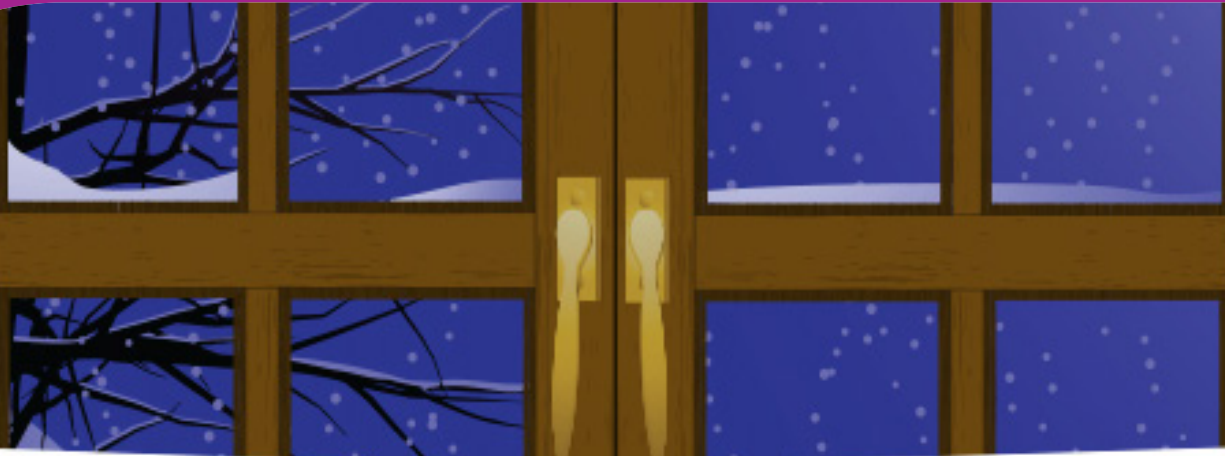


Holiday

Bedtime Stories

2nd
GRADE



The Elves and the Shoemaker

By The Brothers Grimm



Abridged for 2nd grade readers

Illustrated by _____

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A Kidnapped Santa Claus

By L. Frank Baum



Abridged for 2nd grade readers

Illustrated by _____

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A Kidnapped Santa Claus

By L. Frank Baum

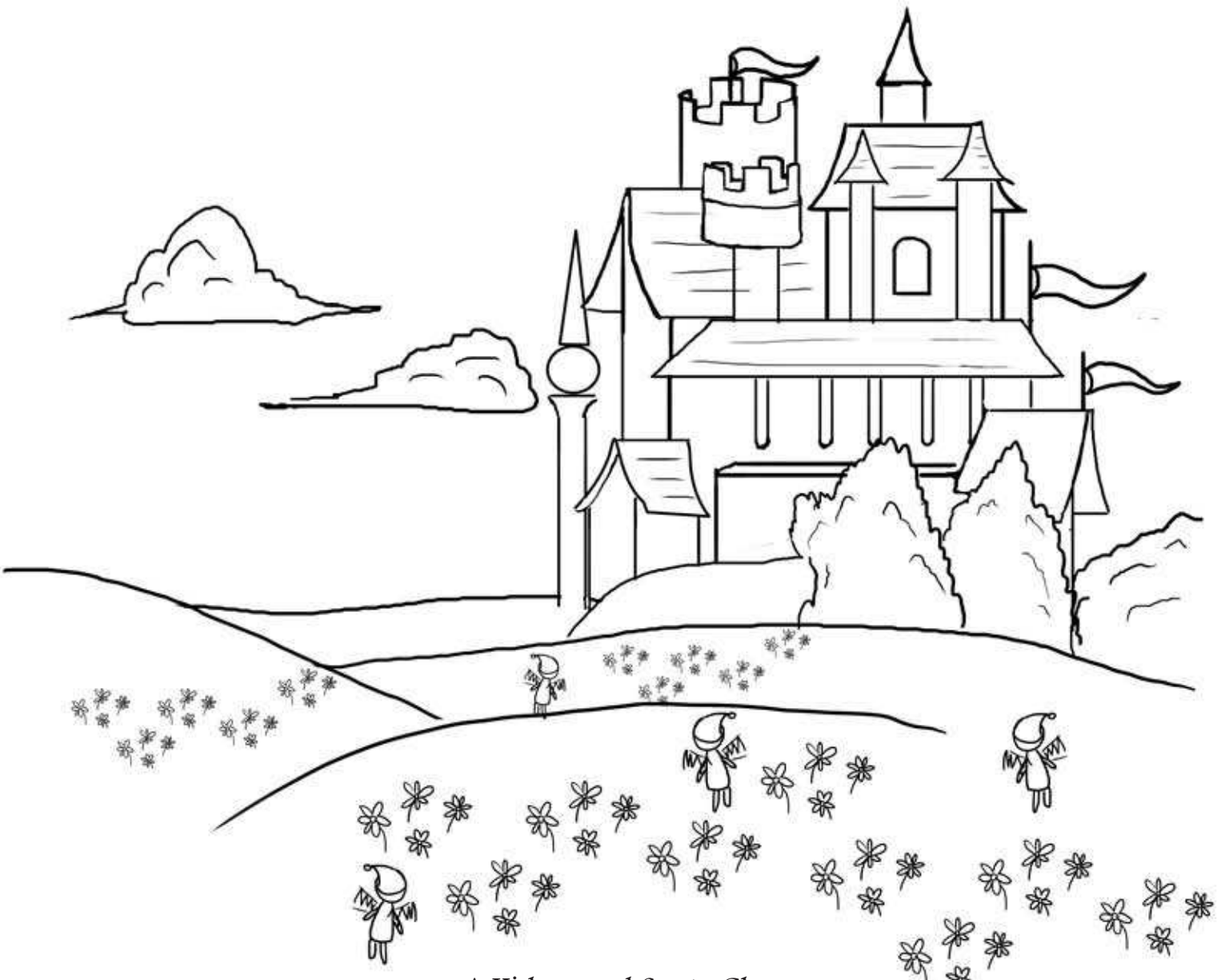


Abridged for 2nd grade readers

Illustrated by: _____



Santa Claus lives in the Laughing Valley. His rambling castle stands tall in the middle of the valley. It is full of workers, pixies and fairies who help him manufacture all of his toys. The Laughing Valley is a very happy place! The brooks babble through lovely fields of grass, the flowers smile, and trees sing in the wind.

