

SIR COYOTE

AND THE

BAG OF LETTERS



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THIS BOOKLET contains the entire script. It is divided into tracks. You may take any portion of the script and perform it as a small play—either acting it out to the recording, reading from the script or memorizing the script. Try pairing a song with the section of dialog in the preceding track. Also, you may go to the pages for the song tracks to find individual activities to use with individual songs. Templates for projects are found at the back of the book. Many of the songs require activities and may be combined with the coloring projects.

SPECIAL NOTE: There are instructions on how to make rhythm instruments in this book and special audio tracks about rhythm. You may wish to make your instruments before listening. You may wish to practice keeping time with the special audio tracks before listening to the story. Then, you can play along with the songs. And sing along too!

SONG TRACKS:

- p.5-TRACK TWO—SHORT FIDDLE FADDLE**
- p.7-TRACK FOUR--ON A QUEST FROM DAYS OF OLD**
- p.10-TRACK SIX--TRY THOSE Ys**
- p.12-TRACK EIGHT--ONWARD**
- p.14-TRACK TEN--FIRE-BREATHING DRAGON, OH WHAT A CURSE**
- p.17-TRACK TWELVE--WOE IS ME**
- p.19-TRACK FOURTEEN-- COUNTING LITTLE BEANS**
- p.21-TRACK SIXTEEN-- IMAGINATION**
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STUFF TO DO AND MAKE

- p.27—INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING RHYTHM INSTRUMENTS**
- p.32—CHORUS SHEETS FOR THE SONGS (sing along!)**
- p.42—PICTURES TO COLOR AND IMAGINATION BADGES**

ADDITIONAL TRACKS: *a lesson and two Irish tunes*

TRACK TWENTY ONE— WALLY THE WHISTLER’S WORKSHOP ON
KEEPING MUSICAL TIME /RHYTHM STICKS

TRACK TWENTY TWO—MARACA STICK

TRACK TWENTY THREE—TAMBOURINE

TRACK TWENTY FOUR—DRUM

TRACK TWENTY FIVE—SLIDE WHISTLE

TRACK TWENTY SIX—BEAN SHAKER

TRACK TWENTY SEVEN—SANDING BLOCK

TRACK TWENTY EIGHT— WASH TUB

TRACK TWENTY NINE— THE KESH JIG

TRACK THIRTY— OFF TO CALIFORNIA HORNPIPE

SOME DEFINITIONS:

A story that takes place in an imaginary time may use words from the past. Here is a partial glossary that you might use to discuss these words with children. Typically, take a word or two from a given song or activity and simply make the children more aware of the fun in words. Listen for these words in the story and songs on the CD.

KNIGHT: A high ranking soldier who serves a king, a member of a special order or knighthood, a hero.

QUEST: A special search or journey.

MINSTREL: A musician. Can be a traveling minstrel (a troubadour) or a court minstrel.

FIDDLE FADDLE: nonsense.

CASTLE: The fort where the nobles lives. The nobles own the land and rule the people living on the land. The head of the nobles is the Lord and Lady or the King and Queen.

DRAGON: A mythical reptile (like a snake or lizard) who breaths fire.

SECRET HOLD: The hiding place of a mythical beast.

STEADFAST: firm, dependable, determined.

CRAGGY: With sharp rocks.

MINCE: To chop up in fine pieces.

SUP: To have dinner.

HALITOSIS: Bad breath.

INCINERATION: To burn up.

WOE: Unhappiness.

PLIGHT: Predicament, danger, peril, difficulty.

LEGUMES: Members of pea or bean family of plants.

DANDY: A man who dresses in expensive or fancy clothes.

FOILED AGAIN: “Foil” is a light sword. The expression means to be defeated.

HARK: To listen. Or a call to listen.

WIN THE DAY: An expression meaning to be the winner or victorious in the battle of the day.

SAVE THE DAY: To triumph or win.

CHARACTERS AND SIMPLE COSTUME SUGGESTIONS

Wally The Whistler—holds whistle or flute

Sir Coyote—“Robin Hood” style cap or any cap with a feather, carries a bag or pillow case and a lunch box

Purple Princess—pointy princess hat (make a cone from paper or cardboard and tie it on with a ribbon)

Ziggy the fire breathing dragon—face paint or a mask

The Infamous Bean Counter—visor or a silly baseball cap

The Marvelous Minstrel Band—bring your funniest hat from home. Decorate silly baseball hats.

PRE-SHOW PROPS AND ACTIVITIES—see pages 47-50

- Place a number of letters around the room, taped to the walls. The children help Sir Coyote find letters during the story.
- Make instruments as described.
- Practice keeping time with the instruments.
- For the show, find a pillow case bag, a calculator, a whistle, dried beans.

TRACK ONE

ACTIVITY: Make rhythm instruments. Practice with the Fiddle Faddle song. The Marvelous Minstrel Band can keep time to all songs during the story. For any song, put up a chorus sheet and encourage the band to sing along with each song. Color the letter pages and hide the letters around the room. A couple sizes of letters are provided. You can use all the letters—saving the letters that spell the answer to the story’s problem to be found among these as the story progresses.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: (Tune) Hello I am Wally The Whistler. And you are the Marvelous Minstrel Band. As members of the Marvelous Minstrel Band you will need your voice—LAAAA—and you will need to keep time either by clapping your hands—CLAP—or with a rhythm instrument—SHAKE. Let’s sing a silly song and practice keeping time. As you listen, keep time to the song like this...OK, here we go.

