

GRADE 5
Reading
STAAR Alternate 2

Administered April 2016

RELEASED

READING

Dear Principal Riley,

Students need more recess time during the school day.



Teachers work hard to make sure that students get the most out of their time at school. Some people think that recess takes up time needed for teaching. But I believe that students need more recess time during the school day.

2b



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I believe that our students need more recess time during the school day. Recess has many benefits that cannot be gained from a textbook. As a teacher, I know that physical activity helps students pay more attention during class.

Doctors say that recess is also important for students' health. Students who do not have recess at school are less active after school. We need to help our students exercise and stay healthy.

During recess students have time to play together and solve problems. Recess gives students the chance to learn the skills they need to get along with other people.

As a teacher, I know that physical activity helps students pay more attention during class.

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During recess students have time to play together and solve problems.

As we plan for next year, we should plan for more physical activity throughout the school day. We should increase recess to 40 minutes per day.

Some schools have found that a longer recess is good for students. Principals of these schools say that there is more teaching and learning in the afternoon.

I strongly believe we should have a 20-minute recess break in the morning and a 20-minute recess in the afternoon. This change would be great for our students. The students would be better able to pay attention during class.

4a

And I believe it will help us reach our goal:
doing what is best for students.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Adams
Fifth-grade teacher

4b

reduce the number of classes that are taught before recess

start programs during recess that help students be healthy

increase the amount of time students have for recess

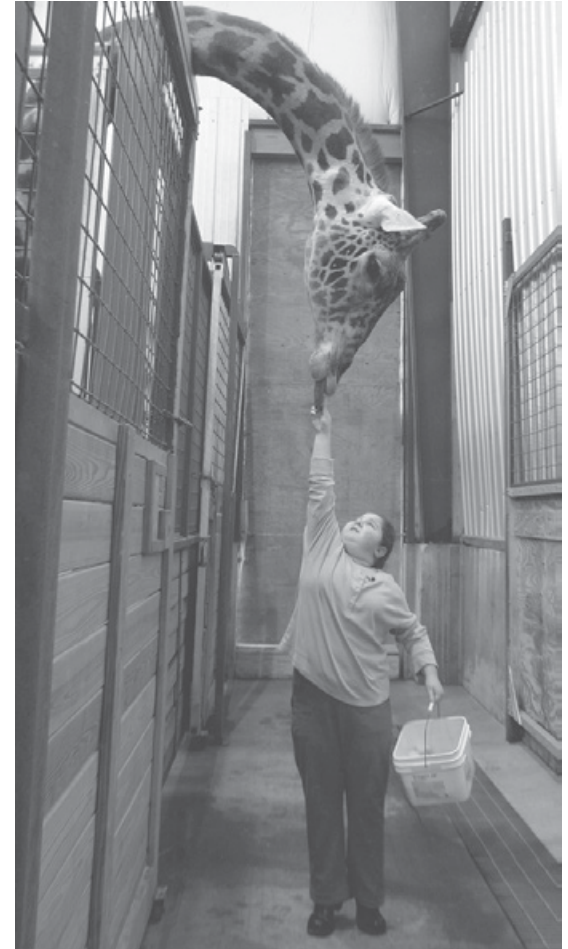


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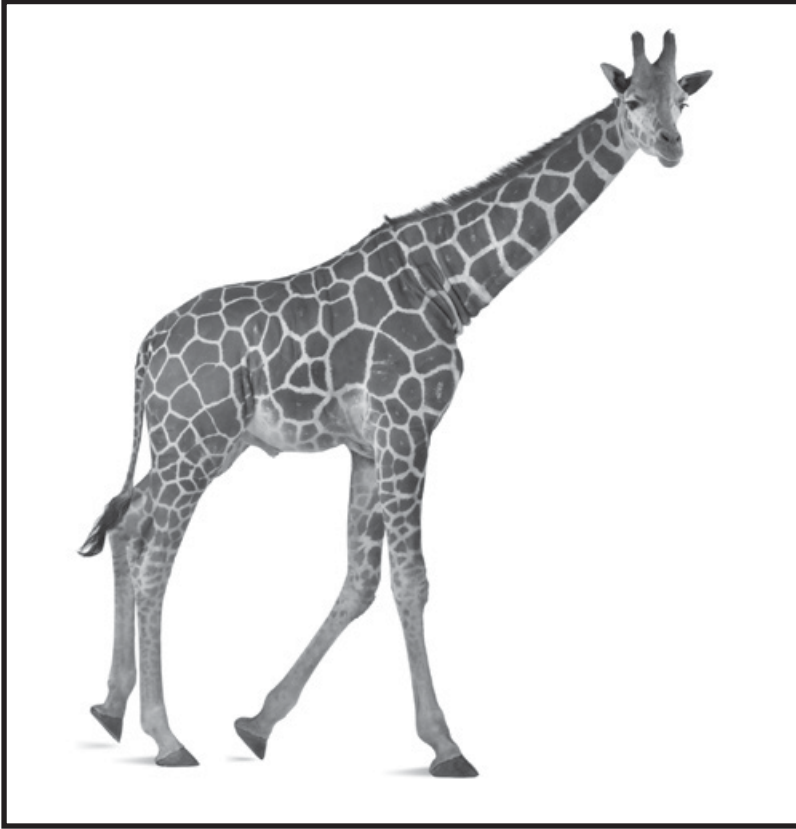
Beau was a very sick giraffe that lived at a zoo.

Making a Difference for Beau

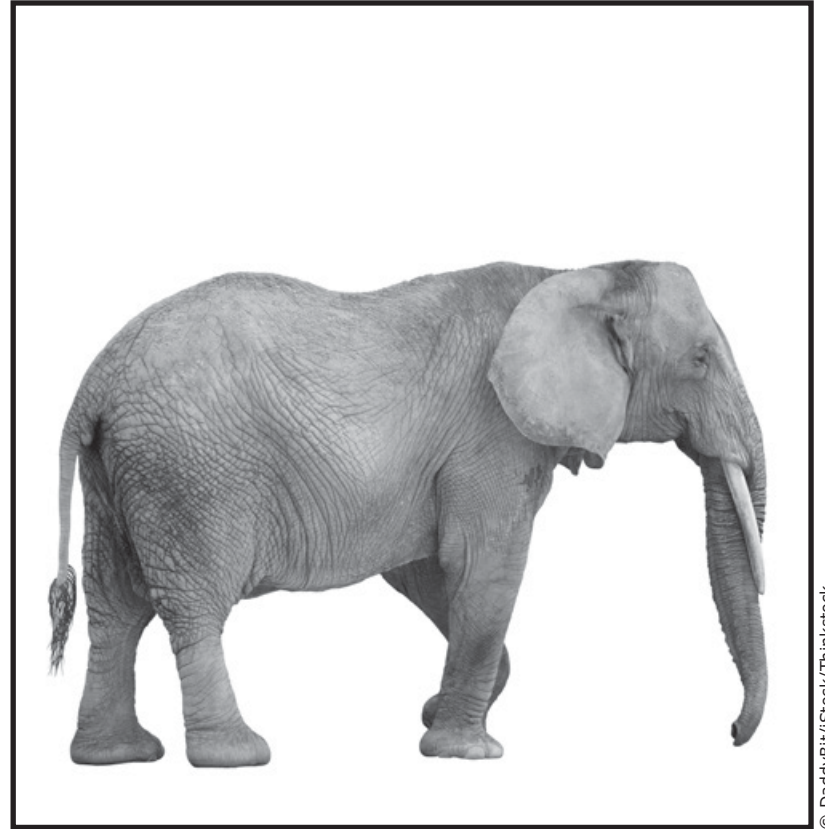
When Autumn was nine years old, she saw a news story about a giraffe named Beau that lived at the zoo in Boston. Beau had a serious illness that caused him to lose weight quickly. Autumn wanted to help.



6b



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Caring for Beau

Giraffes are the tallest mammals on Earth. They stand about 17 feet tall and weigh up to 4,000 pounds. Healthy giraffes eat for nearly 20 hours a day. They eat bark, flowers, fruit, leaves, and twigs.

By the time Autumn heard the news story, Beau had already lost 600 pounds in a very short amount of time.

Autumn learned that the zookeepers made a special diet for Beau. He ate 50 pounds of fresh leaves, branches, and vegetables every day. His food plan was very expensive, costing about \$50,000 each year. Even though Autumn had never been to the zoo to see Beau, she wanted to help.

7b

how Beau got sick while living at the zoo

how Autumn helped Beau

how the zookeepers were helping Beau

Paying for Beau's Meals

Autumn loved animals, and she wanted to help Beau. She created a website called Autumn's Giraffe Fund. She collected coins during lunch at school. She knocked on doors and collected money from her neighbors. She donated her own money. She inspired her neighbors and classmates to donate to Beau's fund.

Getting Results

The money for Beau kept coming. Autumn visited Beau at the zoo and fed him butternut squash, his favorite food. Thanks to his special diet and his friend Autumn, Beau gained 1,100 pounds. After five years Autumn had collected more than \$30,000 to help buy food for Beau.

The zoo appreciated Autumn's hard work and love for Beau. Beau gained back the weight he lost and also became a father. Beau's mate gave birth to a healthy baby girl giraffe. The zookeepers named her Autumn!

Autumn visited Beau at the zoo and fed him butternut squash, his favorite food.

Thanks to his special diet and his friend Autumn, Beau gained 1,100 pounds.

Beau's mate gave birth to a healthy baby girl giraffe.



chart: a diagram, such as a graph or a table, that shows data

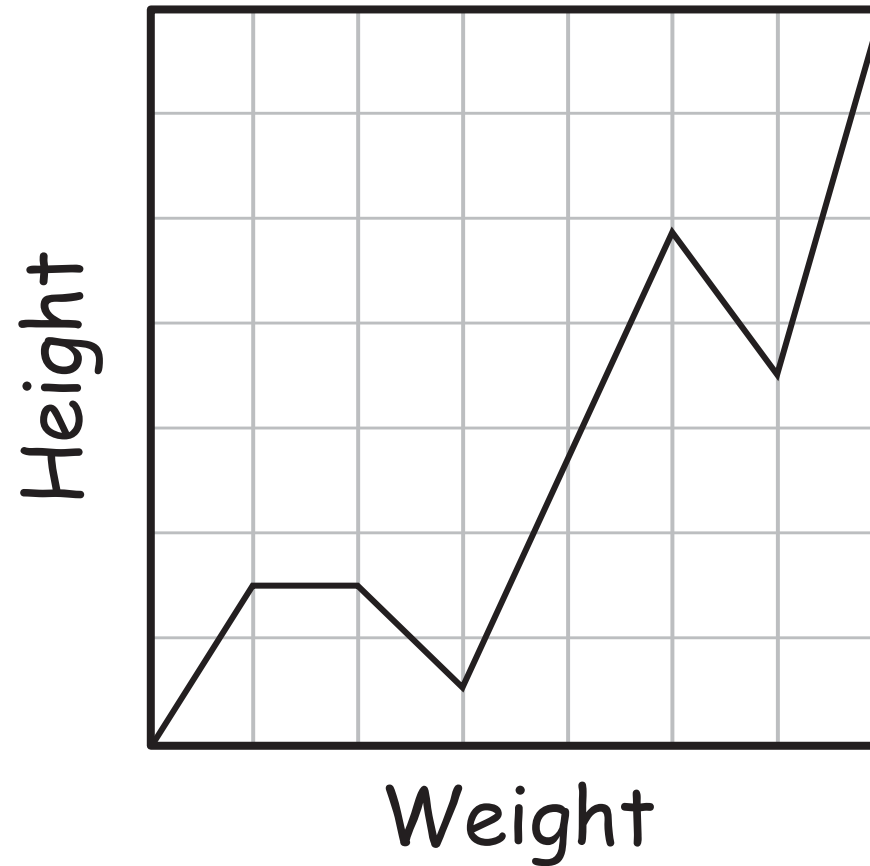


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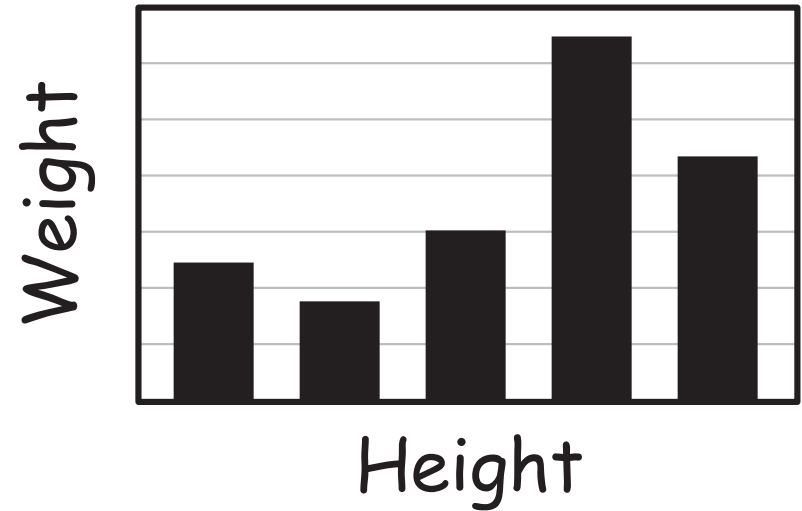
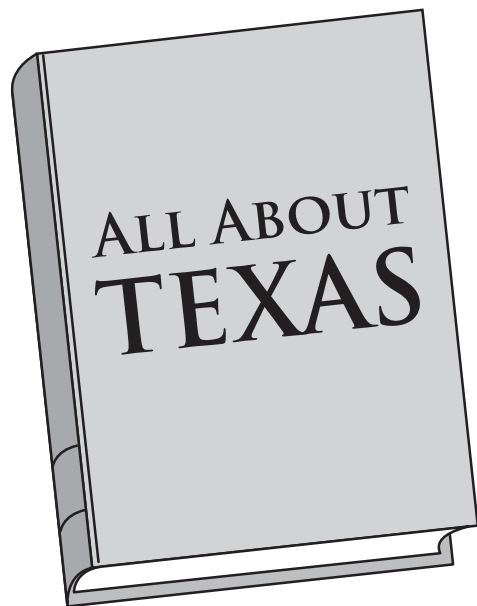
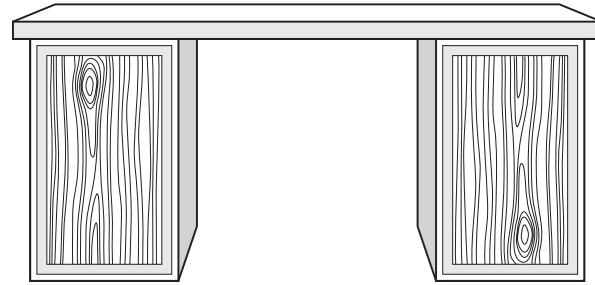


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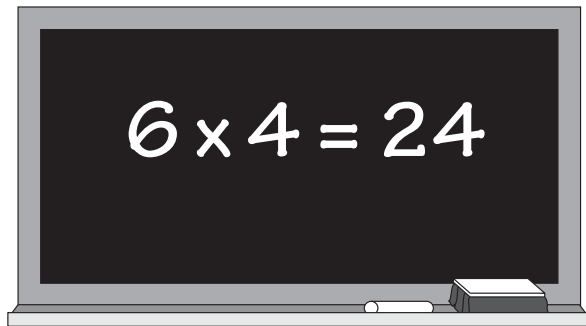
School Words



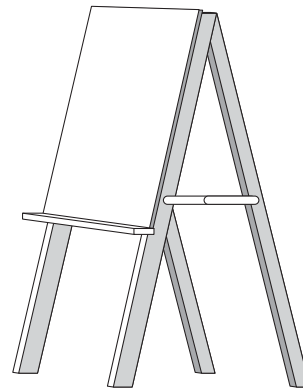
backpack



desk



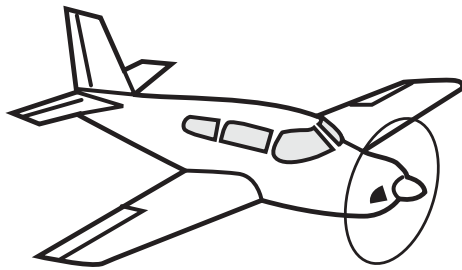
chalkboard



easel



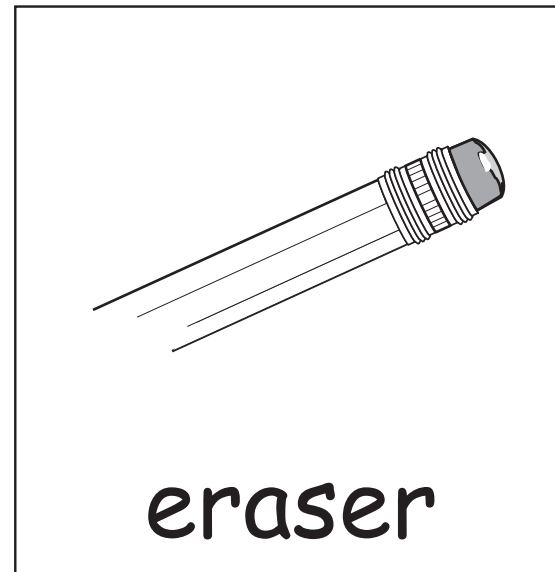
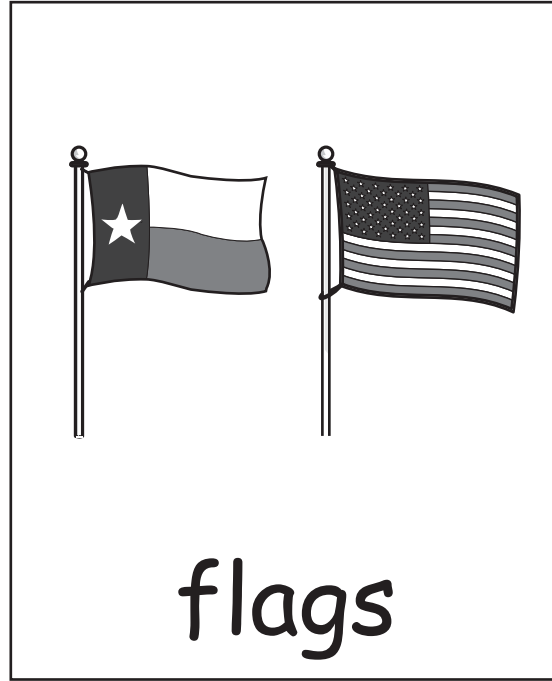
pencil



airplane



computer



desk
books
computer
flags
eraser

computer
flags
eraser
desk
books

books
computer
desk
eraser
flags

Chen-Li's Empty Pot

The emperor spends many hours in his garden growing flowers. He believes growing flowers helps him be a better emperor.



The emperor has a contest to choose a new emperor. He invites children to the palace to tell them about the contest. The emperor gives each child a special flower seed.





Chen-Li lived on a farm and liked to grow vegetables, flowers, and fruit. Chen-Li was a good gardener, and everything he planted grew big and tall. He wanted to grow a beautiful flower from the seed the emperor gave him, but his seed did not grow.

He tried everything! Chen-Li put the seed in a bigger pot. He watered it and put it in the sun. Still, he had no flower. Chen Li had to go back to the palace with an empty pot.

“What is this?” the emperor asked.



Chen-Li told the emperor how he had tried to grow the flower.

The emperor smiled and said, "I choose Chen-Li to be the next emperor!" The people all stared in amazement.



Chen-Li had to work hard to grow vegetables, flowers, and fruit.

Chen-Li was a good gardener, but his seed did not grow.

Chen-Li needed a bigger pot for his seed.

All the other children showed the emperor a beautiful flower in their pot. The emperor looked at every flower and frowned. The emperor said, "It was not possible for any of the seeds I gave you to grow."



The emperor smiled when he saw Chen-Li's pot. "You have shown honesty. The seeds had all been cooked before I gave them to you. They could not grow! I know I can trust you to rule the empire."

The emperor has a contest and gives each child a special flower seed.

The emperor speaks to all the children who entered the contest.

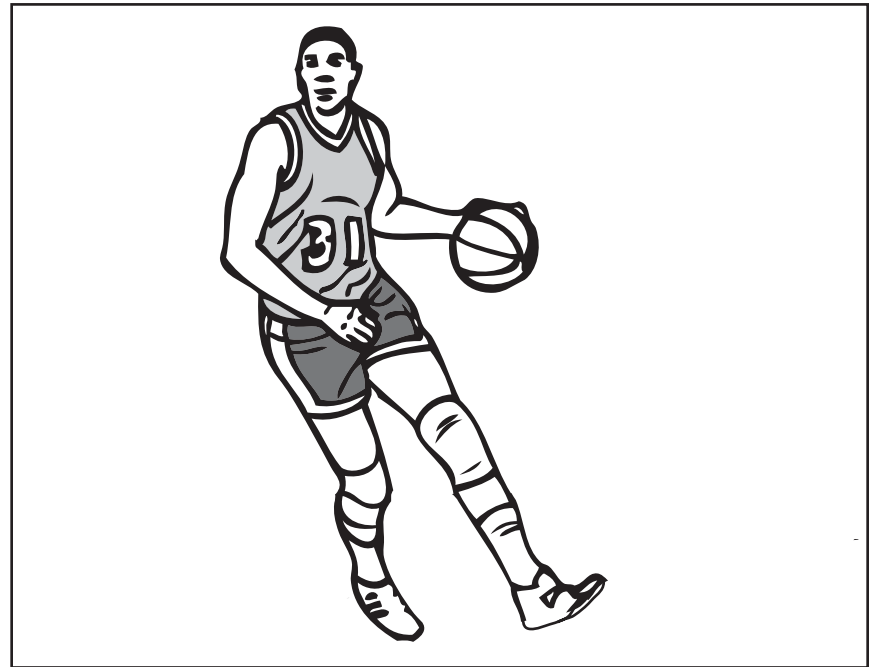
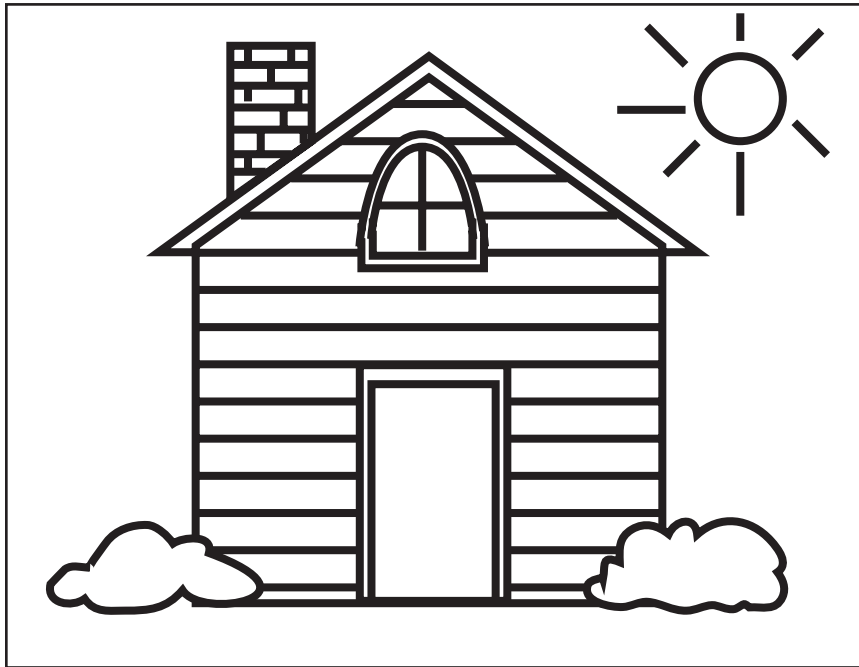
The emperor chooses the child without a flower as the winner of the contest.

Drawing in His Own Way





Donnie was in his room trying to draw a picture of a basketball player like the one his favorite artist Kadir Nelson had drawn.



Donnie was in his room trying to draw a basketball player like the painting he had by Kadir Nelson. He heard a knock on the door.



His uncle Charlie burst into the room.

“It’s beautiful outside. Come outside and play some basketball with me,” Uncle Charlie said. “Why are you sitting in this dark room drawing?”

"Because I like to draw," Donnie said.

"What are you drawing?" asked Uncle Charlie.

"I'm trying to make a drawing like this painting," Donnie said as he pointed to the picture hanging above his desk.

"Why?" Uncle Charlie asked.

"Because I want to draw just like Kadir Nelson," Donnie answered.

Then Uncle Charlie said, "You don't need to draw like him. You need to draw like you." Then he turned and left Donnie's room.

Several weeks later Donnie was sitting in his room at his desk trying to draw another picture like Kadir Nelson. Again Uncle Charlie knocked on the door and came in.

"Let's go," Uncle Charlie said. "I need to buy a book, and you're coming with me to get it."

Donnie did not want to go, but his curiosity made him follow his uncle out to the car.

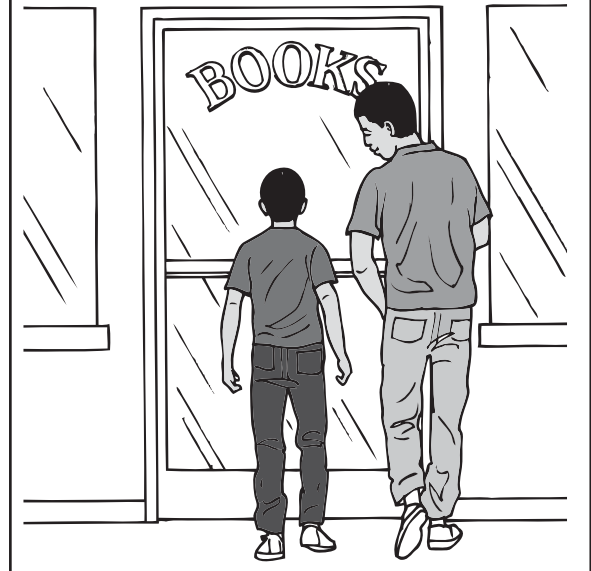
Donnie will go outside and play basketball with Uncle Charlie.



Donnie will continue to work on his drawing of the basketball player.



Donnie will go with Uncle Charlie to buy a book.



When Donnie and his uncle got to the bookstore, Uncle Charlie grabbed Donnie's shirt and pulled him through a crowd of people. "Move, please! This boy needs to be able to see."

At first Donnie was embarrassed. But then he realized that Uncle Charlie had brought him to see Kadir Nelson.

The famous artist was talking about his new book and how he got ideas for the artwork in his books. Donnie listened carefully to every word.

Kadir Nelson was at a table to sign copies of his book when he finished speaking. Uncle Charlie was the first in line with a surprised Donnie beside him.



“Do you want to ask Mr. Nelson anything?” Uncle Charlie said to Donnie.

Kadir Nelson looked up at Donnie. But Donnie could not make a sound.

Uncle Charlie shook his head and said, “If my nephew could talk, he would tell you that he wants to be an artist. Do you have any advice for him?”

Kadir Nelson smiled. "Find your own style. Great artists are the ones who find their own way of doing things."

Uncle Charlie elbowed Donnie and said, "See? That's what I told you. You don't need to draw like him. You need to draw like you."

Donnie will practice playing basketball with his uncle.

Donnie will try even harder to draw like Kadir Nelson.

Donnie will work on his own special way of drawing.

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