

Diary of a Wimpy Kid



HITTING THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

PROMOTING THE BOOKS TEACHING NOTES

Aims:

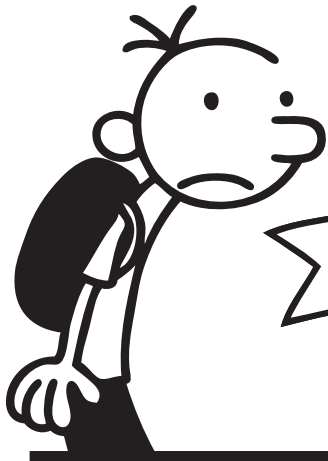
- Pupils are given the opportunity to explore one of the series of books to gather evidence as to why their book is the 'best' in the series. This will involve a range of activities including: character and text analysis, summarizing of key events and completion of writing response tasks.
- These findings will then be used to promote their given text through the production of campaign materials such as posters, cartoons and video clips. They will also be asked to present their materials in order to persuade others that their given book is superior to the others in the series.
- A simple vote will conclude the activities, with an opportunity to explore voting systems and processes. Produce a selection of promotional materials to highlight the best aspects of the book. As the books are part of a series and therefore the style and characters remain the same, explain that these materials will focus on the books' best bits. Activities include: producing a mini comic strip book of the highlights, posters to persuade and mini video clips of a favourite scene.

Procedure:

- Spark up a debate - why is their book the best? Present ideas as to what makes their book the best as a discussion, stating their opinions and arguing against the views of others in a reasoned way.

Resources:

Comic strip template
Election posters
Proptastic movie clips
Speech writing
Debating



Diary of a Wimpy Kid

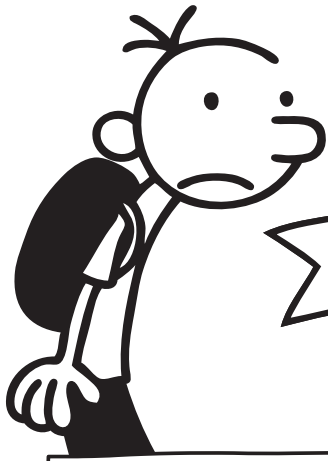
COMIC STRIP TEMPLATE



Greg is a top cartoonist, as can be seen from his hilarious cartoon 'Zoo-wee mama' (don't believe Rowley when he says he wrote it!) and Creighton the Cretin. Here are some top tips for writing a comic strip to help you become an expert too!

Top tips for writing a comic!

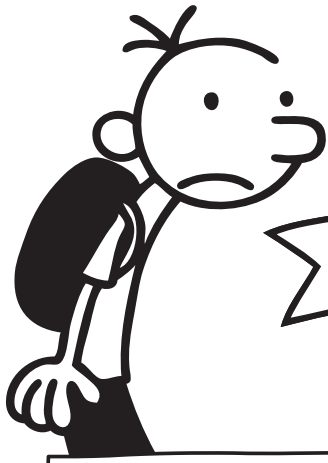
- Practise drawing people, animals, backgrounds and props as simple outline drawings – take a look at some of Greg's.
- Make a rough copy of your comic first – a rough copy is a basic version of your comic, using stick figures or quick drawings. Choose your favourite bit from your Wimpy Kid book to breakdown into a series of simple events.
- Use speech bubbles and simple link boxes to retell events.
- Give your comic strip a catchy title based on the main event.
- Make a good copy of your comic – a good copy is the real version of your comic, with all the detail and colour completed. You can scan your comic into your computer and colour it in if you are computer savvy.



COMIC STRIP TEMPLATE

Illustration boxes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

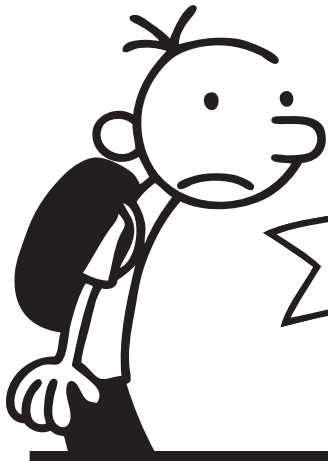


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COMIC STRIP TEMPLATE

Comic strip - the good copy!



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ELECTION POSTERS

Take a look at the school council election posters Greg and his dad made. Which do you think is best at persuading you to vote for each candidate?

INTEGRITY
HONESTY
KNOW-HOW



VOTE

Frank Heffley
FOR
SECRETARY

Do You Want
MARTY PORTER
to be your
TREASURER?

DARR...

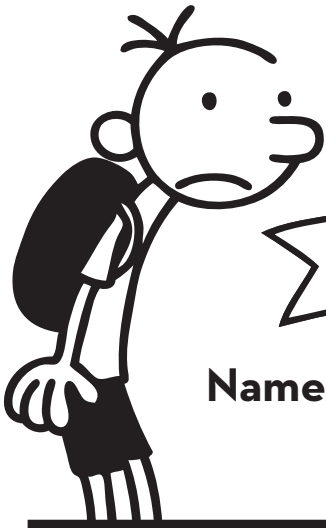
HEY, YOU'RE
DROPPING ALL
OUR MONEY,
YOU FOOL!





