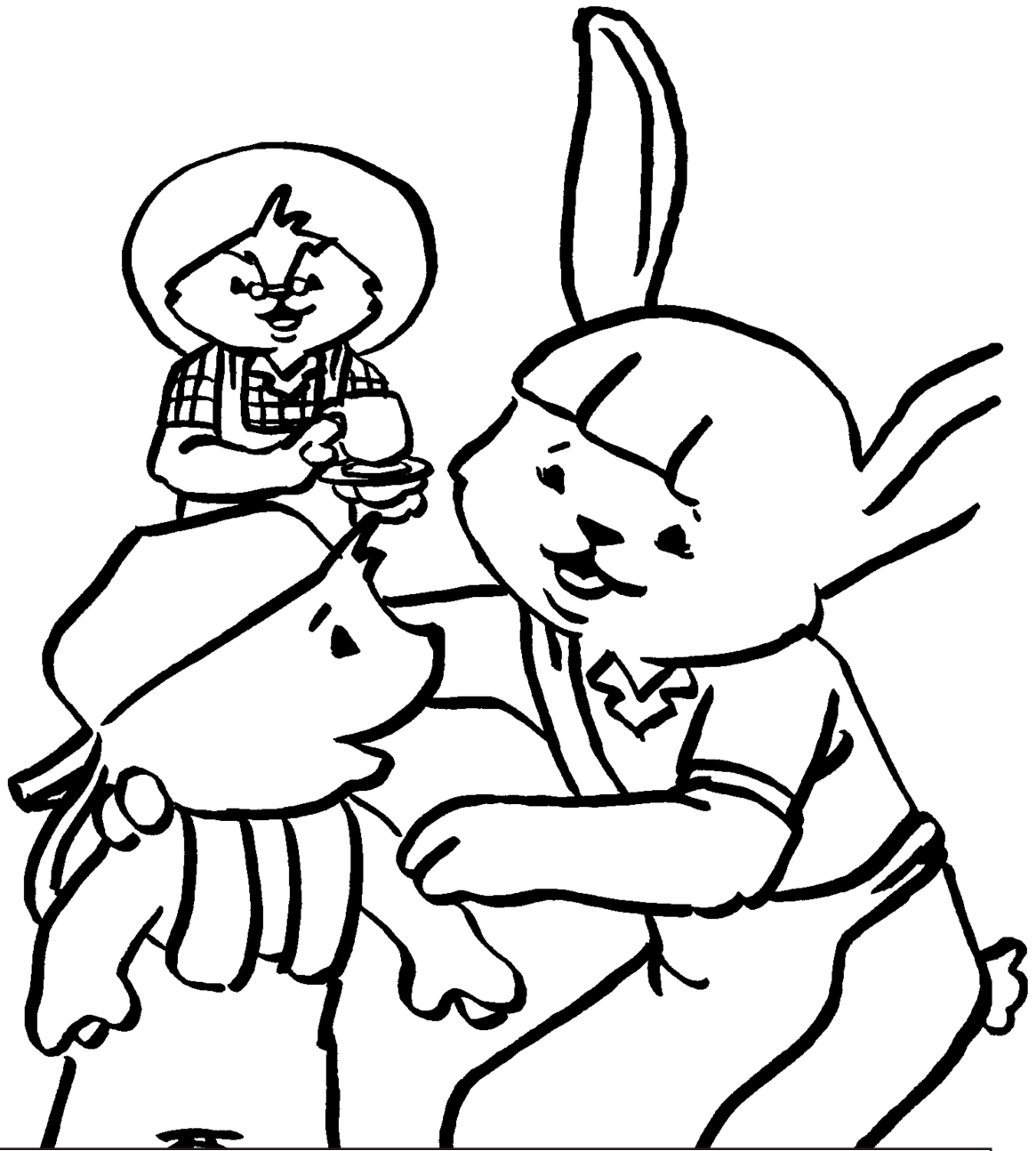
“Sammy, you look sad. What is wrong?”

“Other kids are already buying their tickets for the space trip,” I said. “I will never be able to reach my goal and make my big dream come true.”



Sammy says:

TALK to the right people.



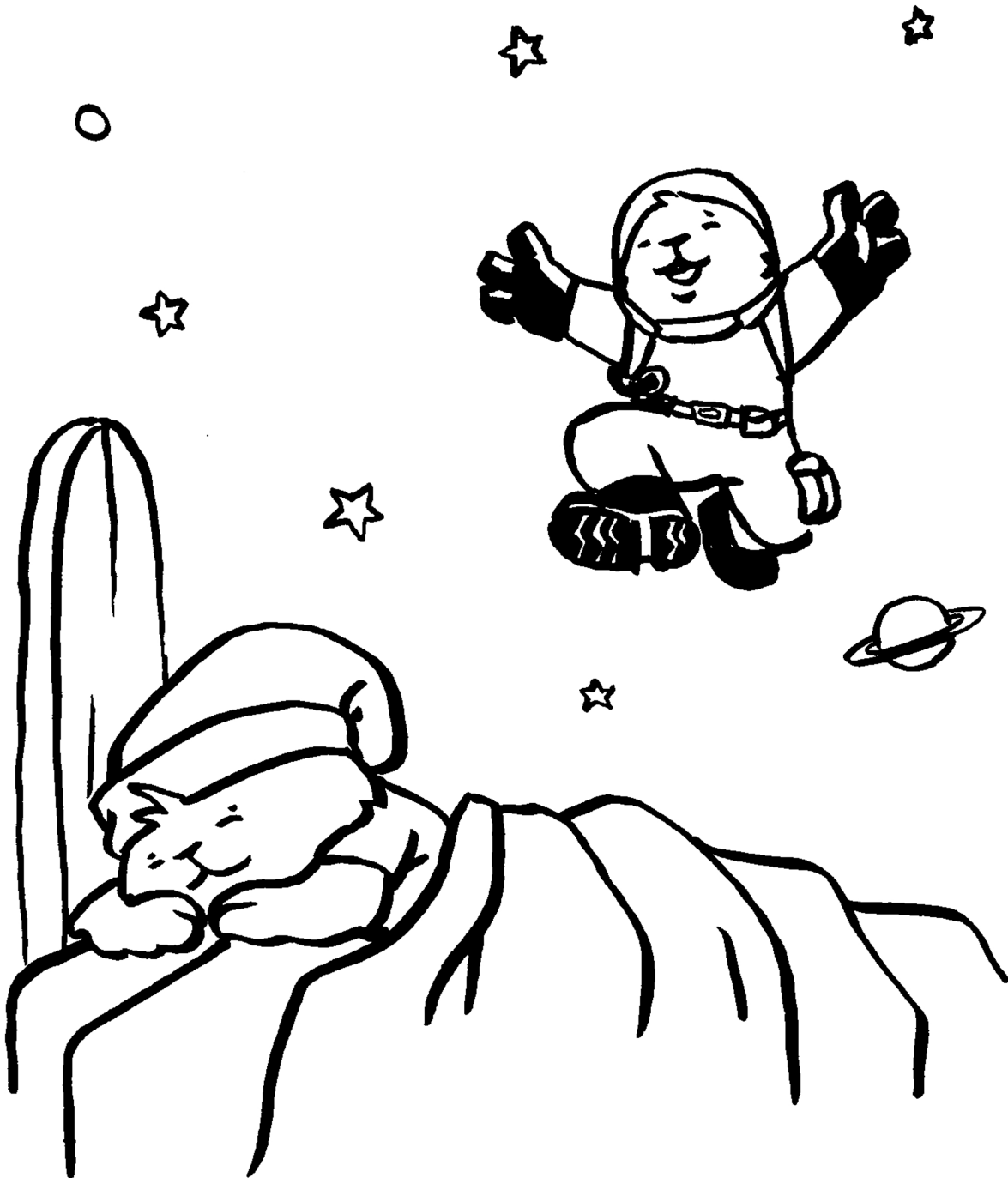
“Things are not always easy, Sammy,” said Mama. “But you can do anything you want to if you work hard and do not give up.”

“Your mama is right, Sammy,” said Auntie Squirly. “Do not give up! Keep working toward your goal, one step at a time. You will make it.”

“All right.” I grinned. “I’ll keep trying.”

Sammy says:

DO NOT GIVE UP EASY.



That night, I dreamed about the space coaster. I was racing through space, past moons, meteors, and stars.

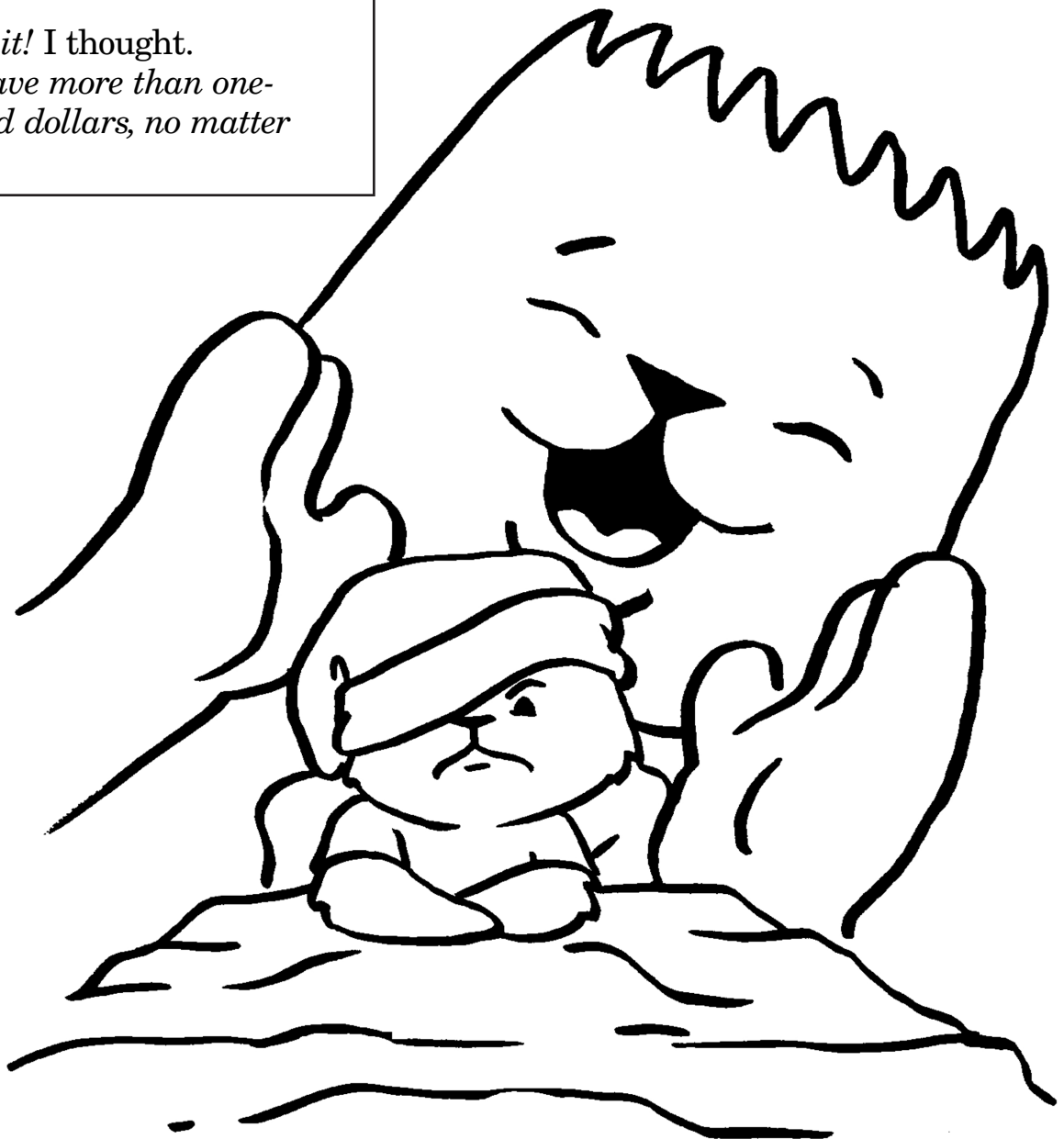
Sammy says:

Picture WINNING. IMAGINE success.

But suddenly the dream turned into a nightmare.

“You won’t be able to earn and save one-hundred dollars,” teased Garbanzo.

*That is it! I thought.
I will save more than one-hundred dollars, no matter what.*



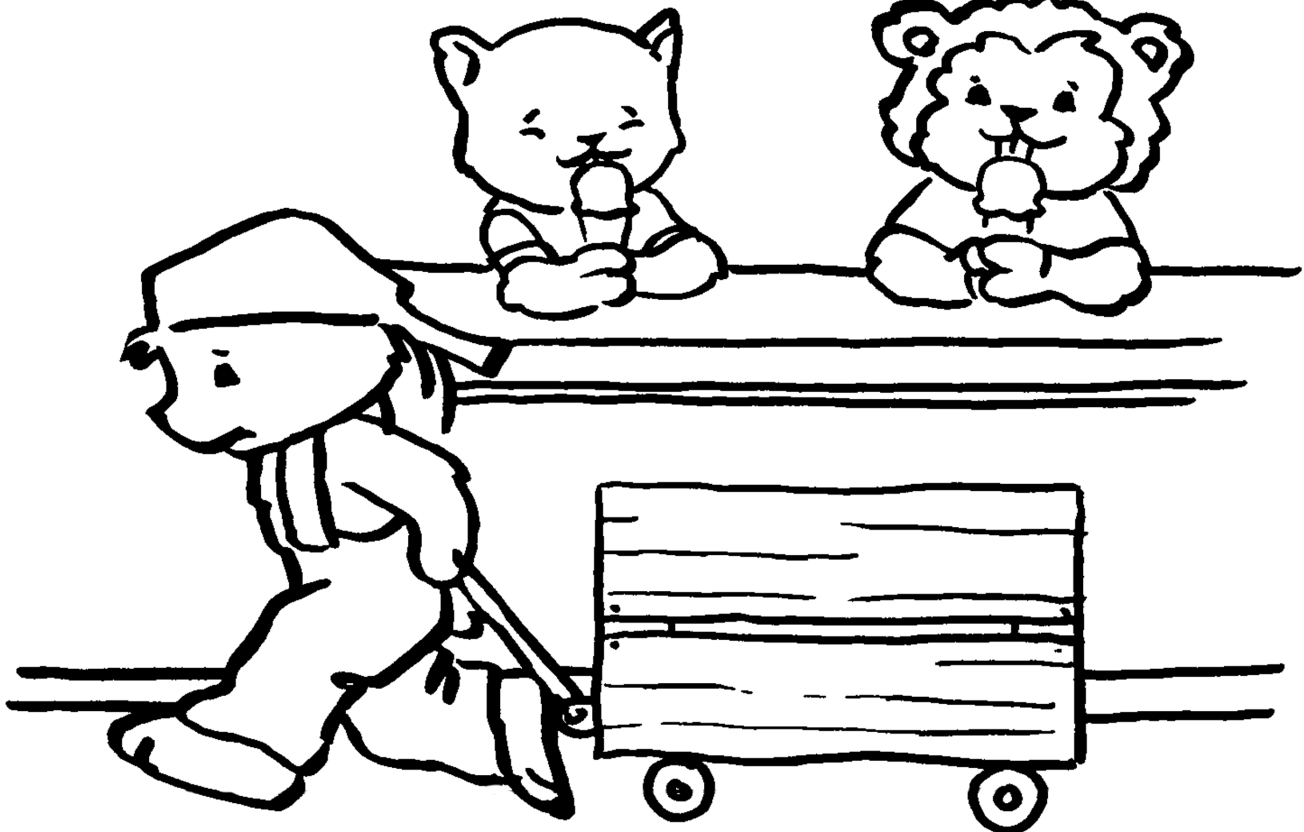
Sammy says:

Stay DETERMINED.