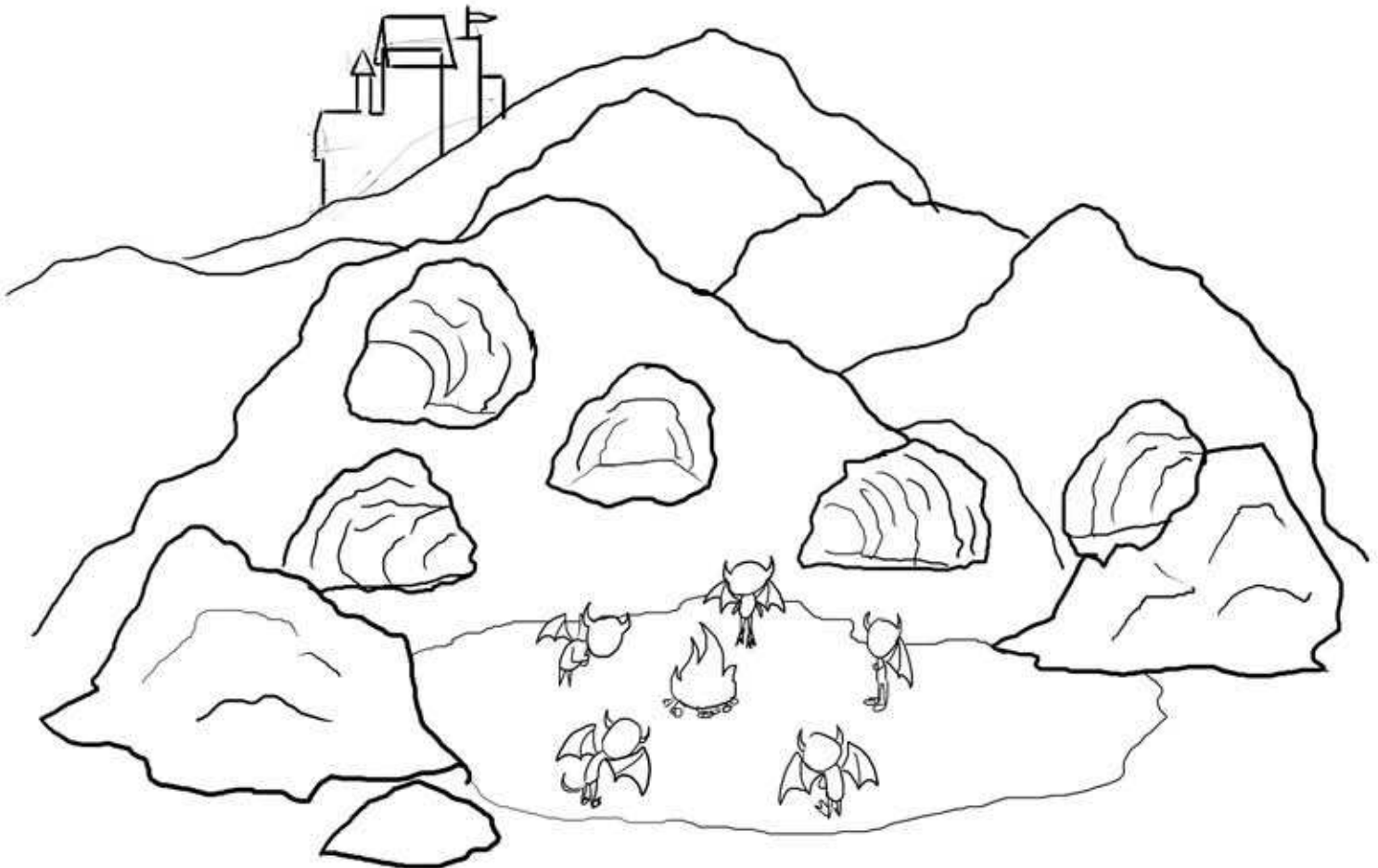


A Kidnapped Santa Claus
page 1



On one side of the Laughing Valley there is the mighty Forest of Burzee. On the other side there is a huge mountain that houses the five Caves of the Demons. There are five caves for five Demons - the Demon of Selfishness, the Demon of Envy, the Demon of Hatred, the Demon of Malice and the Demon of Repentance. One thing that these Demons have in common is that they hate Santa Claus! He brings joy to the children every year which makes the Demons' job very hard.

So one day, the Demons banded together to stop Santa Claus for good!