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ELECTION POSTERS

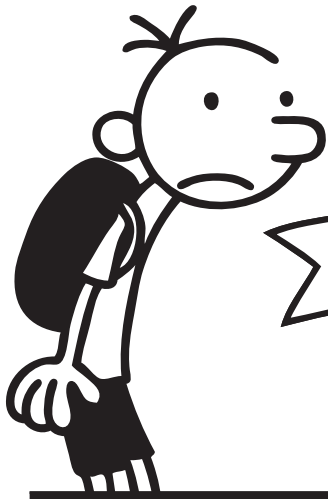


Name: Date:

Complete the grid below to see how Greg and his Dad's posters measure up.
Mark both posters out of 10 using the grid below.

	Dad's	Greg's
Information given		
Tells the reader what the event is		
Tells the reader where the event is		
Tells the reader when the event is taking place		
Persuasive language features used		
Uses questions for the reader		
Makes opinions sound like facts		
Uses powerful verbs and strong adjectives		
Uses cause and effect connectives e.g. because, due to		
Dares the reader to disagree		
Layout features		
Uses bold lettering to stand out		
Includes interesting pictures		
Has different size lettering for different pieces of information		
Total		

Which poster do you think is the most successful? Why?



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ELECTION POSTERS

Planning your own poster

The aim of your poster is to persuade others that the Wimpy Kid book you have been given is the best!

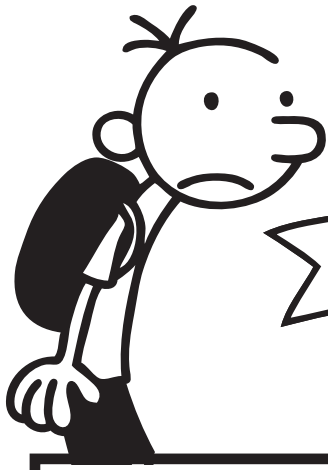
Think of a slogan for your campaign. Try using alliteration or a play on words to grab people's attention.

Ask a question. Maybe even dare them to disagree, but be careful not to be rude
- "Are you stupid?" doesn't persuade people, it just insults them!

Tell them why your book is the best and exaggerate why they must vote for it.

Make it memorable. Tell them about your favourite event in the book.

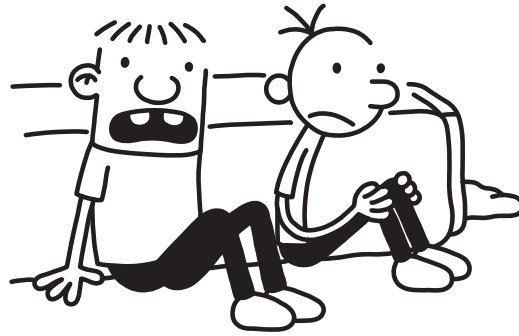
Tell people when and where the vote will take place.



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PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS



Did you know that Greg and Rowley have starred in their own Hollywood blockbuster? Try making your own movie clip of your favourite bit of Greg's diary!

How to create your own Wimpy Kid video clip

Choose from a variety of different props to help you to focus on your Wimpy Kid book 'best bit'. Here are some suggestions to get you thinking:

- Playmobil figures and their often brilliant accessories can be used to recreate a scene. Lego figures are a useful alternative and Lego blocks are great for creating a diorama or stage.
- Vegetables or fruit can work surprisingly well in the role of key characters.
- Jelly babies or gummy bears are a useful low cost alternative, and can be easily transformed with the addition of drawn faces, plus you can eat the extras!
- Make stick or finger puppets with sugar paper or card and lolly sticks.
- Paper masks can be great for transforming you into different characters. You can create your own, or use a paper plate instead – simply cut in half, decorate and tape on a lolly stick or twig as a handle. Alternatively, print and cut out the character masks on the following pages.
- Character masks can really help you to transform into role. Use the Wimpy Kid character masks below and make like your favourite Wimpy Kid character.
- Modelling clay or even homemade playdough can be used to create different figures, scenes and props.