ICE CREAM



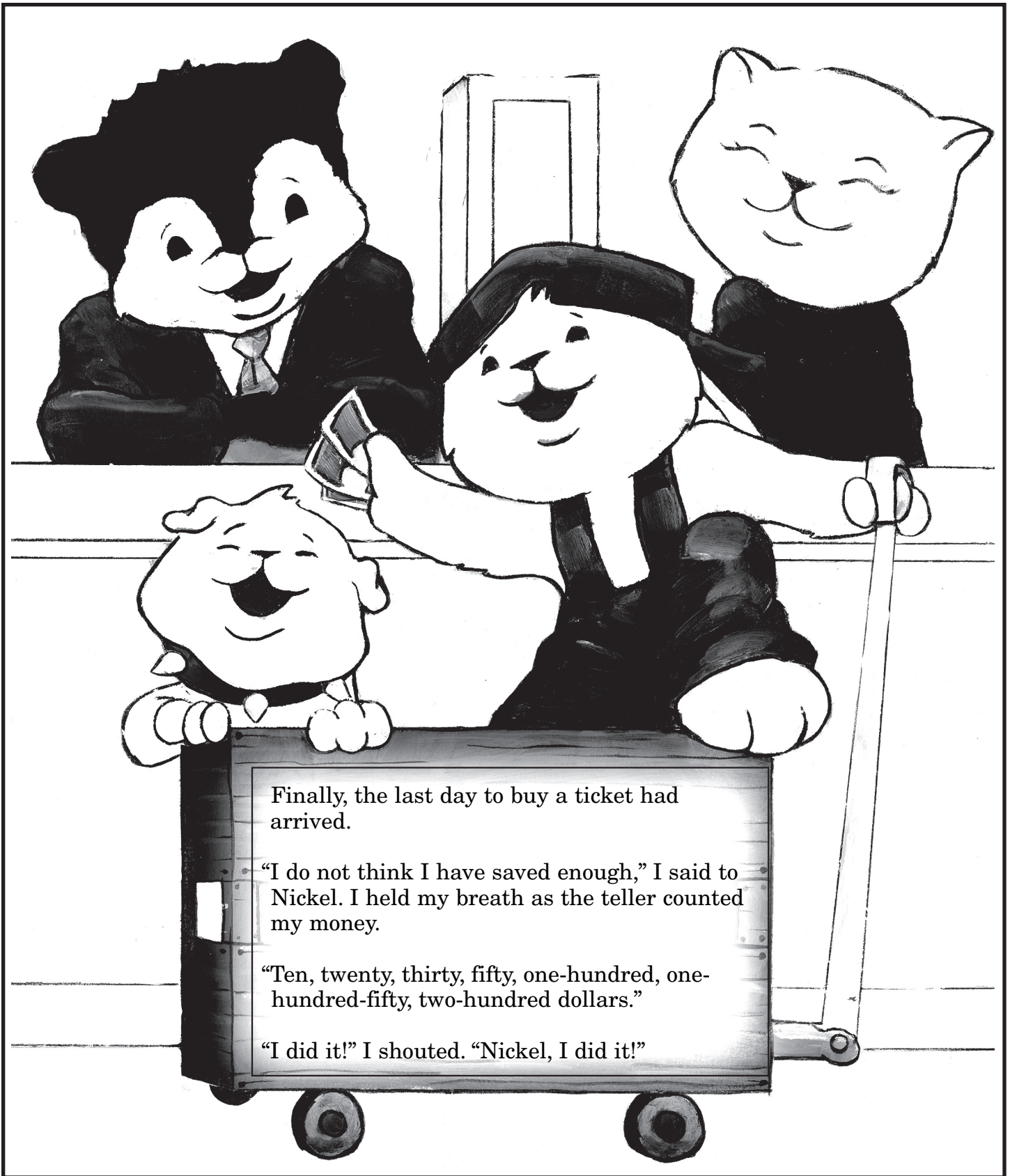
SHOP



In order to save more, I chose not to buy some of my favorite things, like ice cream, candy, and baseball caps. *Keep saving!* I told myself. I was more determined than ever to ride the world's first space coaster.

Sammy says:

SPEND SMART. MAKE YOUR CHOICES COUNT.



Finally, the last day to buy a ticket had arrived.

“I do not think I have saved enough,” I said to Nickel. I held my breath as the teller counted my money.

“Ten, twenty, thirty, fifty, one-hundred, one-hundred-fifty, two-hundred dollars.”

“I did it!” I shouted. “Nickel, I did it!”

Sammy says:

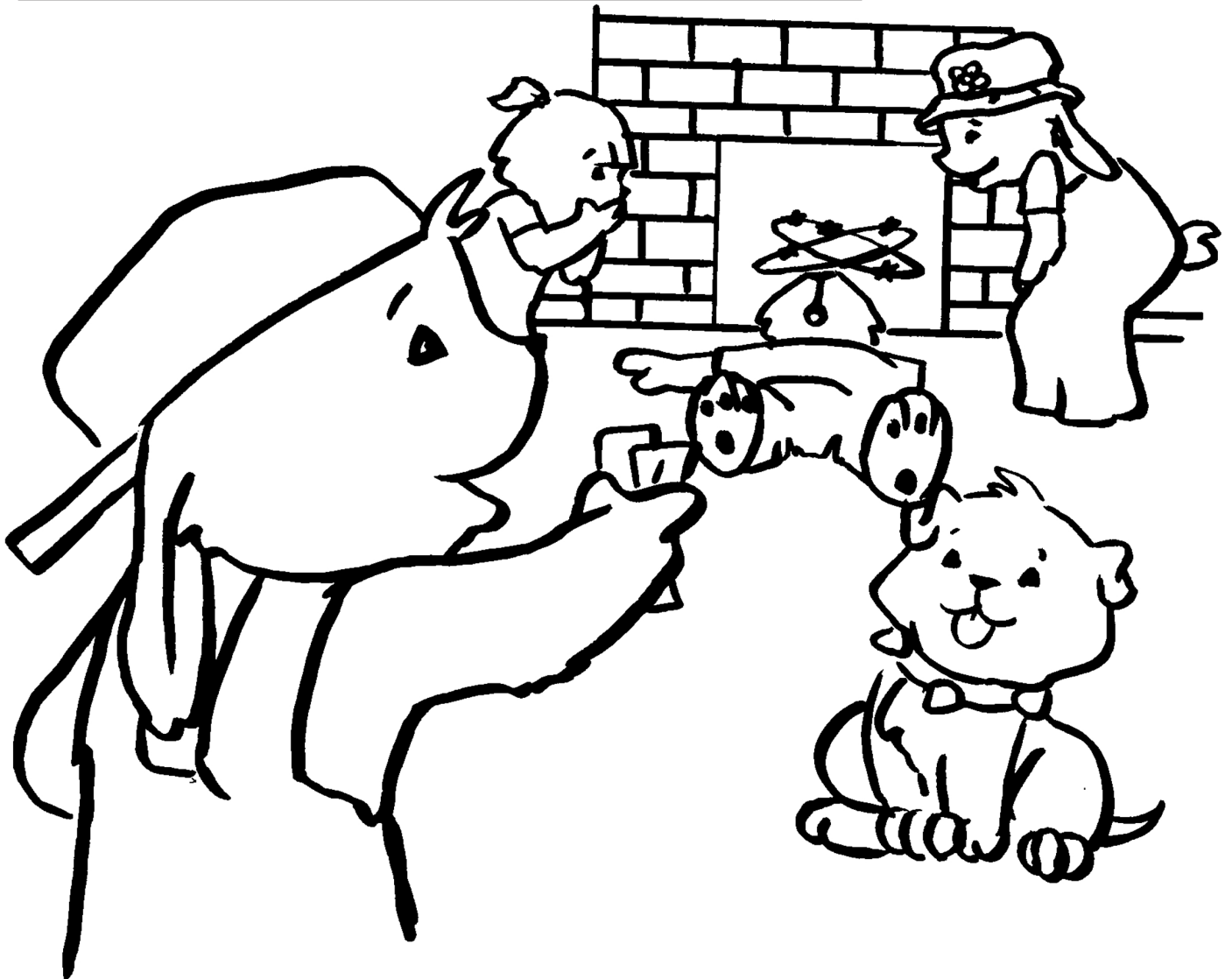
MEASURE your PROGRESS.

I raced home with Nickel barking and chasing me.

“Mama! Papa!” I yelled. “I did it! I did it! I saved an extra one-hundred-fifty dollars! I have two-hundred dollars in all! With the one-hundred-fifty you gave me, I have fifty dollars more than I need. I can go!”

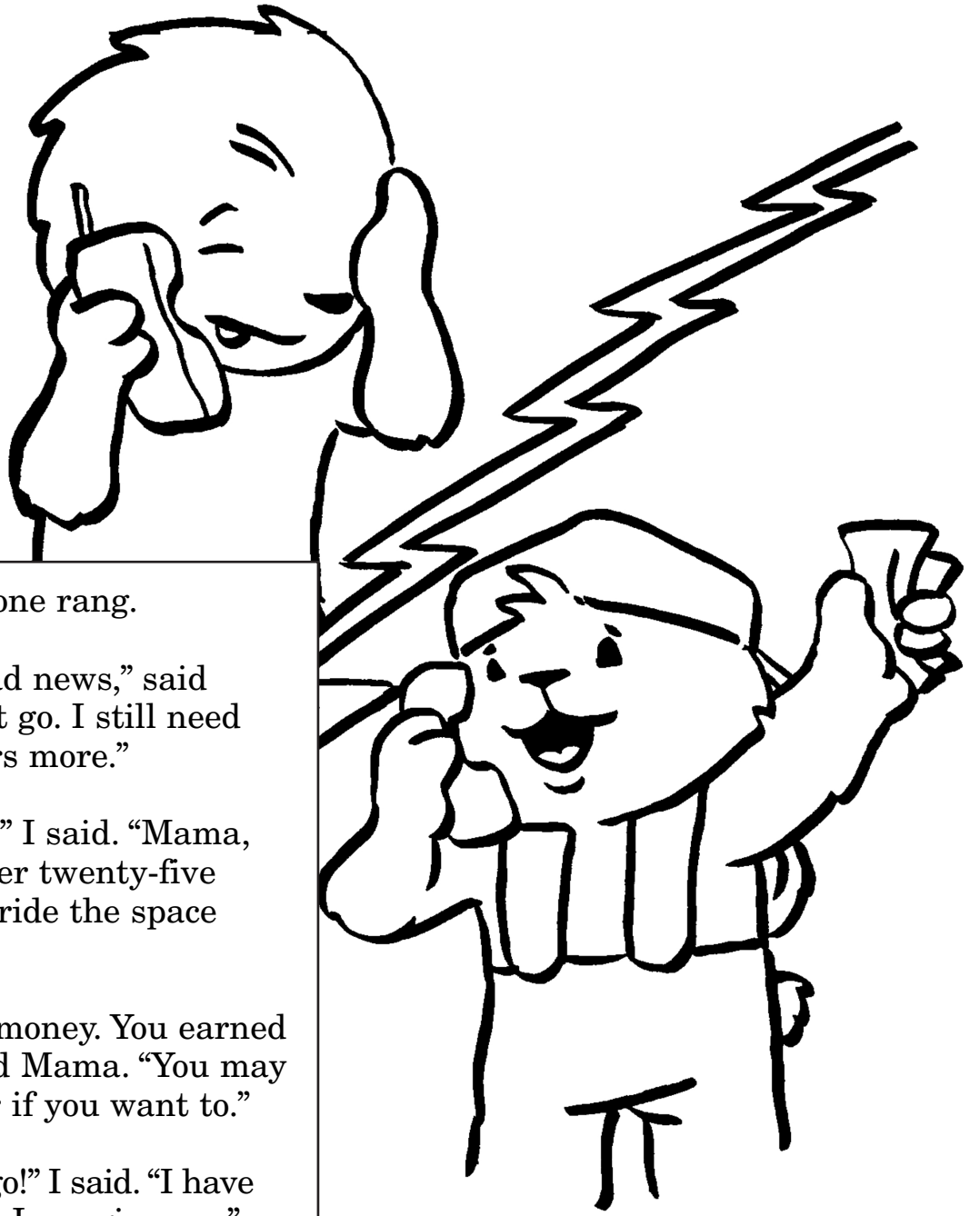
Thump!

Everyone looked around. Garbanzo had fainted.



Sammy says:

Be a good WINNER.



Just then, the phone rang.

“Sammy, I have bad news,” said Jammer. “I cannot go. I still need twenty-five dollars more.”

“Hold on, Jammer,” I said. “Mama, may I give Jammer twenty-five dollars so he can ride the space coaster too?”

“Sammy, it’s your money. You earned and saved it,” said Mama. “You may give it to Jammer if you want to.”

“Jammer, you can go!” I said. “I have twenty-five dollars I can give you.”

“No way!” said Jammer. “Really?”

“Yes, really,” I said. “It would not be fun riding the space coaster without you.”

Sammy says:

GIVE wisely.

Jammer spent the night at my house.

“Can you believe it?” I asked. “Tomorrow we will be riding in the world’s first space coaster!”

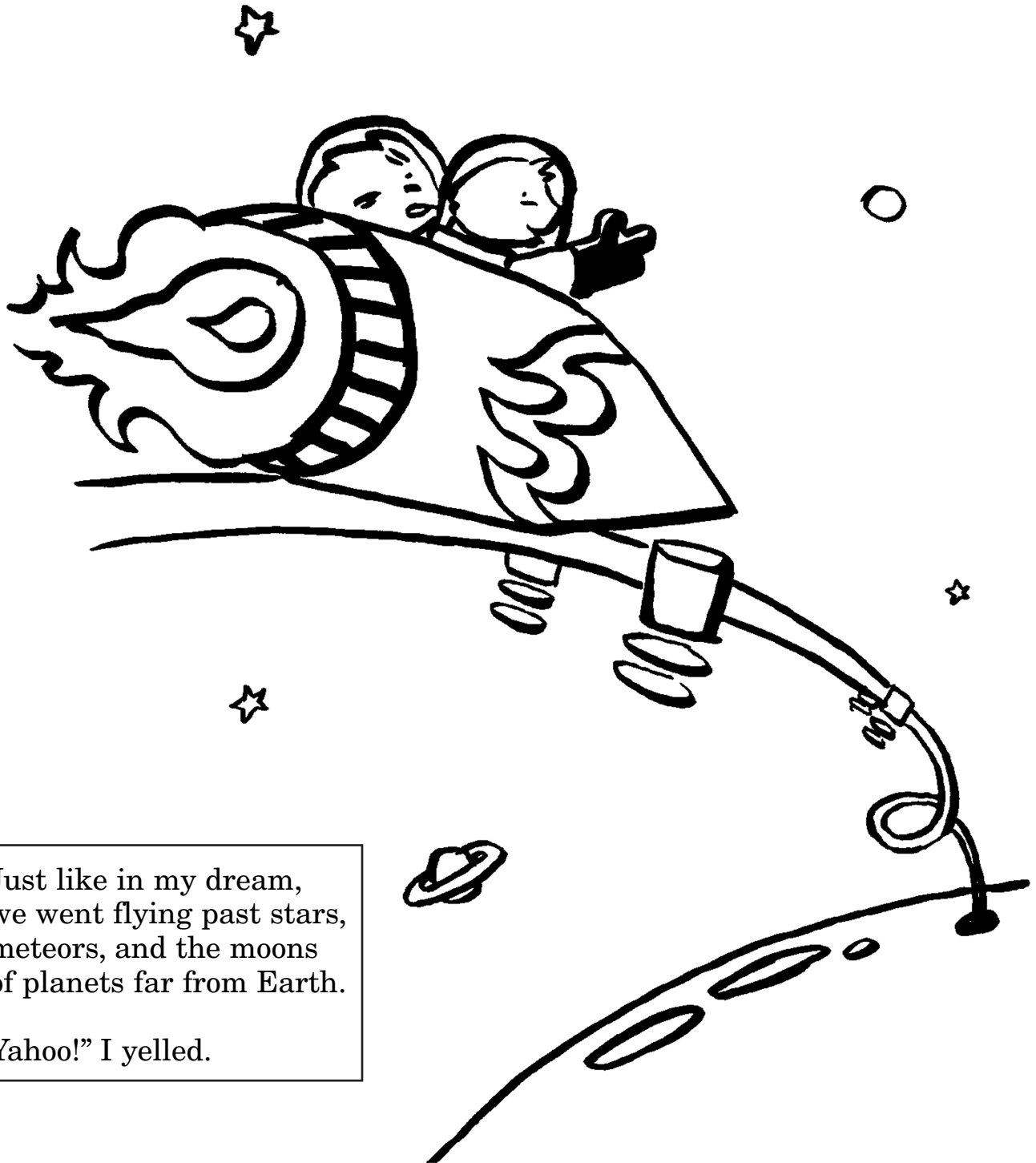
“I can hardly wait!” said Jammer.

“Me either,” I said.



Sammy says:

Share SUCCESS.



Just like in my dream,
we went flying past stars,
meteors, and the moons
of planets far from Earth.

“Yahoo!” I yelled.

Sammy says:

ENJOY success.

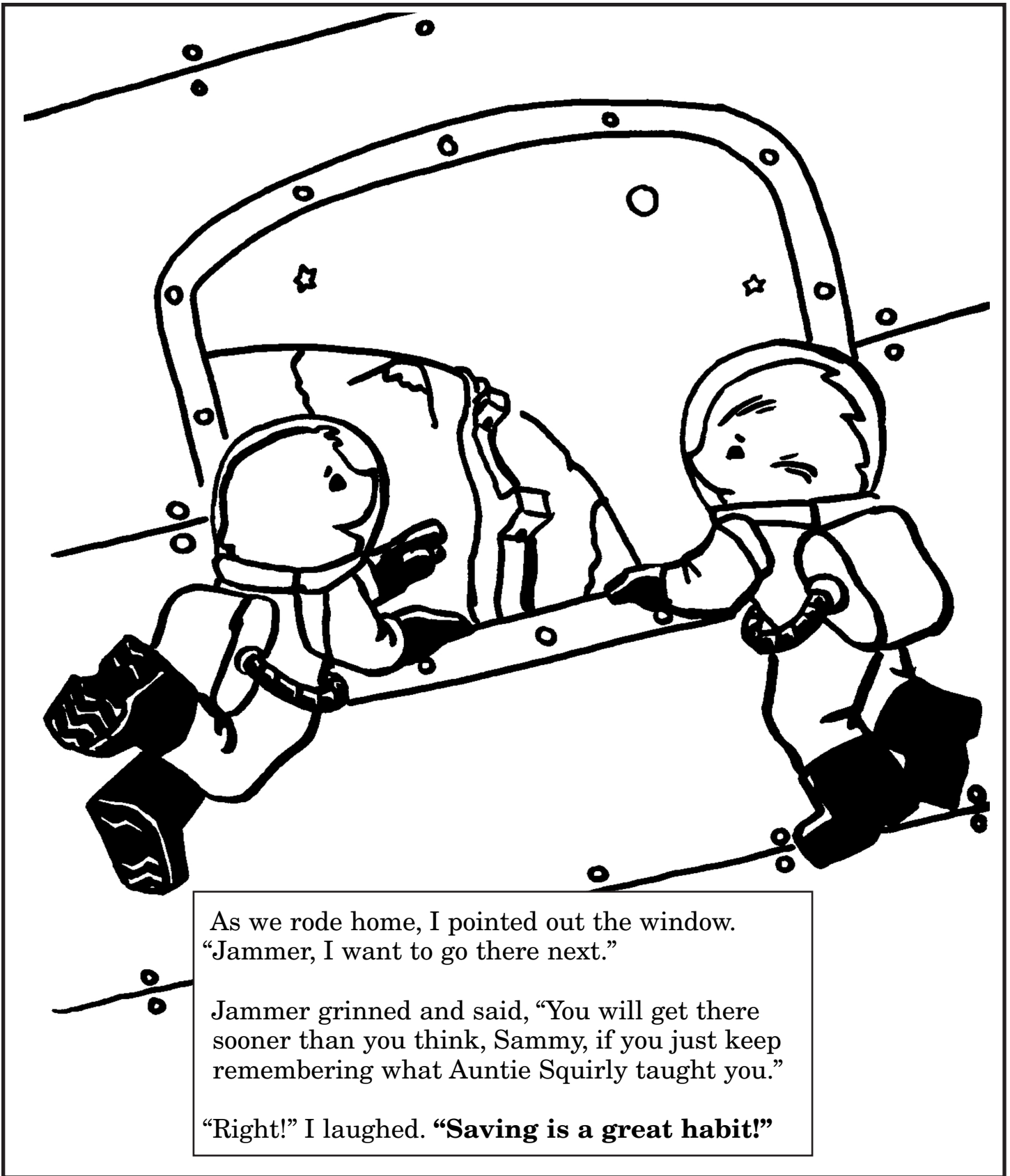
“Ahhhhhhhhh. I think I am getting sick,” said Jammer.

