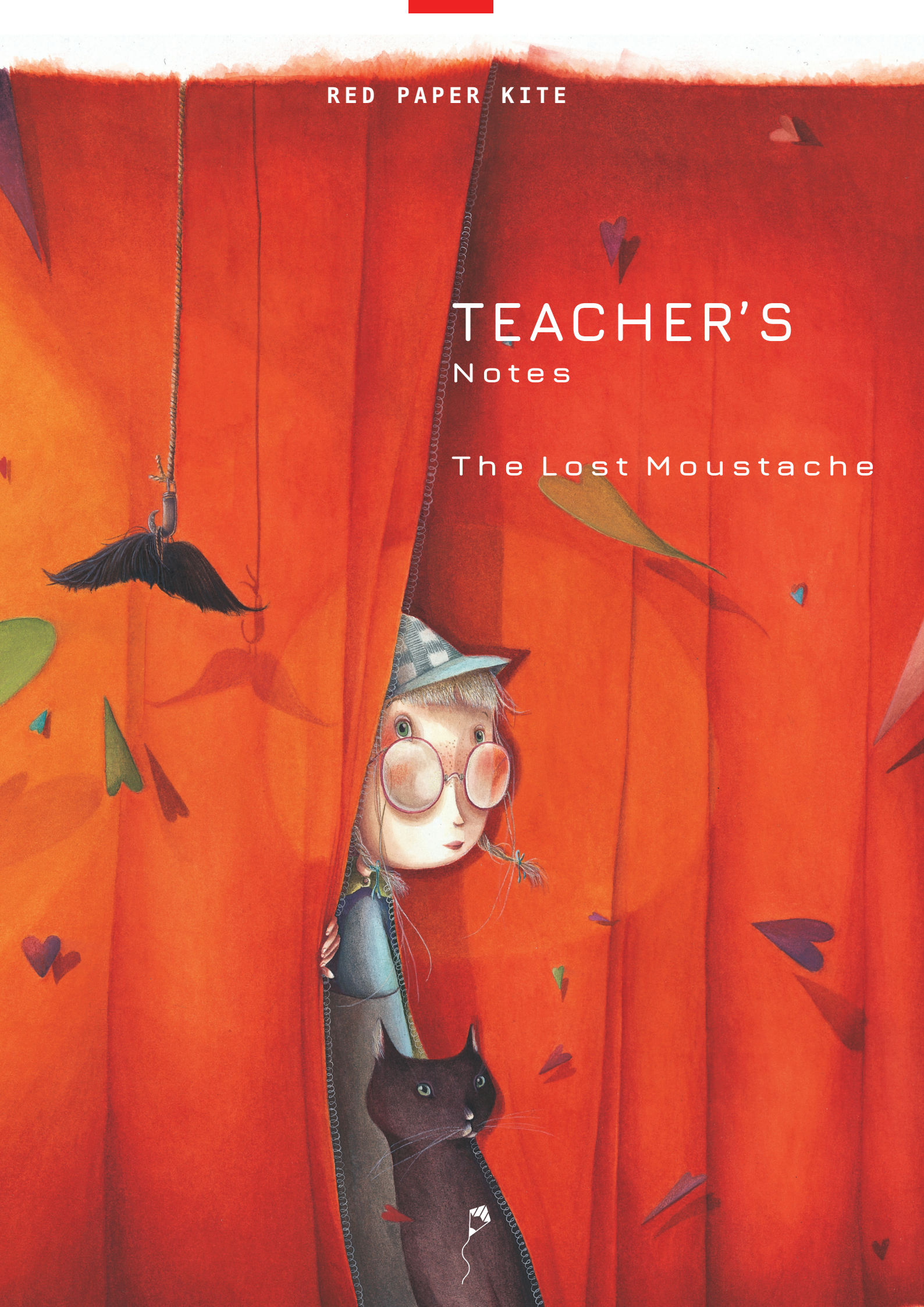


RED PAPER KITE

TEACHER'S

Notes

The Lost Moustache



THE LOST MOUSTACHE

Synopsis

When Frankie finds a moustache in a theatre, she is completely baffled.

Who loses a moustache?

Frankie launches an investigation, determined to return the moustache to its rightful owner.

