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## STORYTIME PUPPET TIPS AND TRICKS

- A puppet needs a name
- A puppet needs a home
- Mouth puppets are best
- Not all toy puppets make good storytime puppets
- Your puppet does not need to speak
  - o it can look, whisper, hide, say yes/no
- Your puppet can say a rhyme or sing a song all wrong
- Children can teach the puppet rhymes, songs and manners
- Know where your puppet is looking
- Open puppet's mouth every 2-3 words (don't bite words)
- Repetition is good
- Have a plan, but don't be afraid to improvise

# **FLANNEL BOARD STORIES**

**Judy Sierra**

## **Instructions and Patterns:**

*The Flannel Board Storytelling Book, 3rd Edition* (PDF download)

[www.judysierra.net](http://www.judysierra.net)

*The Flannel Board Storytelling Book*. H.W. Wilson, 1987, 1997

*Multicultural Folktales*. Oryx, 1991.

*Multicultural Folktales for Feltboard and Readers' Theater*. Oryx, 1996.

## **Specialty Materials**

Cachet Deluxe Black Portfolio

[www.dickblick.com/products/cachet-deluxe-black-portfolios/](http://www.dickblick.com/products/cachet-deluxe-black-portfolios/)

Caran d'Ache Neocolor II crayons

[www.dickblick.com/products/caran-dache-neocolor-ii-artists-crayons/](http://www.dickblick.com/products/caran-dache-neocolor-ii-artists-crayons/)

Pellon Heavyweight Fusible Stabilizer (interfacing)

Pellon Heavyweight Nonfusible Stabilizer (interfacing)

Pellon Lutradur

--At fabric stores, quilting stores and online

# The Great Big Carrot

Based on a Russian Folktale

Once, a rabbit was hopping through the garden. He saw a big bushy carrot top. A very big bushy carrot top.

“Oh,” said the rabbit. “This must be the top a great big carrot.”

The rabbit decided to pull the carrot out of the ground. She held onto the carrot top, and she **PULLED**, and she *PULLED*, and she **PULLED** . . . but the carrot would not come out.

Along came a squirrel, and the squirrel asked, “What is all the fuss about?”

And the rabbit answered,

*Fee, fie, foe, fout.*

This great big carrot won’t come out!

“I can help you,” said the squirrel.

The squirrel held onto the rabbit, and the rabbit held onto the bushy carrot top, and they **PULLED** and they *PULLED*, and they **PULLED**, but the carrot would not come out.

Along came a turtle, and the turtle asked, “What is all the fuss about?”

And the rabbit answered,

*Fee, fie, foe, fout.*

This great big carrot won’t come out!

“I can help you,” said the turtle.

The turtle held onto the squirrel, and the squirrel held onto the rabbit, and the rabbit held onto the carrot top and together they **PULLED** and they *PULLED*, and they **PULLED**, but the carrot would not come out.

Along came a snail, and the snail asked, “What is all the fuss about?”

And the rabbit said,

*Fee, fie, foe, fout.*

This great big carrot won’t come out!

“I can help you,” said the snail.

“No you can’t,” said the turtle. “You are too little.”

“No you can’t,” said the squirrel. “You are too small.”

“No you can’t,” said the rabbit. “You are too tiny.”

“Just let me try,” said the snail.

So the snail held onto the turtle, and the turtle held onto the squirrel, and the squirrel held onto the rabbit, and the rabbit held onto the carrot top, and all together they **PULLED** and they *PULLED* and they **PULLED** and they *P-U-L-L-E-D* until the carrot came out, and it *was* a **GREAT BIG** carrot. The rabbit and the squirrel and the turtle ate it up, but they saved the leafy green carrot top for the very helpful snail.

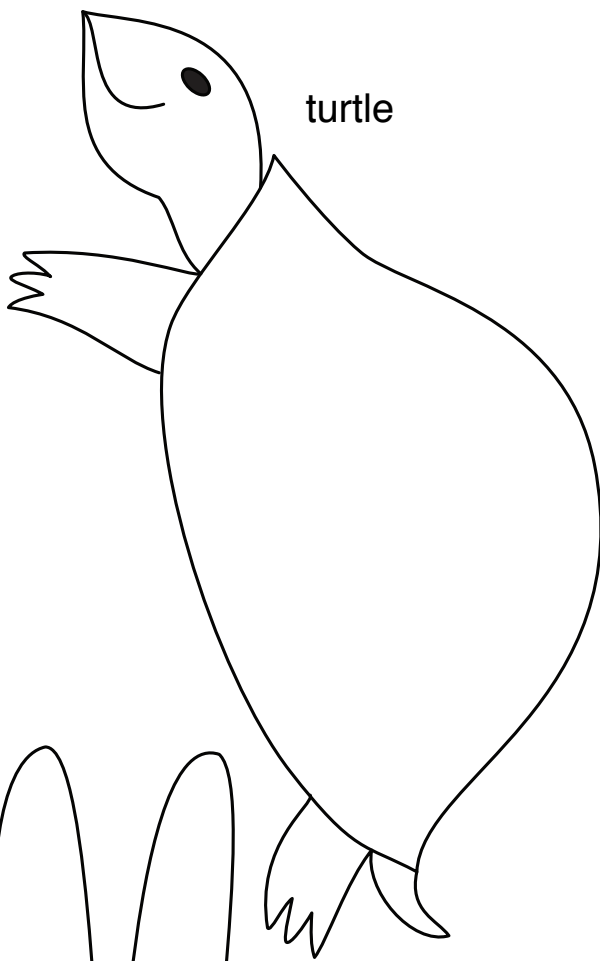


Story figures were made of cotton quilt fabric fused to stabilizer. The turtle and snail were cut from felt, then fused cotton shells were glued on. Eyes were made of white cotton, fused to stabilizer and colored with a black Sharpie marker on the stabilizer side. The ground is a piece of brown felt, and the carrot is hidden underneath it until the end of the story.