“Hold on,” I said to my friend. “The ride is almost over. I cannot wait to tell Garbanzo about it. He will probably faint again.”



Sammy says:

Be KIND and RESPECTFUL.



As we rode home, I pointed out the window.
“Jammer, I want to go there next.”

Jammer grinned and said, “You will get there sooner than you think, Sammy, if you just keep remembering what Auntie Squirly taught you.”

“Right!” I laughed. **“Saving is a great habit!”**

Sammy says: **Keep DREAMING. Keep SAVING.**
You can do it, now get to it!

SECTION 2

**STORY QUIZ
& REVIEW**

Sammy's Big Dream - Story Quiz & Review

This is the Deluxe Story Set version of Sammy's Big Dream - Story Quiz & Review.

List of Activities

1. What I Learned
2. Story Review #1 (2 pages)
3. Story Review #2
4. Story Idea #1
5. Story Idea #2
6. Story Idea #3
7. Story Idea #4
8. Great Habits List #1
9. Great Habits Activity #1
10. Great Habits Activity #2
11. Great Habits Activity #3
12. Great Habits Activity #4
13. Great Habits Activity #5
14. Great Habits Activity #6
15. Great Habits Activity #7
16. Great Habits Activity #8
17. Great Habits Activity #9
18. Great Habits Activity #10
19. Great Habits Activity #11
20. Great Habits Activity #12
21. Great Habits Activity #13
22. Word Search
23. Crossword Puzzle
24. Unscramble & Alphabetize
25. Dream Big Pledge
26. Congratulations
27. You Can
28. Sammy Says
29. Interest is Interesting
30. Dream Big
31. Wishing You Success



Sammy's Big Dream

Story Review #1

(page 1 of 2)

Write your answer. Fill in the blank. Or place a check by the best answer.

1. What was Sammy's big dream?

2. What was Sammy's goal?

Sammy's goal was to earn and _____ \$_____ a day for _____ days

3. What was Sammy's plan to reach his goal and make his dream come true?

- a. Work hard once in a while, earn, spend, and save _____
- b. Work hard every day; work with his friend; earn and save money one step at a time _____
- c. Play with his friends; work sometimes; save sometimes _____

4. Would Sammy agree or disagree with the statements below. Write a page number in the story that supports your answer.

- a. Saving and working hard are great habits. Agree _____ Disagree _____ Page _____
- b. Written goals and plans help make big dreams come true. Agree _____
Disagree _____ Page _____
- c. It is important to try hard, give our best effort and not give up easy. Agree _____
Disagree _____ Page _____
- d. Good spending choices help us get what we really want. Agree _____
Disagree _____ Page _____
- e. Giving to others feels good. Agree _____ Disagree _____ Page _____

Sammy's Big Dream

Story Review #1

(page 2 of 2)

5. In the story, Sammy remembers an important secret Auntie Squirly shared with him, "saving is a great habit!" How do we know from the story that Auntie is right and that saving is indeed a great habit. Write a page number from the story that support your answer.

We know "saving is a great habit" because:

- a. Sammy's parents had been saving and had savings available in their bank account in order to give Sammy half the money to make his dream come true!
Agree____ Disagree____ Page _____
- b. Sammy had been saving and had savings available in his bank account. That meant it was easier by \$50 for Sammy to reach his saving goals and make his dream come true! Agree____ Disagree____ Page _____
- c. Sammy had been saving and had savings available in his bank account to give to his friend Jammer so he could ride the world's first outer space roller coaster.
Agree____ Disagree____ Page _____

6. Would Sammy agree or disagree with the statements below. Write a page number in the story that supports your answer.

- a. Making saving a habit better prepares me to get what I want and need.
Agree____ Disagree____ Page _____
- b. Making saving a habit better prepares me for unexpected emergencies and opportunities. Agree____ Disagree____ Page _____
- c. Making saving a habit gives me more choices. Agree____ Disagree____ Page _____
- d. Making saving a habit better prepares me to make dreams come true.
Agree____ Disagree____ Page _____
- e. Making saving a habit better prepares me to give to others?
Agree____ Disagree____ Page _____

Sammy's Big Dream Story Review #2

Read the cited page. Then, see if you can fill in the blanks to discover habits and steps that help Sammy and will help you make big dreams come true!

1. Discover and declare your _____. It's a great habit!
Read page 5
2. Set _____. It's a great habit!
Read page 11
3. Have a written _____. It's a great habit!
Read page 3 and 11
4. _____ money is a great habit!
Read page 8 and 11
5. _____ hard. _____ money. They are great habits and fun to do.
Read page 7 and 12
6. _____ smart. _____. _____ progress. They are great habits!
Read page 19 and 20
7. _____ wisely! It's a great habit!
Read page 22
8. _____ big! Do big. _____ at a time!
Read page 16

Story Idea #1

Solve the puzzle to reveal an important idea that is not stated directly in the story, but it summarizes the entire story! It is an idea you should remember.

7 18 5 1 20 8 1 2 9 20 19

8 5 12 16 13 1 11 5 2 9 7

4 18 5 1 13 19 3 15 13 5

20 18 21 5 !

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5
F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10
K=11	L=12	M=13	N=14	O=15
P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20
U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25
Z=26				

Sammy's Big Dream

Story Idea #2

Solve the hidden message to discover an important story idea Sammy Rabbit and the author want to share with you!

 !
9 3 1 14 4 15 9 20

I can choose great habits!

I can make big dreams come true!

Signed

Date

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5
F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10
K=11	L=12	M=13	N=14	O=15
P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20
U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25
Z=26				

Story Idea #3

Solve the hidden message to discover an important idea in the story!

_____, _____
4 18 5 1 13 19 5 20

_____, _____
7 15 1 12 19 5 1 18 14

19 1 22 5

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5
F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10
K=11	L=12	M=13	N=14	O=15
P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20
U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25
Z=26				

Story Idea #4

Solve the puzzle to reveal an important idea Sammy states in the story!

19 1 22 9 14 7 9 19

1 7 18 5 1 20 8 1 2 9 20

A=1	B=2	C=3	D=4	E=5
F=6	G=7	H=8	I=9	J=10
K=11	L=12	M=13	N=14	O=15
P=16	Q=17	R=18	S=19	T=20
U=21	V=22	W=23	X=24	Y=25
Z=26				

Great Habits List #1

Here is a list of 10 great habits from the story that help make dreams come true!

1. Use the list of keywords for the activities that follow
2. Review the list of keywords and habits
3. Make a poster for your room titled: "Great Habits Help Make Big Dreams Come True." Include all the habits listed in the matrix in your poster. Add any other habits you think are important to your poster.

PAGE(S)	KEYWORD	HABIT
5	Dream	Determine what you want. Dream big!
11	Goals	Set goals
11	Plan	Have written plans
11	Save	Save money
12	Work Hard	Work hard
12	Earn	Earn money
15	Talk	Talk to the right people
16	Don't	Don't give up too easily
16	Step	Go one step at a time
19	Spend smart	Spend smart
20	Measure	Measure your progress
22	Give	Give wisely
26	Keep Dreaming	Keep dreaming and growing

Great Habits Activity #1

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Write a sentence on how dreaming big helped Sammy to discover what he can do.

**DREAM
BIG**

Do big. One step at a time!

Great Habits Activity #2

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read page 11. Write a sentence on how setting a goal helped Sammy achieve his big dream.

Set

GOALS

Be clear. Be specific.

Great Habits Activity #3

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read page 11. Write a sentence on how have a written plan helped Sammy achieve his big dream.

Have

written

plans!

Great Habits Activity #4

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read pages 8, 9, 11, 22, 26. Write a sentence on how making saving money a habit helped Sammy.

SAVE

make it a

habit.

Great Habits Activity #5

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read pages 12, 14, 16. Write a sentence on how working hard helped Sammy.

WORK

hard

Always give your best effort.

Great Habits Activity #6

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read pages 7, 9, 12, 13, 18. Write a sentence on how earning money helped Sammy.

EARN

money. It is fun to do.

Great Habits Activity #7

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read pages 5, 7, 8, 15, 16, 22. Write a sentence on how talking to the right people helped Sammy.

TALK

to the

right

people.

Great Habits Activity #8

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read pages 16, 18, 19. Write a sentence on how being determined helped Sammy achieve his big dream.

DO NOT

give up easily. Stay

DETERMINED

Great Habits Activity #9

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read pages 5, 11, 12, 16, 19. Write a sentence on how taking action one step at a time helped Sammy achieve his big dream.

Take

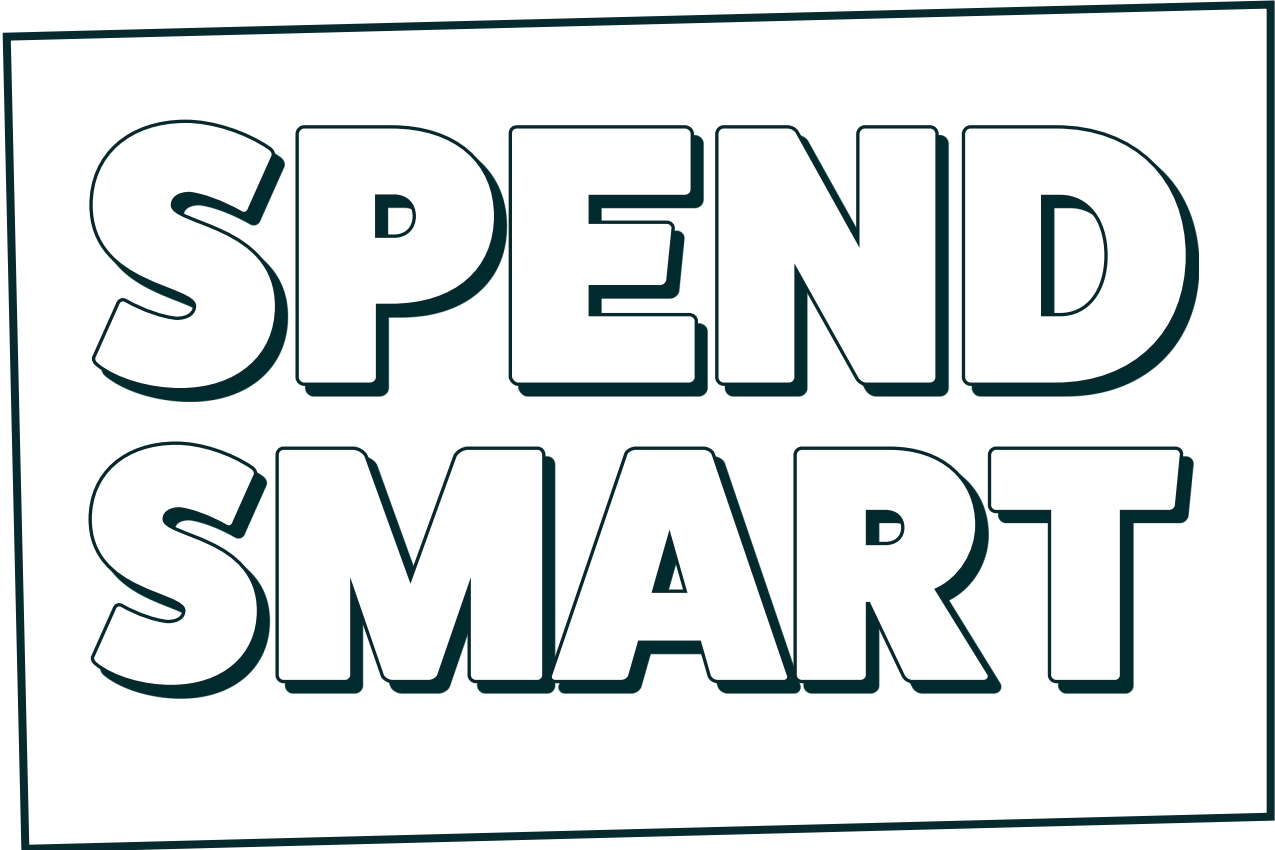
ACTION

one step

at a time!

Great Habits Activity #10

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read page 19. Write a sentence on how spending smart helped Sammy achieve his big dream.



Great Habits Activity #11

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read page 20. Write a sentence on how measuring his progress from time to time could have helped Sammy.

MEASURE

your progress.

Great Habits Activity #12

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read page 22. Write a sentence on how giving wisely helped Sammy.

GIVE

wisely

Great Habits Activity #13

Color in and/or trace the messages below. Read page 26. Write a sentence on how you thinking having new dreams and goals will help Sammy continue to grow.

KEEP

dreaming

and

growing

Word Search

Solve the word search using key words.

dream
goals

plan
save

work hard
earn

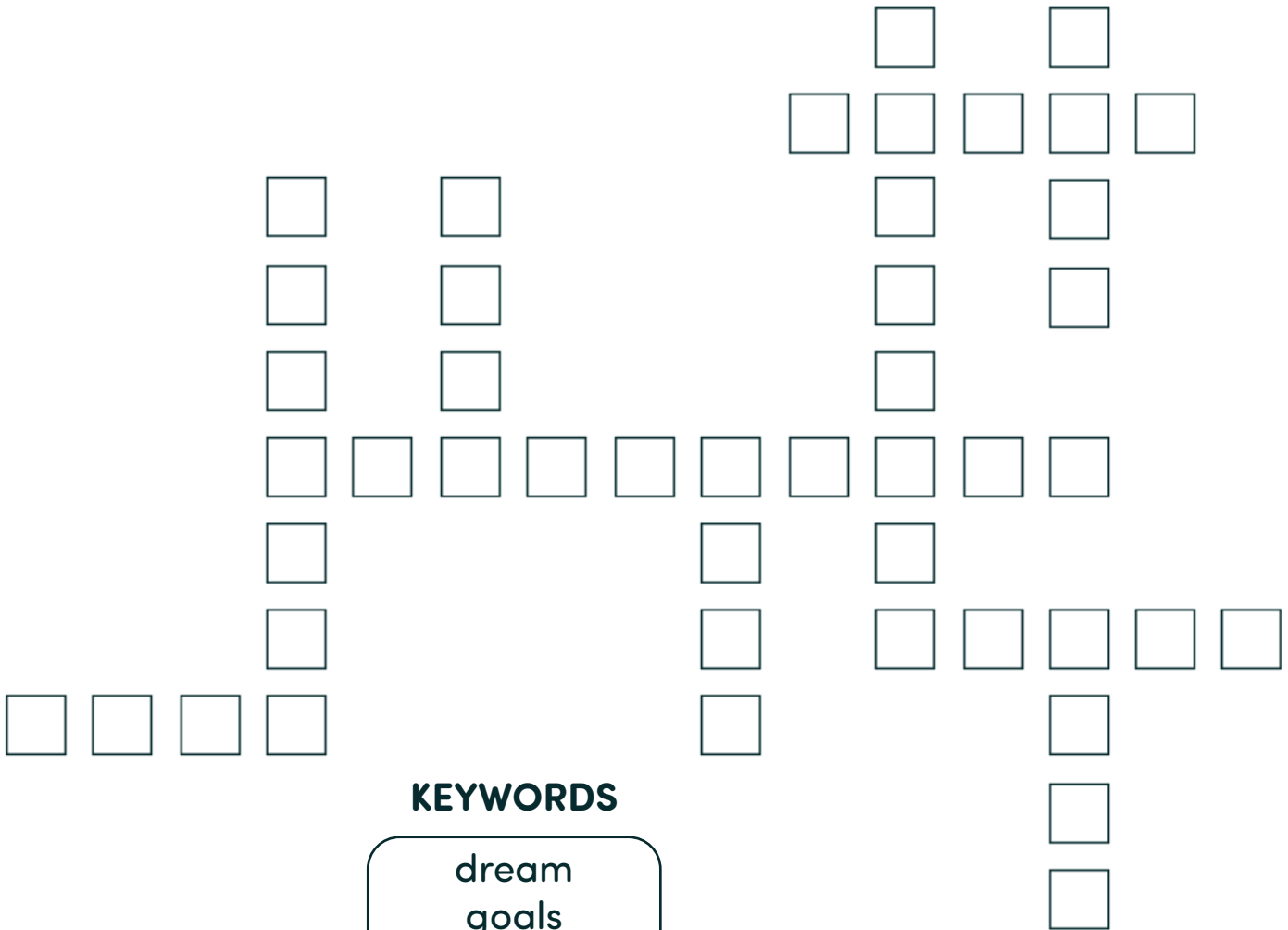
step
spend smart

measure
give

S	L	A	S	T	E	P	A	M	N
N	P	S	J	A	G	I	V	E	R
N	L	E	J	U	T	I	W	A	Q
H	A	A	N	W	E	I	O	S	M
M	N	R	Y	D	R	Q	R	U	S
G	C	N	U	O	S	G	K	R	P
O	N	D	R	E	A	M	H	E	N
A	O	U	Q	X	S	U	A	P	O
L	S	A	V	E	X	C	R	R	T
S	Y	T	U	P	O	T	D	U	T

Crossword Puzzle

Solve the crossword puzzle using key words.