TRACK TWO

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day
 Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day
 Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day
 Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

TRACK THREE

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Once upon a time, Sir Coyote lived out in the Dry Desert near the Big Rock. But Sir Coyote was not just any knight. Sir Coyote had an imagination that lead to adventures. In this adventure, Sir Coyote finds letters. Color the letters and hide them around your room. Then help Sir Coyote find the letters during our story. Sir Coyote’s most famous quest happened one day when he looked at himself in the mirror.

SIR COYOTE: Look at that handsome face in the mirror. I am special. No, not merely special—I am exceptional! That’s it...exceptional.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Yes, Coyote, you are exceptional. You have an imagination! And, because you have an imagination you may have three wishes.

SIR COYOTE: Three wishes! Gadzookes! That’s great! First, I wish that I could...ah...ah...hmm. Any ideas? Well, I wish that I could go on a quest and rescue a princess!

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Good choice! You will go on a quest and rescue a Princess.

SIR COYOTE: This is wonderful. I can hardly wait. Here I go! Off on my quest!

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Wait, one minute. There is one more thing.

SIR COYOTE: One more thing?

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Yes, you must take this bag.

SIR COYOTE: For my lunch. I've already packed my food in my lunch box.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: No, this is a special bag! With this bag you collect any letters that you find along the Winding Way. I am certain that before the end of your quest you will need these letters.

SIR COYOTE: I can do that. I'll take this bag. And I'll find letters along the Winding Way. Off I go on my quest! Off I go to do a daring deed!

WALLY THE WHISTLER: And so the Marvelous Minstrel Band followed along with Sir Coyote as he made his way down the Winding Way. And they played a song as Sir Coyote sang.

TRACK FOUR

ACTIVITY: Color the picture of Sir Coyote in his Knight's outfit. Look for hidden letters in the background of the picture. Ask, what do they spell? Unscramble the hidden letters—putting them in order to see what they spell. Or find the letters and wait until later in the CD to reveal that they spell the answer. Explain that in many old stories the hero must face a dragon. Talk about the language of heroism and courage—words like “bold.” Explain some of these words. Stand up tall. Puff out your chest. Pretend that you are a hero and sing along with the chorus.

E A C#m
 Oh I will do a daring deed
 B A E
 Brave, steadfast and bold
 E A C#m
 I'll sally forth upon my course
 B A E
 As in days of old

B F#m7
 Tell that dragon here I come
 B A C#m
 I'll find his secret hold
 For I am Sir Coyote
 As in days of old

I'll be the talk of every land
 My courage often told
 Some day my story they will sing
 As in days of old

Chorus
 Instrumental

Don't warn me of great dangers
 The distance or the cold
 It's off I go to win the day
 As in days of old
 Chorus
 As in days of old
 As in days of old

TRACK FIVE

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Sir Coyote went walking down the Winding Way. As he went, he carried his special bag, ready to collect letters.

SIR COYOTE: Oh, I am a coyote with Imagination....A quest. A quest. What could be more exciting than a quest! I can hear the Princess calling me to rescue her.

PURPLE PRINCESS: (Enter high in window.) Sir Coyote! Sir Coyote! Can you hear me. Rescue me. It is I, the Purple Princess. I am trapped high in the Craggy Castle, a prisoner of the infamous Bean Counter.

SIR COYOTE: That's her! Don't worry Purple Princess. I will rescue you. But who is the infamous Bean Counter.

PURPLE PRINCESS: The infamous Bean Counter says that I am his prisoner until I learn how to dance with letters. All day long, I count beans. Someone clever must come and teach me how to dance with letters. Someone with imagination! Now I must go...forty seven beans, forty eight beans....(Exits.)

SIR COYOTE: Gosh, I've got imagination. I should be able to help. I will find letters along the Winding Way. It will be tremendous. What letter begins the word "tremendous?" Hmmm...That's it, the letter T.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Right, Sir Coyote. Now, everyone out there look for the letter "T".

SIR COYOTE: And there's a T! I'll put the letter T in my special bag. Gosh, I don't mean to complain. But if I'm going to be on a quest I wish I could meet a fire-breathing dragon. It just isn't a quest without...(Clomp Clomp Clomp!) Wait a minute, what is that clomping sound!

ZIGGY: Oh I'm a fire breathing dragon, dragon, dragon. Oh, I'm a fire breathing dragon, dragon, dragon.

SIR COYOTE: Oh how wonderful! I've gotten my second wish. A fire breathing dragon. And here he comes! I will take my bag of letters and hide beside the Winding Way.

ZIGGY: Oh I'm a fire breathing dragon, dragon, dragon.

SIR COYOTE: Halt! I am Sir Coyote and I am on a quest.

ZIGGY: Well, I am Ziggy the fire breathing dragon. And I am hungry.

SIR COYOTE: Would you like some of my peanut butter and jelly sandwich?

ZIGGY: No. I eat letters.

SIR COYOTE: You eat letters?

ZIGGY: Of course. My mommy says letters are good for small dragons.

TRACK SIX

ACTIVITY: Everybody sings along on the “munch munch” parts. And on the chorus. Bake cookies in the shape of letters. Or, just color Ziggy and find the hidden letters in the background. Ask what they spell or wait until later in the CD to spell the word.

Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch

Gonna eat my letters, gobble em up
 Gotta chew em good, oh what a sup
 Slice em, dice em, let em fry
 Here I go, try those Ys

Try those Ys, Jam those Js
 Bake those Bs, Bar Be Que Ks
 Taste those Ts, eat those As
 Lick those Es, Hey Hey Hey

Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch

Mince those markings, none are fowl
 Cookin consonants, devourin vowels
 Bunch em, munch em, easy as pie
 What d’ya know, try those Ys

Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch
 Munch munch munch munch munch munch munch

Scramble a batch of punctuation
 Fry up a feast of exclamation
 Boil em, baste em, wet or dry
 You’re gonna love em so, try those Ys

ZIGGY: I just love eating letters. Capital letters. Small case letters. Letters in script. Printed Letters. All kinds of letters.

TRACK SEVEN

WALLY THE WHISTLER: As he wandered down the Winding Way, Sir Coyote got his second wish. He was well on his way to becoming a hero. But, the fire-breathing dragon wanted to eat his letters.

SIR COYOTE: I've got to rescue the Purple Princess. What letter begins the word "rescue". Hmm...that's it the letter R.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Does someone out there have the letter R?

SIR COYOTE: Oh, here's the letter R. I'll put it in my bag. I just love collecting letters. It makes me happy. What letter begins the word "happy?" Hmmm. Look! There it is! The letter H. I'll put it in my bag.

ZIGGY: Oh, I'm a fire breathing dragon, dragon, dragon. Gee, those letters sure look delicious

SIR COYOTE: Stand back, Ziggy. You can't eat this letter.

ZIGGY: You don't want me to breath more fire, do you? Can't I just have this one...one tiny little tasty little scrumptious little letter to eat?

SIR COYOTE: No, I am saving all these letters in my special bag. I'm traveling down the Winding Way to rescue the Purple Princess. These letters will come in handy. But, Ziggy, if you like, you can come along with me. You never know when a fire-breathing dragon might prove useful. First, you can help me sing my power song. When I sing my power song, I hear the echo—Onward.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: And so the Marvelous Minstrel Band played as Sir Coyote sang.

TRACK EIGHT

ACTIVITY: Call out ONWARD in response during the chorus.

A
Down the winding way
E
Calling ONWARD (ONWARD)

Surely I will save the day
A
Calling ONWARD (ONWARD)

D
I'm the leader of the pack
A
A mighty coyote on the track
E
Here I come, stand ye back
A
Calling Onward (Onward)

Through the valley I must go
Calling Onward (Onward!)
Over mountains white with snow
Calling Onward (Onward!)

Chorus

Instrumental

(During Instrumental.) Coyote: Whenever I feel sad, whenever I'm in doubt, whenever things look bleak, I sing my power song. It perks me up. It makes me feel good, It gets me going again!

On my quest so very long
Calling Onward (Onward!)
This will be my power song
Calling Onward (Onward!)

Chorus

TRACK NINE

WALLY THE WHISTLER: As Ziggy and Sir Coyote walked down the Winding Way, they sometimes called out Onward. Everyone in the Marvelous Minstrel Band can help by calling out “Onward” whenever we here Sir Coyote say it.

SIR COYOTE: Onward! (Echo: Onward!) Isn’t the echo wonderful? As I journey down the Winding Way, I may need that echo again. Onward. (Onward.) I am on an important quest and I am collecting letters. Letters are practically everything. What letter begins the word “everything”?’ Hmmm....that’s it. The letter E. Where can I find the letter E? Look, there’s one. I’ll put it in my special bag.

ZIGGY: I knew we’d find an E ‘cause E also stands for “Eat”. Gosh, I wish I could be a hero. Being a fire-breathing dragon is such a lonely business.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: And so the Marvelous Minstrel Band played as Ziggy, the fire-breathing dragon sang about his difficult life breathing fire.

TRACK ELEVEN

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Soon, Sir Coyote and Ziggy, the fire-breathing dragon, arrived at the Craggy Castle, home of the infamous Bean Counter.

SIR COYOTE: Onward, (Echo: Onward!) I've got my special bag of letters.

ZIGGY: That bag of letters sure looks.... Sir Coyote, I've got a hot idea. I'll carry that bag of letters for you. It looks so heavy.

SIR COYOTE: But, Ziggy, will you promise not to eat my letters?

ZIGGY: Ah, er, well. Don't worry, Sir Coyote, they'll be so good. I mean, they'll be in good hands.

SIR COYOTE: Look! There is the Craggy Castle. I can see the Purple Princess high in the window. Onward! (Echo: Onward!)

PURPLE PRINCESS: Sir Coyote! Please rescue me. I am a prisoner of the infamous Bean Counter! Oh no! Here he comes.

BEAN COUNTER: Ha Ha Ha! I am the infamous Bean Counter. The Purple Princess is my prisoner until she learns how to dance with letters. Now get back to counting those beans.

PURPLE PRINCESS: But counting beans is so boring. Fifty eight. Fifty nine. Sixty. Sixty one. And, I've got things to do. I've got homework. I've got to apply for college! I've got to check my email! I don't have time to sit around counting Beans in the Craggy Castle.

BEAN COUNTER: Tell me, Purple Princess, how many beans have you counted so far?

PURPLE PRINCESS: Sixty one!

BEAN COUNTER: Sixty one!

PURPLE PRINCESS: Maybe only sixty!

BEAN COUNTER: Only sixty!

PURPLE PRINCESS: It could be forty seven. Look, I know how to count, but I've got more important things to do than counting your beans.

BEAN COUNTER: And have you put the beans in rows by size?

PURPLE PRINCESS: Well, no.

BEAN COUNTER: And have you sorted the beans by color?

PURPLE PRINCESS: You never said anything about color.

BEAN COUNTER: Ha ha ha! Back to counting those beans!