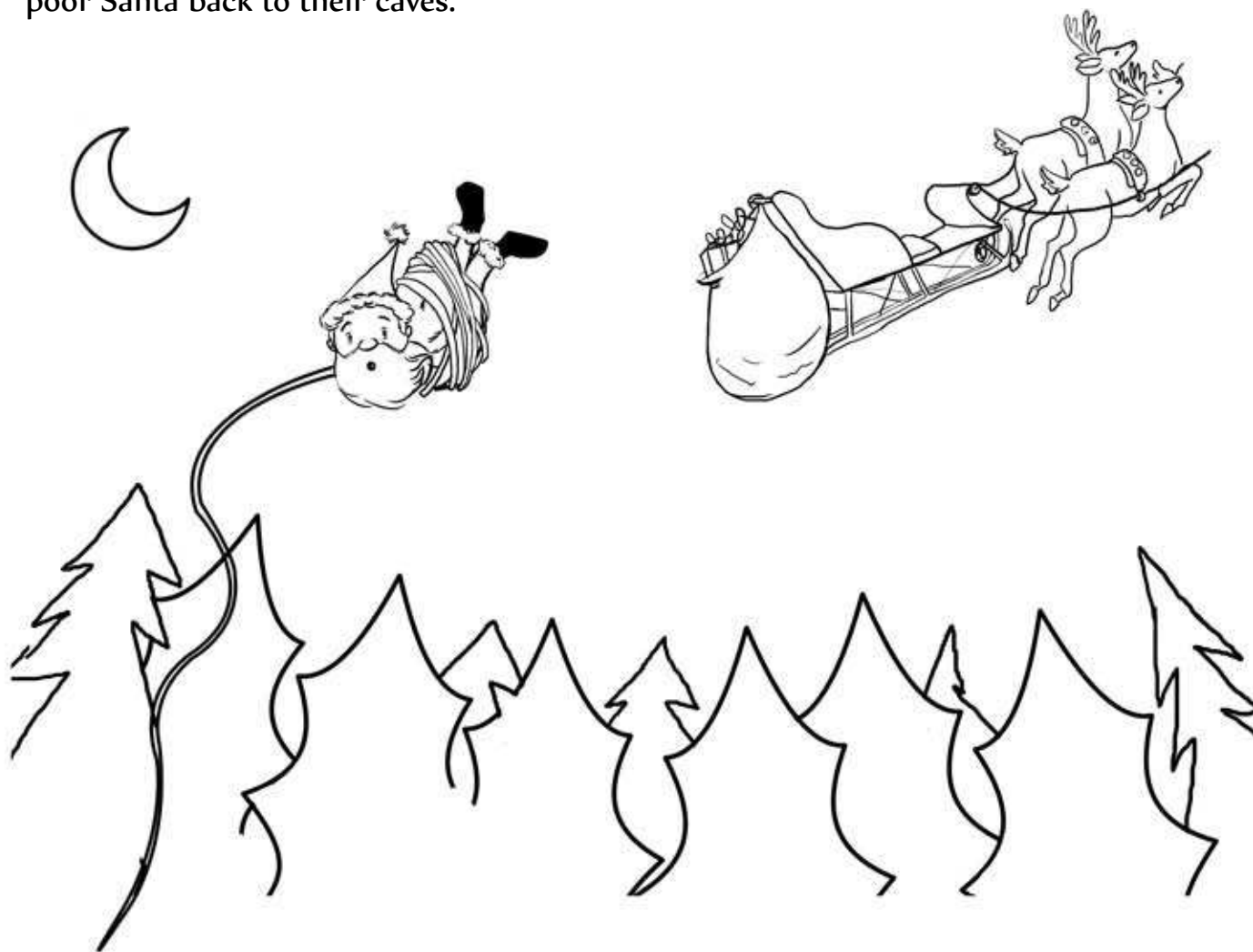




The Demons decided to tempt Santa Claus into their caves. But since Santa Claus was not selfish, the Demon of Selfishness could not tempt him. And Santa Claus was not envious, so the Demon of Envy could not tempt him either! The Demons had to come up with a different plan. They knew that the fairies and pixies would protect Santa when he was in the Laughing Valley. So they decided to set a trap for him when he left on Christmas Eve.

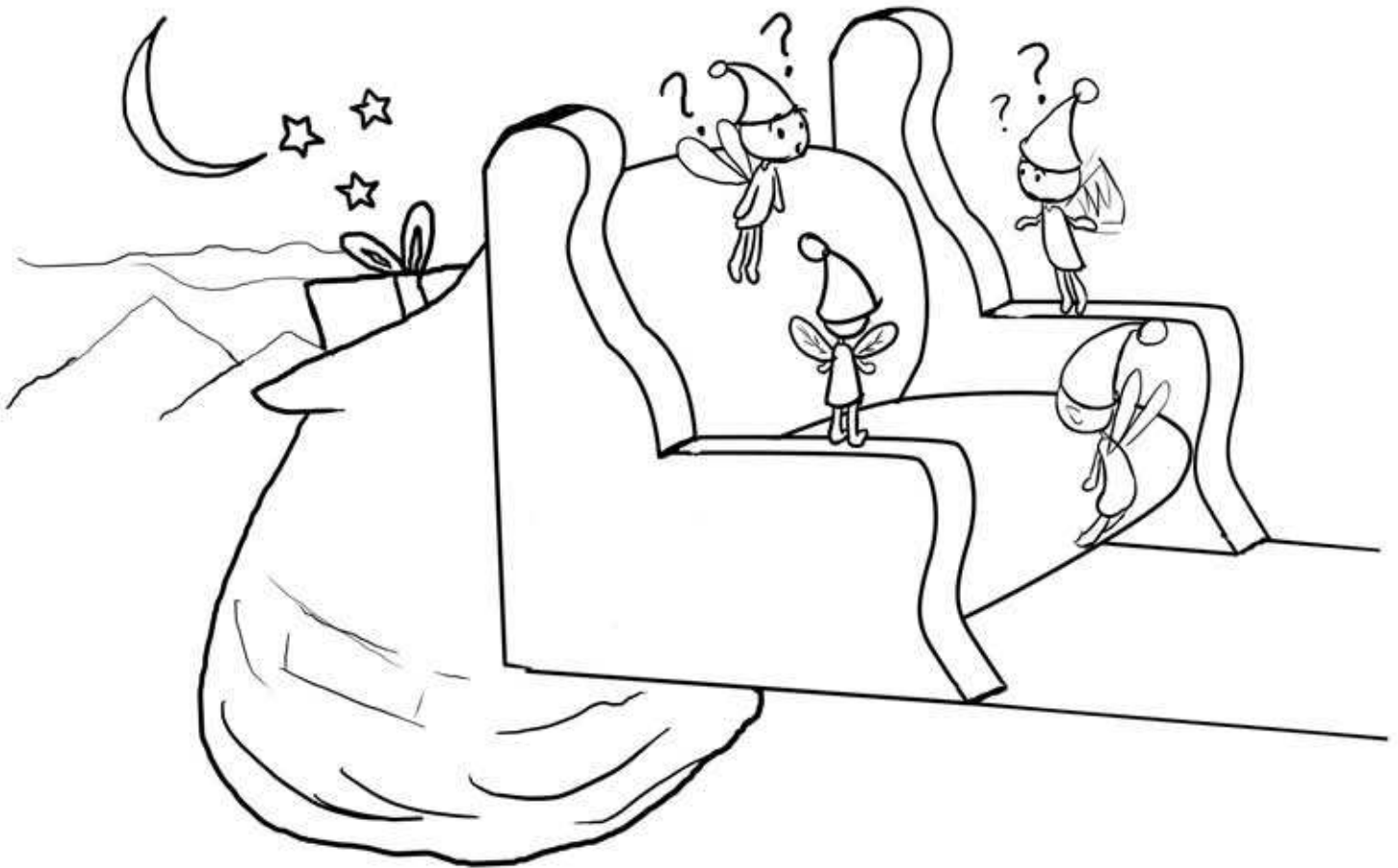


Santa Claus knew it would be a busy night for him. All was well as he took off with his reindeer. But suddenly, a strange thing happened. A rope shot through the air and a big noose at the end of it settled around Santa's body! It happened so fast that Santa barely knew what was happening when he was yanked from the sleigh and plopped down into the snow. "Ha ha ha!" the Demons laughed as they dragged poor Santa back to their caves.



