



# WE ARE ALL UNDER ONE WIDE SKY

## Story Time Kit

Host a story time at your library, bookstore,  
or organization—or engage in these activities at home.



6 activities for kids to  
explore their creativity  
and learn about the  
diverse world we live in



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# Story Time Tips

1. Promote your story time event. Use the last page for a promotional flyer, poster, or invitation.
2. Prepare a comfortable space with any resources you'll need. Choose a spot where all kids can sit in a circle as well as have space for engaging in activities. Some involve coloring, drawing, and writing, while others involve only their presence and imagination.
3. Read the story first. Read the book to the group to help them get acquainted with the characters and illustrations.
4. Participate in the activities alongside the children. As the facilitator, be open and willing to share your experiences and ideas. Model activities and present real-life examples.
5. Share the kit with parents and caregivers. Feel free to provide the URL so that they can download it and engage in the activities with their children at home: [soundstruekids.com](https://soundstruekids.com).





# Making Friends with Numbers

Print out this poster to hang on the wall and help kids with learning their numbers. Or for a challenge, use it to help with learning multiplication and division (for example: four gigglers in a row times two clouds gliding by equals eight fence posts standing guard;  $4 \times 2 = 8$ ).

1



2



3



4



5



6



7



8



9



10



# Become a World Adventurer

We all live under one wide sky. And that sky is very big, stretching around the entire earth!

What you'll need for this activity is a printout of the map on the next page and some writing and drawing tools (pens, pencils, markers, crayons, etc.). As a group, look at this map of the world.

Do you know where you live? With a grown-up to help you, find your home on the map and draw a circle there.

Now do you have a friend, a family member, or someone you'd love to meet who lives somewhere else in the world? Or is there a place you have always wanted to visit? With the help of a grown-up, find that place on the map and draw an **X** there.

Now if you were going to visit this place, how would you get there? Experiment with drawing a path from your home to your destination—over oceans, bridges, and mountains. It can be as short or long, straight or twisty-turny, as you want! Consider if you would need a boat, a train, or a helicopter to go along your journey. Draw them in! (Maybe you could even fly the helicopter.)

Does your route go near any of our characters in the book?





North America



South America



Africa



Europe



Asia



Australia



# Taking Notice of Your Surroundings

## From the author, Deborah Wiles:

I wrote *We Are All Under One Wide Sky* at a time when I was raising four children and spending a lot of time outdoors with them. One day I took my writer's notebook outside with me and wrote down everything I could hear, taste, touch, smell, and feel in an entire day, from morning to noon to night.

I had hundreds of words, as you can imagine, and I also drew images and sketched thoughts on paper about how every living thing on this planet lives under the same sky, which is when the phrase "one wide sky" came to me.

From there it wasn't hard to write "two clouds glide by," and at that point, I knew I had a story that could be told with numbers and a selection of words from all those I put on paper that day. I paired the numbers with the passage of a day: one through ten and back again, mirroring morning, noon, and night.

## Try This Sensory Exercise:

I encourage you to keep a sturdy notebook in which you list or draw everything you see, hear, touch, taste, and feel in a day—on the playground, at the beach, at home, in the classroom, out shopping . . . it can be anywhere. Adults: you can guide this practice and do it along with your group of kids for 15- to 20-minute sessions.

1. Settle into a comfortable spot with your journal. Take a few moments first to take some deep breaths, look around, and tune in to the things around you . . . What do you see? Smell? Feel? Taste? Hear? Touch?
2. Once you feel ready, open your journal and start to write or draw the first things that come to mind. These things can be real or imaginary, too. Don't think too long about it, just let your pen or pencil fly across the page.
3. Once you have a list of words, pictures, and thoughts, circle or connect some of them with a line. Look for things that are similar, opposite, that you liked, or that inspired you.



4. On a new page, freewrite a story or a poem, or simply describe a setting or experience you had (or imagined). Try to use a rhyme. Or pick the just-right verbs, or action words, like “Eight fence posts ‘standing guard.’ ”
5. If there’s time, illustrate your story or poem and think about creating a running theme or “motif” throughout, like the little yellow bird that flies home on every spread of *We Are All Under One Wide Sky*.
6. Find an audience! Read or perform your story out loud to an appreciative audience of one or many. Creating a story is a shared, communal experience. It is complete when it is shared with others.