WALLY THE WHISTLER: And so the Marvelous Minstrel Band played as the Purple Princess sang.

TRACK TWELVE

ACTIVITY: Explain that the expression, “Woe is me”—is a very old way of saying, “I am unhappy.” Talk about the language of fairy tales and medieval times. Color the picture of the Purple Princess trapped in the tower of the Craggy Castle. Find the hidden letters in the background. Practice throwing an arm over the forehead and acting woeful as you sing along with the chorus.

Bb Gm
 Woe is me, what will I do
 Bb Cm F
 Where is my hero true
 Eb Ebm Bb G
 How my heart falls apart
 Cm F7 Bb
 Woe, woe is me

Eb Ebm Bb Gm
 Woe, woe, woe is me
 Cm F
 Can't you see that I'm not free
 Locked away here all the day
 Woe woe is me

Woe is me, sad my plight
 And I spend day and night
 In the tower, hour on hour
 Woe, woe is me

Woe is me, nowhere to turn
 When will I ever learn
 How to dance, where's my chance
 Woe, woe is me

Chorus
 Woe, woe is me
 Woe, woe is me

TRACK THIRTEEN

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Sir Coyote didn't give up.

COYOTE: Onward! (Onward!) Never fear Purple Princess! I will rescue you. I'm on my way!

WALLY THE WHISTLER: But, before Sir Coyote could rescue the Purple Princess, the infamous Bean Counter had a plan to put an end to all his heroic efforts.

BEAN COUNTER: Ha ha ha! Sir Coyote is it! Well, if you want to rescue the Purple Princess, then you must pass a test.

SIR COYOTE: Oh dear! What kind of test?

BEAN COUNTER: A standardized test created by experts sitting in a small room. Of course!

SIR COYOTE: Is it multiple choice?

BEAN COUNTER: Grrr! All heroes must pass a test. A hero must be proved worthy, noble, valiant, steadfast, brave, true, courageous, honest and, of course, most importantly, you must be able to count beans. Look around you! What do you see?

SIR COYOTE: A castle.

BEAN COUNTER: That's right, a castle built on beans. What could be more important in this world than counting beans! Big ones, little ones, long ones, short ones. Green beans, brown beans, white beans, jelly beans. So many wonderful sizes and shapes of beans!

WALLY THE WHISTLER: And so the Marvelous Minstrel Band played as the Bean Counter sang about beans.

TRACK FOURTEEN

ACTIVITY: Stand. Bob up and down while singing the chorus along with the CD. Play a bean tossing game. Buy several colors of dried beans. Put a can in the middle of the floor. With three colors of beans, give each of three children twenty beans of a given color. They then toss their beans into the can. They can toss in turn or all at once. Ask the rest of the children to guess who tossed the most beans into the can and how many total beans are in the can. Then, three other children try. Color the picture of the Bean Counter. Find the hidden letters. What do they spell?

G D G C
 Why sit around just counting your toes
 Em G Am D
 Where is the glory of toes in rows.
 C Em Am D
 Makes no difference if they're white or green
 C G D G
 Noble, nearly global, counting little beans

C Em D G
 Beans, beans, beans, beans, beans, beans, beans
 C G Am D
 Keeping track and making stacks that's what life means
 C Em D G
 Beans, beans, beans, beans, bean, beans, beans
 C G D G
 Fun till you're done just counting little beans.

How can one ever have enough tiny seeds
 Plant them in your garden or use them for beads
 Spring buds will bloom and legumes make the scene
 So fine, we spend our time counting little beans

Chorus

Instrumental

Survive in this life and you must be the best
 So I am giving you this challenging test
 In my hand are little beans that you have never seen
 Coyote Knight, get it right, counting little beans

Chorus

TRACK FIFTEEN

ACTIVITY: Pause the CD and ask the children to guess how many beans they think the Bean Counter has in his hand.

BEAN COUNTER: Remember you must guess how many beans I have in my hand.

That's because, I'm the villain! Ha ha ha!

WALLY THE WHISTLER: The infamous Bean Counter wanted Sir Coyote to guess how many beans he held in his hand. To Sir Coyote, this looked very difficult.

SIR COYOTE: How can I guess how many beans are in the hand of the infamous Bean Counter when I can't see them? Sixteen?

BEAN COUNTER: (Pops head out each time to answer.) No!

ZIGGY: Too bad, I thought that was a really hot guess.

SIR COYOTE: Thanks Ziggy. Twenty four?

BEAN COUNTER: No!

ZIGGY: I bet you were close. Gee, this number business looks really delightful.

PURPLE PRINCESS: Come on Sir Coyote, you can do it. Keep guessing!

SIR COYOTE: Fifty seven?

BEAN COUNTER: Wrong again!

SIR COYOTE: But there must be an answer. After all, I'm not just any knight. I am Sir Coyote and I have an imagination.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: And so the Marvelous Minstrel Band played as Sir Coyote sang about having an imagination.

TRACK SIXTEEN

ACTIVITY: Act out the chorus—clap and shake. Color your own I HAVE IMAGINATION badge using the template provided on page 47.

F
I can act so very silly
Run around so willy nilly
C
Sing a song so very trilly
Bb C
Imag Imag
Bb C
I have that badge
Bb C
Eee Gads Imag
F C
ination

A7
I clap my hands (clap)
D7
And I feel brainier
G7
I shake my head
C7
And I feel zanier
Imag Imag
I have that badge
Eee Gads Imag
ination

How I love to stretch it out
Every time I laugh and shout
Tell you what I'm talkin about
Imag Imag
I have that badge
Eee Gads Imag
ination

I can wiggle and I can shake
Laugh so hard that I may ache
I can giggle make no mistake
Imag Imag
I have that badge
Eee Gads Imag
ination

TRACK SEVENTEEN

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Using his imagination, Sir Coyote noticed something odd was going on with Ziggy, the fire-breathing dragon, and the bag of letters.