The Lost Moustache is a fun and beautifully illustrated story about a little girl's curiosity and playfulness. It celebrates imagination and the joy of dressing up.

Themes

Creativity, imagination, curiosity, theatre, joy of dressing up, fun

Selling points

- A great story to use during Book Week and other dress-up based events.
- Provides an opportunity to talk about real stories versus made-up stories.
- Introduces children to the wonderful world of theatre and imagination.
- Detailed, vibrant illustrations, including artwork inspired by famous artists.
- An opportunity to talk about various art forms—visual, theatrical, dance.

About the author: Vikki Conley

Vikki Conley is a professional writer who has worked with diverse communities in Africa, Asia and Australia for over 20 years. She is one of the most prolific emerging children's writers with seven picture books being released in the next two years. Vikki is an intrepid traveller, nature lover and creative all-rounder.

Inspired by nature and her country/seagoing childhood, Vikki writes and shares stories that celebrate the spirit of wonder, adventure and freedom that she wishes every child could enjoy. Her childhood was filled with adventure in the wilderness: riding her pony in the Australian bush, leaping from her family's wooden boat into the ocean and seeing the world from the top of mountains.

Vikki also loves sharing amazing stories for minds that wonder, as the creator and cu-

Author VIKKI CONLEY
Illustrator CATERINA METTI

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250mm x 250mm x 10mm

RRP AU\$26.99

AGES 5-7

rator of Courageous Pages, the popular children's literature social media page. In her spare time, Vikki does cartwheels with her two children and her husband, and searches for platypus in the rivers near her home in Eltham, Victoria, Australia.

About the illustrator: Caterina Metti

Caterina is a self-taught artist who studied science before deciding to pursue a career in illustration. She paints using gouache, but she also loves working with graphite. Her illustration style 'is a work in progress', and her work is inspired by street photographers and French artists.

When she is not illustrating, Caterina likes cooking, singing, reading ... and drawing. She is interested in the little things of life. *Snoozette*, her first picture book, is being adapted for stage performance by the French Theatre in Perth, Australia. She lives near Florence, Italy.

Author's inspiration

The Lost Moustache came to Vikki like a dream. She simply woke up one morning with the title in her head! Vikki's lifelong love of costume play and dressing up seemed an obvious choice for exploring this quirky title. Vikki studied theatre and drama through secondary school, and her passion for the stage and dramatic performance has always stayed with her. At school she performed in several plays. Among her close friends, Vikki has a reputation for hosting dress-up parties, and has a big dress-up box full of wigs, hats and wands—not just for her children to enjoy! Over the years, Vikki has dressed up as a teddy bear, an African princess, a lion, a goddess and Pocahontas.

Illustrator's inspiration

When I read Vikki's manuscript, I immediately thought of a theatre. In the story, the children are all dressed up and there is much misunderstanding happening, along with funny dialogue. I also chose to set the story in a theatre because when I was a child I enjoyed my school theatre. I created my best memories there with my friends. There were good times growing up with art and school mates.

Frankie is such a sweet character; she's very shy but she has a great sense of responsibility. The entire book is an investigation to reveal the moustache mystery so I thought her stage costume should reflect this and I drew her as a little Sherlock.

Educational topics

This book encourages discussion about curiosity, imagination versus reality, investigation and a sense of wonder.

Discussion topics

Before reading

- Look at the cover and read the title. What do you think *The Lost Moustache* is about?
- Encourage the students to notice the protagonist's clothing. What does it remind you of? (A detective?). What does this tell us about the story?
- What does the cover tell us about the setting of the story?
- How do you think someone could lose a moustache? Encourage children to brainstorm/get creative. For example, what if someone shaved their face while they were sleeping? Or a strong wind blew it off their face?

After reading

- Were you surprised that the moustache turned out to be an eyebrow? Why or why not?
- If you had been given the opportunity to illustrate this book, what are some things you might have done differently? Are there any other characters you would have liked to see?
- Can you come up with an alternative ending to the story? Who else might the moustache have belonged to?
- What kind of play do you think is being put on? Get creative and think of your own.
- Ask the children what they would do/think if they found a moustache.
- How many characters does Frankie approach in the hunt for the owner of the moustache?
- Which is your favourite character? Why?
- How would you describe the style of artwork in the book? What effect does this have on the reader?