The Demons were giddy with glee, and they thought their plan had been quite clever. Now the children would be very upset, and soon they'd come flocking to the caves! But little did they know, Santa had not been alone on that sleigh.

The four fairies, Neter, Peter, Kilter and Wisk, were hidden under the seat of the sleigh when Santa Claus was kidnapped. Little Wisk was the first to notice that Santa was not in the sleigh anymore. "WHOA," he called out. The fairies did not know what to do. Should they go back for Santa? Or should they deliver the toys? "It is certain that some wicked creatures have captured him," said Kilter, "and they must want to make the children unhappy. First we should deliver these toys just as Santa would. Then we will go back for him."



Delivering toys to the children of the world was a harder task than the fairies thought it'd be! They did not know the children as well as Santa did. So they made a few mistakes... Little Marie Brown, who wanted a doll, got a drum instead. And Charlie Smith received a sewing box instead of the boots he wanted. But the fairies got the job done the best they could. By daybreak on Christmas morning they were back in the Laughing Valley, planning how to rescue Santa Claus.



Back in the caves, poor Santa was being taunted by the Demons of Malice, Hatred, Selfishness and Envy. They all took turns keeping watch over him. But Santa didn't say a word. They finally gave up and sent the Demon of Repentance to take the next watch. Santa noticed that he was less scary than the others. His voice was soft and had a pleasant tone. "My brother Demons do not trust me," he said, "but it is morning now and the mischief is done. The little ones will be very disappointed, which will make them selfish, envious and hateful. But if they come to the caves, I will get the chance to lead some of them into my cave of repentance. After all, repentance can only come after an evil thought or deed is done." Santa nodded in understanding. "As a rule, those who avoid evil need never visit your cave," Santa said. "Yes," said the demon, "but you, who have done no evil, are about to visit my cave. To repent myself for my bad deeds, I must help you escape!"



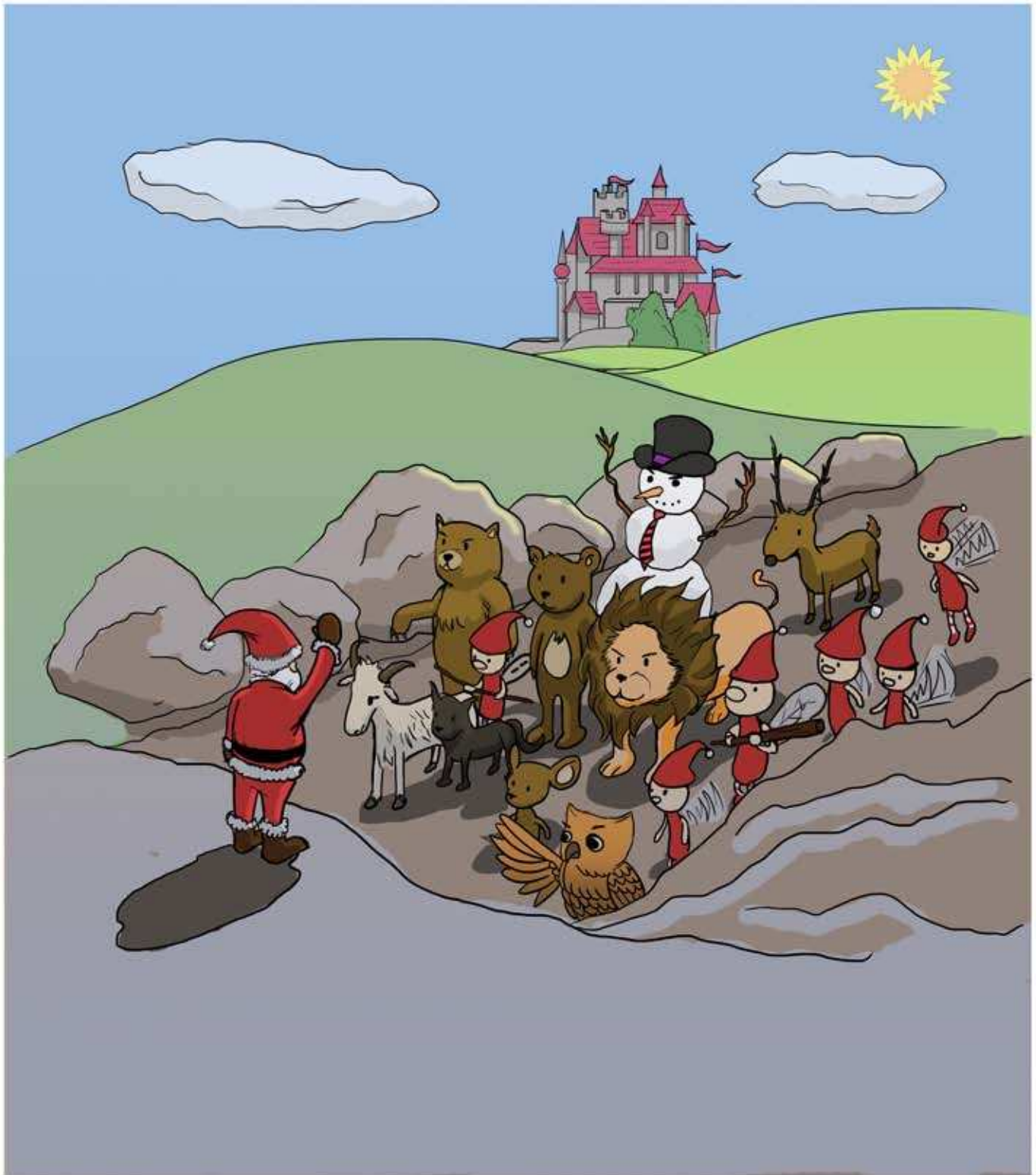
A Kidnapped Santa Claus

page 6

Santa was greeted by bright sunshine when the Demon of Repentance opened the back door to his cave. They shook hands and wished each other well. Then Santa made his escape over the snowy mountain. As he reached the Laughing Valley he could see an army of critters, workers and fairies marching toward the caves. Santa was so happy to see these powerful creatures coming to rescue him. They gathered around him with glee at his return. When he got back to his castle, Santa immediately sent a pair of boots to Charlie Smith, and had a doll mailed to little Marie Brown.