ZIGGY: Munch, munch, munch. Yum yum yum! Oh, I'm a fire breathing dragon, dragon, dragon. Mmmmm! Delicious.

SIR COYOTE: Ziggy, what are you doing with my special bag of letters?

ZIGGY: Oh, Sir Coyote. I've been taking your letters...I mean taking care of your letters.

SIR COYOTE: My special bag of letters feels a lot lighter. I'll open it and...oh dear, my special bag is empty! Where did they go? Have you been eating my letters?

ZIGGY: Thanks to eating all those letters, I don't feel like breathing fire. My mommy was right. Letters are good for you. Now that I can breathe, I can smell the flowers along the Winding Way. Gosh, they're sweet. And, now I need to...need to...need to sneeze. Ahhh...ahhh...ahhhh...choo!

SIR COYOTE: Look, you've sneezed out letters and they spell something. Let's see—T, H, R, E, E. What does that spell? I should be able to figure this out. T,H,R,E,E. That spells...THREE! That's the answer to the Bean Counter's riddle! There are THREE beans!

BEAN COUNTER: (Pops head out.) Oh No! This is terrible! Sir Coyote, you've guessed it. Three beans!

PURPLE PRINCESS: Sir Coyote, you've passed the test. But, I must still learn to dance with letters.

SIR COYOTE: I've guessed the number of beans. But how do we teach the Purple Princess to dance with letters.

ZIGGY: Sir Coyote, I've got a really hot idea. Why don't you ask the Marvelous Minstrel Band to play? If they play, perhaps the letters will start dancing.

SIR COYOTE: Good thinking, Ziggy.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: To see if this would work the Marvelous Minstrel Band sang and played a song.

TRACK EIGHTEEN

ACTIVITY: Add arms, legs and faces to the letters. Mount your letter dancers on Popsicle sticks to make puppets and dance them with the song. Sing the chorus.

F
Swing that verb as those words
C
step cross the page so fine

That dandy noun says downtown
F
When we read the story line
F
Tap that key and spin those o's
Bb
Gotta stop to pop your ps
Bb Bbm F D7
Give me a vowel, hear me howl
G C7 F
I feel good with e's

Bb F
Dancin letters, dancin letters
G7 C7
Dancin letters doin the rag
Bb D7
Dancin letters, ain't nothing better
G7 C7 F C7
Dancin letters in the bag

I can make syllables shake
Goin down the page in rows
That adjective has got to live
And the whole world knows
Hop that dot, cross that T
As we play the pencil game
Hark hark, make your mark
One might be your name

Chorus

Instrumental

SIR COYOTE: Look! The letters are dancing! I see all kinds of words!

PURPLE PRINCESS: I can see them too—big words, little words, words going places
and doing things--and now I'm dancing with letters!

BEAN COUNTER: Curses! Foiled again. Now that she can dance with letters, I must let the Purple Princess go free.

PURPLE PRINCESS: Sir Coyote, you have saved the day.

Book in my lap hear me clap
As sentences come alive
When that tale starts to wail
Watch it jump and jive
I will drum rum tum tum
With the alphabet
Boy the plot is really hot
So don't you fret

Dancin letters, dancin letters
Dancin letters doin the rag
Dancin letters, ain't nothing better
Dancin letters in the bag

TRACK NINETEEN

WALLY THE WHISTLER: The Purple Princess danced with letters and the infamous Bean Counter let her go free. Still the Bean Counter needed help with his counting.

BEAN COUNTER: This is dreadful. The Purple Princess has learned to dance with letters. Now, who will help me count beans?

PURPLE PRINCESS: Hold on! I've got the answer. Why don't you use this calculator I bought over the internet.

BEAN COUNTER: Wow. My own calculator! Look at all these buttons! This is exciting.

ZIGGY: Oh I'm a fire breathing dragon, dragon, dragon. And when you need someone to watch over all those numbers, I'll help you out.

BEAN COUNTER: I didn't know that fire breathing dragons could count.

ZIGGY: I just love numbers! Yum!

WALLY THE WHISTLER: That is how Sir Coyote helped Ziggy, the fire-breathing dragon and rescued the Purple Princess by teaching her to dance with letters. Also, the infamous Bean Counter learned how to use a calculator.

PURPLE PRINCESS: That's right, now push the button with the plus sign on it.

BEAN COUNTER: Five million four hundred thousand seventy seven. Five million four hundred thousand seventy eight.

WALLY THE WHISTLER: Sir Coyote, you have one more wish.

SIR COYOTE: I don't need another wish right now. I'll save my third wish for another day. After all, I'm Sir Coyote and I have imagination. Onward! (Echo: Onward!)

WALLY THE WHISTLER: And so, Sir Coyote returned to his little hut beside the Big Rock out in the Dry Desert, waiting for his next quest. And every now and then, the Marvelous Minstrel Band traveled past on their way to the town faire. Let's sing the fiddle faddle song one more time!

TRACK TWENTY

ACTIVITY: Here is the longer version of “FIDDLE FADDLE”. Point out that the words follow the pattern of the notes. Sing along. Play your instruments. Color the picture of Wally the Whistler. Find the hidden letters in the background. What do they spell?