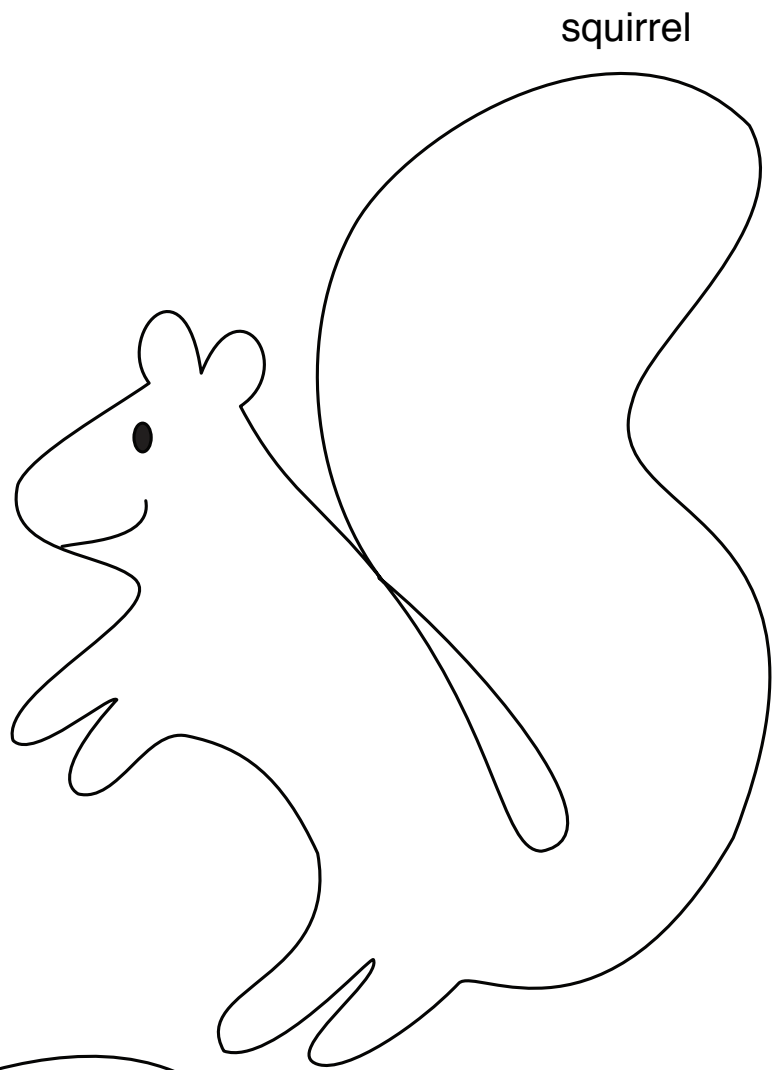
Because these figures need to overlap on the board, they should be made either from felt or cotton fabric fused to stabilizer. From felt or fleece, cut either a gumdrop-shaped hill or a wide rectangular strip to represent the earth. The hill or strip must be high enough to hide the orange part of the carrot plant.

Set up the flannel board before the children see it: Place the carrot toward the bottom left of the board. Place the ground piece on top of the carrot so that only the green carrot top is visible. Pin the ground piece to the board at either side of the carrot, leaving enough space to pull the carrot out of the ground at the end of the story.

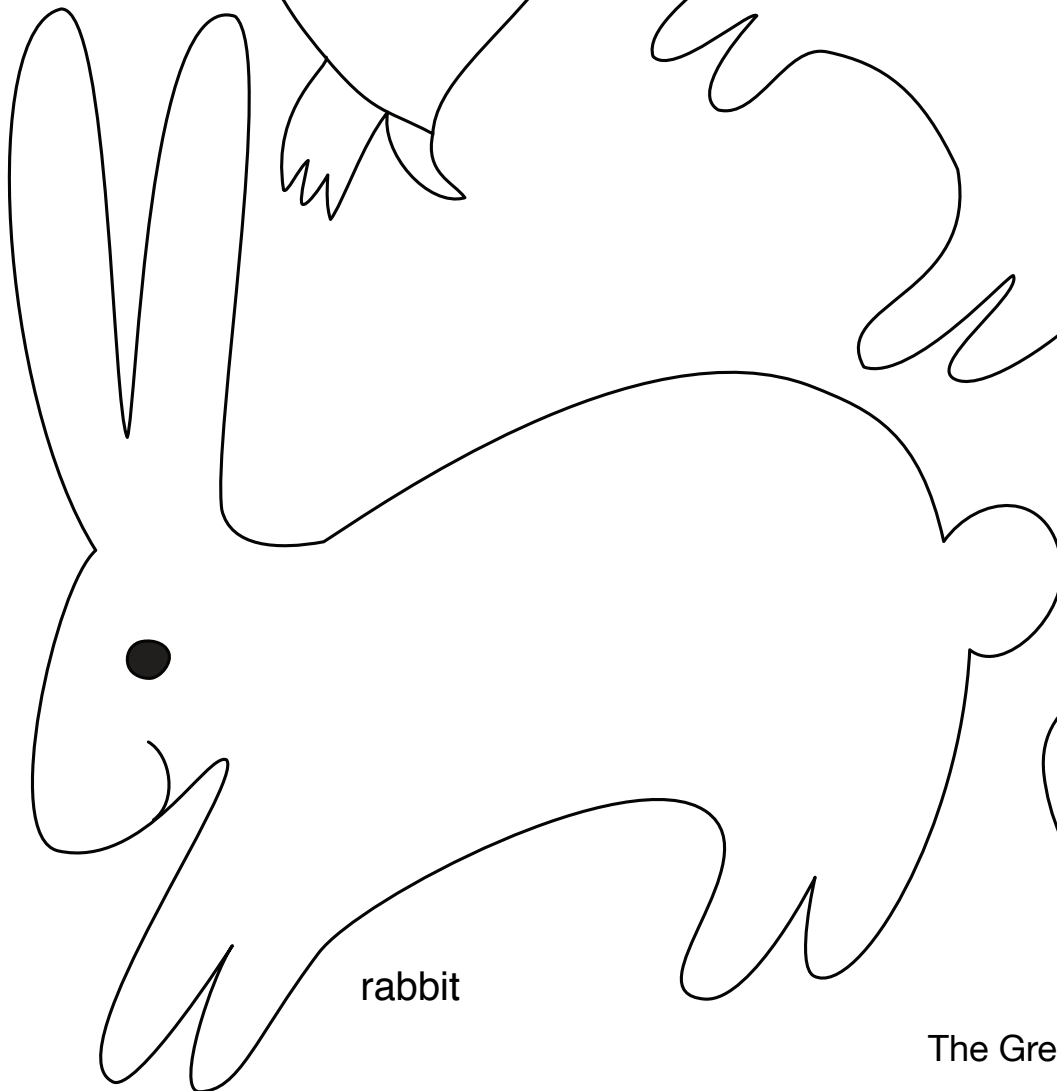
As you tell the story, add the animals one at a time, to the right of the carrot. At first, place each one behind and a bit apart from the one before. Then, when it volunteers to help, move it so that it overlaps the previous figure, as if holding on and pulling. At last, pull the carrot from its hiding place and place it on the board. As you tell how the animals ate it, you can move each figure closer to the carrot, and finally place the snail near the green carrot top. Invite the children to join you in making very small eating noises for the animals.