KEYWORDS

- dream
- goals
- plan
- save
- work hard
- earn
- step
- spend smart
- measure
- give

*HINT: Count letters and boxes in each word.

Unscramble & Alphabetize

Unscramble the key words, then alphabetize them

meard

lsaog

nalp

vesa

khrdawro

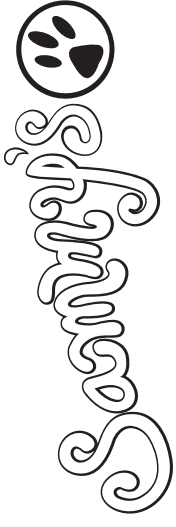
nrae

tsep

pdnsematrs

sraueem

vgie



Dream Big Pledge

Read and sign the Dream Big Pledge. Commit to making your big dreams come true!

I promise to dream big and do big one step at a time.

I promise to make habits of reading and saving money.

I promise to take responsibility for doing my best, working hard and being a life-long learner.

I promise to be respectful and kind to others in pursuing my dreams, goals and plans!

Name

Date

"You can do it, now let's get to it!" - Sammy Rabbit

Congratulations on a Sammyriffic job!

I want to shake your hand. You have

EARNED

bonus activities!



YOU CAN

do it! You can make big dreams
come true! Now get to it!

Sammy Says

At the bottom of each page of Sammy's Big Dream - Read & Color, you will find what Sammy says. List your favorite 10 things Sammy says.

1 _____

2 _____

3 _____

4 _____

5 _____

6 _____

7 _____

8 _____

9 _____

10 _____

Interest is Interesting

When we save money, we earn

INTEREST!

What makes interest interesting?

Interest helps our savings to grow faster. That helps us reach our dreams and goals sooner.

WooHoo!!!

DREAM BIG.

Do big – one step at a time!

Wishing you success!

**MAKE LOTS OF
BIG DREAMS
COME TRUE!**

Sam X Renick

Sam X. Renick
Author

&

Sammy 

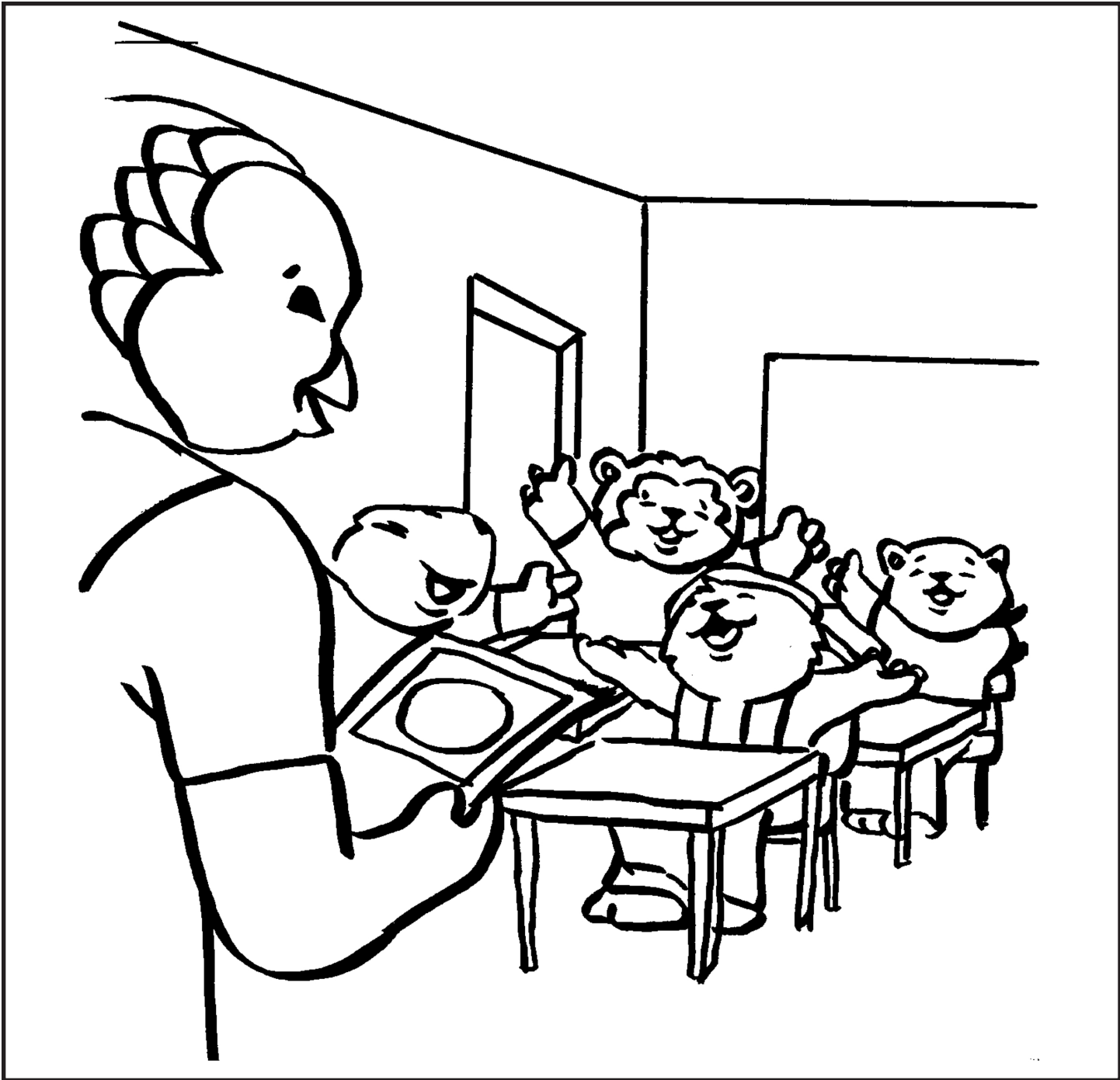
Sammy Rabbit

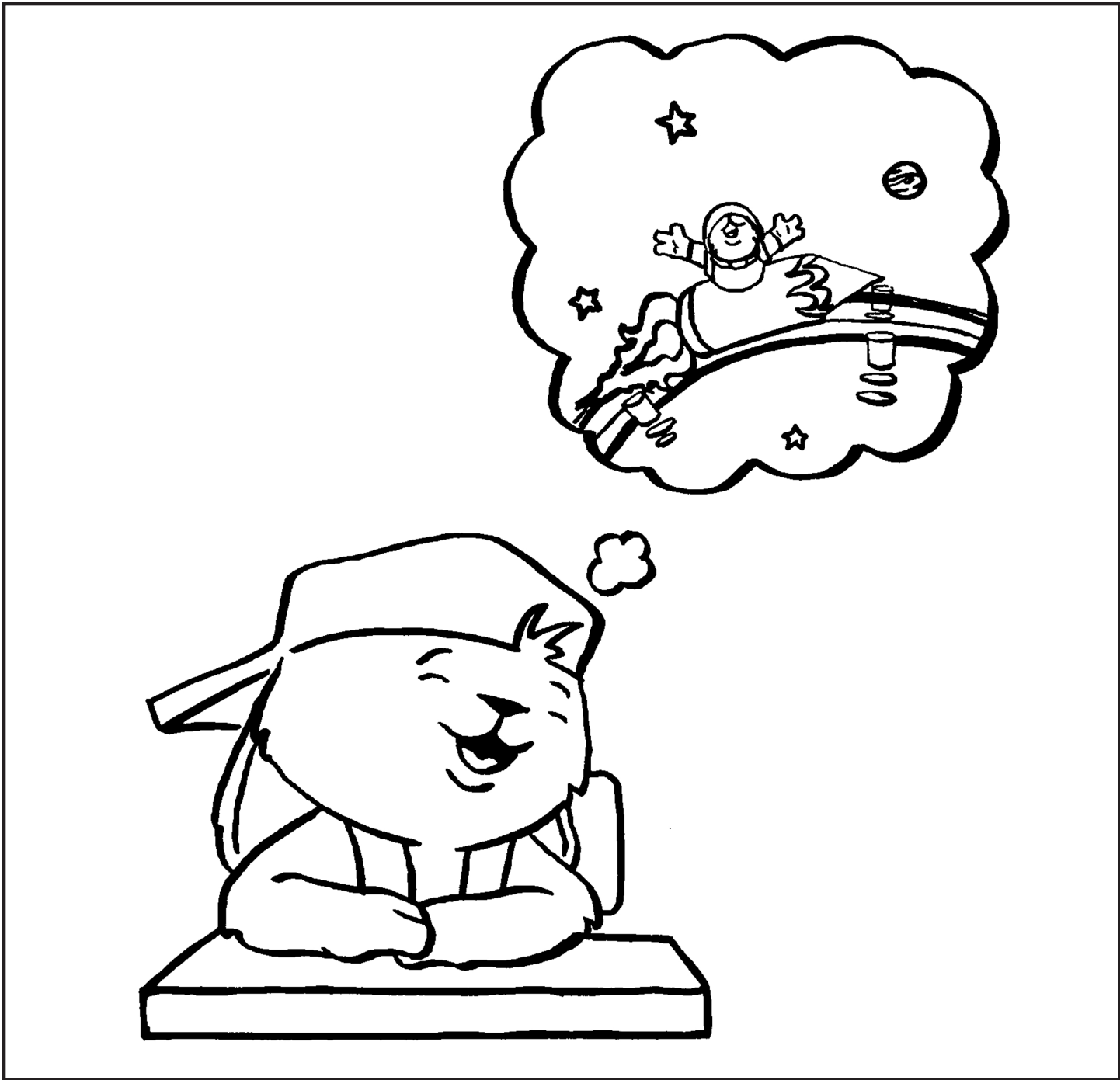
SECTION 3

**WRITE THE
STORY**

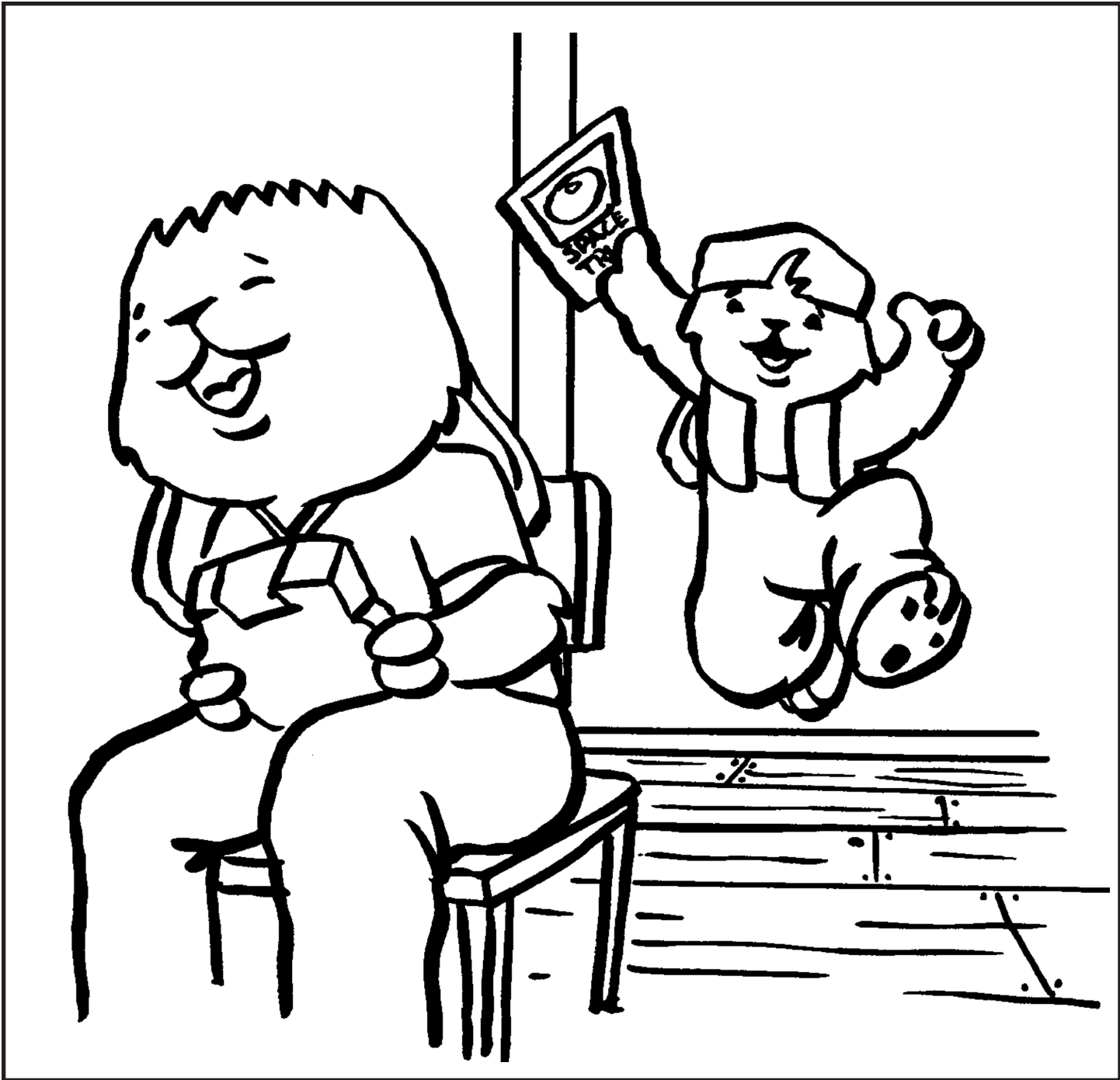
Sammy's Big Dream - Write the Story

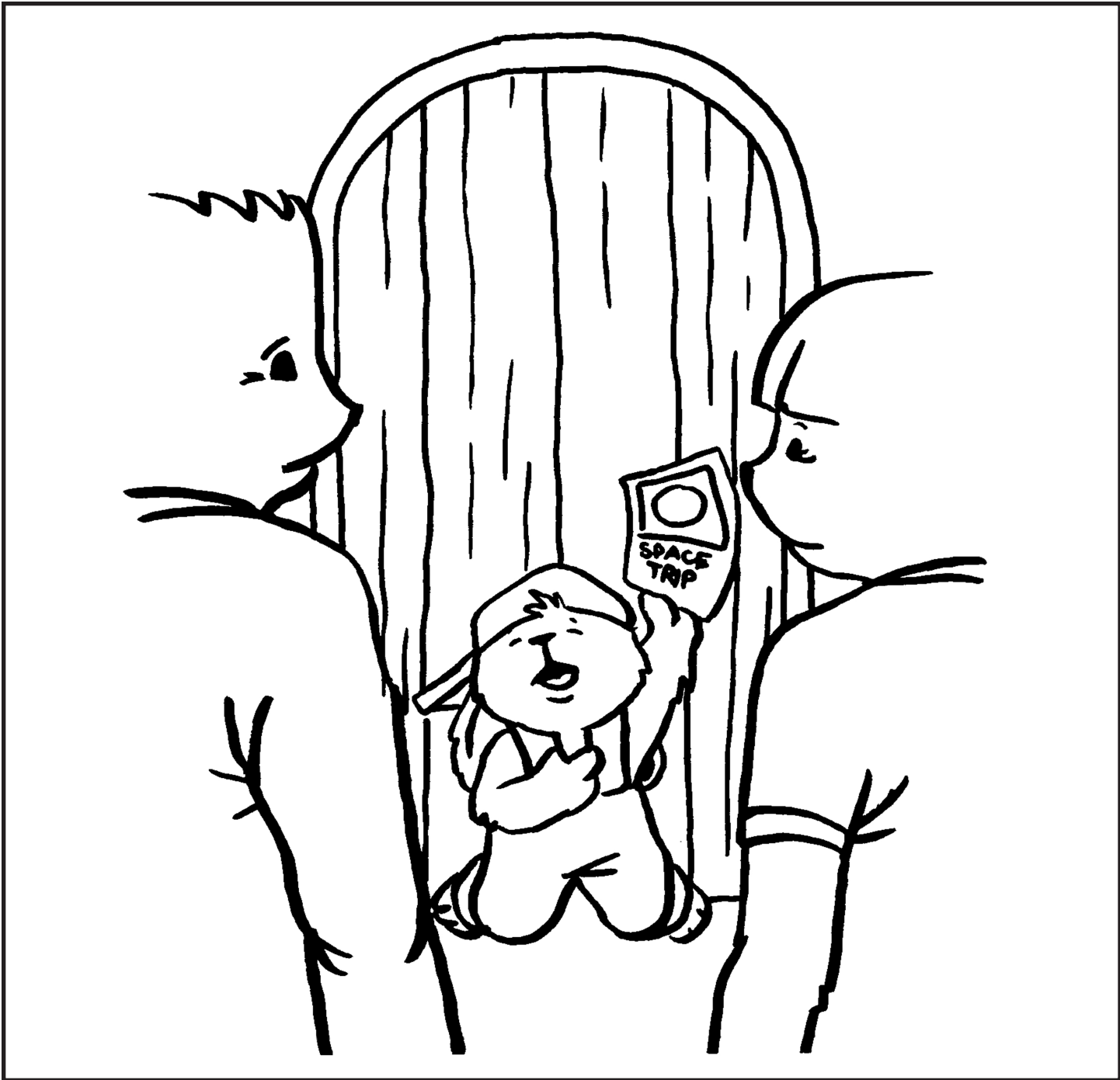
This is the Deluxe Story Set version of Sammy's Big Dream - Write the Story