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

Fiddle faddle fee fum diddle daddle day

THE END

Making Inexpensive Rhythm Instruments

Rhythm Sticks
Maraca Sticks
Tambourine
Drum
Slide Whistle
Shakers
Sanding Blocks
Wash Tub Bass

Rhythm Sticks-Simply put, they are dowels you bang together to make a clicking or clacking sound.

I found that different sizes of wood sound nice and that “poplar” is the easiest to obtain. “Oak” however gives a higher ticking sort of sound, nice when played all together.

Maraca Sticks-Combine a thick dowel and 6 bottle caps screwed on in 3 sets of two. As it is shaken it makes a good clanking sound.

You will need a nail bigger than the screw going thru the bottle caps so they can wiggle freely. Just hammer the nail thru each bottle cap from the top to the inside to make the hole. Drill 3 holes in your dowel 1 3/4” apart for your screws so that you don’t split the wood. Paint the stick before assembly and it is even more impressive.

Tambourine- These are very easy to make using twist ties, embroidery hoops and jingle bells. A dab of hot glue will keep the bells from moving round on the ring. Sounds good with even as few as 2 or 3 bells.

Drum-Use many types of plastic trash cans, buckets or metal pails. Test them out in the store for a sound you like, rectangular trash baskets make a deeper tone than small tin pails.

Slide Whistle-On the copper tubing aisle of your hardware store you will find repair pieces for copper pipe. One has a closed off end and another is a slide repair piece. One should fit right inside the other. As you blow into the open end you allow the closed end piece to slide down making a nice slide whistle sound. These pipes can also be banged together for a nice ringing tone. Another small copper piece can be bought that fits on a finger and can be a clacker on one of the pipes.

Shakers-These can be made from many different things. For this show we are focusing on jelly bean shaped plastic “Easter eggs”.

Put a small amount of any of the items in the list below into an “egg”. Each style of material has a different tone.

Using small pieces of clear scotch tape seal the “egg” here and there around the seam. Don’t put tape all around in one continuous piece as this is more tempting to peel off and can result in corn rows amongst your book rows should they escape and grow.

If you are using sand, consider hot glue around the edge before snapping it shut. These store easily in an egg carton.

Sand

Rice
 Popcorn Kernels
 Beans
 Rocks
 Seeds
 Washers
 Nuts
 Beads
 Bells

Sanding Blocks-Wooden boards cut to about 4" lengths make a good child sized hand piece. Wrap this with coarse (60 grit) sandpaper cut to the width of your block. Once wrapped and overlapping only a bit you can staple with a staple gun two or three places on the final overlapped side.

Wash Tub Bass

The washtub bass is an inexpensive, sturdy homemade instrument. It will give you years of dependable service and accompany virtually every kind of music. Everyone loves the feel of those low notes. With a washtub bass, you feel them come right up your leg. (It also provides a graphic illustration of how a soundboard amplifies a string.)

Supplies- You need a metal washtub, a broomstick, some clothesline, two 1/8" eyebolts (each 1-1/2" long), two large washers, nuts for the eyebolts, two small "S" hooks to fit the eyebolts and a 4" diameter circle of 1/2" plywood. I suggest a small washtub for children--19" at its largest diameter and shorter than normal broomstick--48" long. If you can, find a broomstick with a threaded metal end.

Tools-An electric drill with a 1/8" steel bit, a hacksaw and a file or, better yet, a 4" diameter electric hand grinder.

Building Your Tub

1. Cut the handles off the washtub--they will rattle horribly if you don't.
2. File or grind a notch in the end of the broomstick. This will allow the broomstick to sit on the rim of the washtub without falling off. A metal-ended broomstick (at the threads) will require more work to make a notch but will be strong. An electric disc grinder helps for this.
3. Drill 1/8" holes through the center of the washtub's bottom, the center of the 4" plywood circle and the rounded end of the broomstick (opposite end from the threads). Take one of the eyebolts and slip it thru the end of the broomstick. Fasten with a small washer and a nut.
4. Put the plywood circle inside the washtub and fasten it with an eyebolt, a large washer and a nut. The plywood helps to stabilize the "soundboard" of the washtub.
5. Tie a small "S" hook in either end of a piece of clothesline. Hook the clothesline to the stick and to the washtub. For the above washtub the string will be about 48" long. You may need to experiment with a couple of lengths. With the washtub on the floor and the broomstick vertical on the rim, the string should be just taut.

Playing Your Tub- To play your washtub bass, stand behind the broomstick. Place your left foot on the floor near the tub just below where the stick fits on the rim. The stick should be in front of you. Place your right foot on the side of the rim opposite where the stick fits. Your right foot will hold the tub down.

Pull the stick back towards you with your left hand. You will feel the tub pull up against your right foot. Thump the string with your right hand. If your fingers get sore, wear a glove. Vary the note by grabbing the string with the left hand about six inches below the

top of the stick. You can also vary the note by pulling the stick back harder. Try not to grab at the string with your right hand--keep your fingers together and brush it. Keep time with the music. Place a penny on the washtub and watch it dance.

Sample Materials List

We shopped locally. Below, we list what we paid.

Note: The dowels for rhythm sticks, maracas and board for sand blocks will need to be cut, if you do not have a power saw at home just ask your local lumber yard/hardware store if they will cut them for you for free (let them know it is for the library) or they may charge just a small fee.