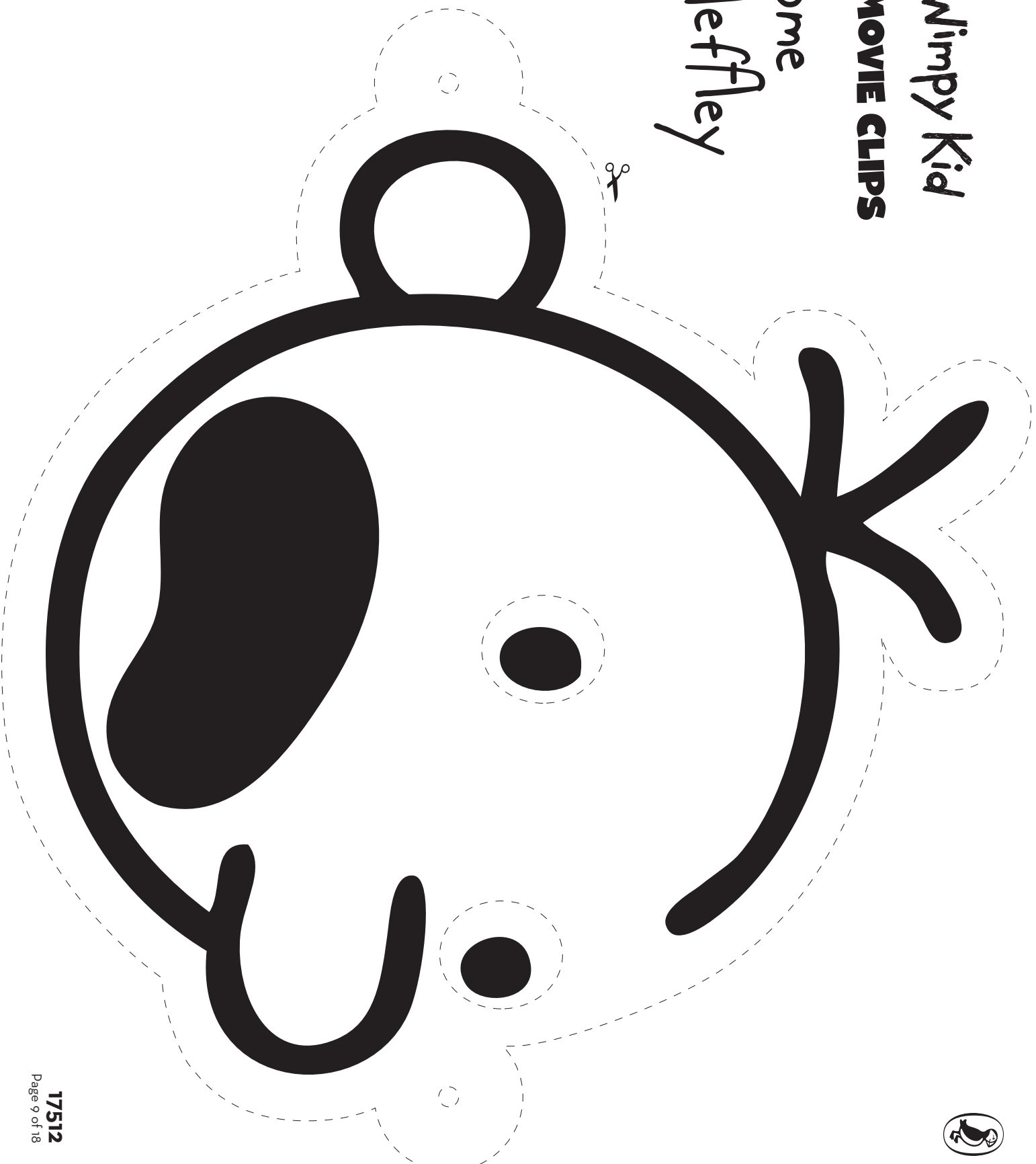
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PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Greg Heffley

HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You're now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!





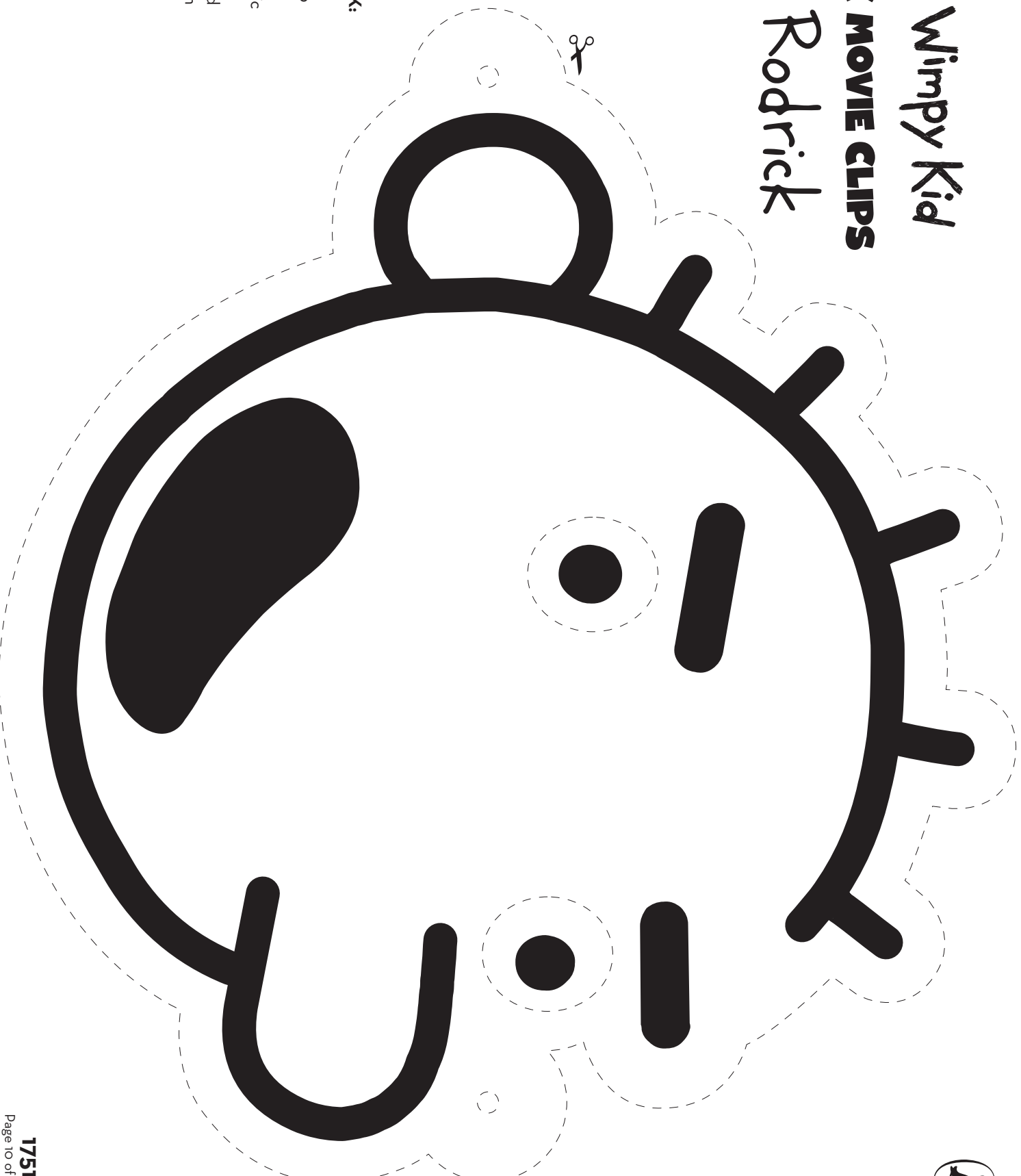
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PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Rodrick

HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You're now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!





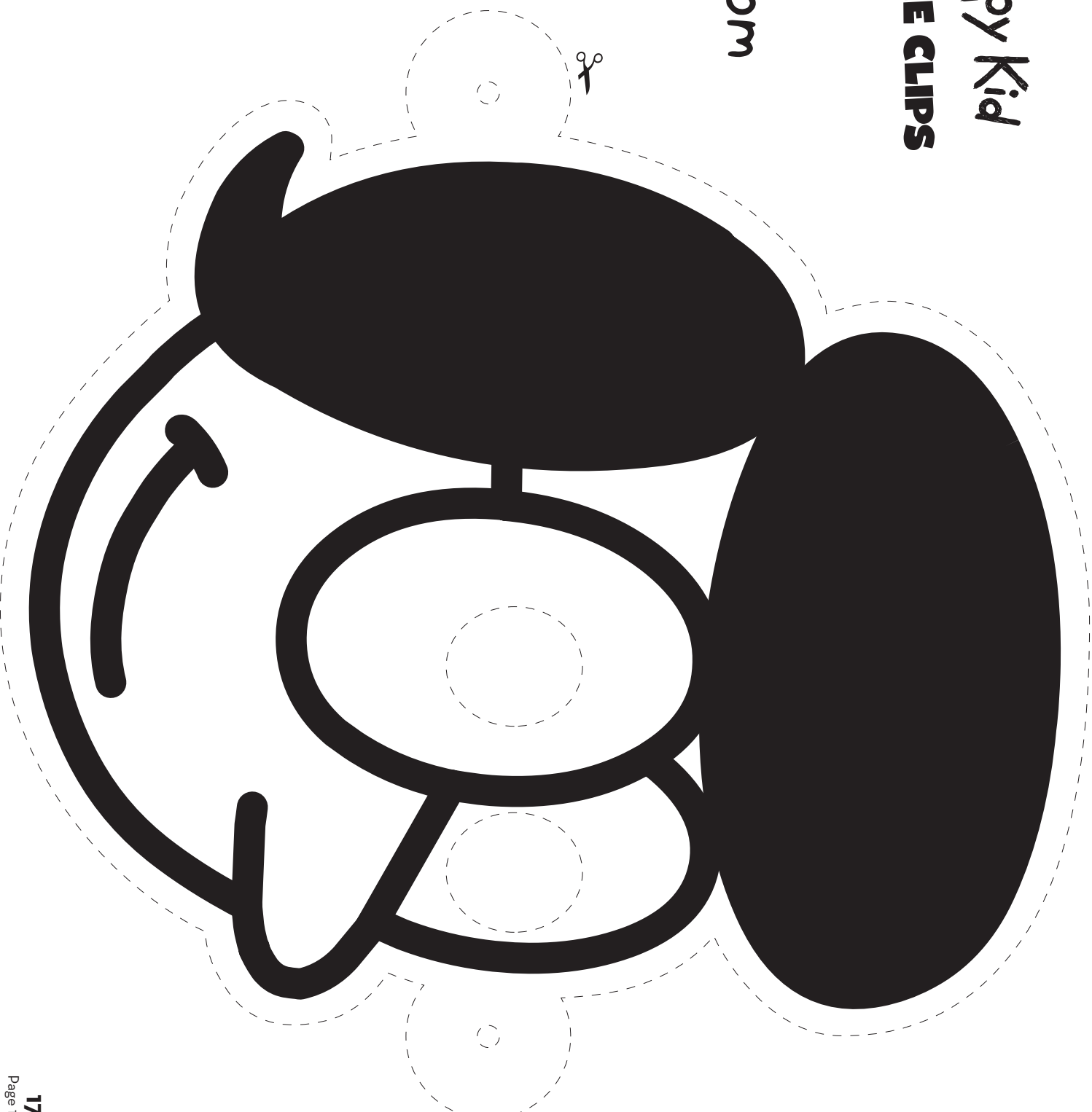
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PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Greg's Mom

HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You're now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!





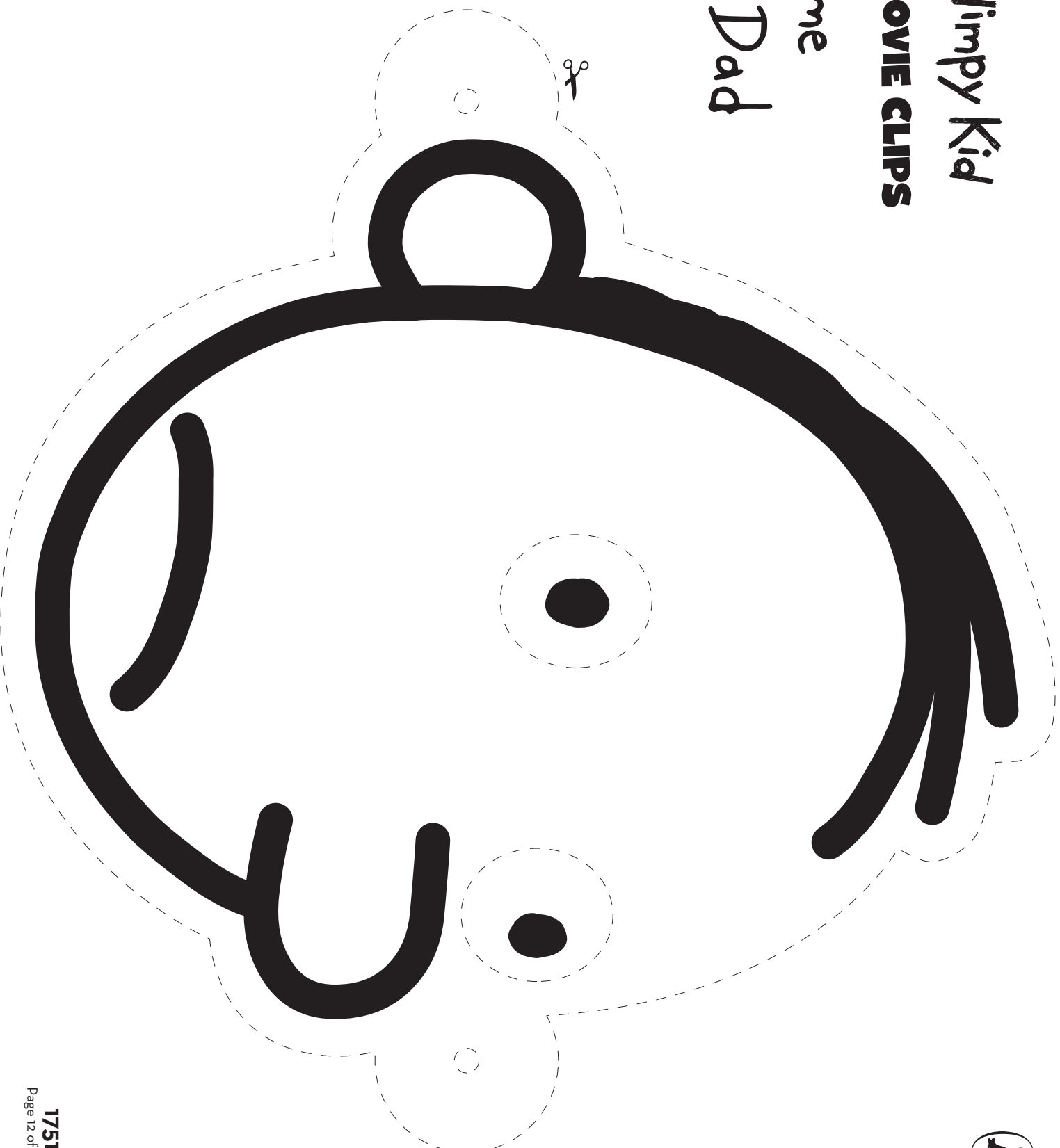
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PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Greg's Dad

HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You're now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!





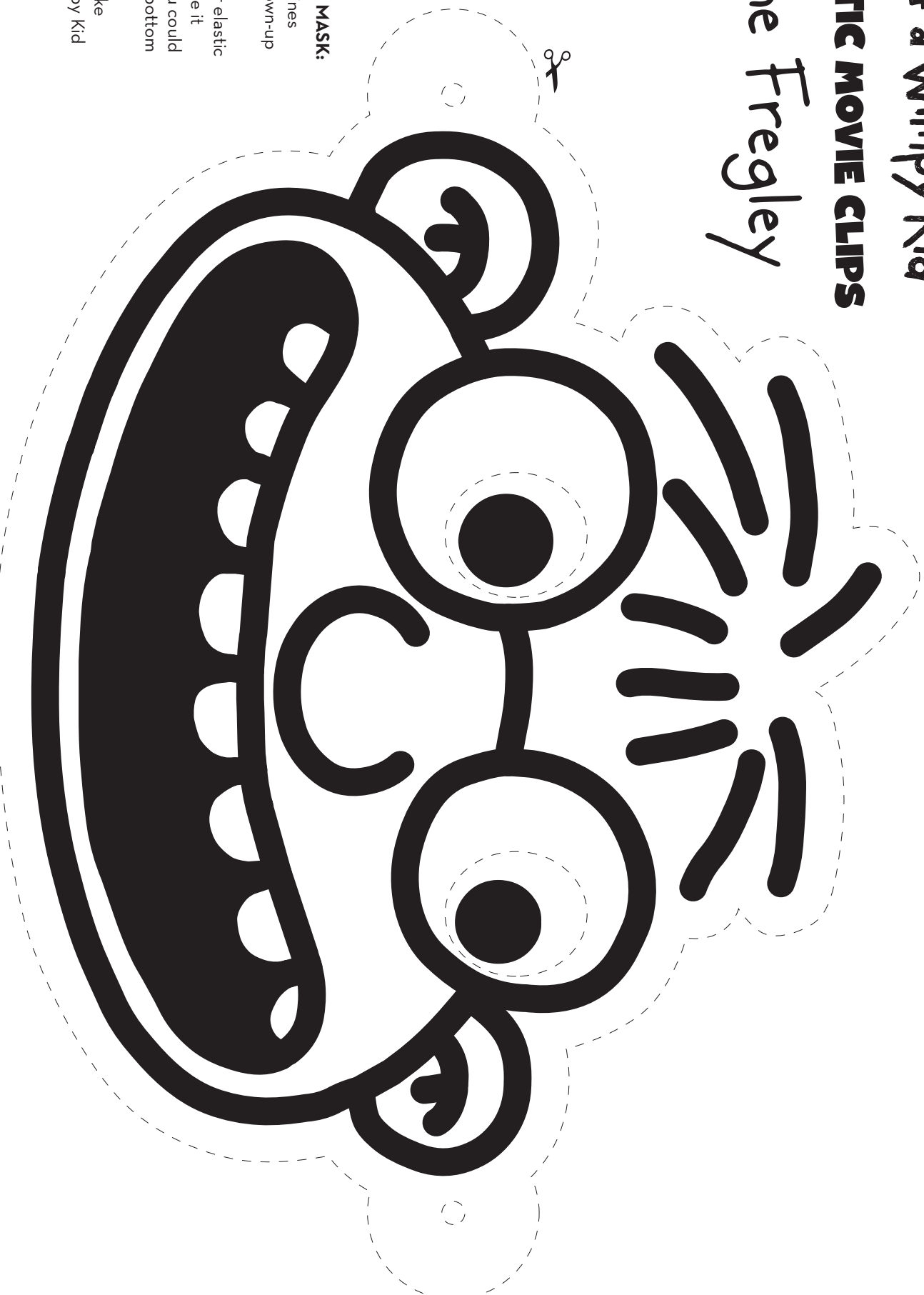
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PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Fregley

HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You're now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!

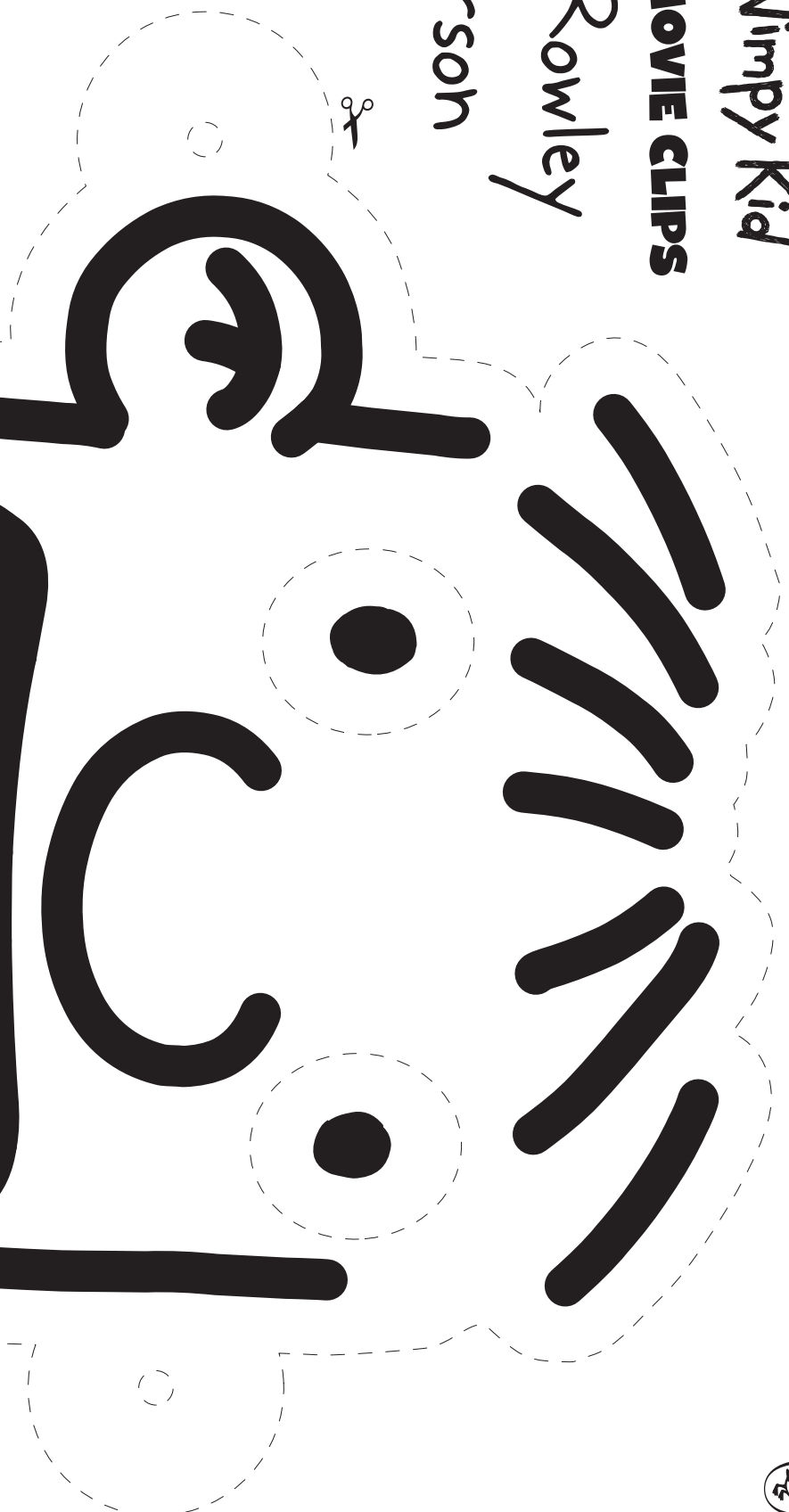




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PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Rowley
Jefferson



HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

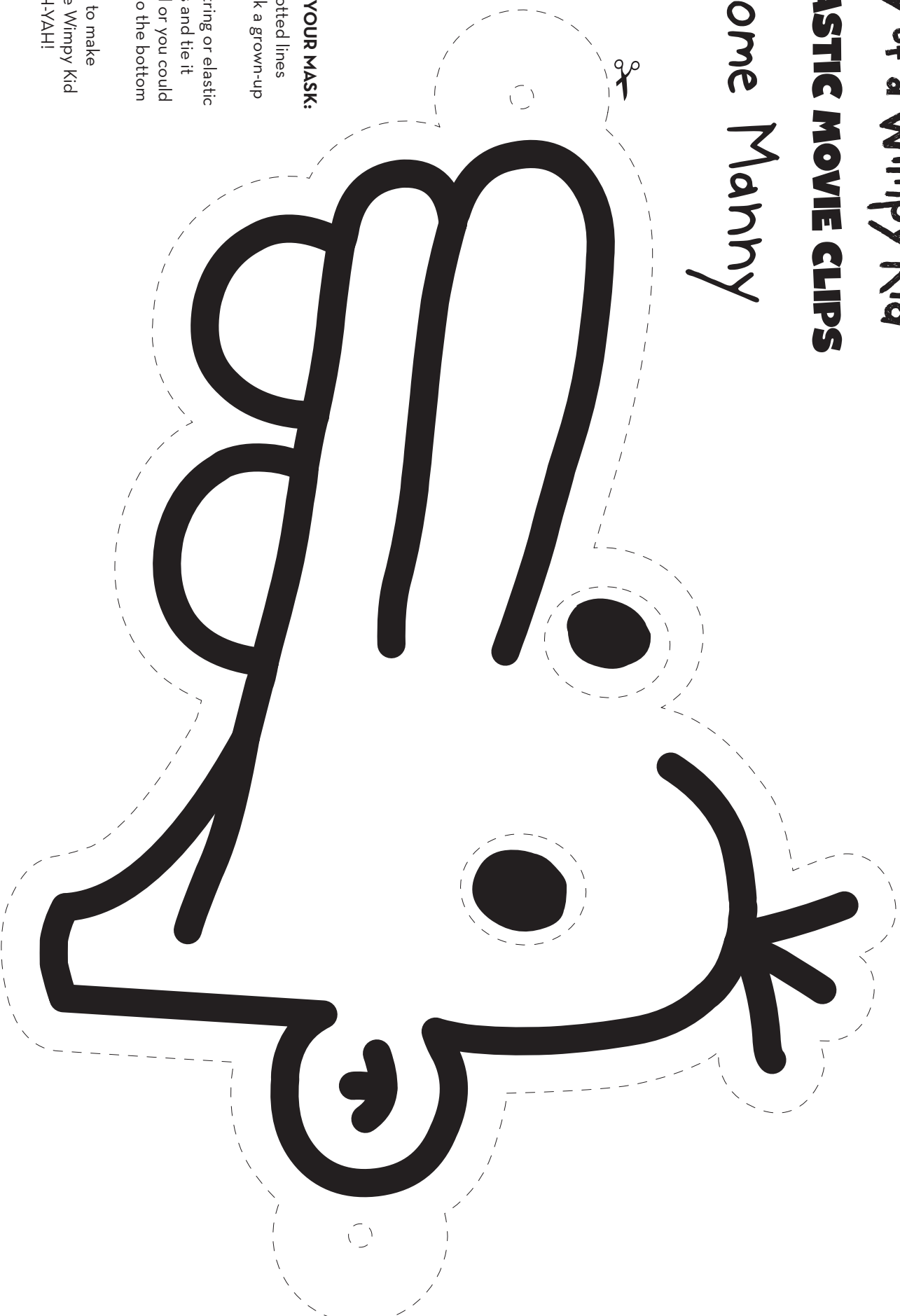
1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You're now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!



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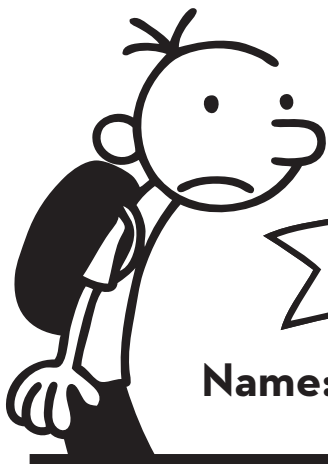
PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Become Manny



HOW TO CREATE YOUR MASK:

1. Cut around the dotted lines (be careful and ask a grown-up for help).
2. Push a piece of string or elastic through the holes and tie it behind your head or you could glue a chopstick to the bottom and hold it.
3. You're now ready to make like your favourite Wimpy Kid Character. BOOH-YAH!



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PROPTASTIC MOVIE CLIPS

Name: Date:

Here are some top tips on how to write a good speech.
I'm sure you've had lots of practice persuading people to come around to your way of thinking; trying to persuade teachers to let you out to play early or parents to let you stay up late, for example.

- Open with a punchy line to grab your audience's attention.
- Think about who you're talking to. If it's your headteacher keep a serious tone but if it's a group of friends it's ok to crack a few jokes - comedy has always been a winning strategy for Greg!
- Sort out your ideas so you don't jump from one point to another. Otherwise it could end up being a little bit random - you don't want to end up sounding like Fregley. (There's a handy planning grid below)
- Pull at your audience's heart strings. Don't beg, but stressing how vital it is can help.
- Asking questions can help persuade people to agree with you but word them carefully e.g. 'Was that not the funniest thing you ever heard?' rather than 'Have you ever heard anything funnier?'
- Use interesting facts and figures to blow your listeners' minds!
- Go out with a WOW (a weird or wonderful) fact - something they won't forget for a while.

Planning grid: don't write pages, just a few ideas

Purpose

Audience

Opening

Main point

2nd point

3rd point

Language - some good descriptive words

Ending WOW fact



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DEBATING

Stating your point of view - Would you rather ... or ... ?

A fun speaking and listening activity to spark a debate. Use the cards to encourage individuals to state their preference. Encourage the children to give an explanation for their choices.

Would you be a cat
or a dog?

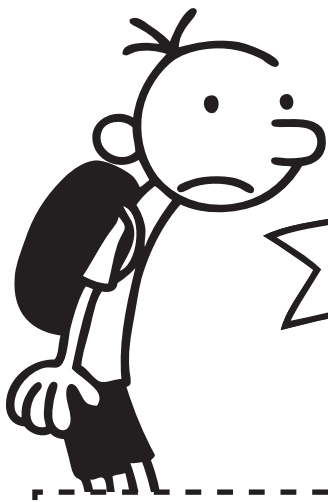
Would you travel by
plane or boat?

Would you be tall
or small?

Would you be noisy
or quiet?

Would you rather
read a book or watch
a film?

Would you rather
draw a picture or
play a game?



DEBATING

I accept
your point
but . . .

I disagree
for this
reason . . .

You could be
right but
my evidence
suggests
otherwise . . .

You make
a good point
yet . . .

I'm afraid
I can't agree
with that
because . . .

With all due
respect I feel
that my point
is stronger
because . . .

I do accept
your point of
view, but I
feel . . .

May I
suggest this
in response to
that . . .

My point of
view contrasts
with yours in
that . . .