

STORYTELLING THROUGH WORDS WITH

David Robertson



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Recommended for grades 5-12

Join critically acclaimed author, David Robertson, as he speaks about his journey into storytelling. Learn about his roots and how storytelling played a huge part in his childhood and family history and how from a young age David knew he wanted to create stories. David Robertson has written books for all ages from picture books to graphic novels and young adult novels. His books bring Indigeneity and life as an Indigenous person to the forefront and invite us into whimsical and adventurous worlds.

This workshop will help students explore their ability to tell their own stories. The workshop will push students to think about how stories can help make meaningful change, bring awareness, and help people to better understand different walks of life.

Discussion questions:

- What are some of your favourite books and what do you like about them?
- Look around at some books in your classroom. Do you think any of them are trying to teach a lesson or highlight a topic?
- Why is it important that we read stories about different cultures?
- Do you think it is important that people from those cultures tell their own stories?
- Do you know of any books that are about a culture different from your own? Do you know any that highlight your own culture?
- How do you think David's early life helped him on his journey to become a storyteller?

Individual or group activity (approx. 45 minutes):

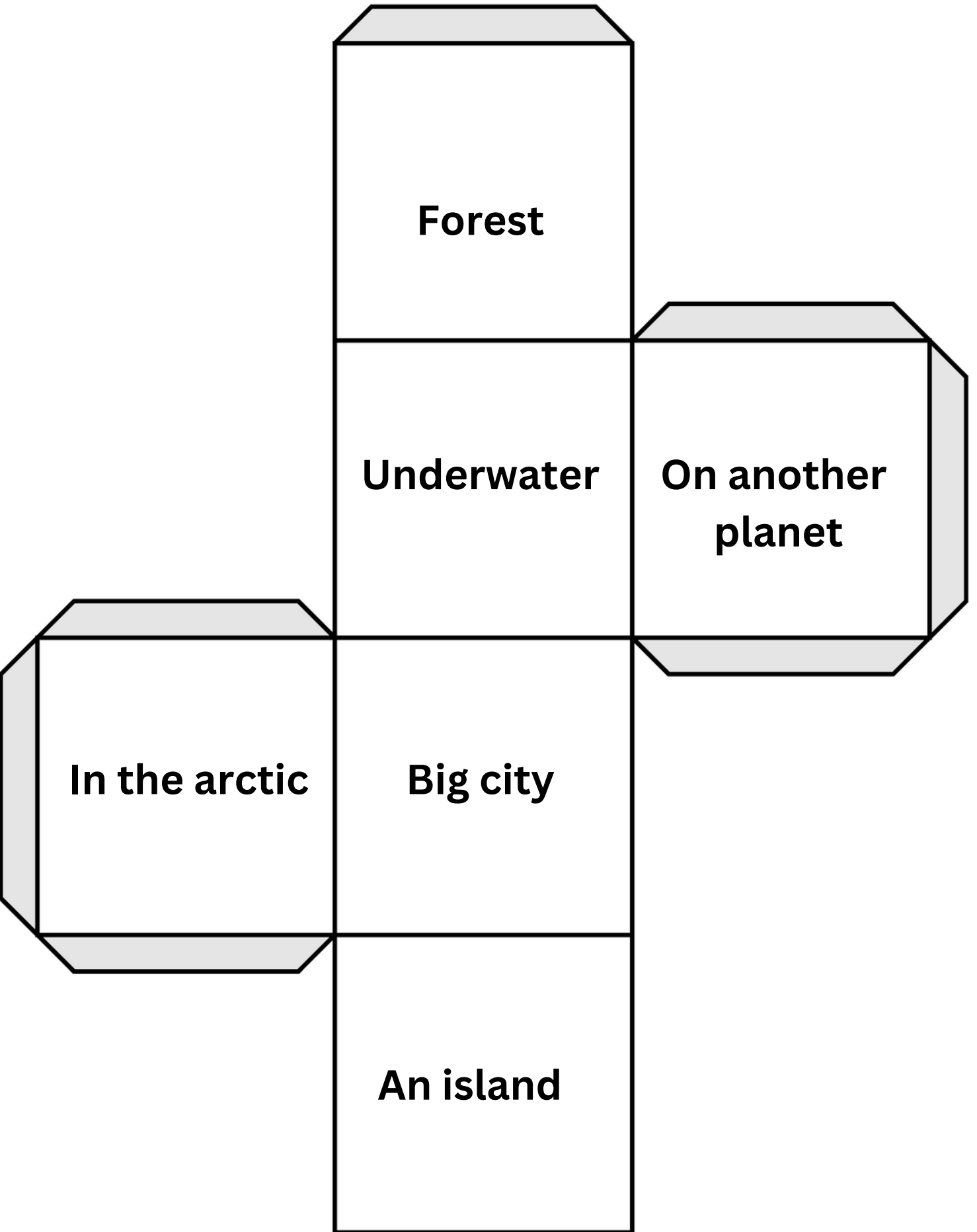
On the following pages you will find a layout to create 3 different types of dice. One of the dice is for a setting, one is for a plot theme, and one is a create your own blank dice layout.