Rhythm Sticks

Lowe's:

1/4"x36" oak dowel-cut in 4 makes two sets (\$0.87)

3/8"x48" poplar dowel-cut in 6 makes 3 sets (\$0.82)

1/2"x48" poplar dowel-cut in 6 makes 3 sets (\$1.34)

Maraca Sticks

Lowe's:

1 1/8" x 48" poplar dowel-cut in 4 pieces to make 4 lengths (\$3.46)

Two pkgs of 8 wood screws 8x1 1/4" (\$0.98)

Bottle caps (free from beverages you drink)

Sanding Blocks

Lowe's:

1"x2"x24" poplar board-cut into 6 pieces to make 3 sets (\$1.07)

60 grit coarse sandpaper-one package (\$1.87)

Wash Tub Bass

Lowe's:

4" circle of wood, 1/2" thick (\$.60)

Metal wash tub (\$20.00)

Broom stick (\$3.97)

2 "S" hooks (\$.87)

Cotton clothes line (\$.99)

2 Eyebolts (\$.60)

2 Washers (\$.40)

Drums

Lowe's:

Small metal pail (\$2.98)

White plastic paint bucket (\$2.78)

Rectangular waste basket (\$3.88)

Slide Whistles

Lowe's:

1/2"x6" copper closed end (\$1.22)

1/2"x6" copper repair coupling (\$1.27)

600 CPL 1/2"x 1" repair copper piece (\$0.18 ea)

Shakers

Dollar Store:

Jelly Bean Plastic "eggs" (18/\$1.00)

Dried beans, rice, sand, etc...(it doesn't take much, perhaps from your pantry?)

Tambourines

Craft Market:

Two piece embroidery hoops (\$1.35)

Jingle bells (\$1.98)

Twist ties left over from garbage bags (free)

Total cost for entire list to make 40 instruments is under \$60.00.

Or without the washtub bass it's approximately \$30.00.

Chorus Sheets

--print them. Mount them on cardboard.

p.33—Fiddle Faddle

p.34—On A Quest From Days of Old

p.35—Try Those Ys

p.36—Onward

p.37—Fire Breathing Dragon, Oh What A Curse

p.38—Woe Is Me

p.39—Counting Little Beans

p.40—Imagination

p.41—Dancing Letters

Fiddle faddle
fee fum
diddle daddle
day

Tell that dragon
here I come

I'll find his secret hold

For I am Sir Coyote

As in days of old

Try those Ys,
Jam those Js

Bake those Bs,
Bar Be Que Ks

Taste those Ts,
eat those As

Lick those Es,
Hey Hey Hey

I'm the leader
of the pack

A mighty coyote
on the track

Here I come,
stand ye back

Calling Onward
(Onward)

Fire-breathing dragon,
folks think I'm tough

Take it from this
Dragon,
one puff is enough

Into town I glide,
soon everything is fried

Fire-breathing dragon,
oh what a curse

Woe, woe,
woe is me

Can't you see
that I'm not free

Locked away
here all the day

Woe woe is me

Beans, beans, beans,
beans, beans, beans, beans

Keeping track
and making stacks
that's what life means

Beans, beans, beans,
beans, bean, beans, beans

Fun till you're done just
counting little beans.