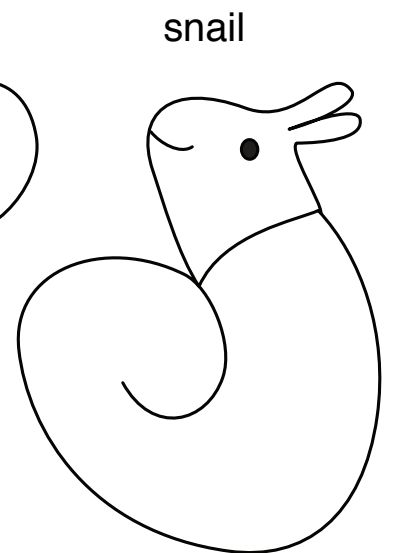
turtle



squirrel

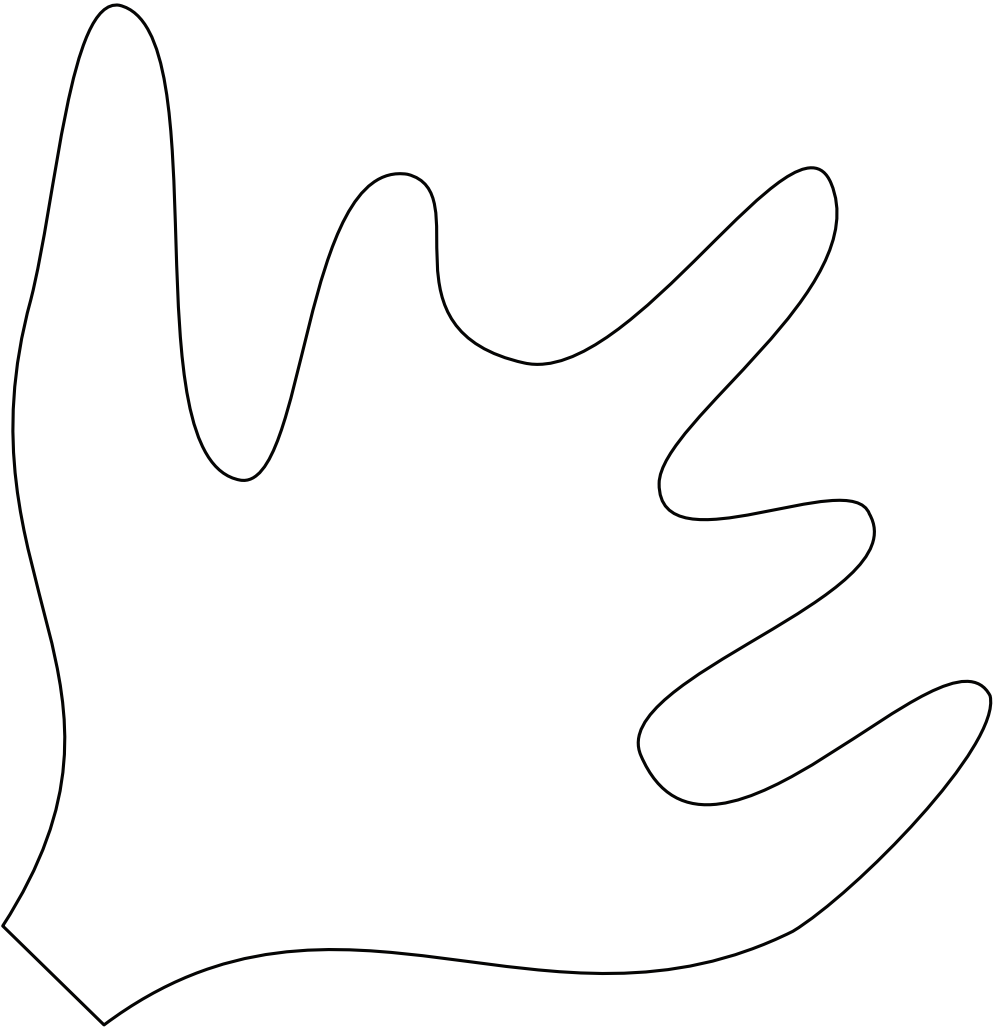


rabbit

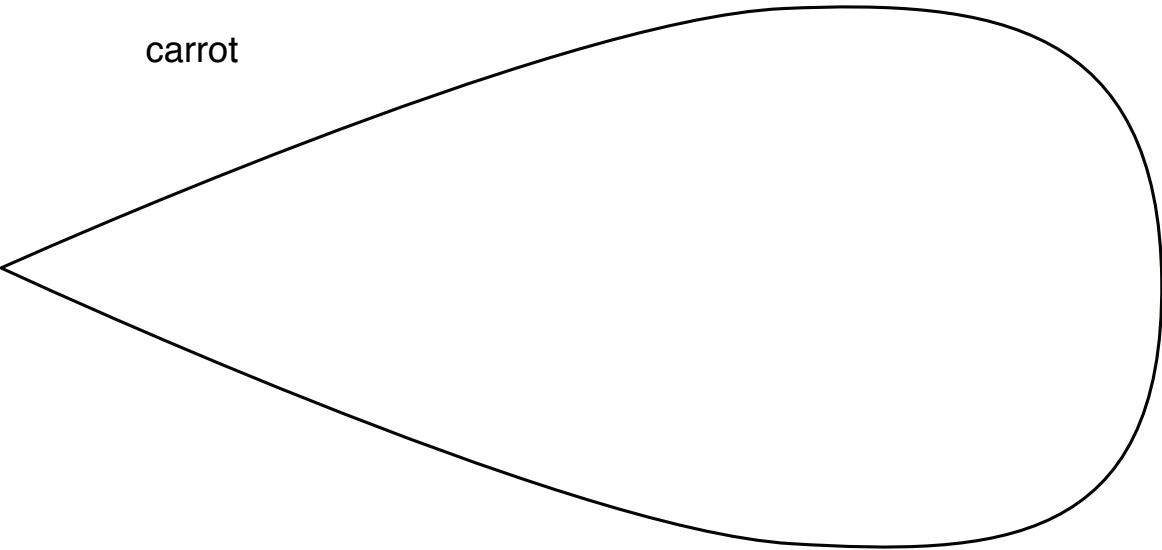


snail

carrot top



carrot



# The Rooster and the Sun

## A Folktale from Spain

Once upon a time there lived a rooster, and the rooster was so proud of his smooth, shiny feathers, his lovely orange feet, his big red comb and his bright yellow beak [change the words here if you've colored him differently].