This activity can be done in groups of 2-4 or as individuals. Have students cut out the first two dice OR you can use the blank template to create a dice that is more relevant to your students.

Within the group, invite students to roll the dice and create a storyboard (template attached) based on their rolls.

The dice will tell them where their story needs to take place (setting) and what topic their story needs to focus on (theme). From there they will need to create a summary of what their story will be about, create a cover page that showcases their story, and speak to what their story will teach or highlight to the readers. It is important to note, students will need to choose the genre of their story, as there are many written ways to tell a story. You can take this resource a step further and have students actually create their works as a short story, poem, or children's book.





Forest

Underwater

**On another
planet**

In the arctic

Big city

An island

**Fish farms
and
wild salmon**

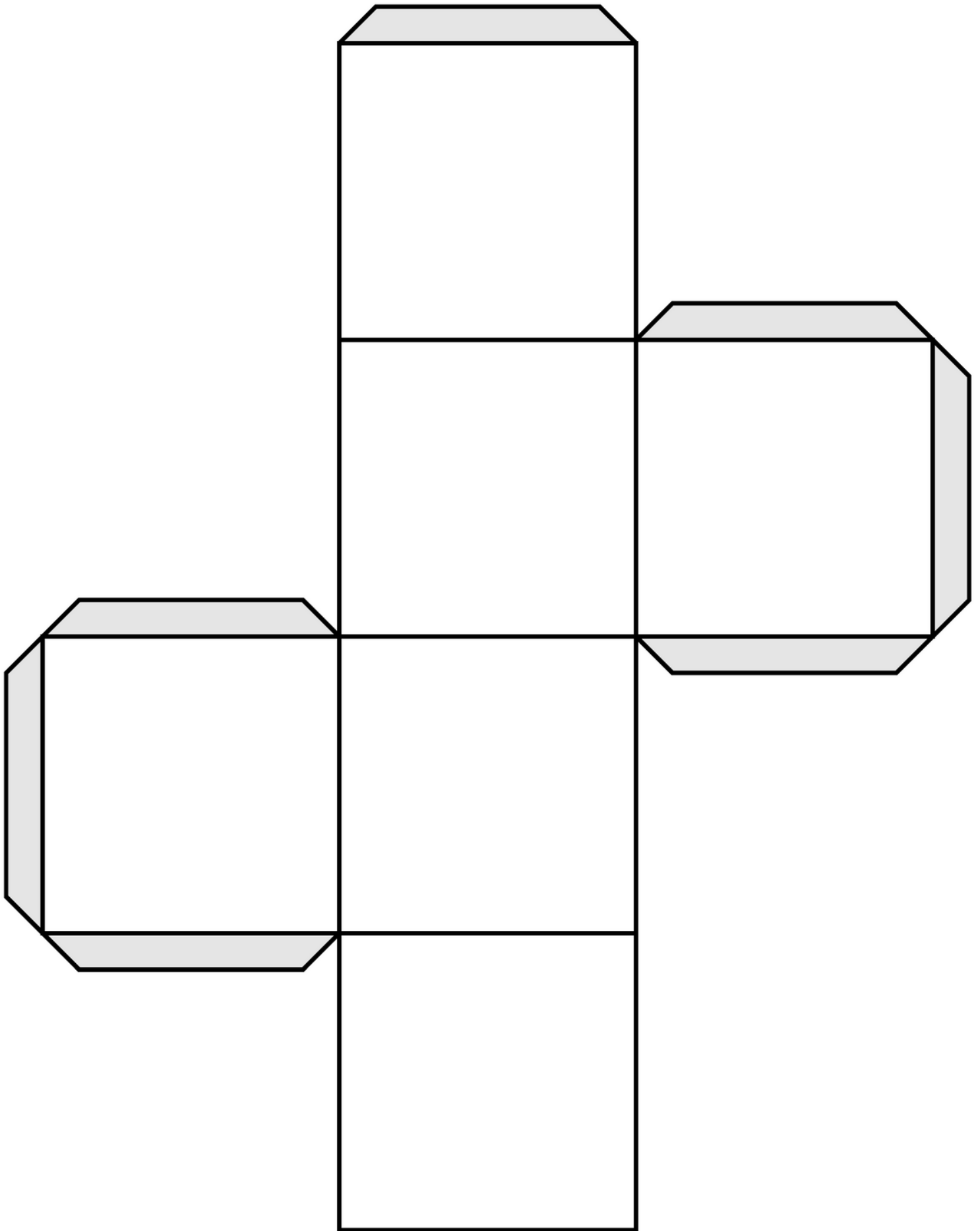
**Saving the
bears**

**Helping
sea turtles**

**Melting
sea ice**

MMIWG2+

**Climate
change**





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Name(s): _____

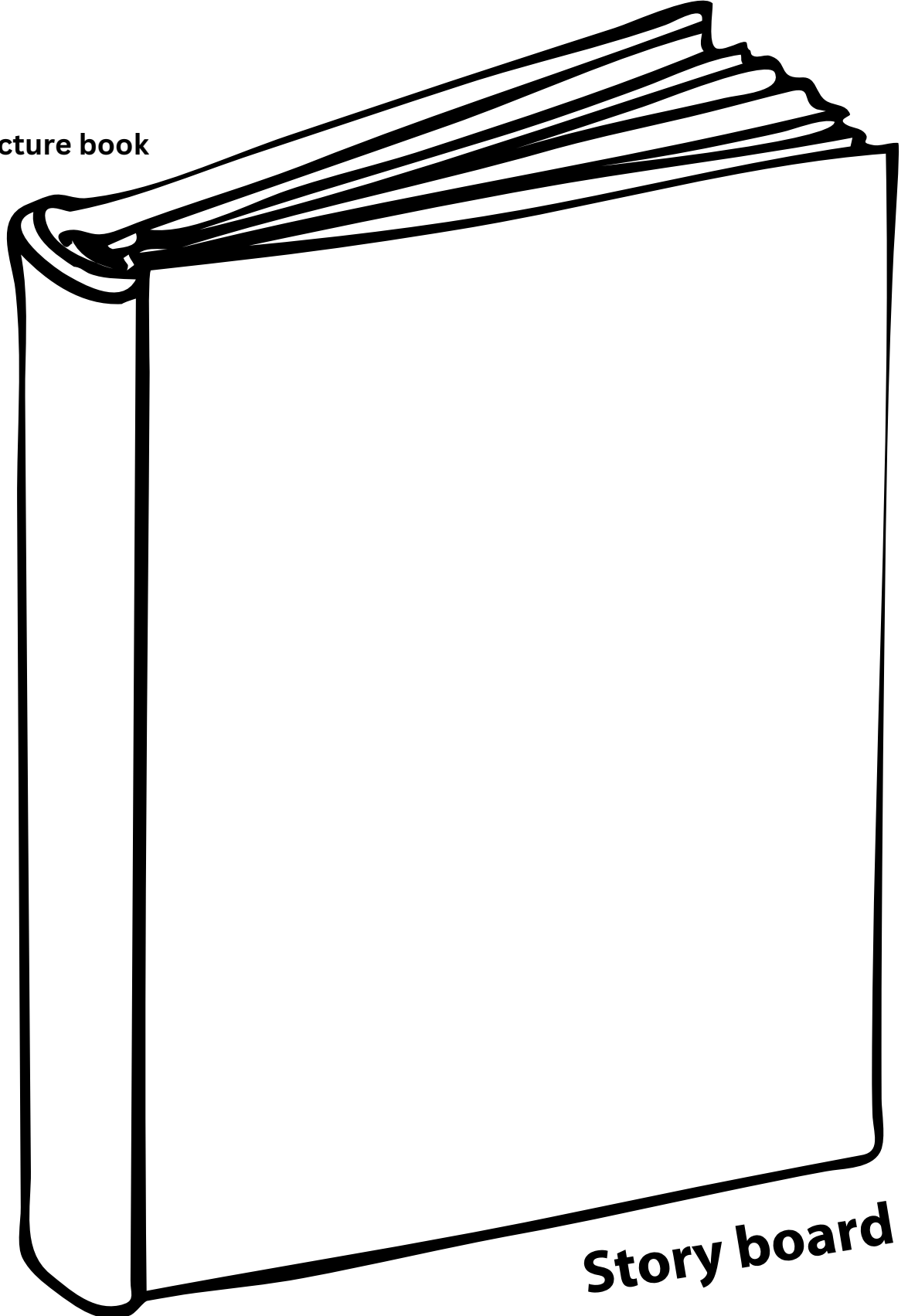
Setting: _____

Theme: _____

Genre (check one)

- Short story
- Children's picture book
- Poetry book

Illustrate the cover of your book. Be sure to include the title and the name(s) of the authors



Story board

Name(s): _____

Story board

Write a one paragraph synopsis of your book. This is the summary that lives on the back of the book. It should try to capture your reader's attention and make them want to explore more.



Create a list of 3-5 things you hope your readers will learn from the book.