I clap my hands (clap)
And I feel brainier

I shake my head (shake)
And I feel zanier

Imag Imag
I have that badge

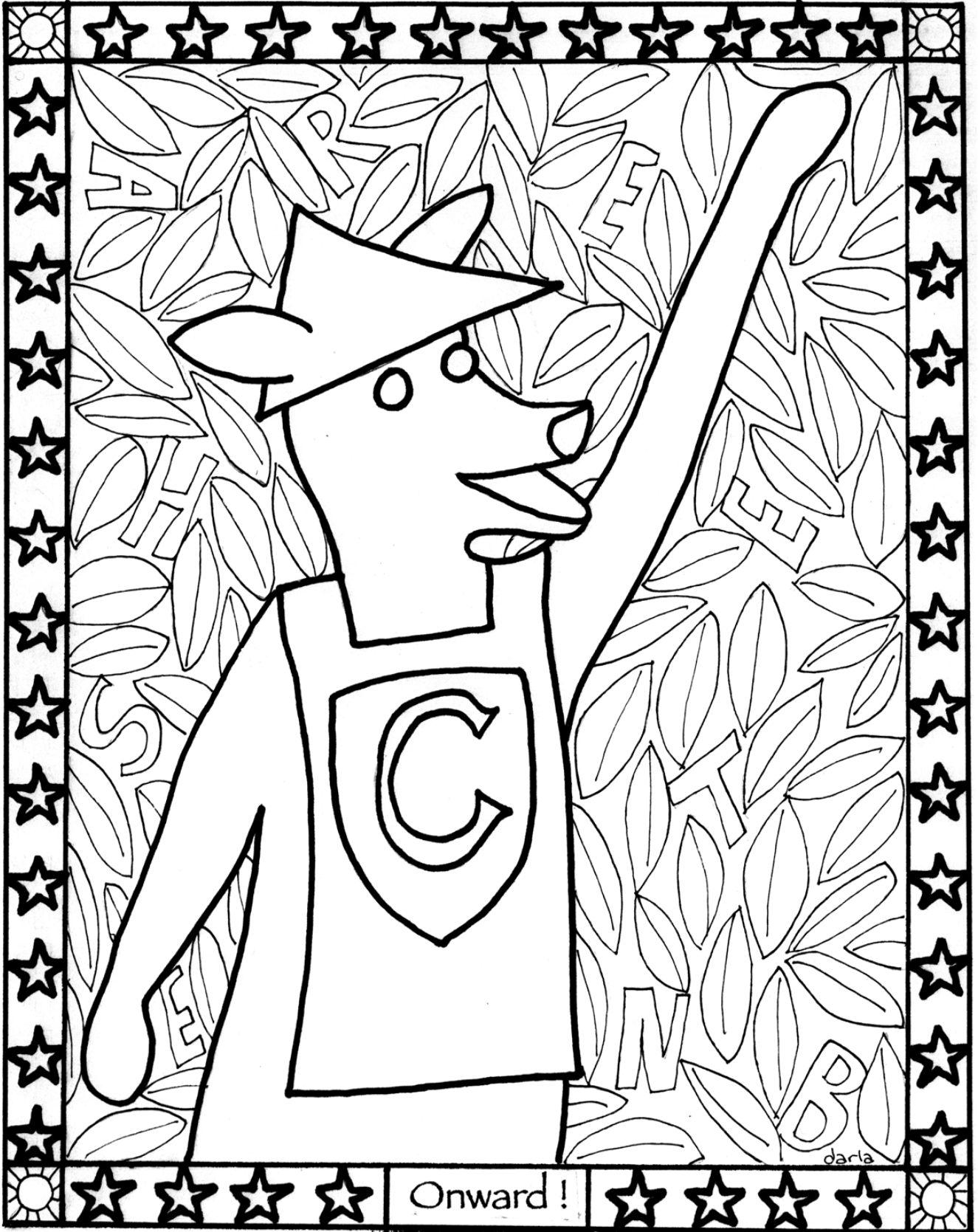
Eee Gads Imag
ination

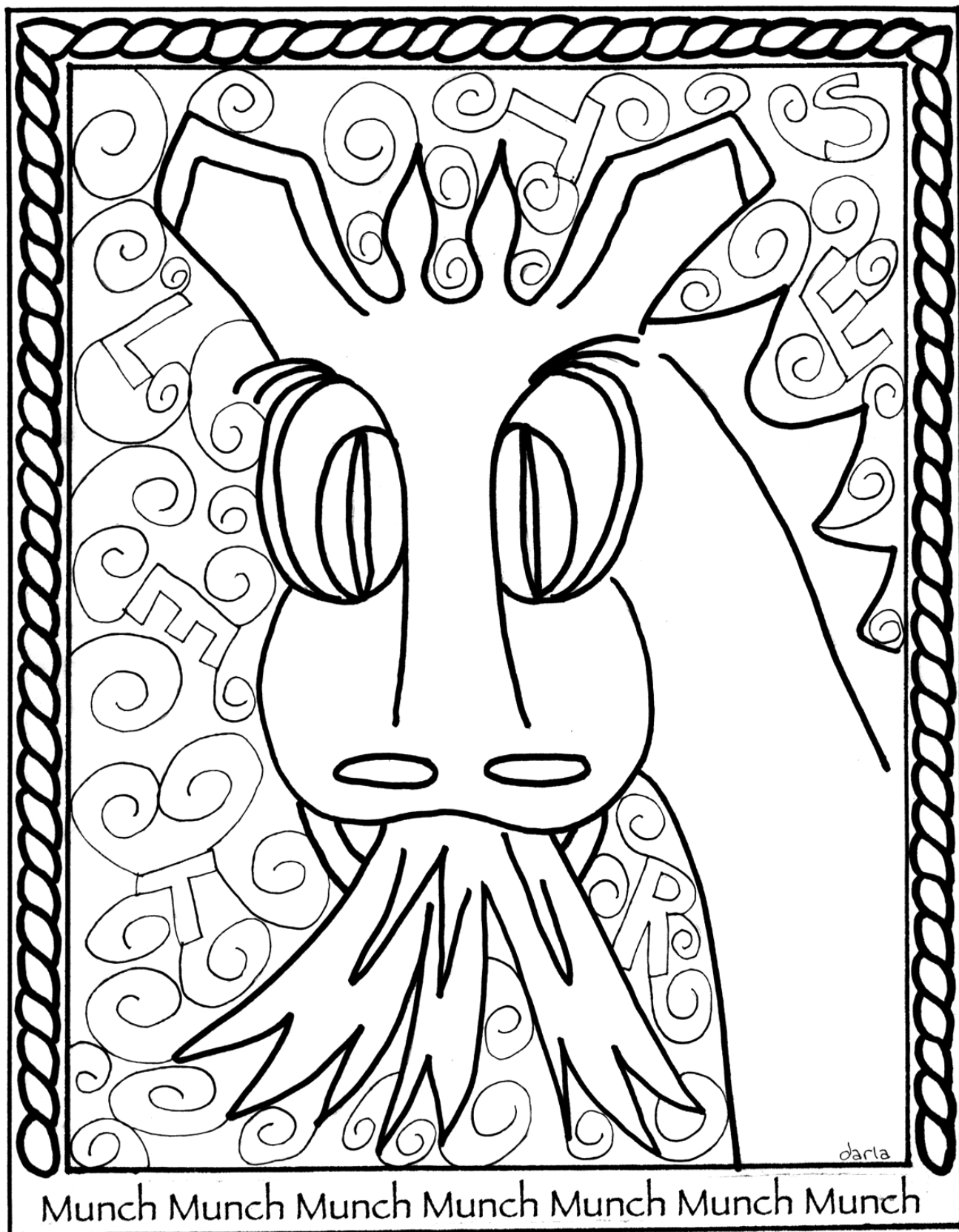
Dancin letters,
dancin letters

Dancin letters
doin the rag

Dancin letters,
ain't nothing better

Dancin letters
in the bag













A A B C

D E H M

O R S T I

U E G L T