Additional activities

The Arts

Visual literacy

- How would you describe the art in the book? What is its style? Is it realistic? Abstract? Cartoon-like? Do you know of any other books that use this style?
- Do you think that colours help to create a mood for the story?
- Do you like the texture of the illustrations?
- Who knows what a storyboard is?
- The artist used gouache paint to create the illustrations. Do you know what this is? (Thick, opaque watercolour paint.) What do you like to use when you create art?
- What is your favourite colour and why?
- Draw your own moustache—be creative! Choose your own colour, shape and texture. Cut it out and see how it looks on you and your friends. Add craft accessories like pipe cleaners, fluff, feathers, cotton balls, wigs etc.
- Draw a picture of your bedroom, living room or classroom and hide a secret moustache somewhere in the picture.
- Draw a plain face on the whiteboard or on a sheet of paper (no eyebrows, facial hair, head hair etc). Give each student a print-out of the moustache templates and have them cut one out. Encourage the children to place their moustaches on the face to make it look completely different! (Stick on other moustaches to create a beard, side burns, eyebrows etc.)
- Create a play based on the book. Encourage children to use costumes and props.
- Using the template provided on Worksheet 1, create a fun greeting card.
- Using the designs listed on Worksheets 3 & 4, make a moustache on a stick! You can add other accessories such as a hat.
- Create a paper puppet. Using Worksheets 8 & 9.

Language

Writing

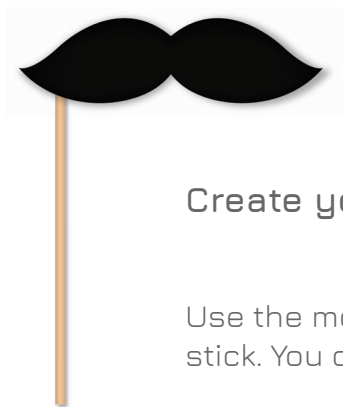
- Find and list synonyms for moustache and other words relating to facial hair [Worksheet 5].
- Describe the feeling of a moustache or beard [Worksheet 5].
- Write what happens next in the story [Worksheet 6].
- Write a list of words to describe Frankie's feelings throughout the story.
- Find and write about the different types of characters Frankie meets [Worksheet 5].
- Write a book review [Worksheet 7].

History

- Facial hair goes in and out of fashion, just like everything else! Look at how the moustache has changed over time and note all the different styles for thin, thick, short, bushy or curly moustaches. Which one is your favourite?
- Research famous movie or book characters who had or have moustaches.
- With your new moustache (Worksheets 3 and 4), assume the identity of a famous character from the past. Who are you? What is special about you?

Card activity

Draw a moustache, then glue it to one of the templates on Worksheets 1 and 2 to make a greeting card.



Create your own moustache on a stick!

Use the moustache template on Worksheets 3 & 4 to make a moustache on a stick. You can add other accessories such as a hat or glasses.

What you will need

moustache template printed on card

glue

bamboo skewer or paper straw to hold the moustache

What to do

Draw your own moustache or print and cut out one from the worksheets.

Once you have your moustache, decorate it with things like glitter, feathers or cotton wool. You can also draw or paint on it.

Once it is finished, glue it on a skewer or straw.

Try it on! Assume your new personality. Who are you?

Worksheet 1

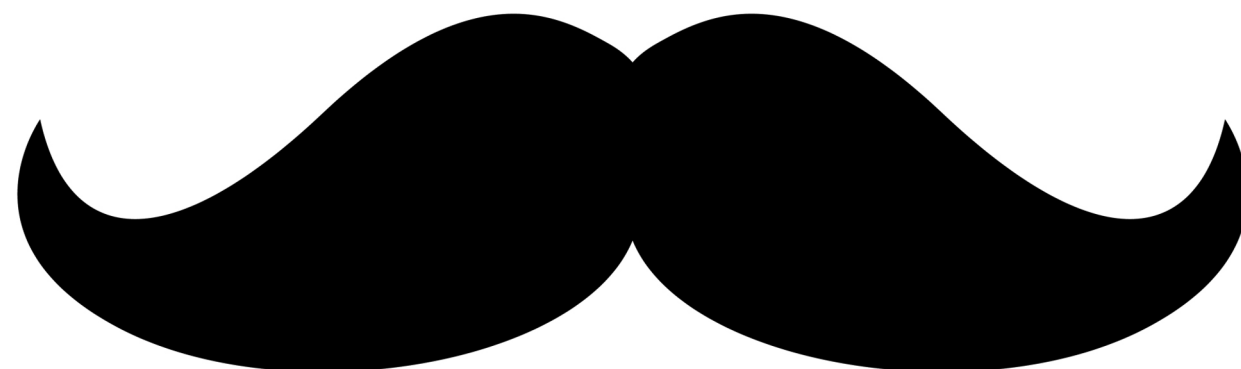
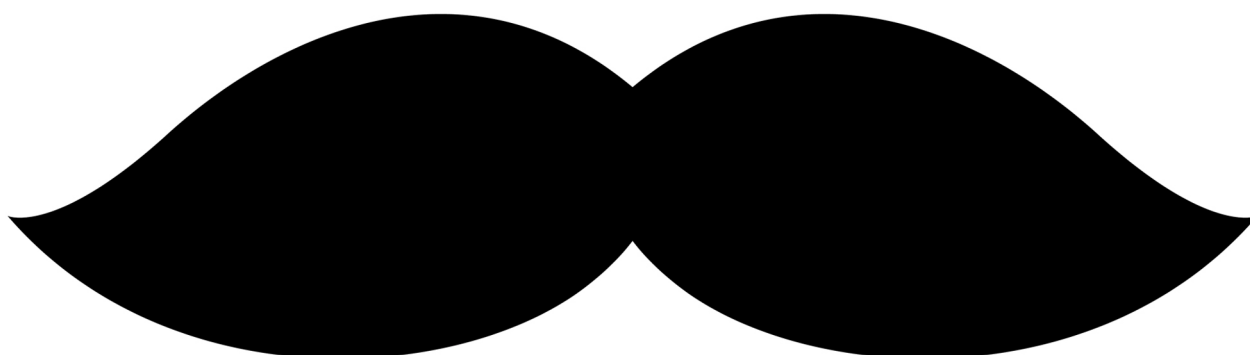
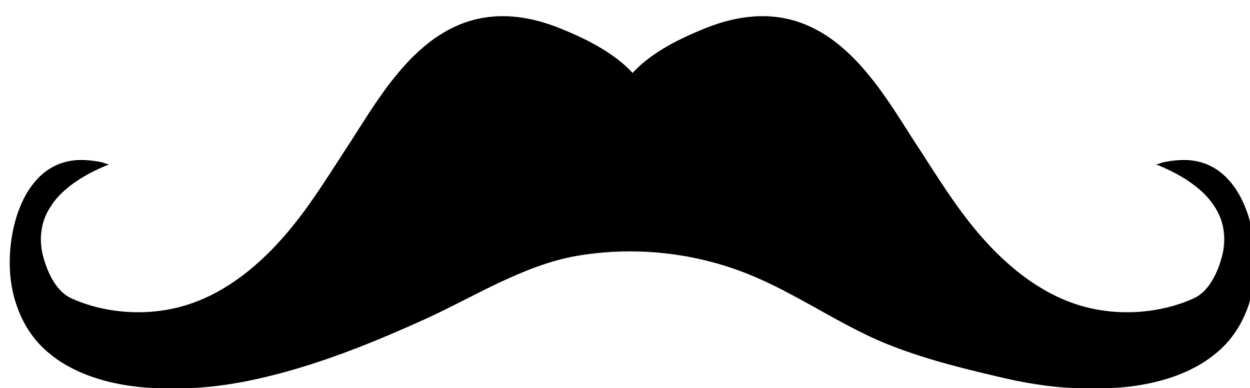
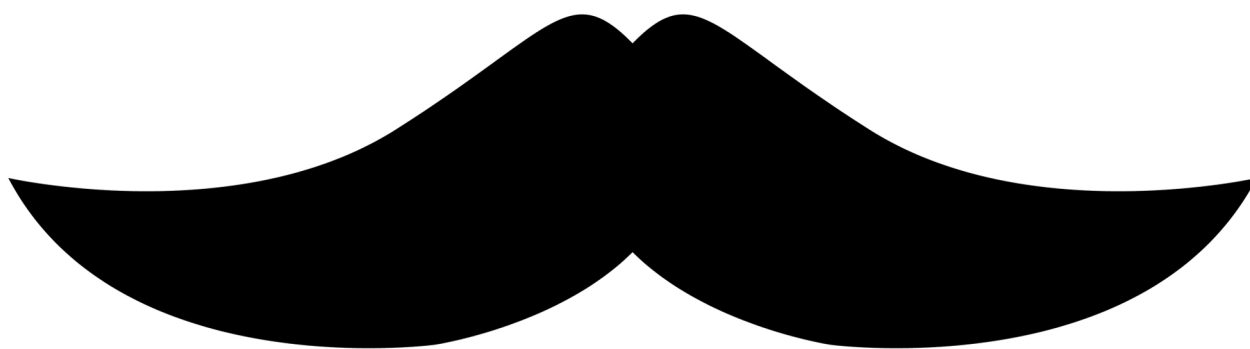
HAVE A
MO-MENTOUS
DAY!

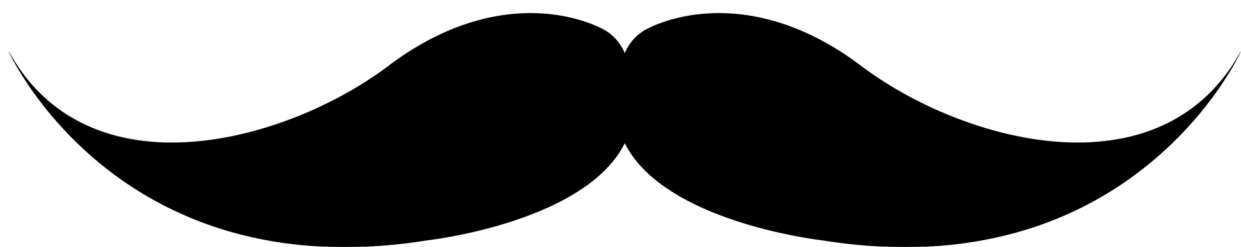
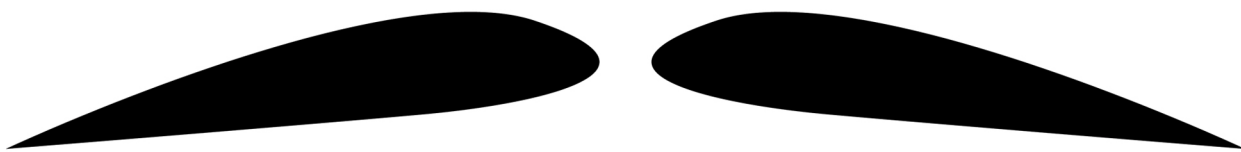


Worksheet 2

HAVE A
FAN-TASH-TIC
DAY!







Worksheet 5

Vocabulary

Find and list other words that mean
moustache [or are related to facial hair].

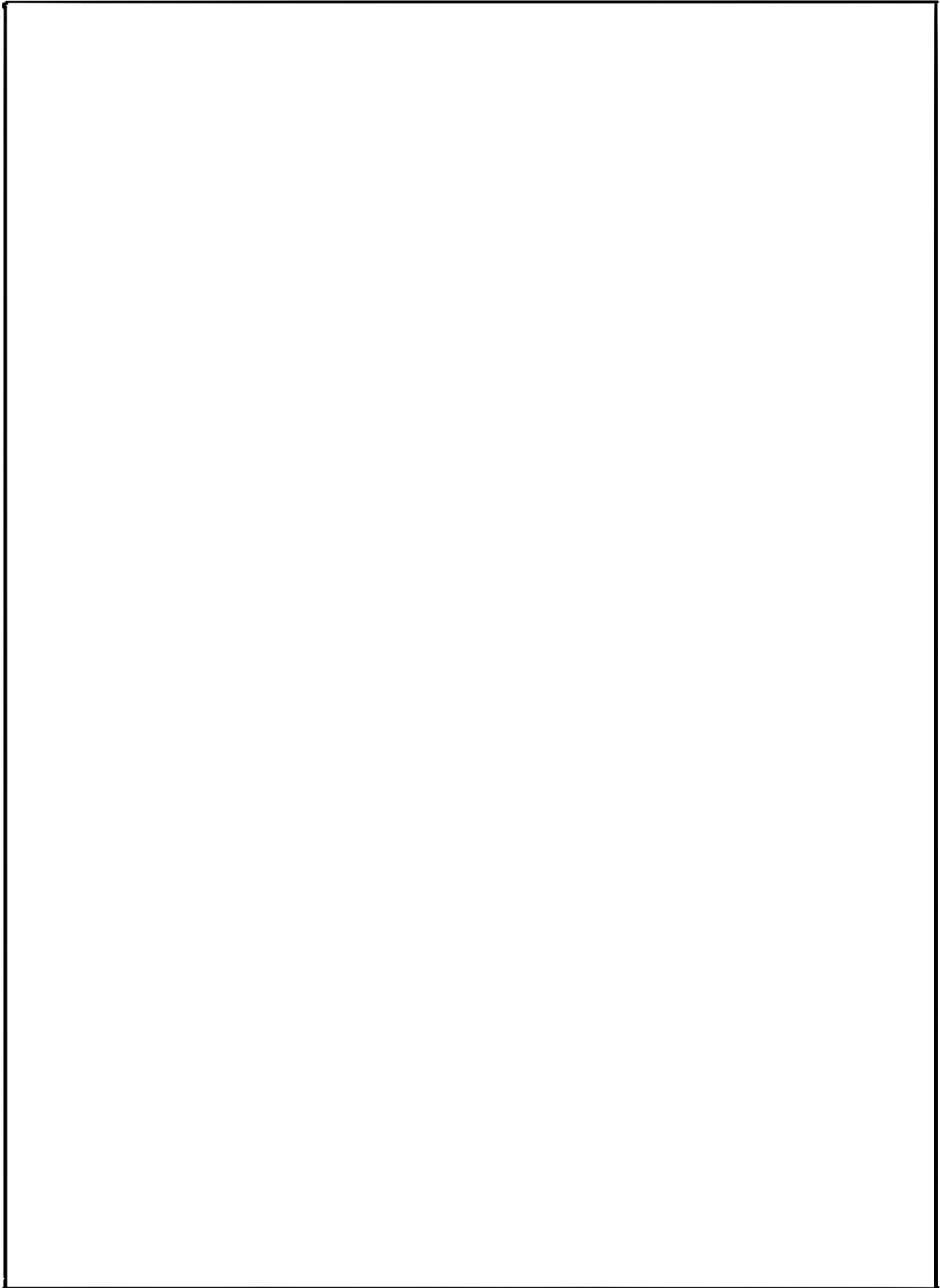
Describe how a moustache
[or a beard] feels.

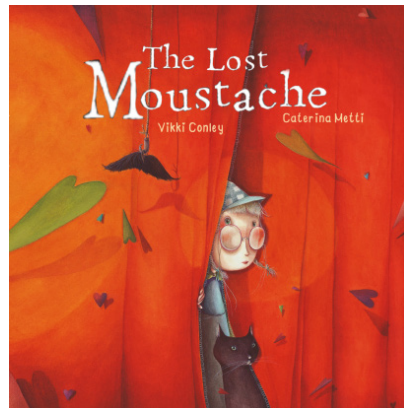
List and describe all the characters
Frankie meets.

List all the verbs (doing words) that describe
what Frankie does at each time or place.

Worksheet 6

Write what happens next in the story.





BOOK REVIEW

Title

The main character is

The story is set

What happens in the story

Did you like the story? Give it a score.



Paper puppets activity

What you will need

paper puppet template (Worksheets 8 & 9) printed on card

glue

bamboo skewer or paper straw to hold your puppet

What to do

print and cut out the puppet template.

Once you have your puppet, decorate it to give it personality. You can draw or paint on it.

Once it is finished, glue it on a skewer or straw.

Invent a dialogue for your puppets!



