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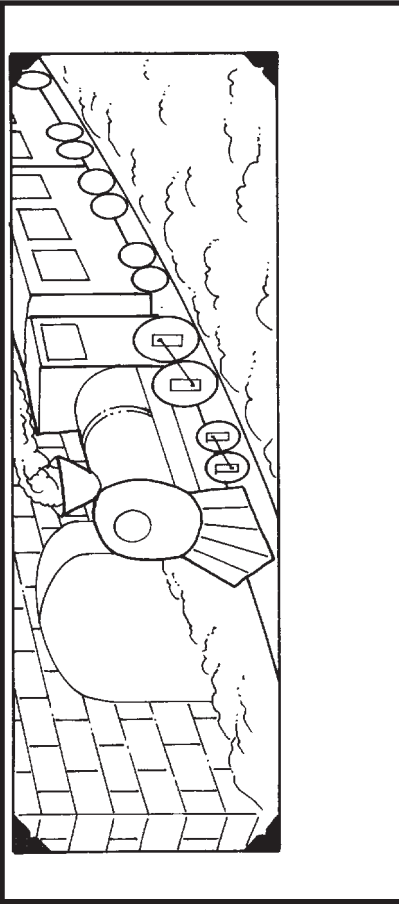
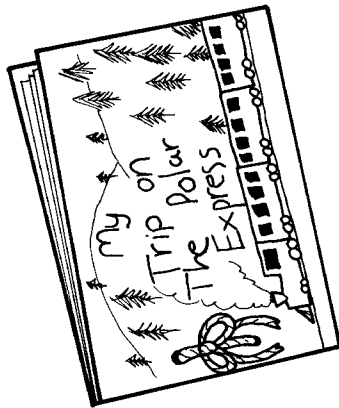
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Polar Express Scrapbook

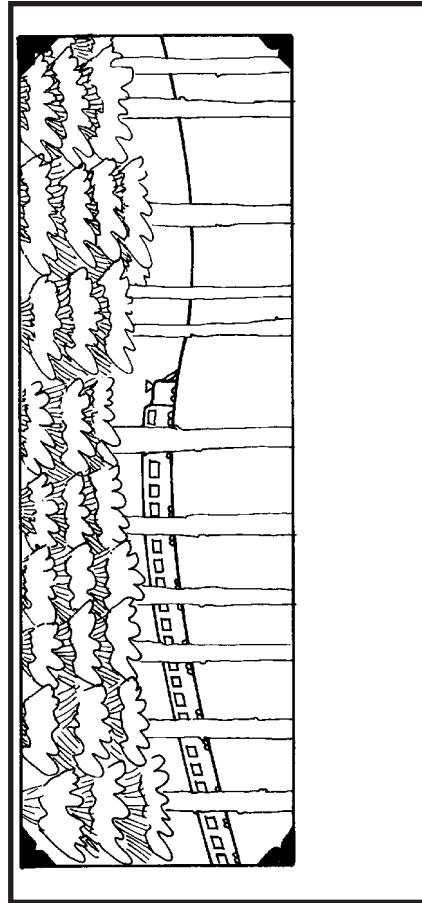
Pretend you were on the Polar Express with the boy in the story. Make a scrapbook of your trip to the North Pole.

Directions:

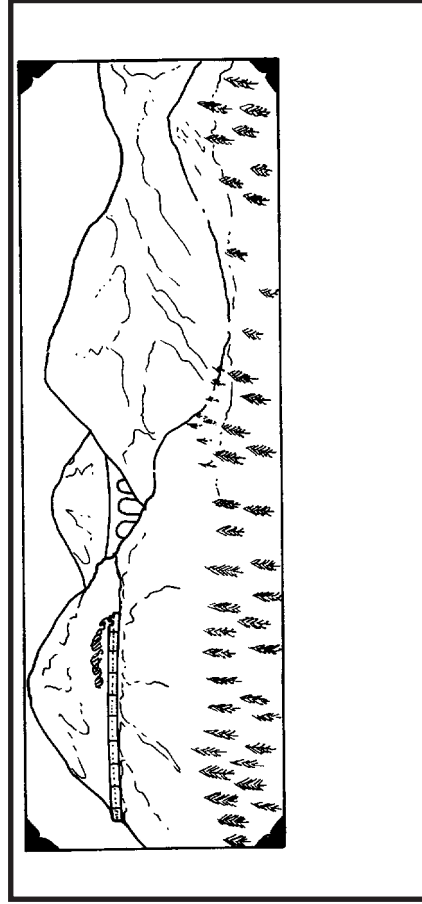
1. Write a sentence or two describing each picture. (You can use the back of each page if you need more room.)



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“Found Poetry”

A “found poem” is a collection of special words or phrases chosen from a piece of literature by groups of students. When read or spoken aloud, these selected lines form a “found poem,” centering on the feeling or imagery created by the text. This activity enables students to return to the text and focus on vivid imagery, memorable passages, and exciting vocabulary.

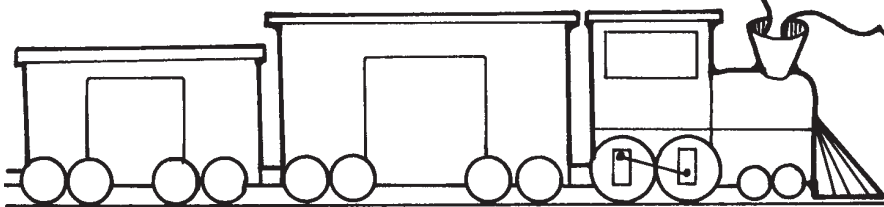
The following lesson is a variation on the creation of the original “found poem.”

1. Divide the book into six parts (sections). For each section, write a paragraph of dialogue or text that seems to capture the story line. Prepare “text cards” of the paragraphs. (These cards will be distributed to student groups.)
2. Glue each paragraph section to color-coded construction paper (one color for each section) and label the six parts (group 1 through group 6). Laminate the cards for durability.
3. Divide the class into small groups of four or five students. Distribute the text cards. (All the members of group 1 receive a copy of the group 1 text card, group 2 members receive the group 2 text card, etc.)
4. Instruct students to appoint a recorder. Children in each group select 4–8 special words or phrases from the text cards (not sentences) and list their choices on a piece of paper. Every member of the group should make at least one contribution to the list. (It may be necessary to model this activity using another piece of literature.)
5. The teacher then copies the words and phrases selected by the groups onto a chart for display. Children read and enjoy their new “found poem.”

Suggestion: Duplicate the poem so that all the children can have a copy to take home.

“The Polar Express Poem”

Hissing steam
 Squeaking metal
 Train standing perfectly still
 Apron of steam
 Snowflakes fell
 “All aboard,”
 The Polar Express.
 Other children
 Pajamas and nightgowns
 Christmas carols
 Candy with nougat centers
 Hot cocoa
 Lights of towns and villages.
 Cold, dark forests
 Lean wolves
 White-tailed rabbits
 Quiet wilderness
 Mountains so high
 Scrape the moon.
 North Pole
 Huge city
 Filled with factories
 Christmas toys
 Hundreds of elves
 Santa’s helpers.
 Santa’s sleigh
 Reindeer
 Pranced and paced
 Silver sleigh bells
 Magical sound
 Elves cheered.
 Any gift
 Santa’s giant bag
 One silver bell
 Gave a hug
 Cut a bell
 Reindeer’s harness
 The first gift of Christmas.



Use the sample poem and directions to guide students as they create a class “found poem.” Display the poem on a chart and make copies for the children to take home.