As for the Demons, they were filled with unhappiness when they found out that their capture of Santa Claus had failed to make children hateful, selfish or envious. They never again tried to interfere with his journeys on Christmas Eve.



The End

A KIDNAPPED Santa Claus

Reading Comprehension - Overhead Map

Draw an overhead map indicating where the different settings of *A Kidnapped Santa Claus* took place. Use your own symbols, icons and signs to represent which characters were in every setting. Fill in the key provided to help identify the different components of your map.

KEY



A KIDNAPPED Santa Claus

Reading Comprehension - Vocabulary

Study the following terms and their definitions from *A Kidnapped Santa Claus* by L. Frank Baum. Then on page 2, practice using the words in sentences.

pixies

a fairy-like elfin creature, especially one that is mischievous; a playful sprite.

demons

an evil spirit, devil or fiend

manufacture

the making of goods or wares by manual labor or by machinery, especially on a large scale

rambling

taking an irregular course; aimlessly wandering

babble

to utter sounds or words imperfectly, indistinctly, or without meaning

repentance

deep sorrow for a past sin or wrongdoing.

envy

a feeling of discontent with regard to another's success or possessions

giddy

lighthearted, impulsive

flocking

to gather or go in a crowd

taunting

to mock in a sarcastic, insulting manner

interfere

to meddle, to interrupt

Reading Comprehension - Vocabulary

Use the lines below to use the terms in your own sentences.

pixies

demons

manufacture

rambling

babble

repentance

envy

giddy

flocking

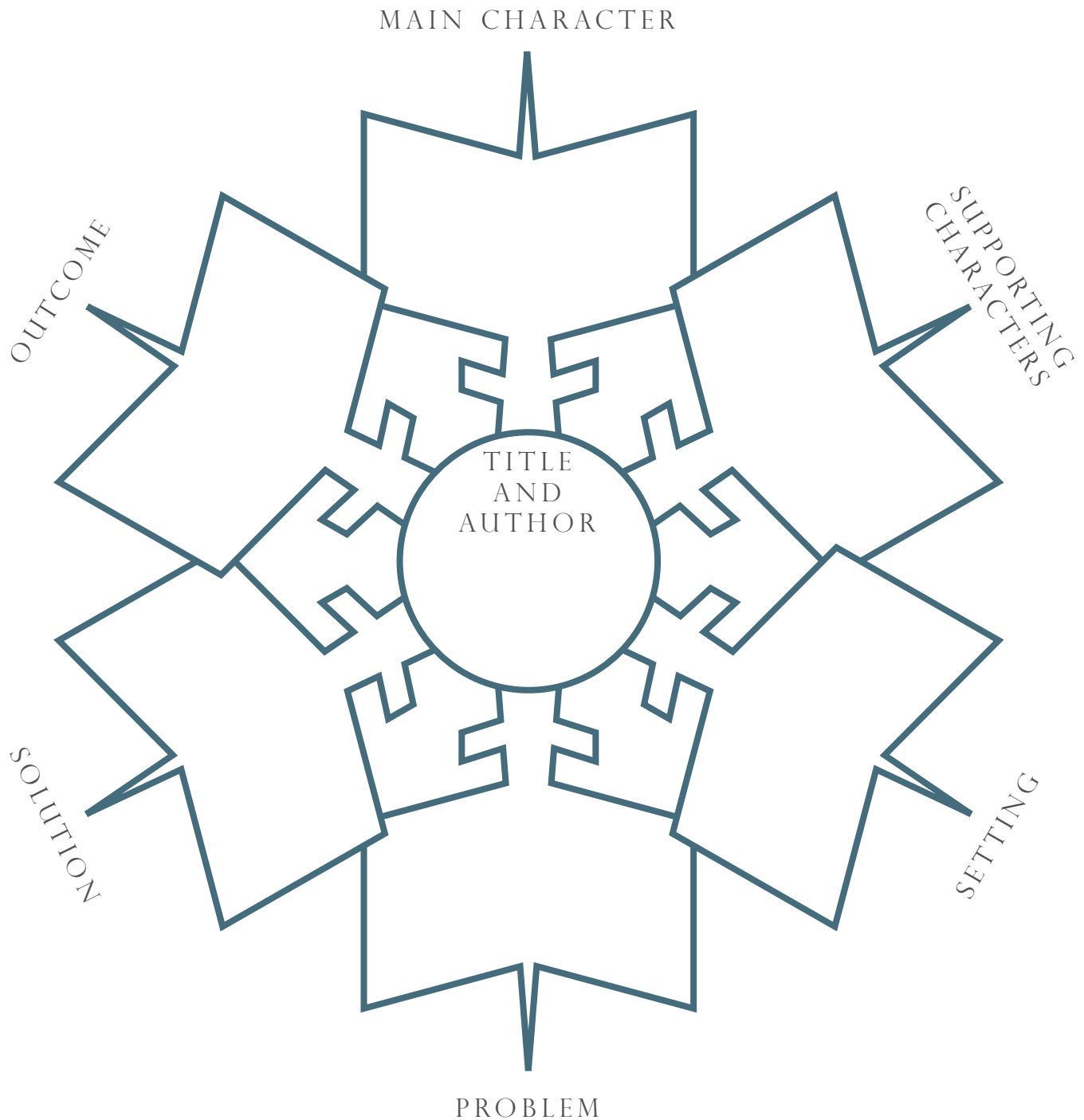
taunting

interfere

A KIDNAPPED Santa Claus

Reading Comprehension - Story Map

Use the following chart to create a story map for *A Kidnapped Santa Claus* by L. Frank Baum.



The Elves and the Shoemaker

By The Brothers Grimm



Abridged for 2nd grade readers

Illustrated by: _____



Once upon a time there was a poor shoemaker. He made beautiful shoes and worked very hard. But he still could not earn enough to support himself and his family. He became so poor that he couldn't even afford to buy the leather he needed to make shoes! When he came down to his very last scraps of leather, he cut them out carefully and put the pieces on his workbench so that he could sew the shoes together the next morning. "Now I wonder," he sighed, "will I ever make another pair of shoes?"



The Elves and the Shoemaker
page 1



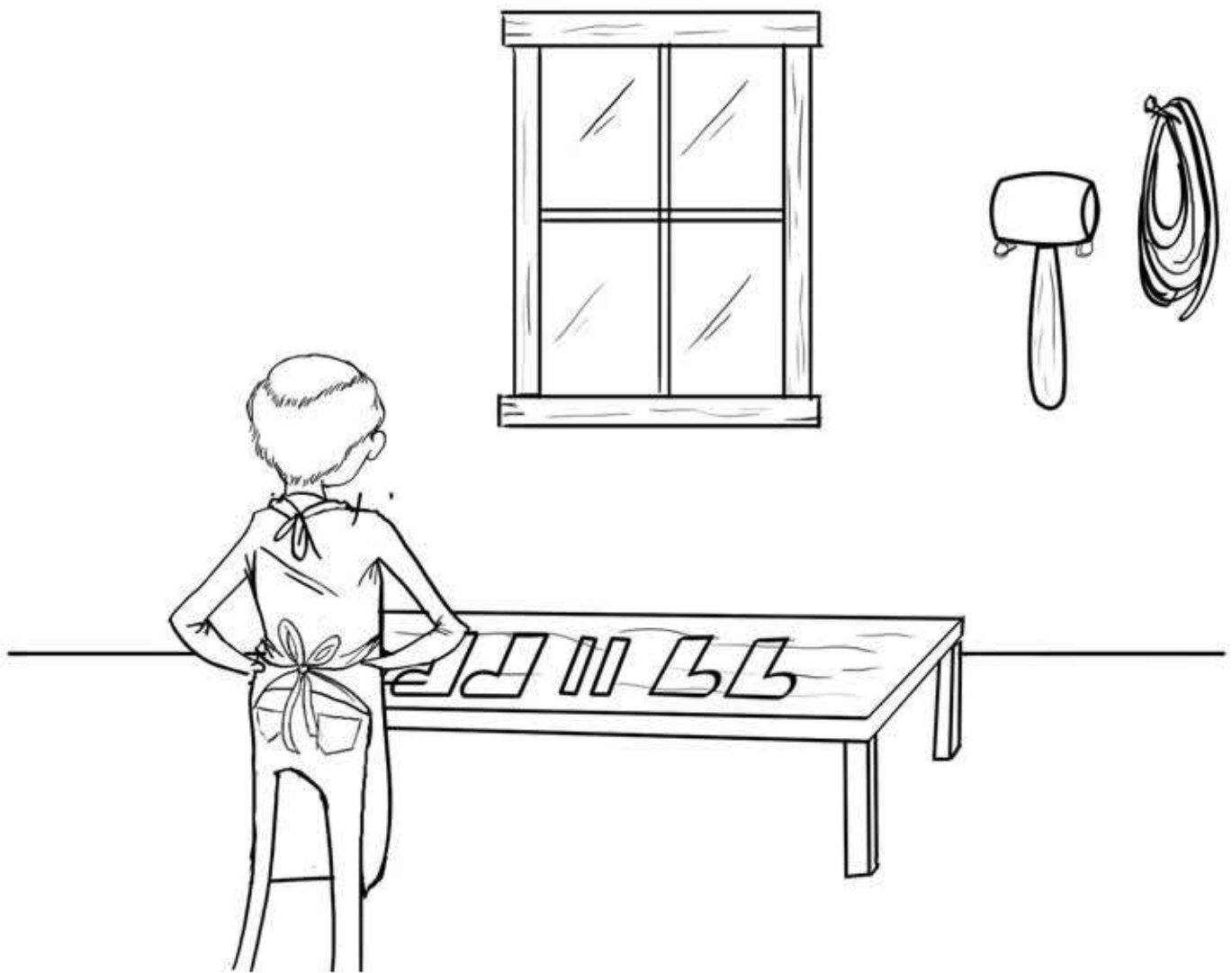
The next morning, the shoemaker awoke early and went down to his workshop. On his bench he found an exquisite pair of shoes! They had small and even stitches, formed more perfectly than he had ever seen. He saw that they were made from the very pieces of leather he had set out the night before.

“Who in the world could have done this great service for me?” He wondered. Even before he could think about it, a rich man strode into his shop and bought the shoes, and for a fancy price at that!



The shoemaker was ecstatic! He immediately went out to buy plenty of food for his family, and some more leather too. That afternoon, he cut out two pairs of shoes and laid them out on the bench so he could sew them the next day. Low and behold, the next morning he found two more pairs of beautifully finished shoes on his workbench.