# Host a Paper Airplane Flying Contest



## Tools needed:

- Measuring tape
- Stopwatch
- Printouts of the following bird page on 8.5" x 11" copy paper (2-3 copies per competitor or team)
- Markers, pencils, crayons, and/or stickers for decorating
- Paper clips (optional)
- Tape (optional)
- Craft glue (optional)
- Staples (optional)

## Build Your Paper Airplane

**Step 1:** Print and hand out 2-3 copies of the following bird page on an 8.5" x 11" sheet of paper (or just use blank copy paper) to each competitor or team. Competitors must use the paper given to them, though they may choose to use one or two sheets per paper airplane. Instructions for how to fold a basic paper airplane can be found on the next page.

**Step 2:** If time and resources allow, you can also provide the following optional materials for each competitor or team. Please explain that the following materials are not required but may be used if the competitors desire:

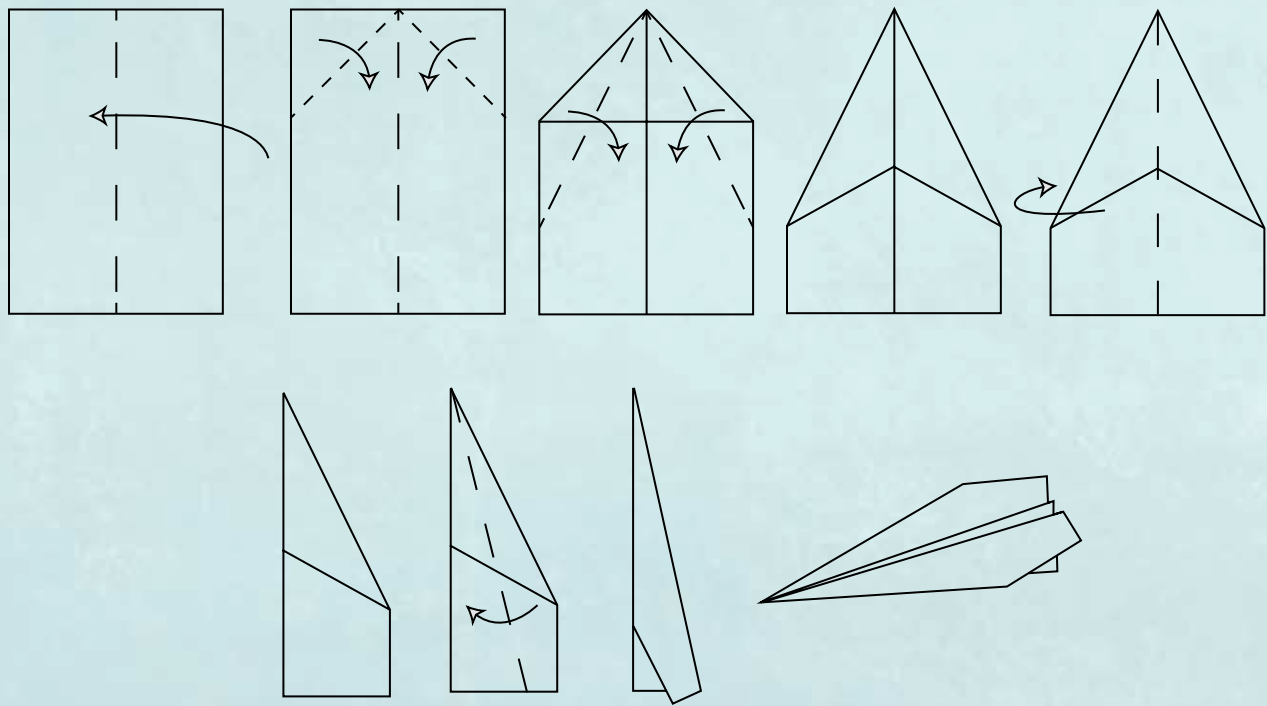
- One standard paper clip
- Three inches of tape
- A dab of glue
- Three staples

**Step 3:** Allow the competitors or teams to work on their paper airplanes—folding, decorating, and modifying—for as long as you see fit. All competitors should have the same amount of time to complete their paper airplanes.

**Get Ready to Fly!**







Once the paper airplanes are completed, find a clear area to conduct the paper airplane contest. This can be a wide open area (without disruption from wind) or from a balcony. Mark the start point with chalk or tape.

### **Distance Test Rules**

For the distance category, each competitor or team must throw the paper airplane while an adult records the distances in feet and inches. All distances must be measured from the starting line to the point where the plane first touches the ground or floor—not the final resting place if it slides. Each competitor or team has up to three chances to get their best distance.