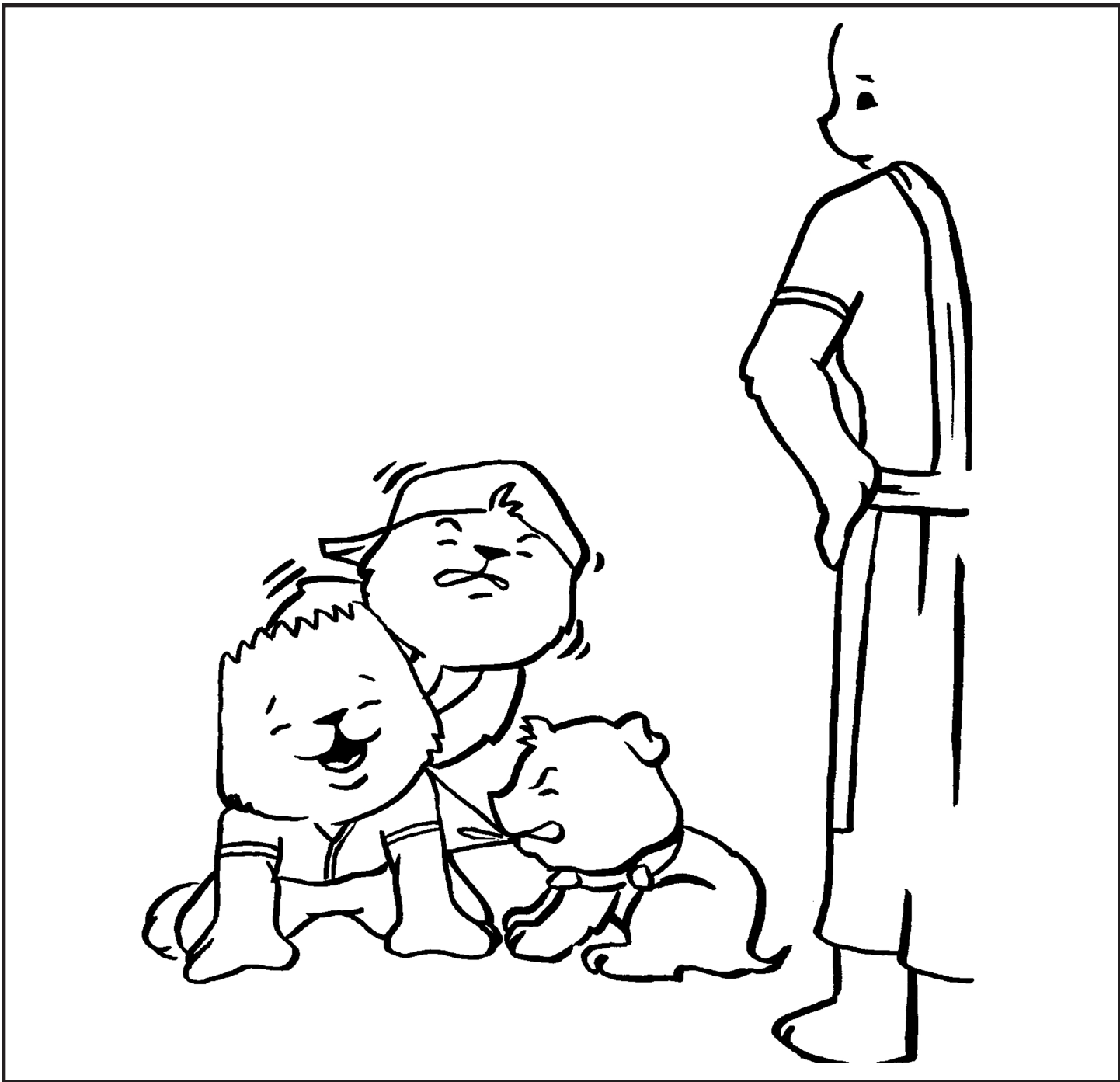


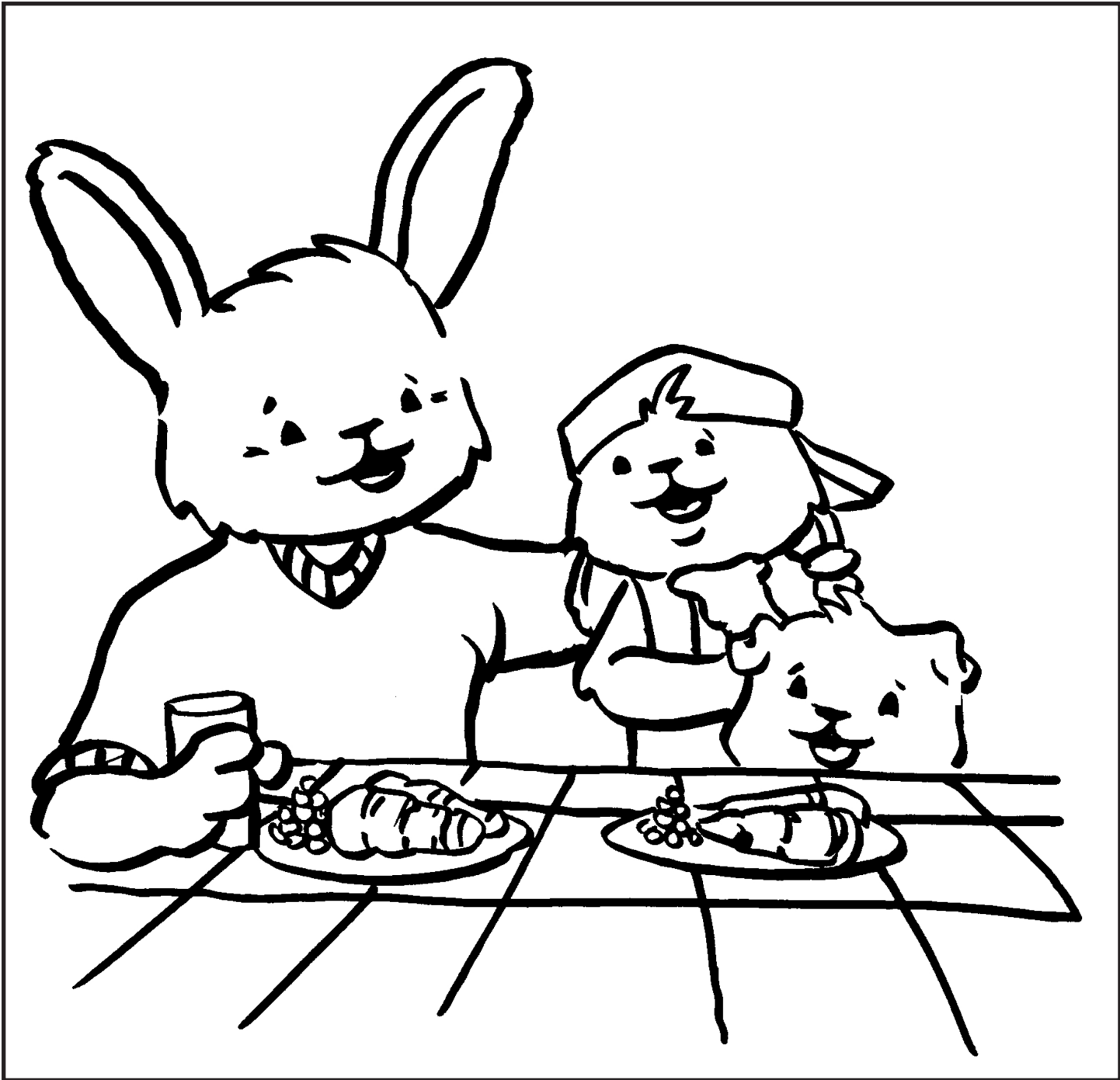


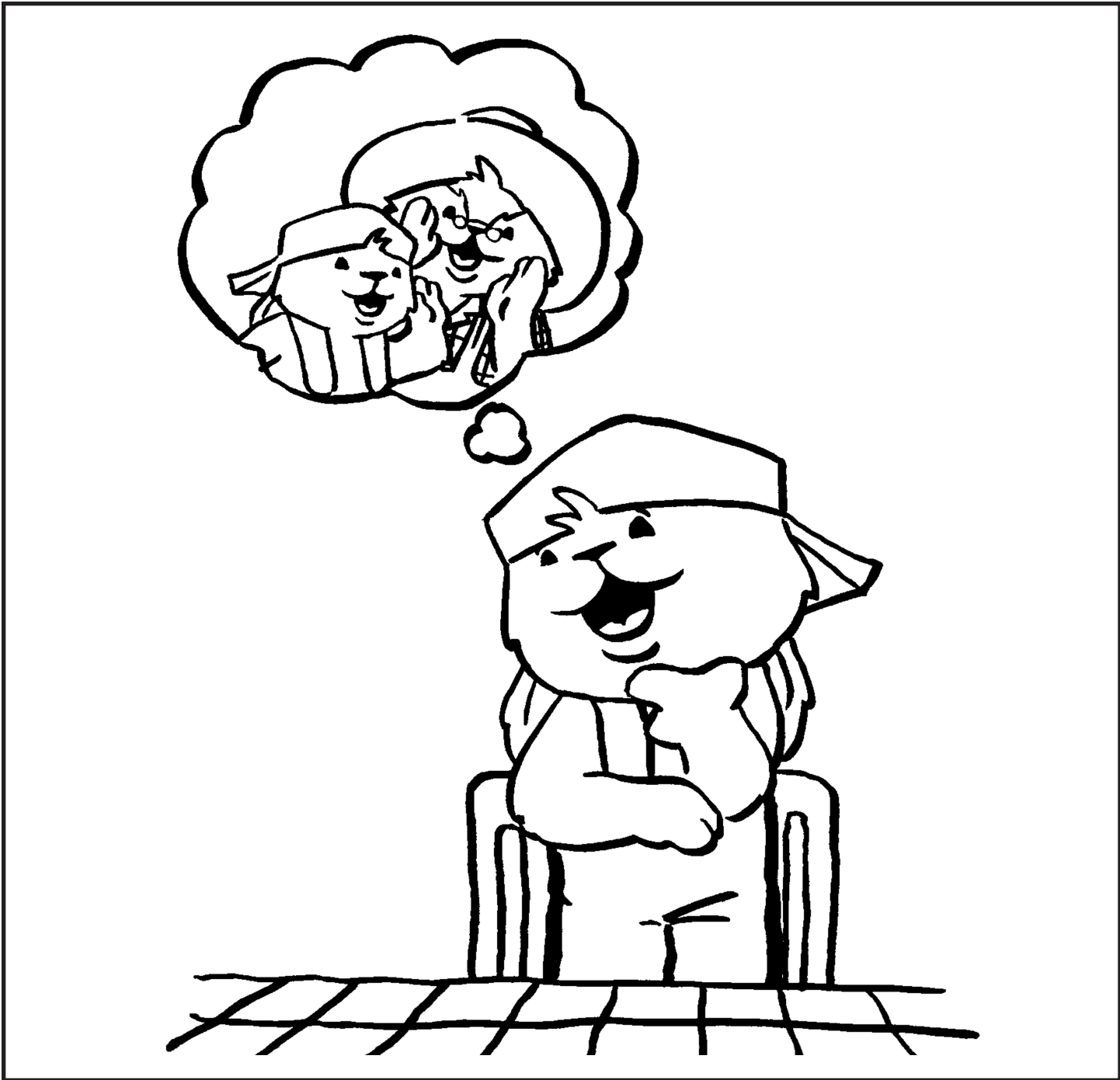


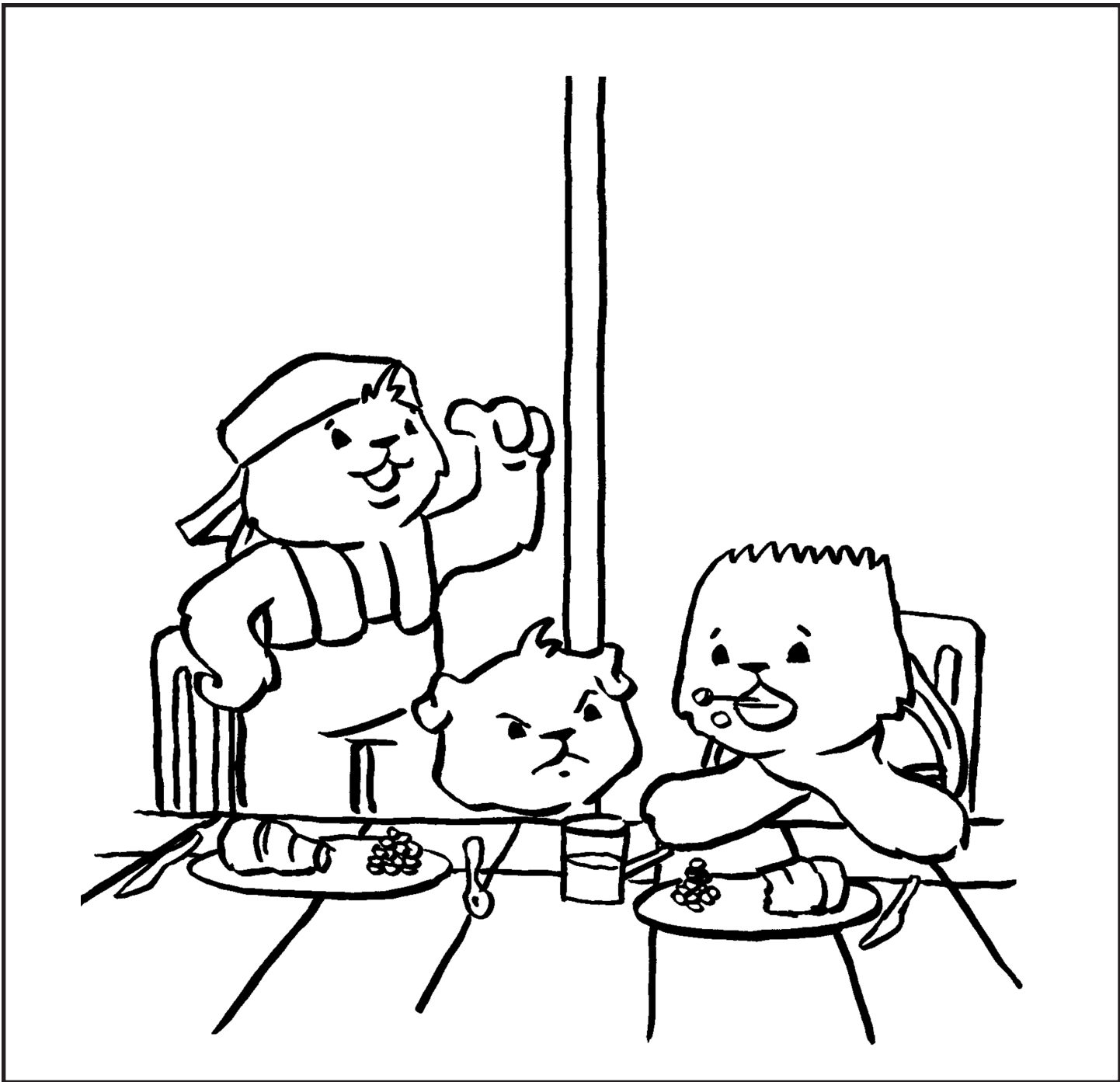


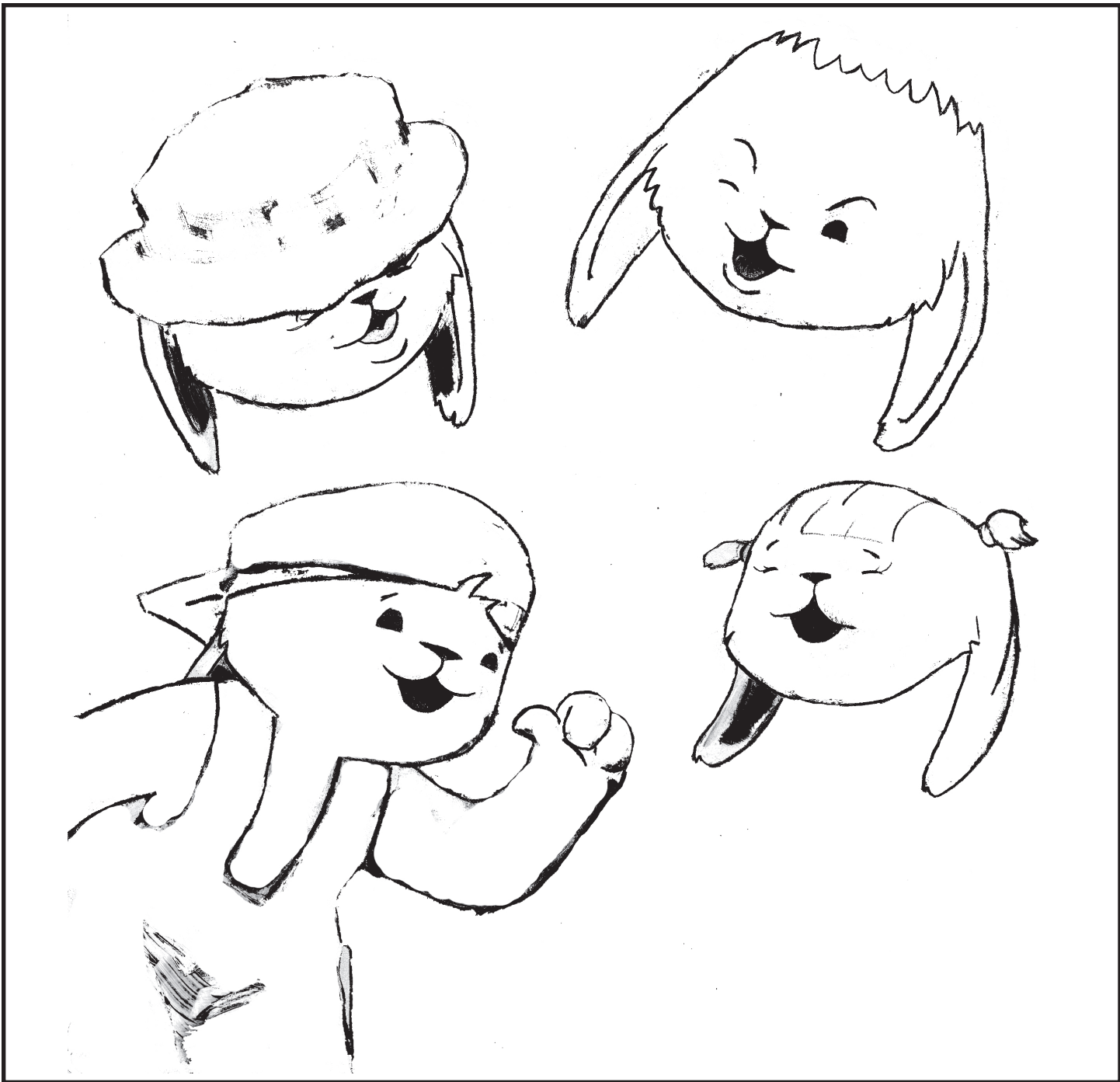


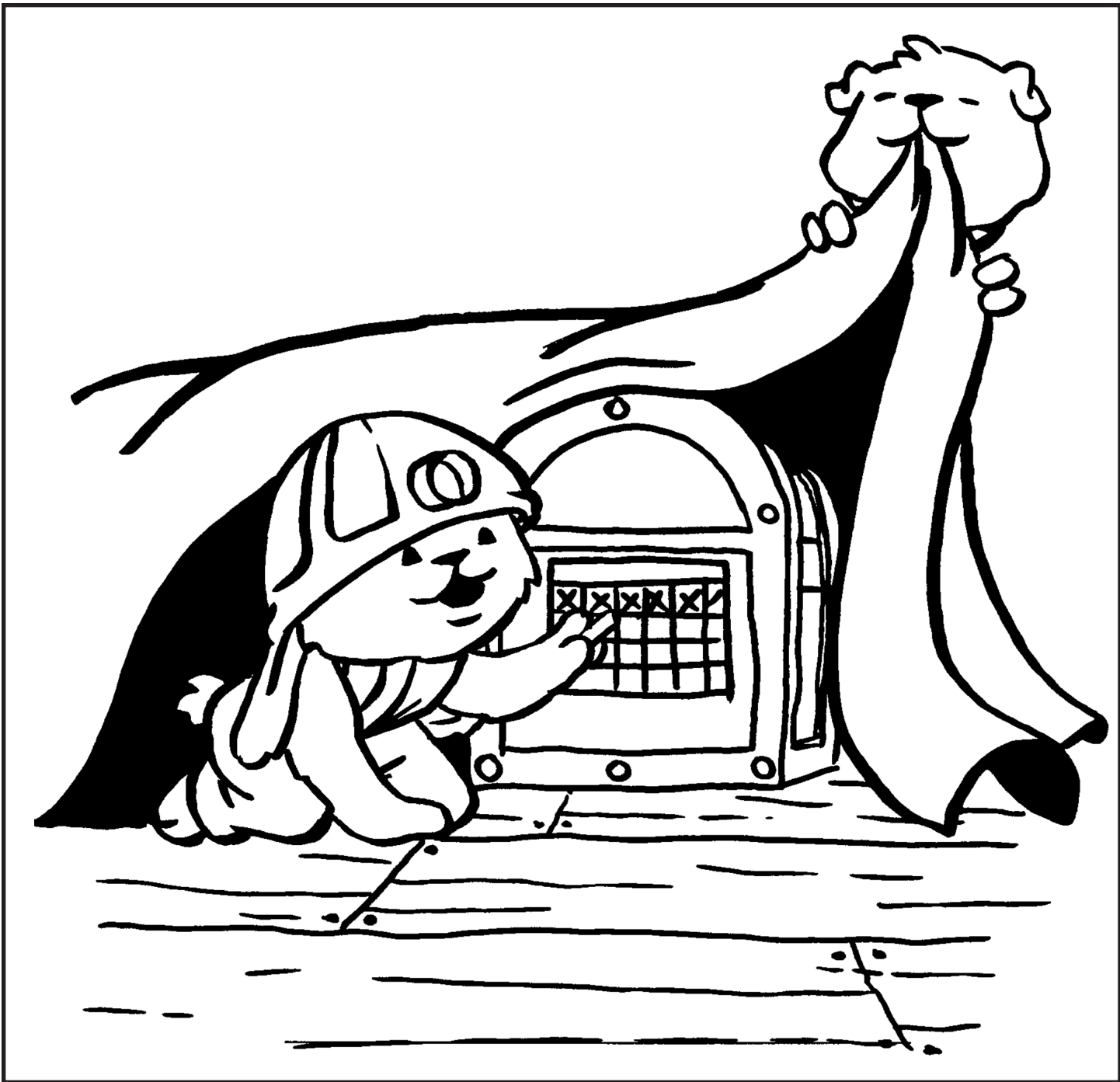


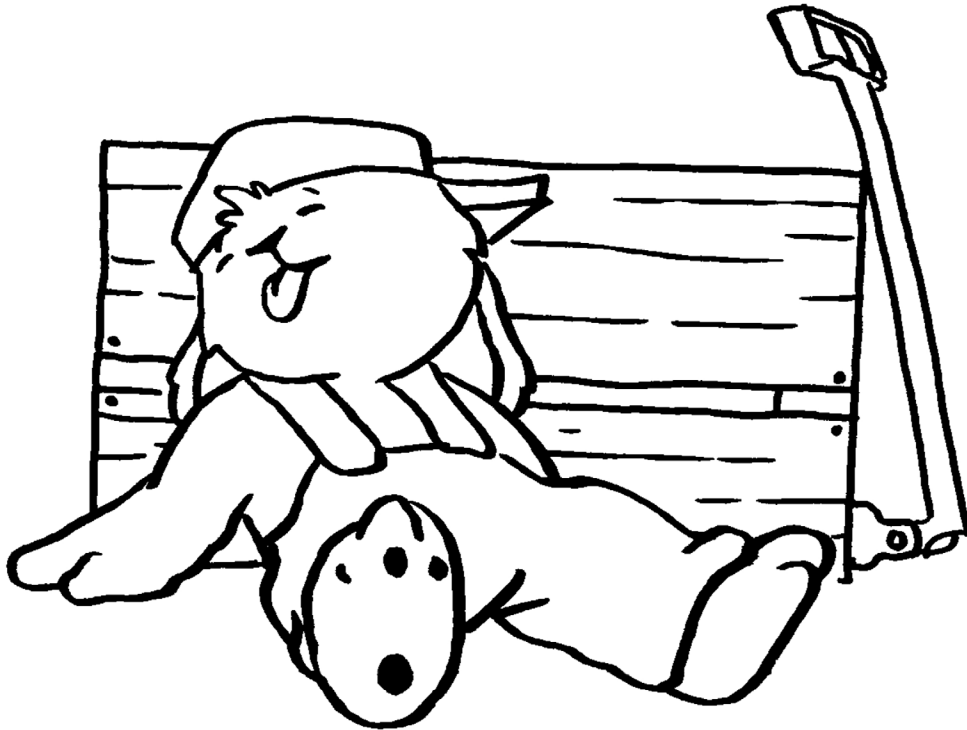
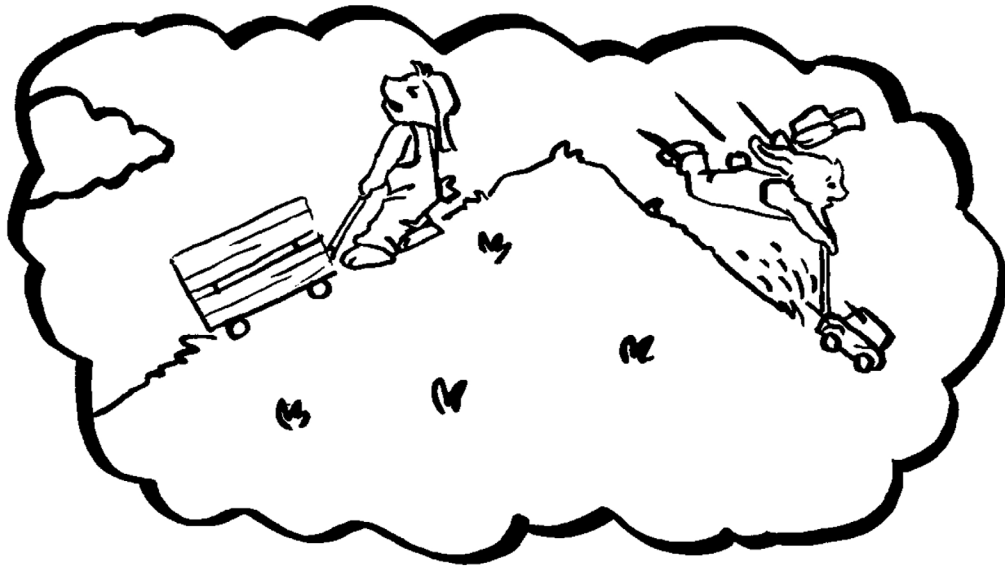


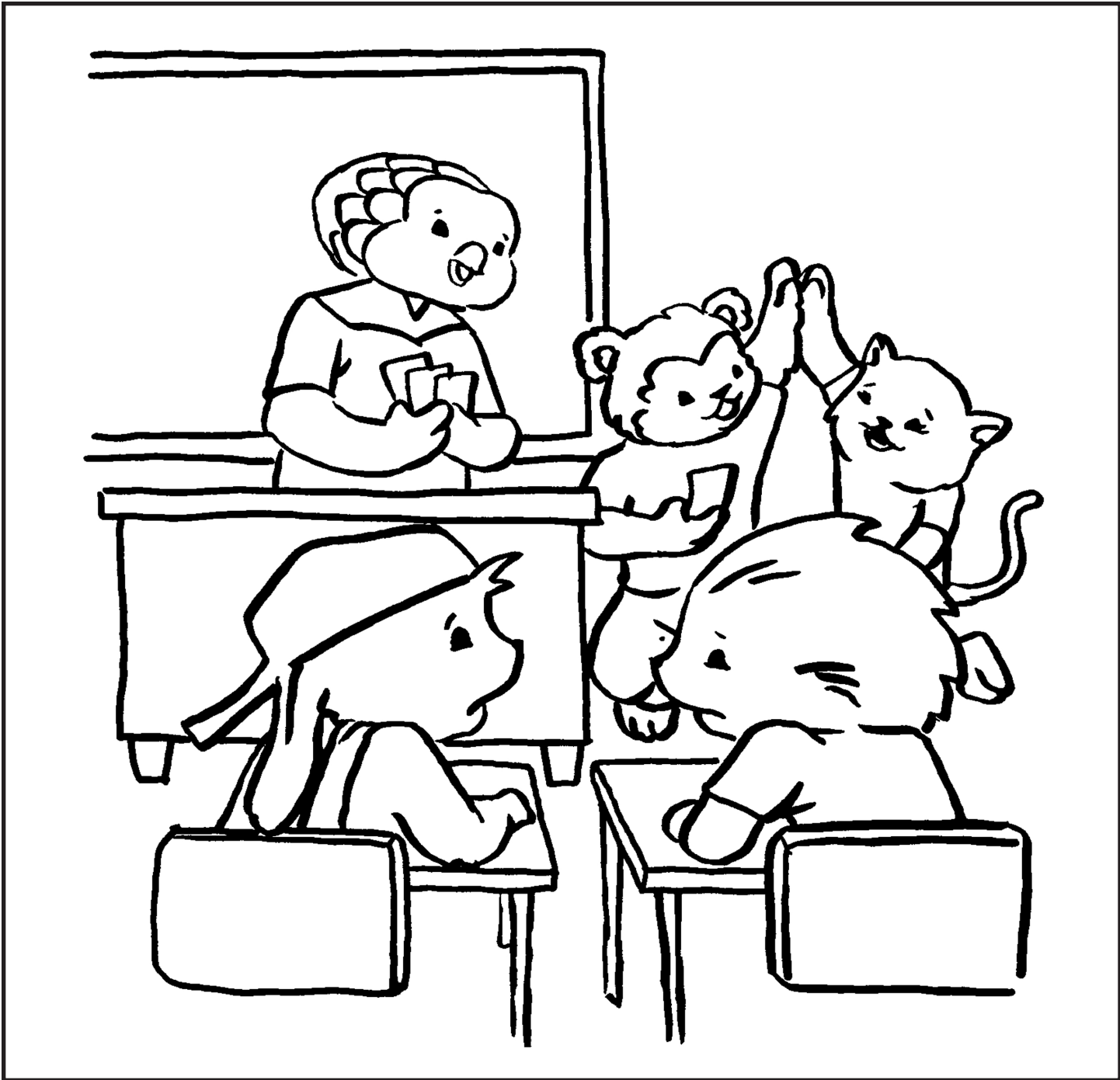




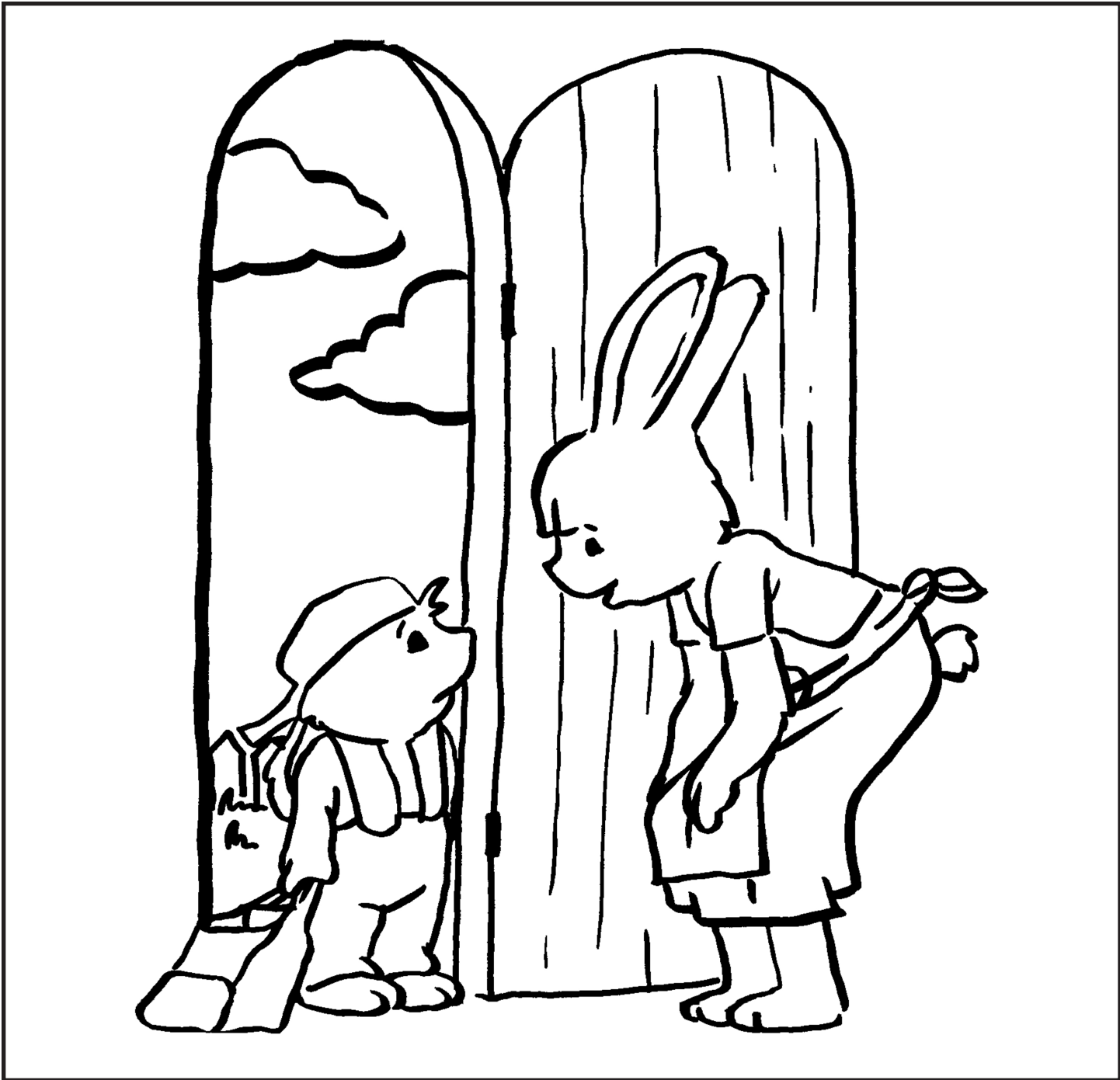


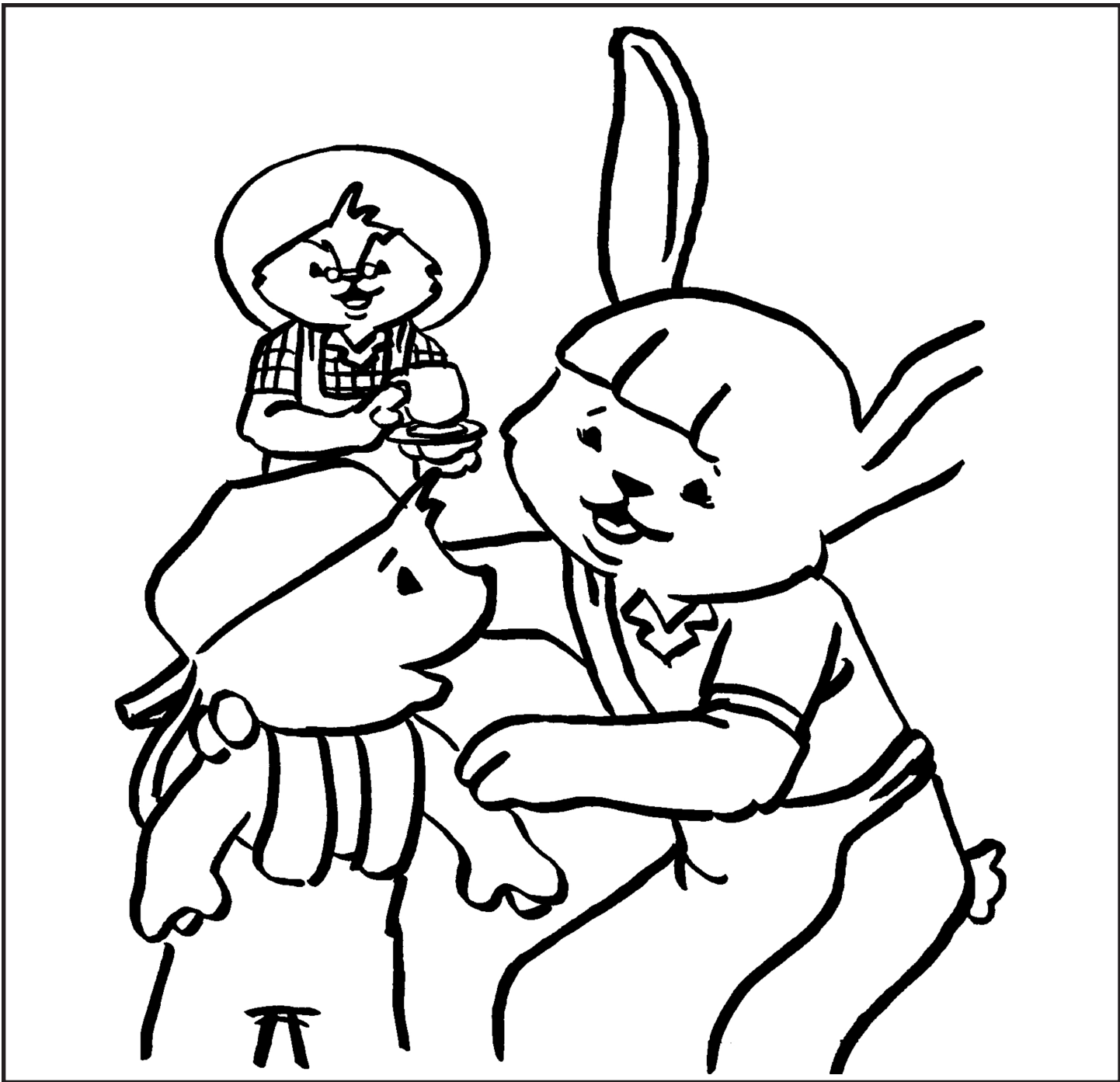


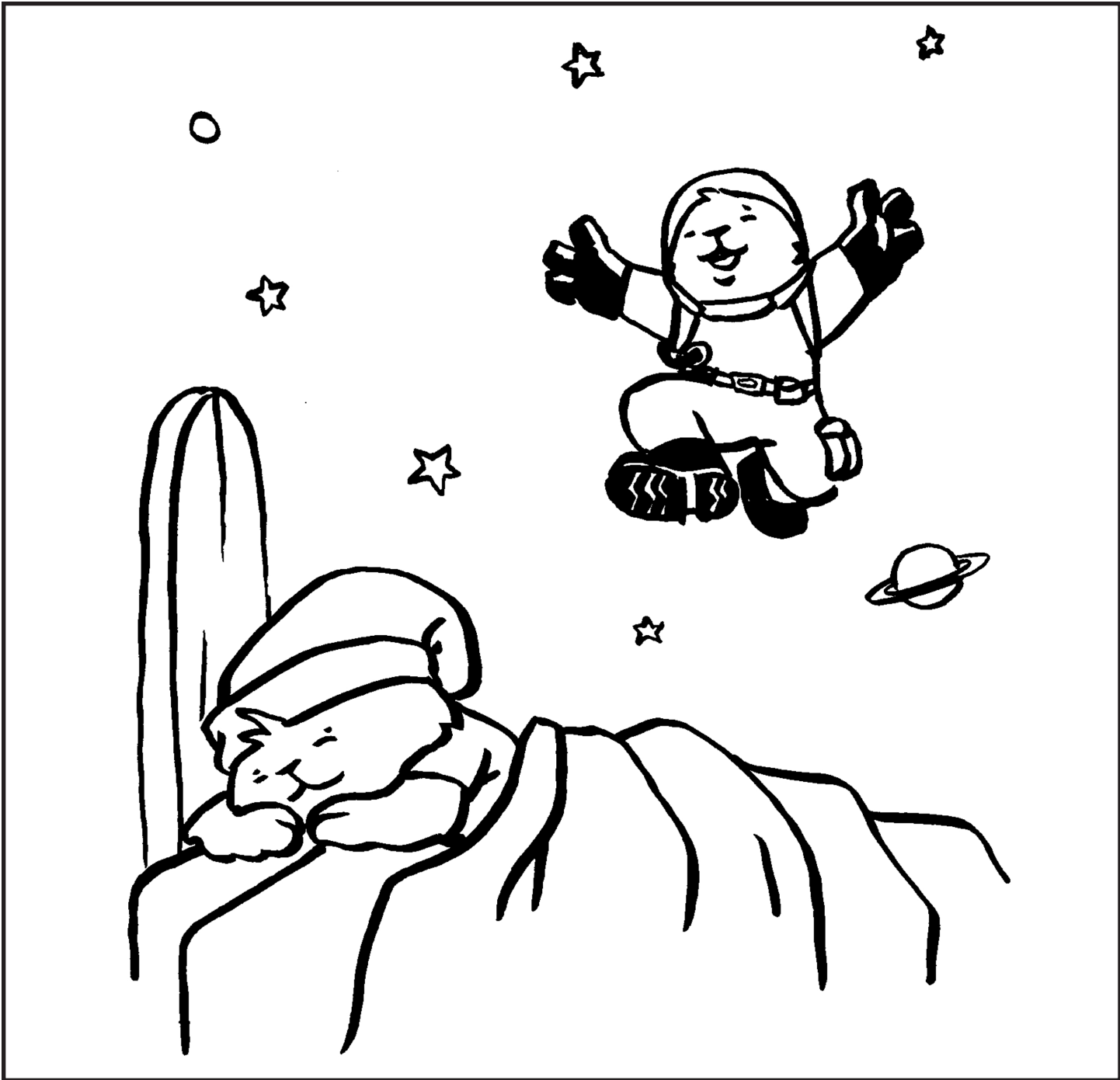


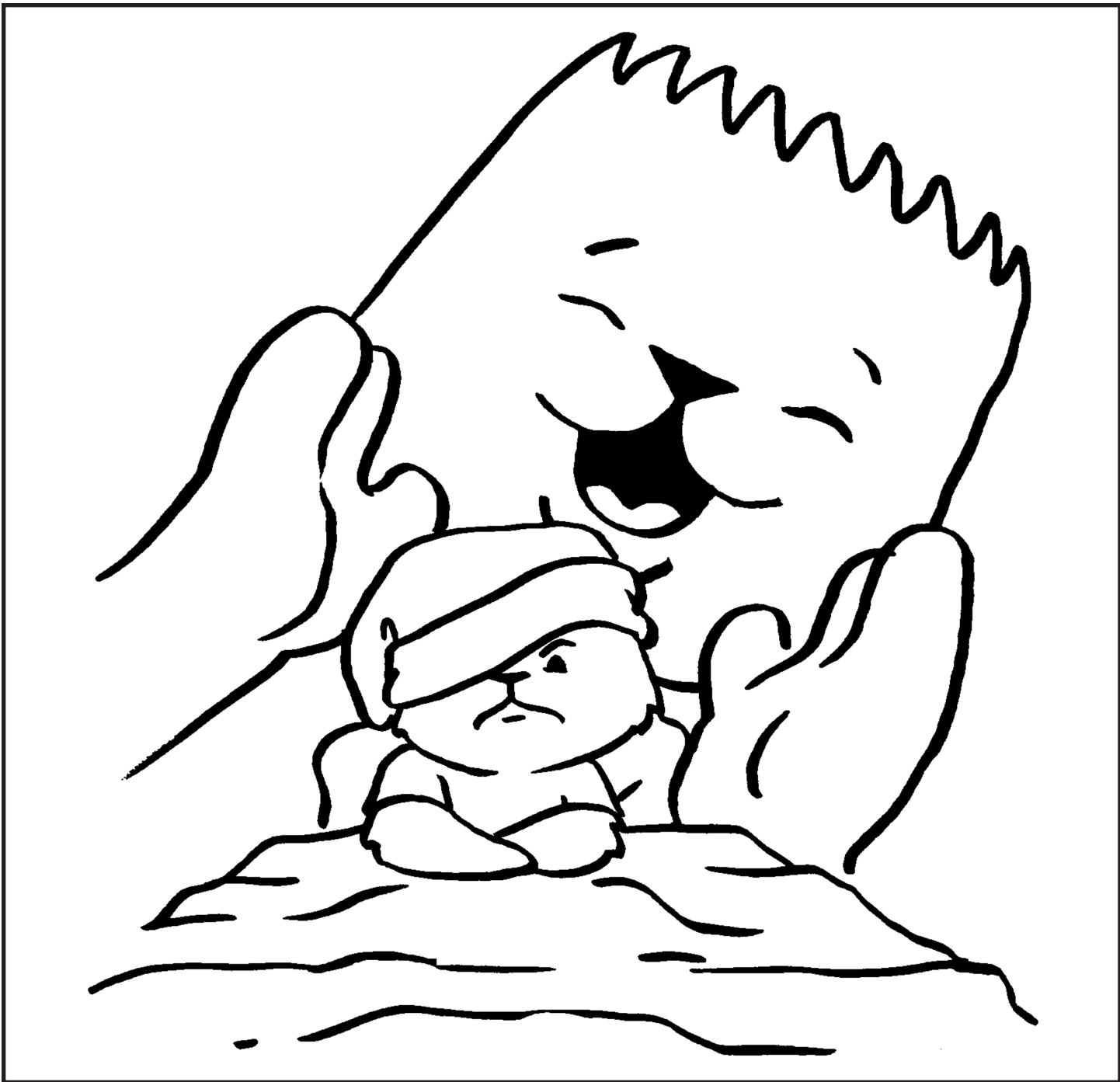








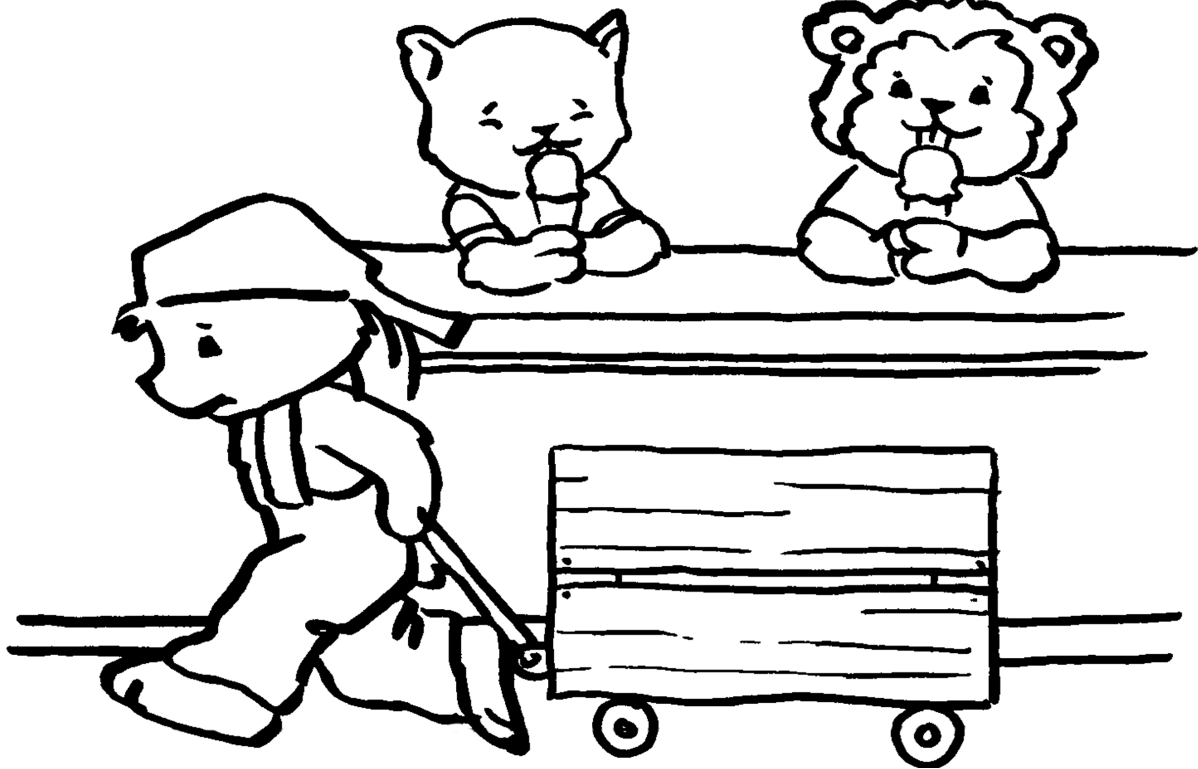


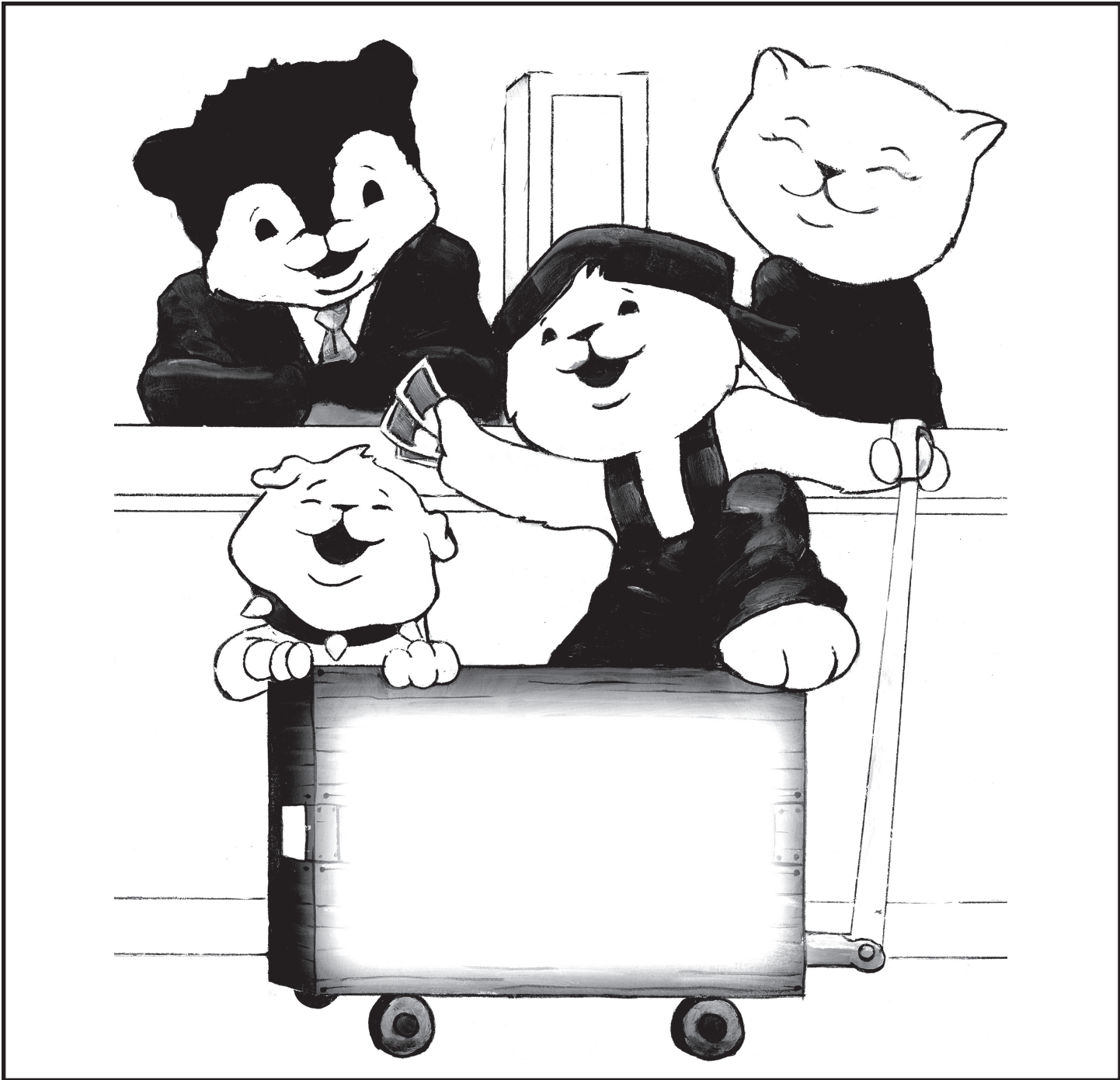


ICE CREAM

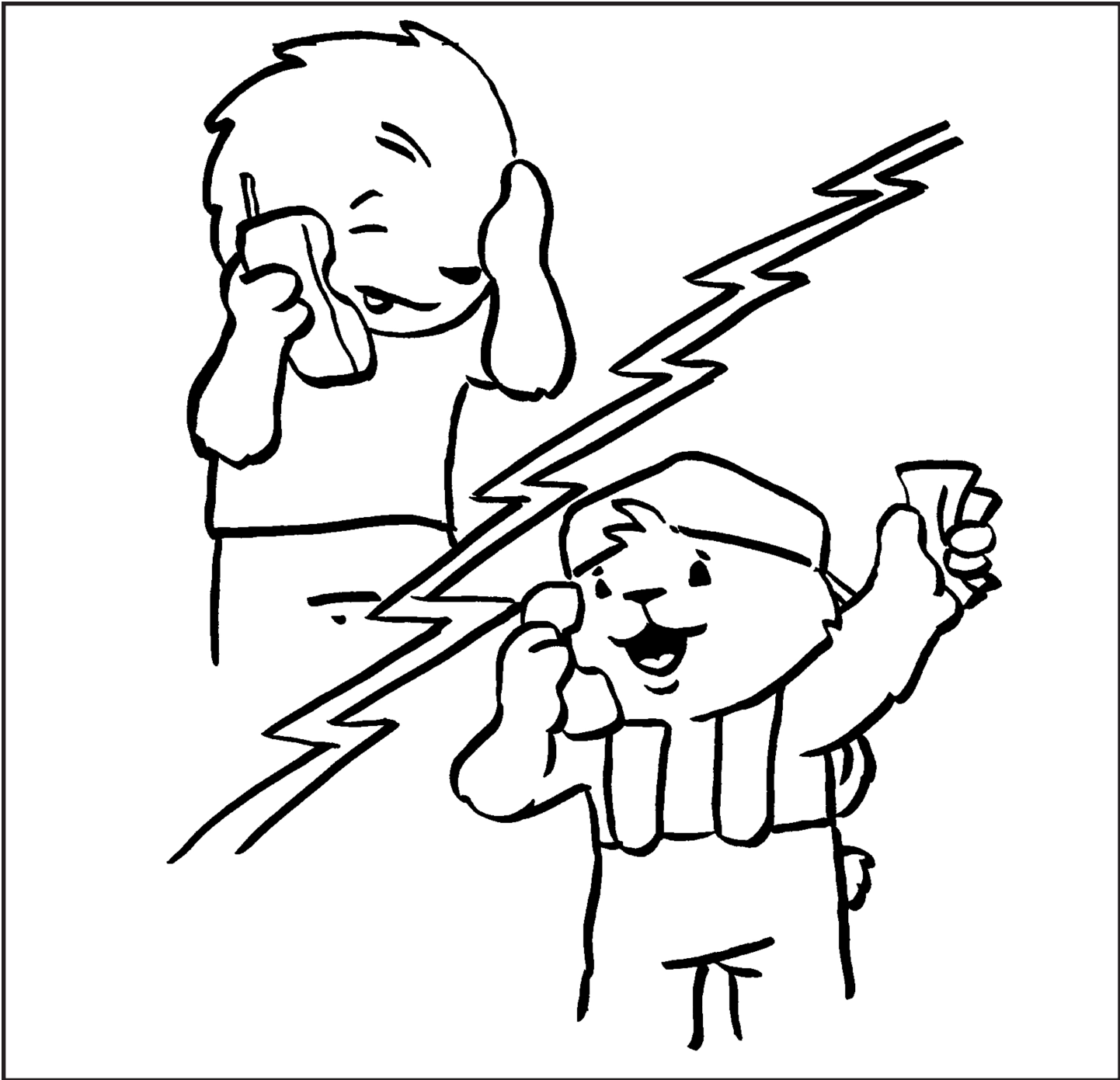


SHOP

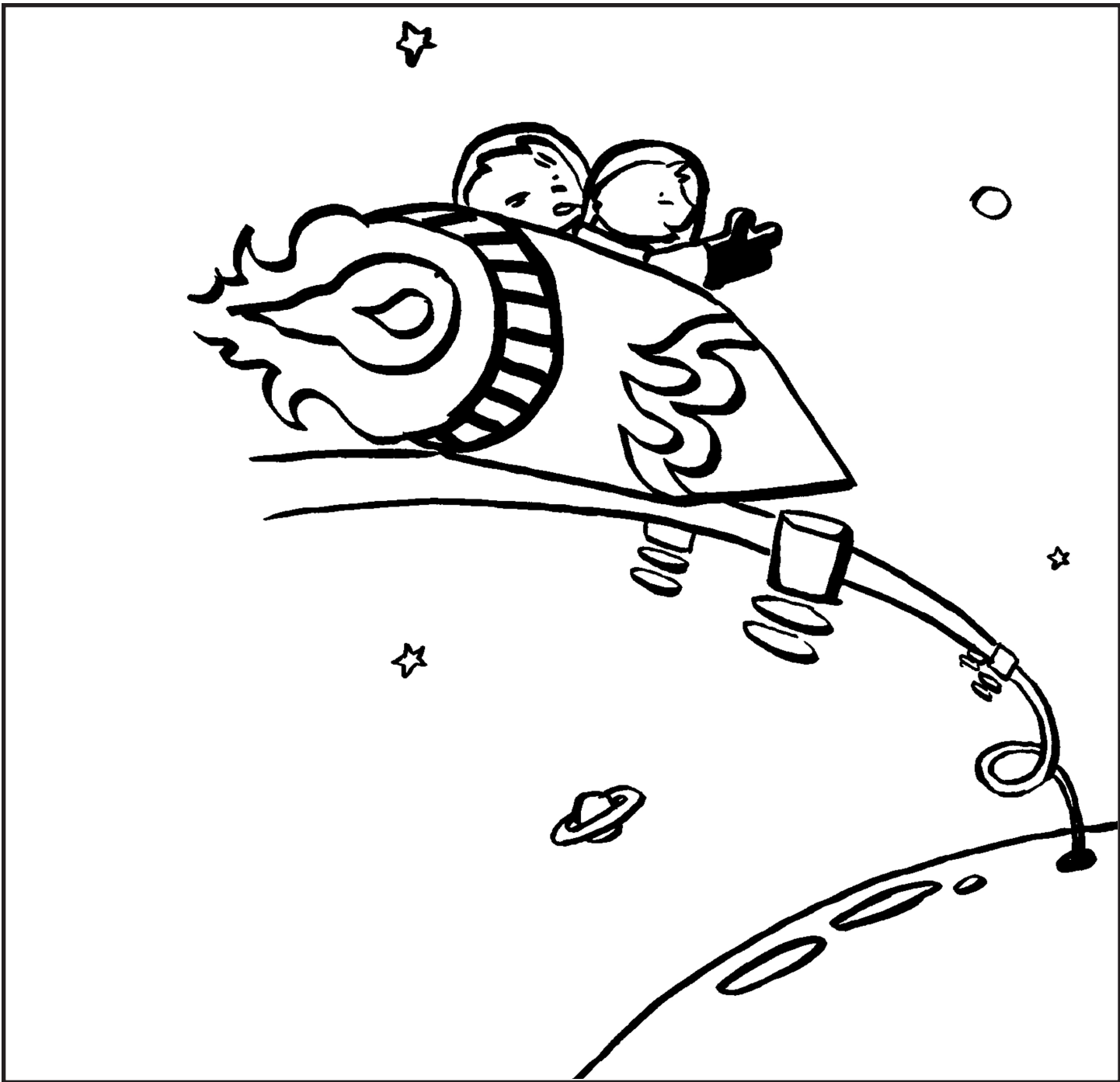




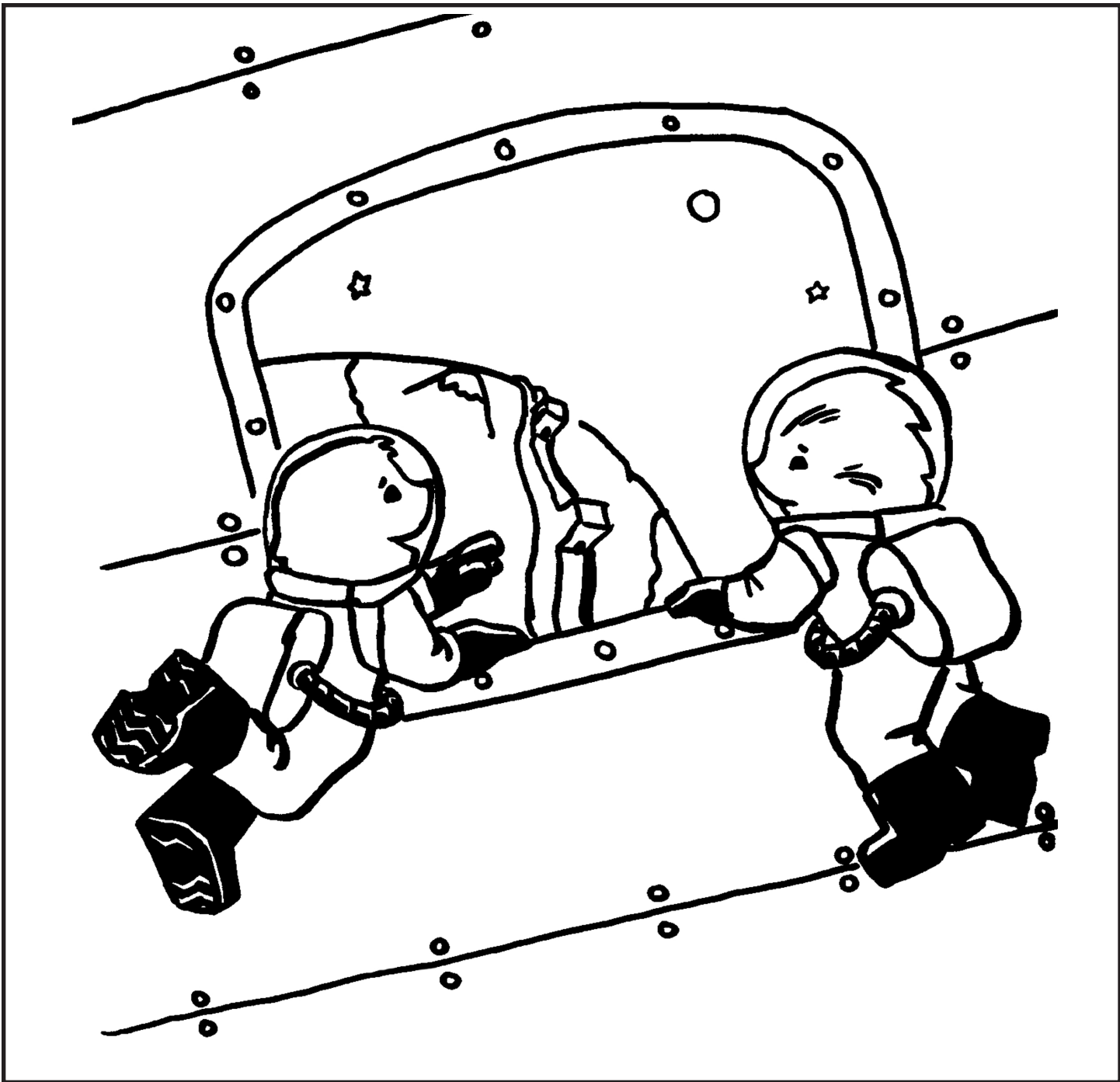












SECTION 4

**READ &
ILLUSTRATE**

Sammy's Big Dream - Read & Illustrate

This is the Deluxe Story Set version of Sammy's Big Dream - Read & Illustrate.

It all began the day after holiday vacation ended.

“Boys and girls, I have fantastic news!” said our teacher, Mrs. Gold. “We won the space science essay contest.”

“All right!” we cheered.

“The prize is that we all get a chance to ride the world’s first outer space roller coaster,” she said.

“Calm down, kids. There are two conditions,” said Mrs. Gold. “You will need permission to go from your parents, and you will also need three-hundred dollars each to help pay for the trip.”

Mrs. Gold was right. The news was fantastic. It gave me goosebumps imagining myself riding the space coaster.

I immediately began to think and plan how to make this big dream come true!

As soon as the bell rang, I ran home as fast as I could.

“Mama! Papa!” I yelled.

“They’re not home,” said my brother, Garbanzo.

“Guess who is going to ride the world’s first space coaster?” I bragged.

“Huh?” said Garbanzo.

“I just need permission to go and three-hundred dollars,” I said.

“Not a chance,” laughed Garbanzo. “Mama and Papa will never give you permission and three-hundred dollars.”



Just then, my parents came home.

“Mama! Papa!” I began. “My class won the space science essay contest. We get to ride the world’s first space coaster. May I go? The whole trip only costs three-hundred dollars. It would be a big dream come true!”

“Three-hundred dollars!” gasped Papa.

“Pleeeeeease, Papa?” I begged. “I will never ask for anything again.”

“You cannot give him three-hundred dollars,” said Garbanzo.

That was when I jumped on Garbanzo and tackled him.

“Sammy, get off your brother!” said Mama.

“Let Papa and me talk this over.”

That night, Papa said, “Sammy, I know that winning the essay contest was not easy.”

“No, Papa, it was hard,” I said.

“Mama and I have decided to give you half the money for the trip from our savings account, if you can earn and save the other half. Can you do it?”

I remembered the secret
Auntie Squirly had taught me:
Saving is a great habit!

“I can do it!” I said.

The announcement startled Garbanzo. “You must be kidding, right, Sammy? You will never be able to earn and save one-hundred-fifty dollars in time for the trip.”

“I only need to earn and save one-hundred dollars,” I said. “I already have fifty dollars in my savings account.”

“You will not be able to save one-hundred dollars either,” said Garbanzo.

“Maybe Sammy can do it,” said my sisters, Dyme and Penny.

“No, he can’t.”

“Yes, he can!”

“Cannot!”

“Can too!”

I left them arguing and ran down the hall to my room. I had to write down my new plan and goal. I counted the days on my calendar. It was exactly one-hundred days to blast off. *If I save one dollar a day, I can go*, I thought.

“Saving is a great habit!” I said to my dog, Nickel. “You remember. A habit is something we repeat again and again.” I can do this.

“Woof!” replied Nickel. (I took that as a yes.)

I worked and saved every day for weeks.
I did not stop even to play with my friends.
I was determined to reach my goal.

Everything was all right until some of the kids in my class lined up early one morning to buy their tickets for the space coaster.