"How handsome I am," said the rooster, and he crowed, *Cock-a-doodle-doo! Cock-a-doodle-doo! Cock-a-doodle-doo!*

Then one morning the rooster looked down and saw a tiny speck of dirt on his bright yellow beak. He tried to shake the dirt off, and he tried to scratch it off, but there it stayed.

Oh, no!" the rooster said. "I have a dirty beak. Now I am no longer handsome. What shall I do?"

Along came a cat.

"Please, cat," said the rooster. "There is a speck of dirt on my bright yellow beak. Would you brush it off with your soft, soft paw?"

"No," said the cat. "Why should I? What did you ever done for me?"

So the rooster went to see the dog and said, "Please, dog, bark at the cat. The cat won't brush my beak with her soft, soft paw."

"No," said the dog. "Why should I? What have you ever done for me?"

So the rooster found some water, and he said, "Please, water, splash the dog. The dog won't chase the cat, the cat won't brush my beak with her soft, soft paw."

"No," said the water. "Why should I? What have you ever done for me?"

The rooster looked up in the sky and saw the sun.

"Please, sun, dry up this water. The water won't splash the dog, the dog won't chase the cat, the cat won't brush my beak with her soft, soft paw."



“Yes, I will,” said the sun, “but you must do something for me in return. Every morning, I want you to crow three times and wake me up.”

“I promise,” said the rooster.

Then the sun began to dry up the water, the water splashed the dog, the dog barked at the cat, and the cat lifted her soft, soft paw and cleaned the rooster’s beak.

Once again, the rooster was handsome, and ever since that day, the rooster never forgets to wake up very early and crow three times:

*Cock-a-doodle-doo!*

*Cock-a-doodle-doo!*

*Cock-a-doodle-doo!*

Then, up comes the sun.



Here are several ways to decorate felt figures. Details on the rooster were cut from felt and glued on. The ripples on the water were made with pearl white dimensional fabric paint. Lines on the sun were drawn with a Fine Point Sharpie marker. Mouths of the cat and dog were simply snipped away, revealing the black of the flannel board. Eyes were made of fused fabric.

Figures can be made of felt, Lutradur or stabilizer.

Folktales like this one, known as chain tales, are perfect for the flannel board. Each new character is placed on the board until they form a circle. If you put the cat, dog, water and sun on the board just before you say its name, children are prompted to guess the word. As the story unwinds, remove each character:

“The sun began to dry up the water” (remove sun)

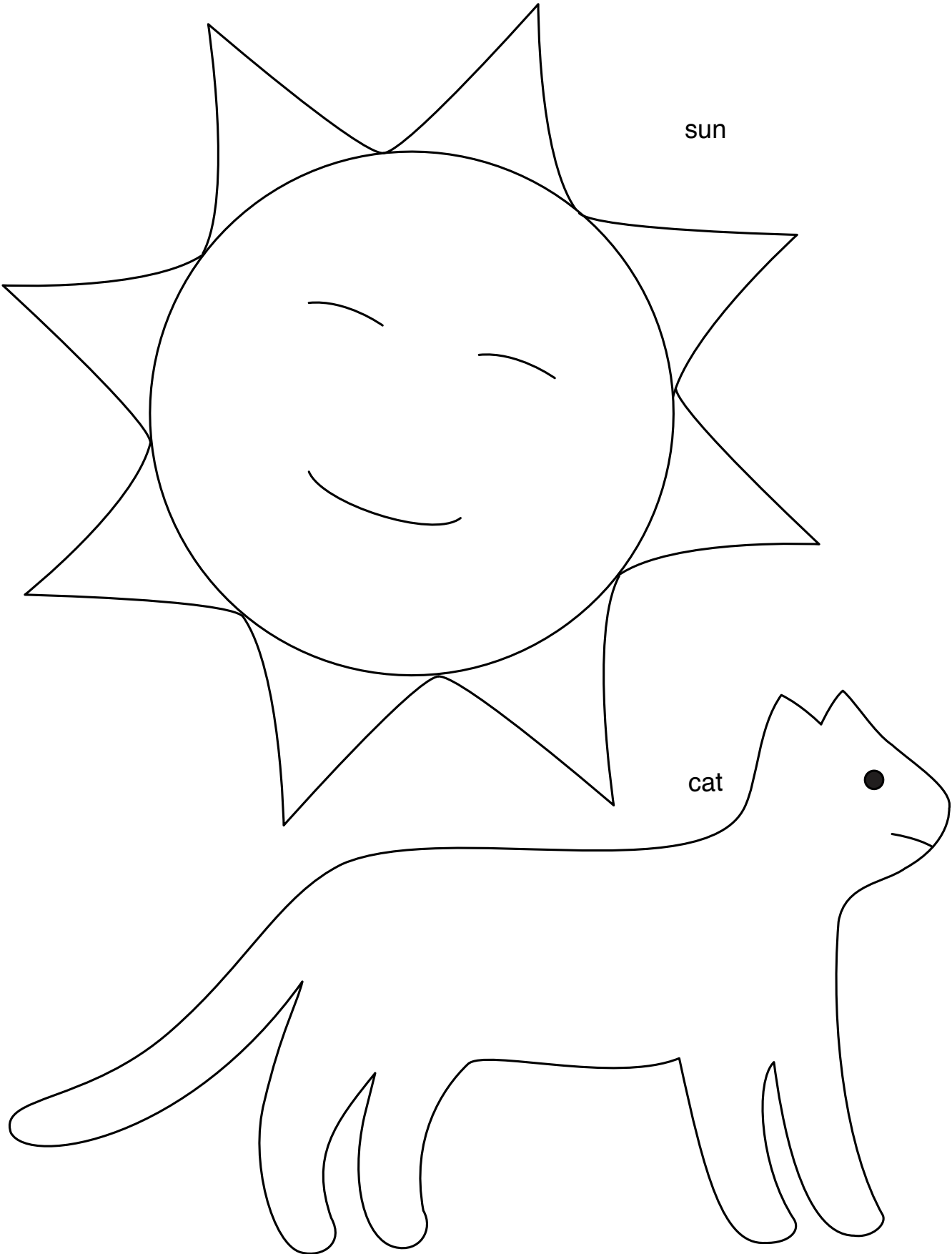
“The water began to douse the dog” (remove water)

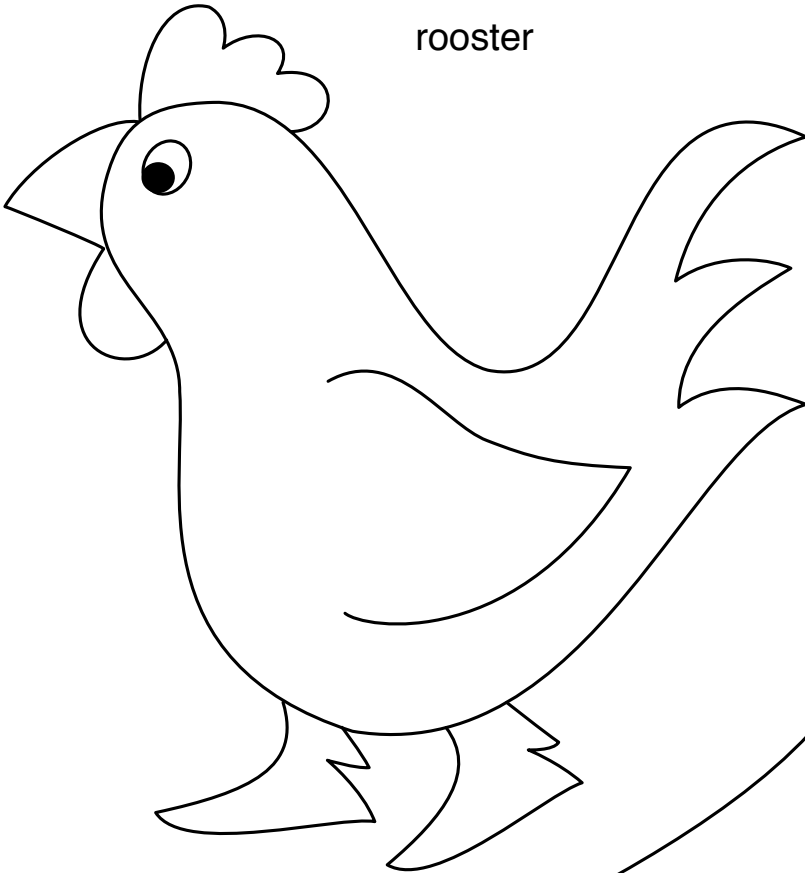
“The dog barked at the cat” (remove dog)

“The cat lifted her soft, soft paw . . . .” (remove cat)

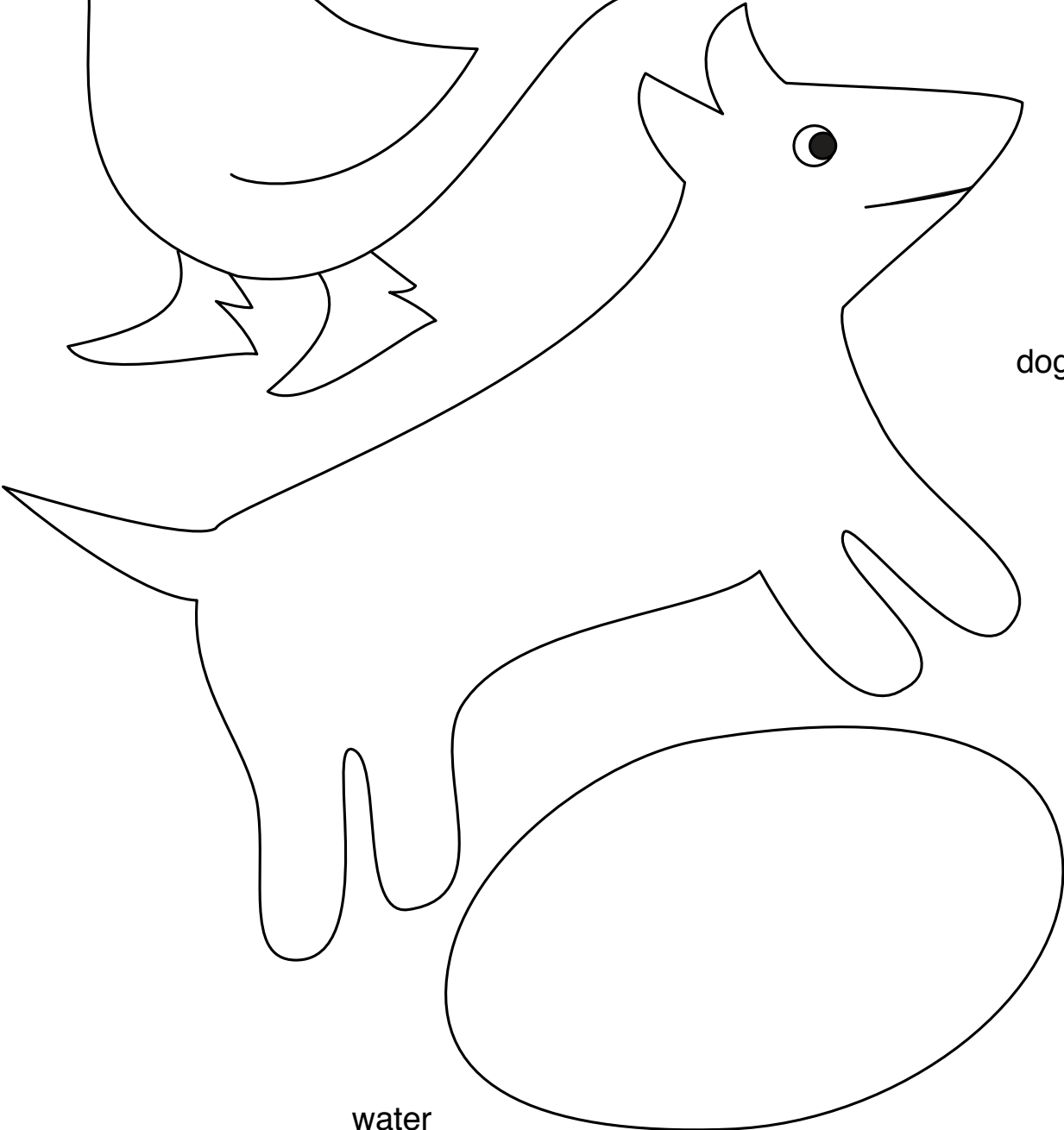
After the rooster crows, replace the sun on the board.

Have the children to join you in flapping their arms and crowing like a rooster. Ask the children and parents if they know how a rooster crows in another language.





rooster



dog

water

# The Goat in the Turnip Patch

## A Folktale from Norway

A long time ago, there was a little boy who lived on a farm, and his job was to guard his family's turnip patch and make sure that no animal ate the tasty tops of the turnips, because if they did, the bottom part of the turnip, the part that was under the ground, the good-to-eat part, would not grow. But one day, who got into the turnip patch? The big billy goat! The big billy goat began eating the tasty tops of all the turnips, and he wouldn't stop.

The little boy shouted at the goat, "Get out of the turnip patch!"

The billy goat did not move.

The little boy got behind the billy goat and pushed him, but the billy goat still did not move.

The little boy got in front of the billy goat and started to pull on his horns, but the billy goat just put his horns down and—**BOOM!**—he tossed the boy up in the air.

The boy did a somersault and landed on the ground, and he began to cry, *w-a-a-h!*

Along came the fox, and the fox asked the boy, "Why are you crying?"

*W-a-a-h!* The billy goat got into the turnip patch, and he's eating a tasty tops of all the turnips, and he won't stop."

The fox thought he would go over and bite the billy goat on the leg, but when he got close to the billy goat, the billy goat put down his horns and—**BOOM!**—he tossed the fox up in the air. The fox did a somersault and landed next to the boy, and now both of them were crying, *w-a-a-h!*

Along came the wolf, and asked the boy and the fox why they were crying.

*W-a-a-h!* wailed the fox. "The billy goat got into the turnip patch, and he's eating a tasty tops of all the turnips, and he won't stop."

The wolf thought he would just go over to the turnip patch and growl at the billy goat and scare him and make him leave, but when he got close, the billy goat put down his horns and—**BOOM!**—he butted the wolf up into the air. The wolf did a somersault, and landed next to the boy and the fox, and now all three of them were crying, *w-a-a-h!*

Along came the bear, and the bear asked why the boy and the fox and the wolf were crying.

*W-a-a-h!* wailed the wolf. "The billy goat got into the boy's turnip patch, and he's eating a tasty tops of all the turnips, and he won't stop."

The bear thought he would just spank the billy goat with his big, broad paw and make him leave, but the billy goat put down his horns and —**BOOM!**—he tossed the bear up into the air. The bear did a somersault and landed next to the boy and the fox and the wolf, and now all four of them were crying, *w-a-a-h!*

Along came the bumblebee, and asked the boy and the fox and the wolf and the bear why they were all crying.

*W-a-a-h!* bawled the bear." The billy goat got into the boy's turnip patch, and he's eating tasty tops of all the turnips, and he won't stop."

"I'll take care of him," said the bumblebee, and he flew to the turnip patch—*buzz*—and he landed on the billy goat's back leg and stung him a great huge sting—**YOW!**

The billy goat got out of a turnip patch so fast nobody saw him leave, and the boy, and the fox, and the wolf, and the bear all stopped crying.

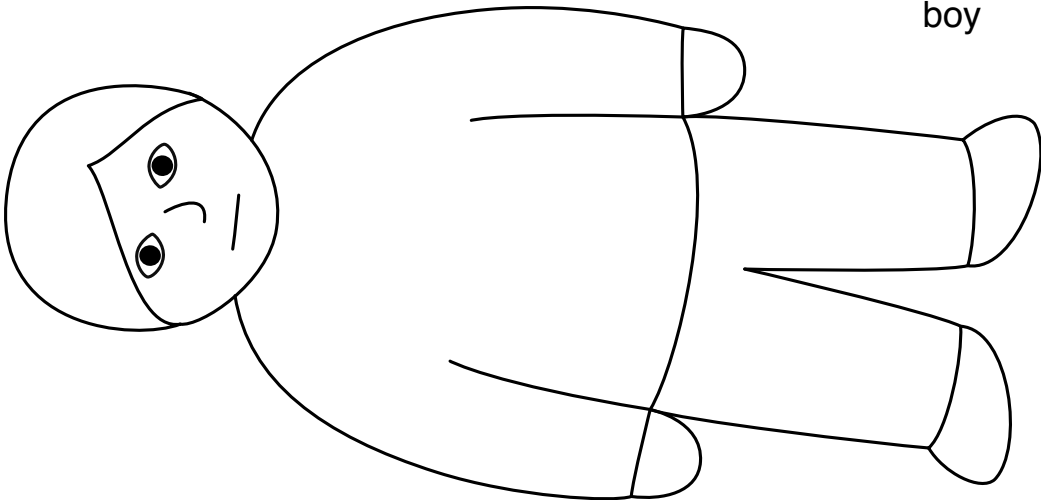


These characters were made from stabilizer colored with Caran d’Ache Neocolor II crayons. Leaves are felt, with lines drawn in permanent marker.

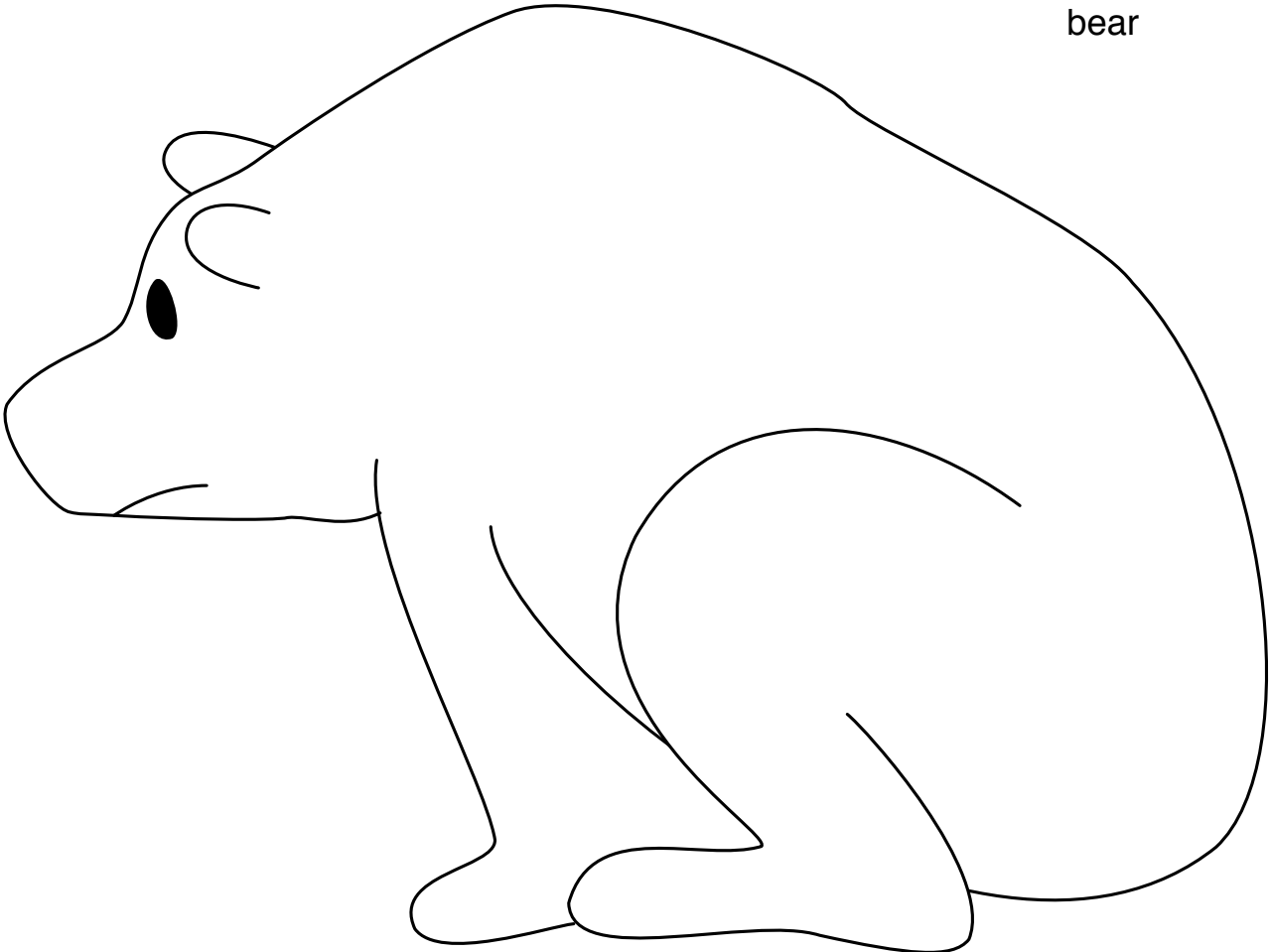
Cut the turnip tops from green felt. The other figures can be made of stabilizer, Lutradur, felt and/or felt collage. Because it’s easy to misplace small figures, make a backup bumblebee.

Begin telling the story with the turnip tops already in place near the center of the flannel board, a bit toward the top. Set the boy to the right of the turnips as you begin the story, then add the billy goat to the left, overlapping the turnips. The billy goat will not move until the end of the story. When the boy starts to cry, move him the lower left, then, as each animal comes along it will sit to the right of the boy or the previous animal, then go up next to the billy goat. When the goat tosses each animal into the air, lift it up above flannel board, then place it back on the lower part of the board to sit and cry with the others. When the bee flies into the garden, build suspense by holding it just with fingertips and making it buzz very slowly toward the goat’s back leg.

Children will need only the slightest encouragement to join you in crying for the boy, the fox, the wolf and the bear. Rub your eyes as you wail, *W-a-a-a-h!*

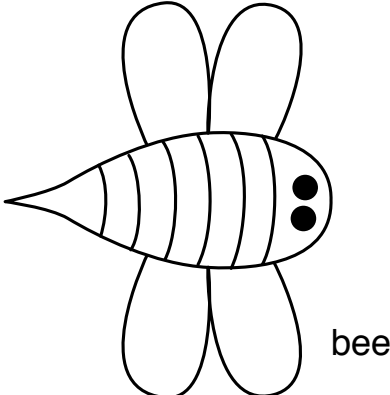


boy

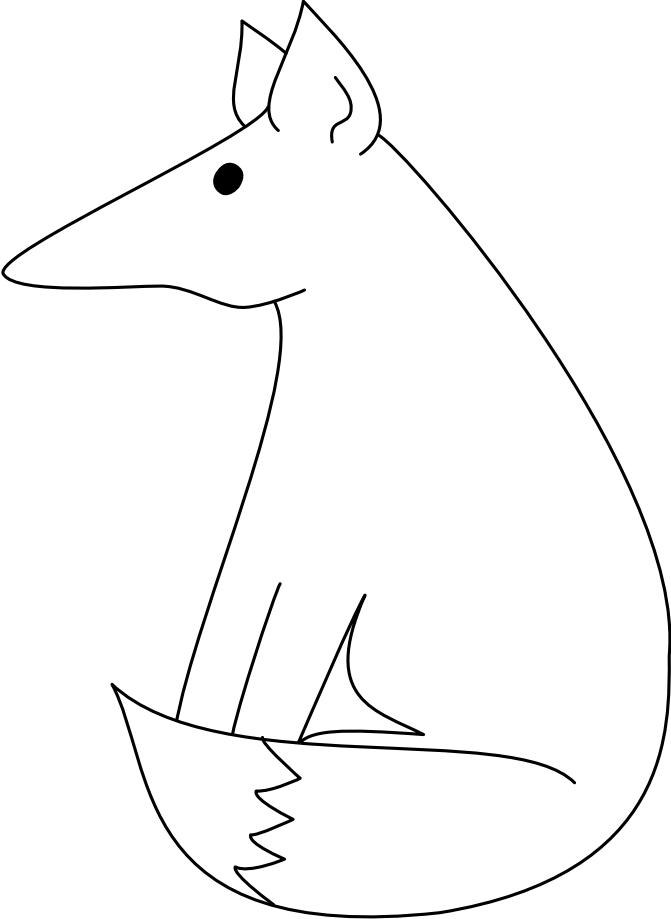


bear

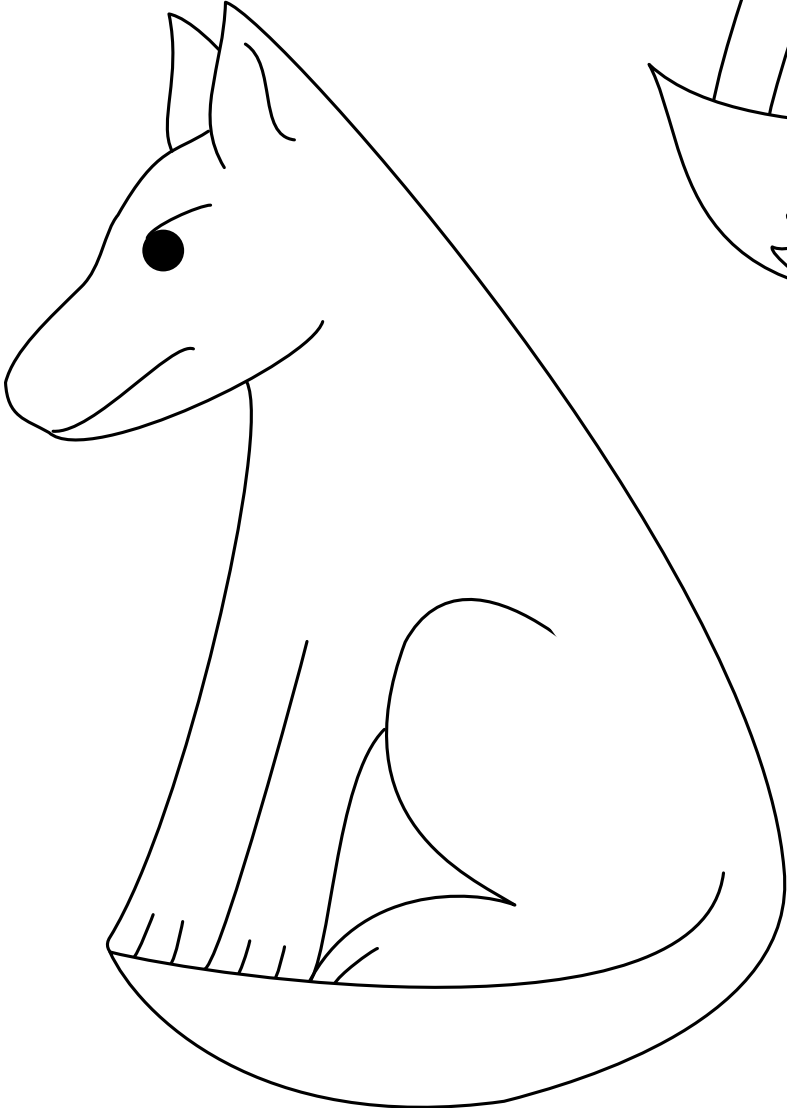




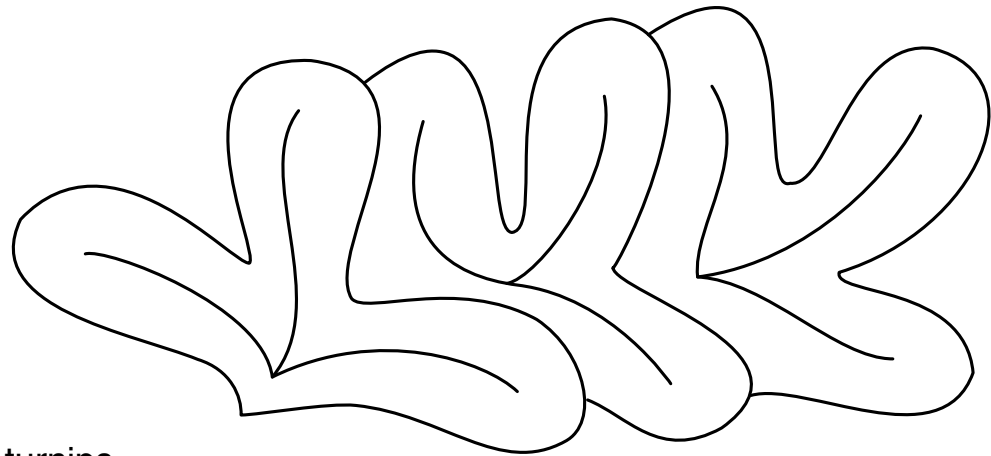
bee



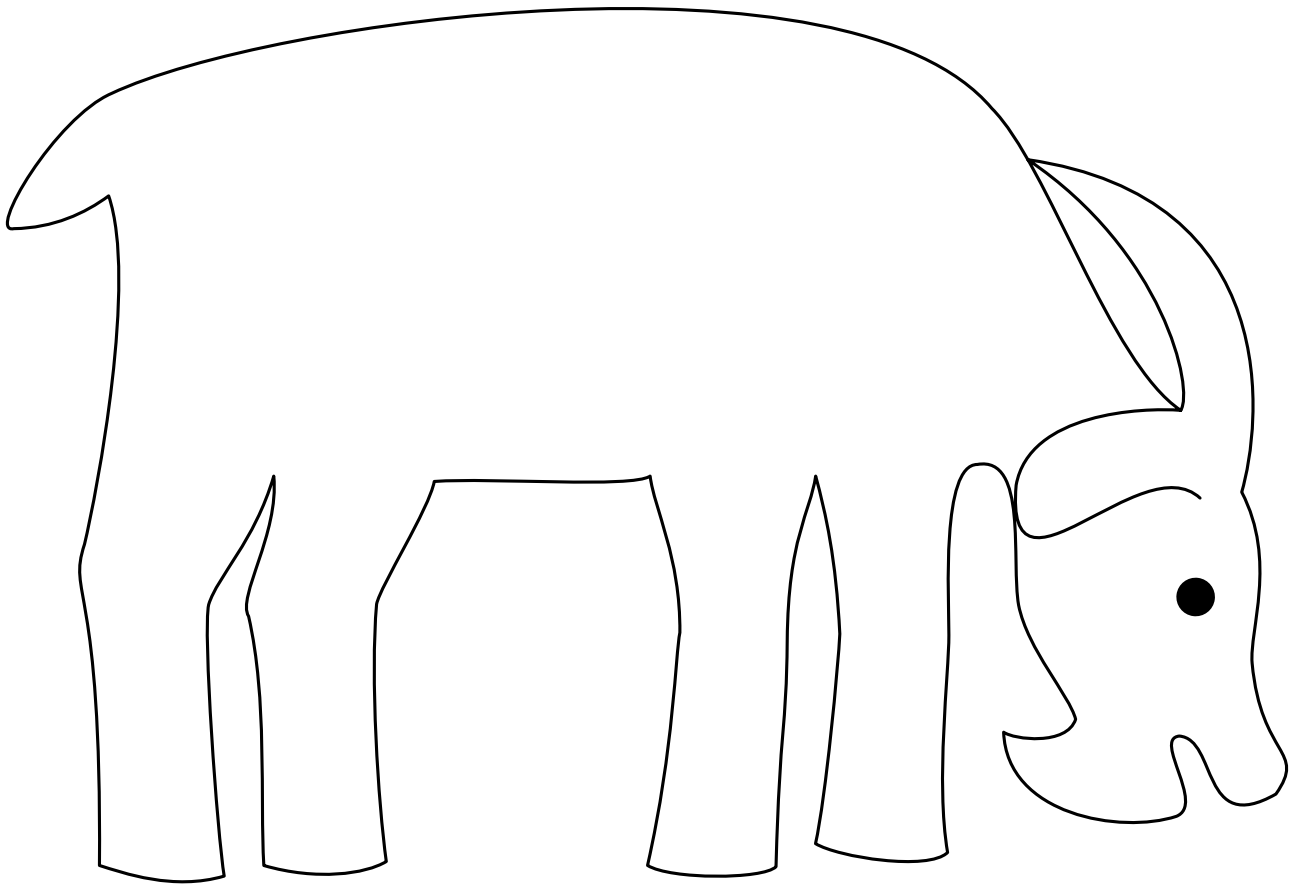
fox



wolf



turnips



billy goat