### **Flying Time Test Rules**

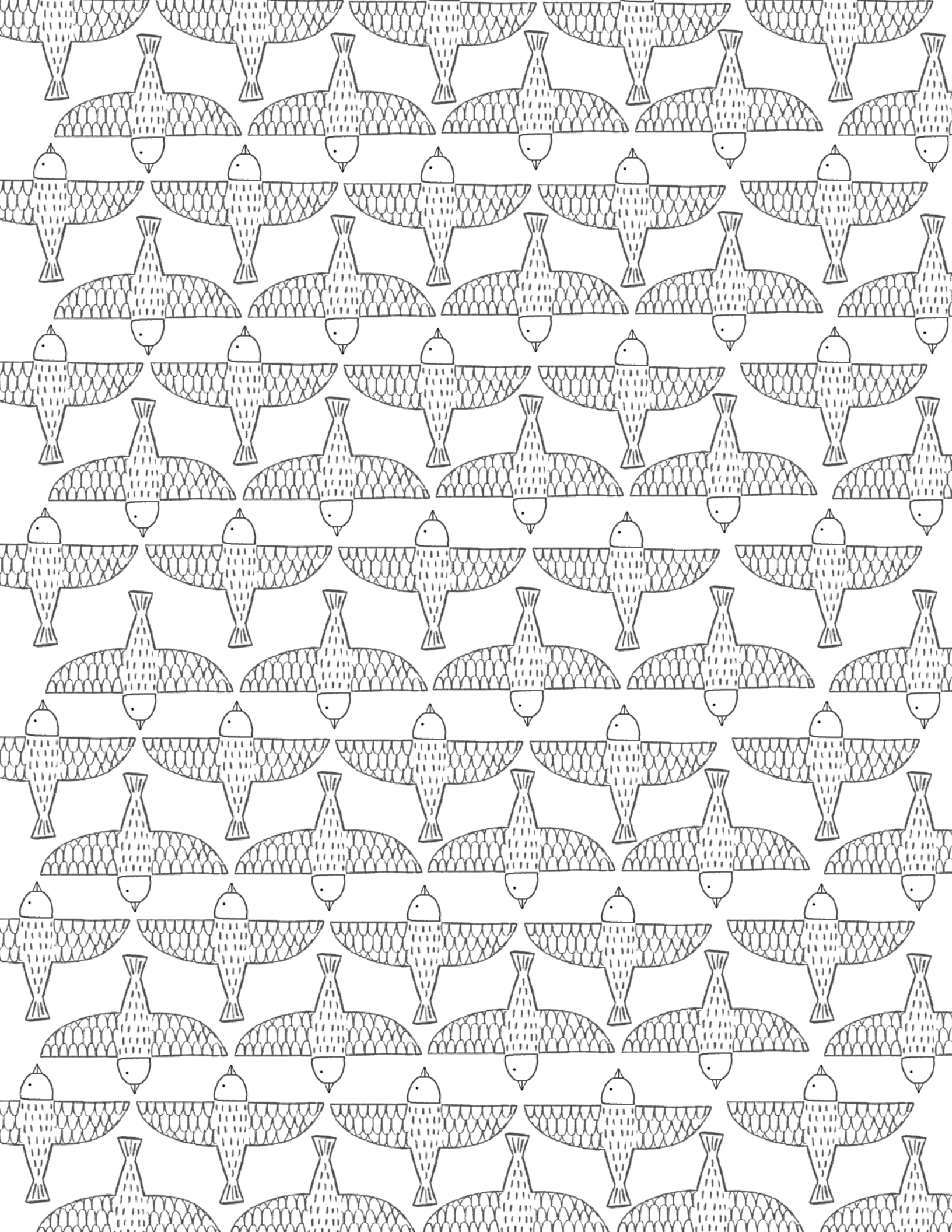
For the flying time category, each competitor or team must fly their paper airplane while an adult times the flights with an accurate stopwatch. Report the times in seconds and hundredths of a second. (Example: 2.45 seconds.) Each competitor or team has up to three chances to get the longest flying time.

### **Announcing the Winners**

When all the results are in, determine two winners: the competitor or team who made the airplane that flew the farthest and the competitor or team who made the airplane that flew for the longest time.

Activity adapted from Scholastic Inc.







# Worldwide Word Search

Can you find the following words in the word search below? Circle each word as you find it, and in the end, reading left to right, top to bottom, a secret message will reveal itself in the bolded letters.