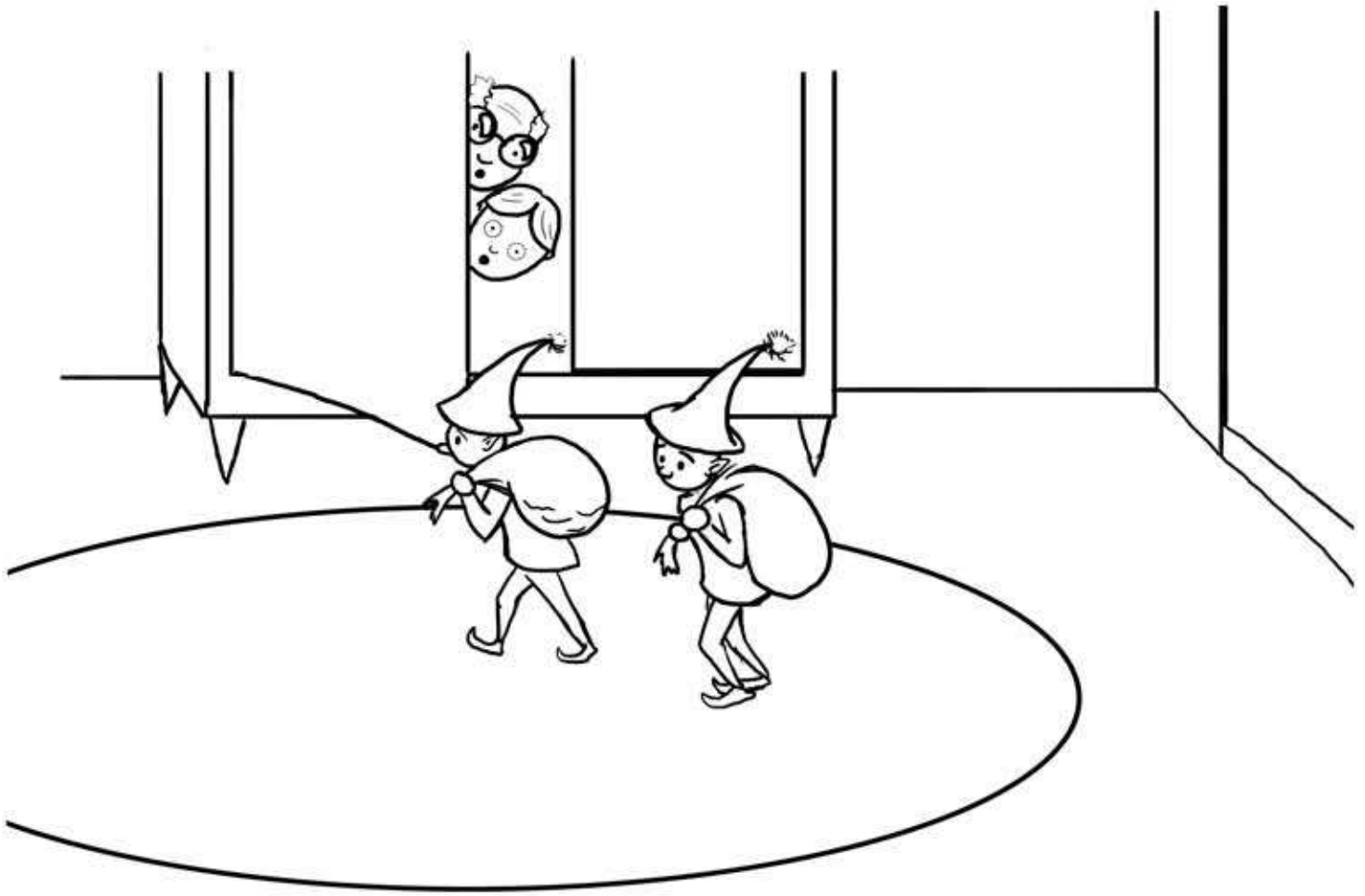
“Who could make such fine shoes - and so quickly?” he thought.



For weeks, and then months, this continued. Whether the shoemaker cut leather for two pairs or four pairs, the finest new shoes were always ready in the morning. Soon his little shop was producing the most beautiful and expensive looking shoes in the land. The shoemaker and his family became very rich indeed.

One evening the shoemaker and his wife were sitting by the fire, when suddenly he declared, "I must find out who has been helping us!"

That night, he and his wife hid in the cupboards of his workshop, waiting for the mysterious helpers to appear.

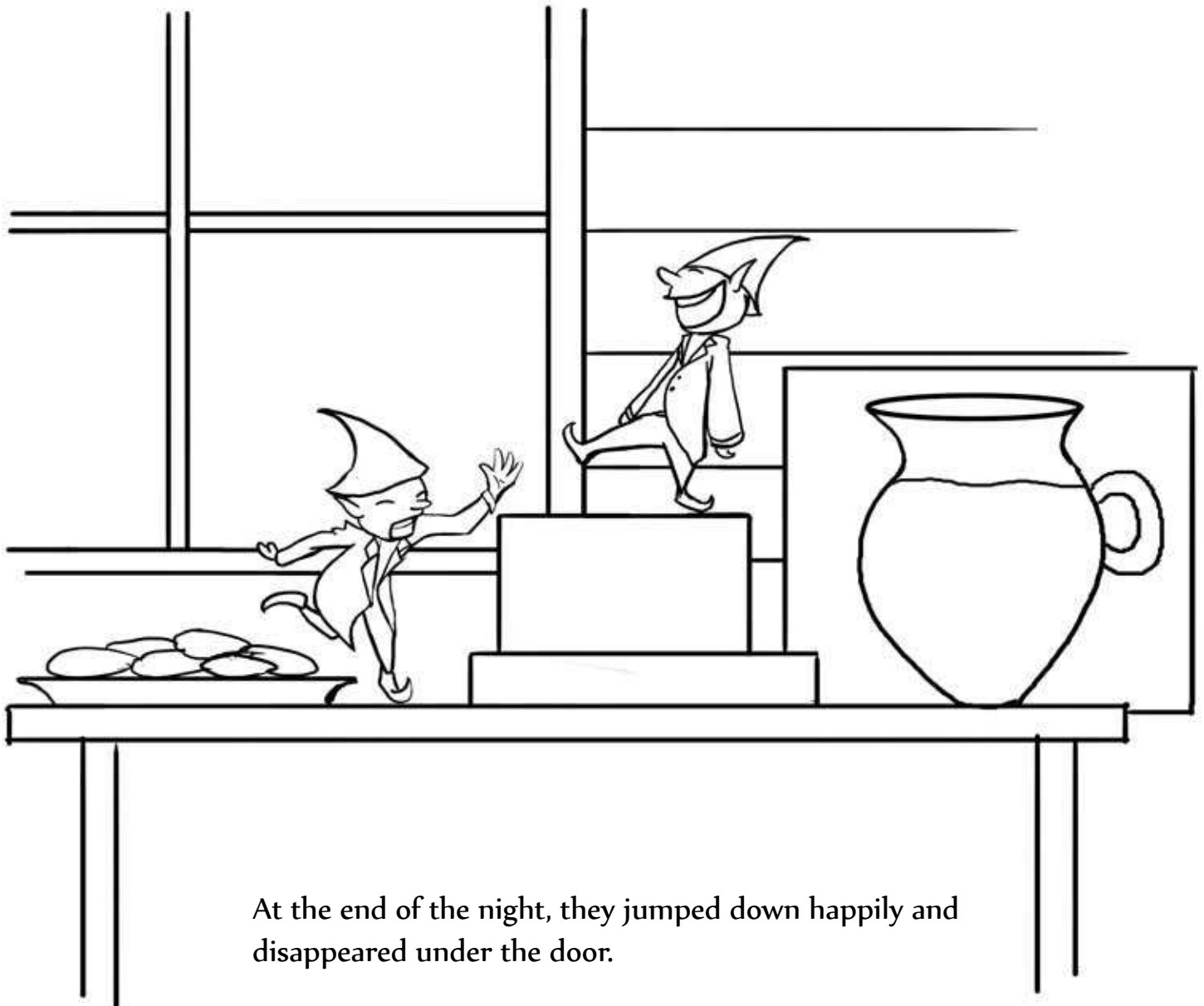


When the clock struck midnight, the shoemaker and his wife heard a noise. Two tiny men, each with a bag of tools, were squeezing in through a small crack under the door. They clambered onto the workbench and began to sew, humming as they worked.

"My, those elves are so small," the wife whispered. "They have done so much good for us. Since it is nearly Christmas, we should make some gifts for them."



On Christmas Eve, the shoemaker and his wife laid out presents for the elves: two tiny jackets, two pairs of mini trousers and two little woolen caps. They also left out a plate of good things to eat and drink. When the elves came in and saw the presents, they began to laugh and shout with joy. They tried on the clothes and helped themselves to the food and drink.

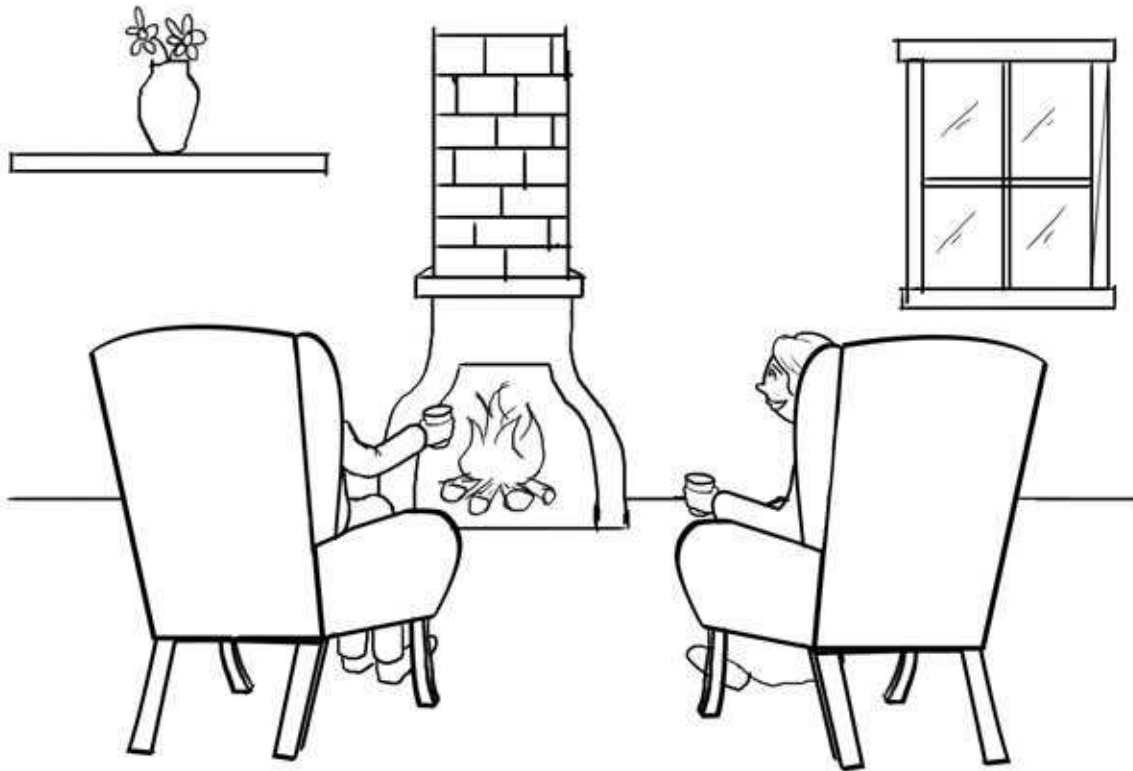


At the end of the night, they jumped down happily and disappeared under the door.



After Christmas, the shoemaker cut out his leather as he always had, and laid the pieces out on the table at night. But the two elves never returned. "I believe they heard us whispering," said his wife. "Elves are so very shy when it comes to people, you know."

"I know. I will miss their help," the shoemaker said, "but we will manage. The shop is always so busy now. But my stitches will never be as tight and small as theirs!" The shoemaker did continue to prosper, but he and his family always remembered the good elves who had helped them during the hard times. And each and every Christmas Eve, they gathered around the fire to drink a toast to their tiny friends.



THE END!



The Elves and the Shoemaker
page 6

The Elves AND THE Shoemaker

Reading Comprehension - Story Map

Use the following chart to create a story map for *The Elves and the Shoemaker* by The Brothers Grimm.

Title and Author

Main Character

Supporting Characters

Setting

Problem

Solution

The Elves AND THE Shoemaker

Reading Comprehension - Vocabulary

Study the following terms and their definitions from *The Elves and the Shoemaker* by The Brothers Grimm. Then, use the lines on the following page to use the terms in your own sentences.

exquisite of special beauty or charm; rare, appealing and excellent

strode to walk using long steps, with a sense of hurry or impatience

ecstatic the feeling of overpowering delight, emotion, inspiration; a sudden, intense feeling

clambered to climb, using both feet and hands; to climb with difficulty

woolen a garment or piece of cloth made of wool, especially a knitted one

prosper to be successful or fortunate, especially financially.

toast (drinks) a salutation or a few words of appreciation, remembrance, etc.

Reading Comprehension - Vocabulary

Use the lines below to use the terms in your own sentences.

exquisite

strode

ecstatic

clambered

woolen

prosper

toast (drinks)



Great job!

is an Education.com reading superstar