“Sammy,” they asked. “When are you going to buy your ticket?”

“I am not sure,” I said. “I have to save some more money first. How did you earn and save your money so fast?”

“We did not need to,” they replied. “Our parents just gave us the money.”

Snap! I broke the pencil I was holding.

“That is not fair,” I growled.

“Take it easy, Sammy,” said my friend, Jammer. “Breaking your pencil will not help. But we could work and save together. That might help.”

“We could try, I guess.” I sighed.

When I got home, Mama knew something was wrong.

“Sammy, you look sad. What is wrong?”

“Other kids are already buying their tickets for the space trip,” I said. “I will never be able to reach my goal and make my big dream come true.”

“Things are not always easy, Sammy,” said Mama. “But you can do anything you want to if you work hard and do not give up.”

“Your mama is right, Sammy,” said Auntie Squirly. “Do not give up! Keep working toward your goal, one step at a time. You will make it.”

“All right.” I grinned. “I’ll keep trying.”

That night, I dreamed about the space coaster. I was racing through space, past moons, meteors, and stars.

But suddenly the dream
turned into a nightmare.

“You won’t be able to earn and
save one-hundred dollars,”
teased Garbanzo.

*That is it! I thought.
I will save more than one-
hundred dollars, no matter
what.*

In order to save more, I chose not to buy some of my favorite things, like ice cream, candy, and baseball caps. *Keep saving!* I told myself. I was more determined than ever to ride the world's first space coaster.

Finally, the last day to buy a ticket had arrived.

“I do not think I have saved enough,” I said to Nickel. I held my breath as the teller counted my money.

“Ten, twenty, thirty, fifty, one-hundred, one-hundred-fifty, two-hundred dollars.”

“I did it!” I shouted. “Nickel, I did it!”

I raced home with Nickel barking and chasing me.

“Mama! Papa!” I yelled. “I did it! I did it! I saved an extra one-hundred-fifty dollars! I have two-hundred dollars in all! With the one-hundred-fifty you gave me, I have fifty dollars more than I need. I can go!”

Thump!

Everyone looked around. Garbanzo had fainted.

Just then, the phone rang.

“Sammy, I have bad news,” said Jammer. “I cannot go. I still need twenty-five dollars more.”

“Hold on, Jammer,” I said. “Mama, may I give Jammer twenty-five dollars so he can ride the space coaster too?”

“Sammy, it’s your money. You earned and saved it,” said Mama. “You may give it to Jammer if you want to.”

“Jammer, you can go!” I said. “I have twenty-five dollars I can give you.”

“No way!” said Jammer. “Really?”

“Yes, really,” I said. “It would not be fun riding the space coaster without you.”

Jammer spent the night at my house.

“Can you believe it?” I asked. “Tomorrow we will be riding in the world’s first space coaster!”

“I can hardly wait!” said Jammer.

“Me either,” I said.

Just like in my dream,
we went flying past stars,
meteors, and the moons
of planets far from Earth.

“Yahoo!” I yelled.

“Ahhhhhhhhh. I think I am getting sick,” said Jammer.

“Hold on,” I said to my friend. “The ride is almost over. I cannot wait to tell Garbanzo about it. He will probably faint again.”

As we rode home, I pointed out the window.
“Jammer, I want to go there next.”

Jammer grinned and said, “You will get there sooner than you think, Sammy, if you just keep remembering what Auntie Squirly taught you.”

“Right!” I laughed. **“Saving is a great habit!”**

Sammy's Big Dream - Audio Story

An mp3 is included in this Deluxe Story Set. You may access the file through Gumroad. It is available on Spotify, Apple Music, Youtube, and more streaming services.

WHAT'S YOUR BIG DREAM?



SammyRabbit.com