## Word Bank:

Clover

Cloud

Lantern

Cricket

Feather

Songbird

Shadow

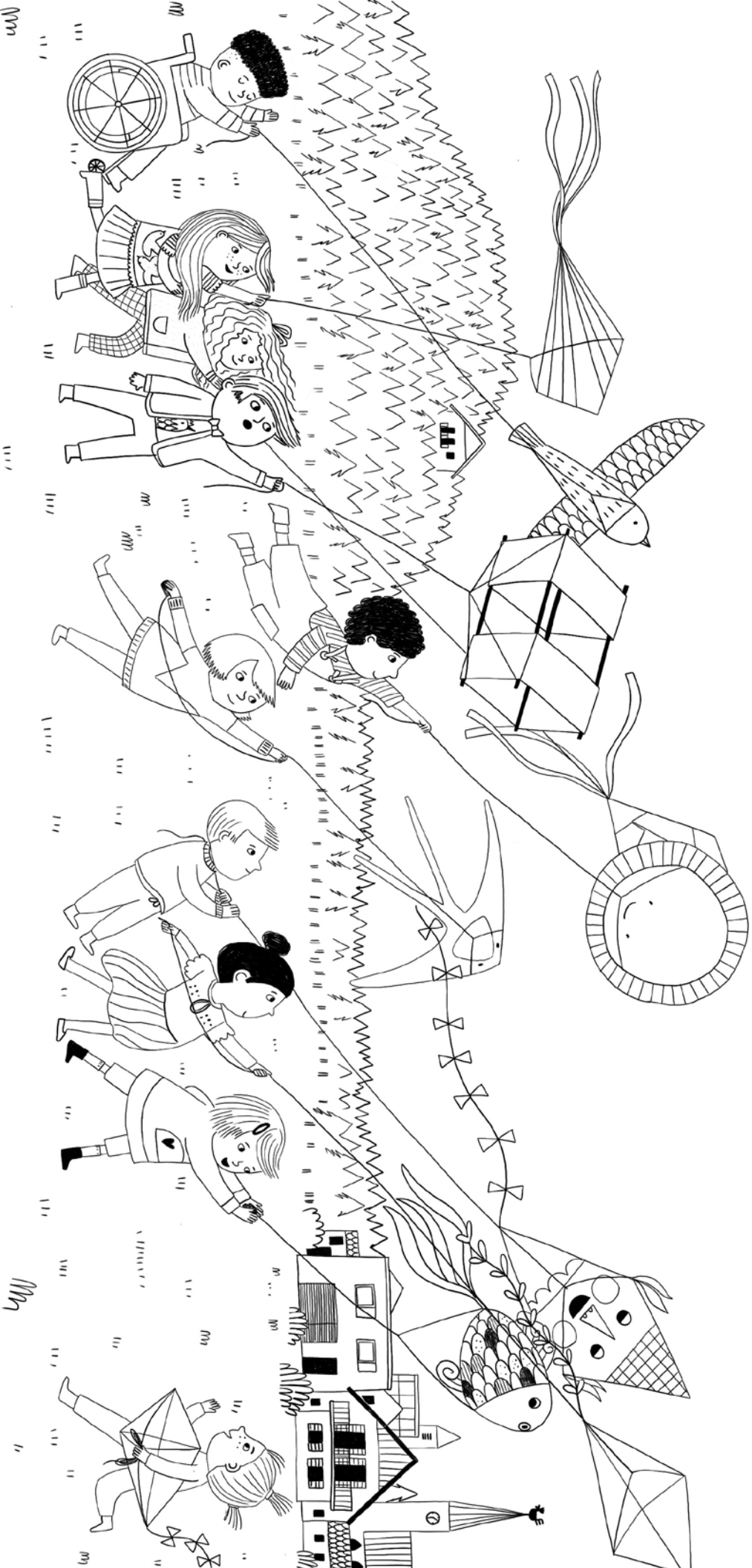
Kiss

Tulip

Sleepyheads

Y	L	O	C	L	<b>O</b>	V	E	R	X	T	E
G	A	L	N	V	E	R	T	D	N	U	L
H	<b>N</b>	T	E	O	Z	P	F	K	V	L	C
I	T	U	A	E	T	F	<b>E</b>	J	U	H	R
R	E	L	P	W	S	H	A	D	O	<b>W</b>	I
P	R	<b>I</b>	L	K	R	C	T	P	A	I	C
O	N	P	I	U	G	I	H	O	X	E	K
C	L	O	U	<b>D</b>	C	L	E	S	U	A	<b>E</b>
U	<b>S</b>	O	N	G	B	I	R	D	A	<b>K</b>	T
A	M	Y	M	W	T	C	R	I	Z	I	Q
F	O	A	T	H	R	B	L	Y	F	S	J
S	L	E	E	P	<b>Y</b>	H	E	A	D	S	E

# WE ARE ALL UNDER ONE WIDE SKY





# Come join our story time hour!

*We Are All Under One Wide Sky* shows us that what we have in common is what is most important—family, laughter, love, nature, and friendship.



Date and time:

Location:

