

# Thematic Unit for “Carnival of the Animals”



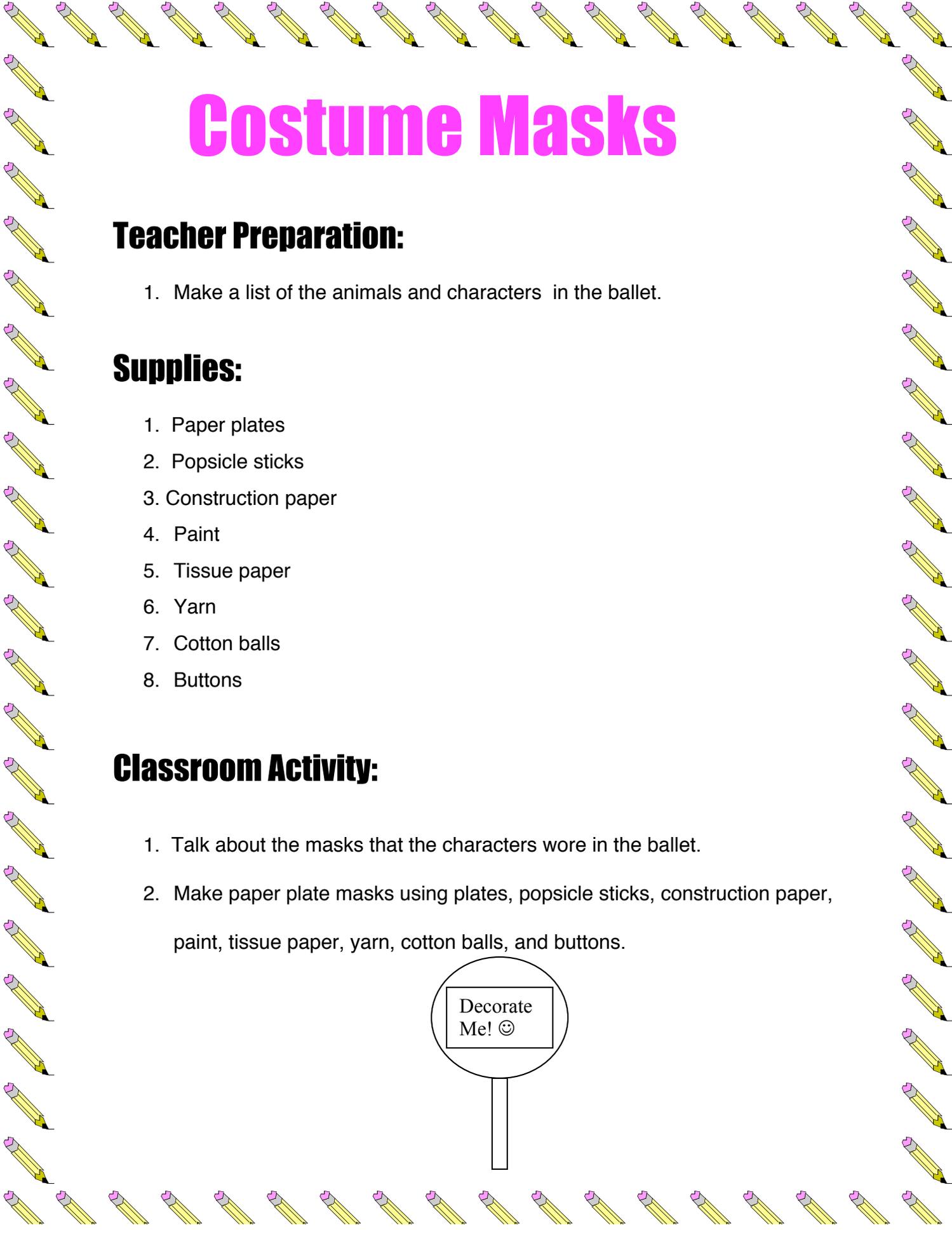
**Lessons across the curriculum**



**Cooperative learning**



**Learning expedition**



# Costume Masks

## Teacher Preparation:

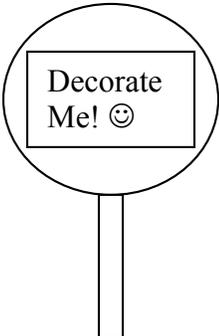
1. Make a list of the animals and characters in the ballet.

## Supplies:

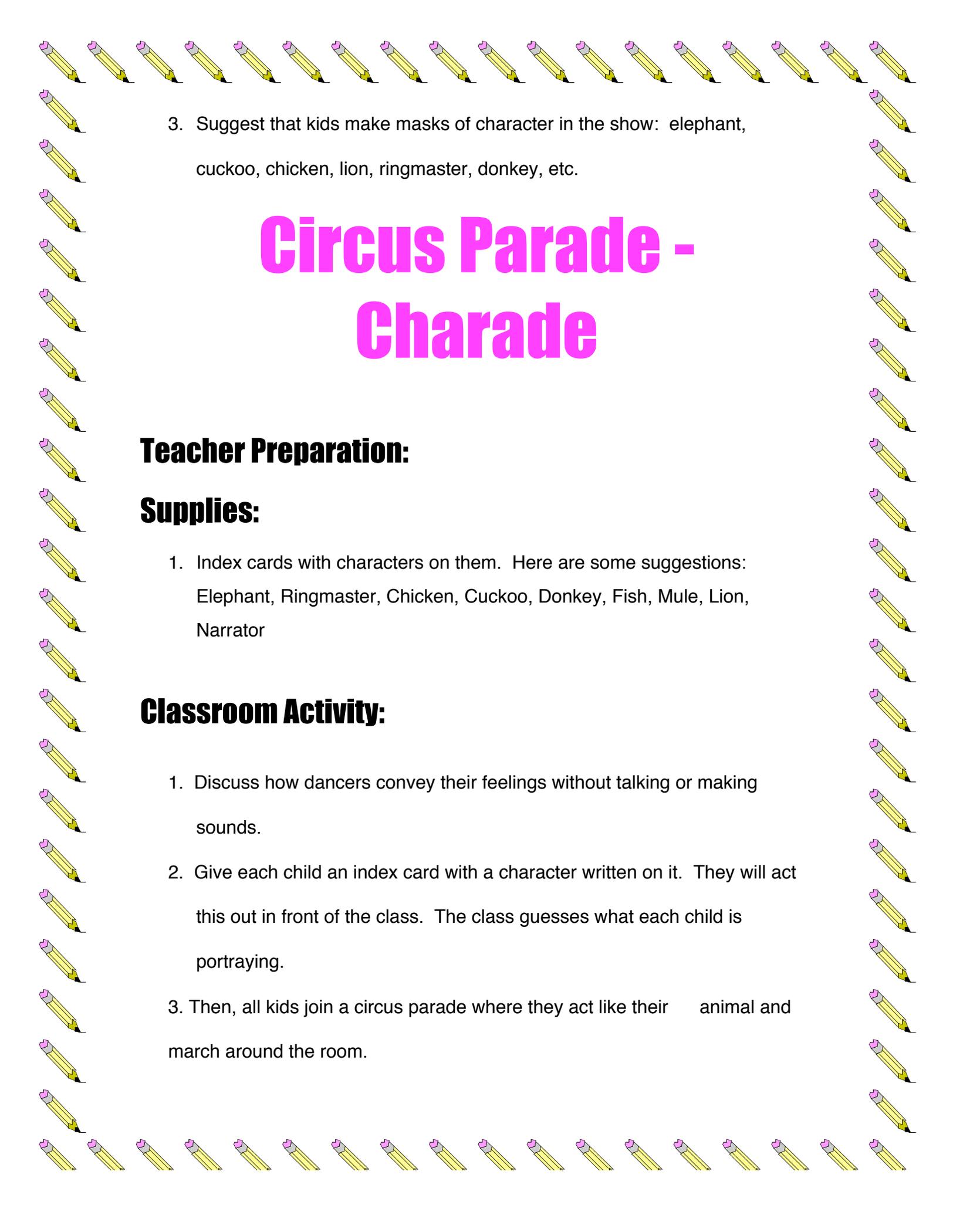
1. Paper plates
2. Popsicle sticks
3. Construction paper
4. Paint
5. Tissue paper
6. Yarn
7. Cotton balls
8. Buttons

## Classroom Activity:

1. Talk about the masks that the characters wore in the ballet.
2. Make paper plate masks using plates, popsicle sticks, construction paper, paint, tissue paper, yarn, cotton balls, and buttons.



Decorate Me! 😊

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3. Suggest that kids make masks of character in the show: elephant, cuckoo, chicken, lion, ringmaster, donkey, etc.

# Circus Parade - Charade

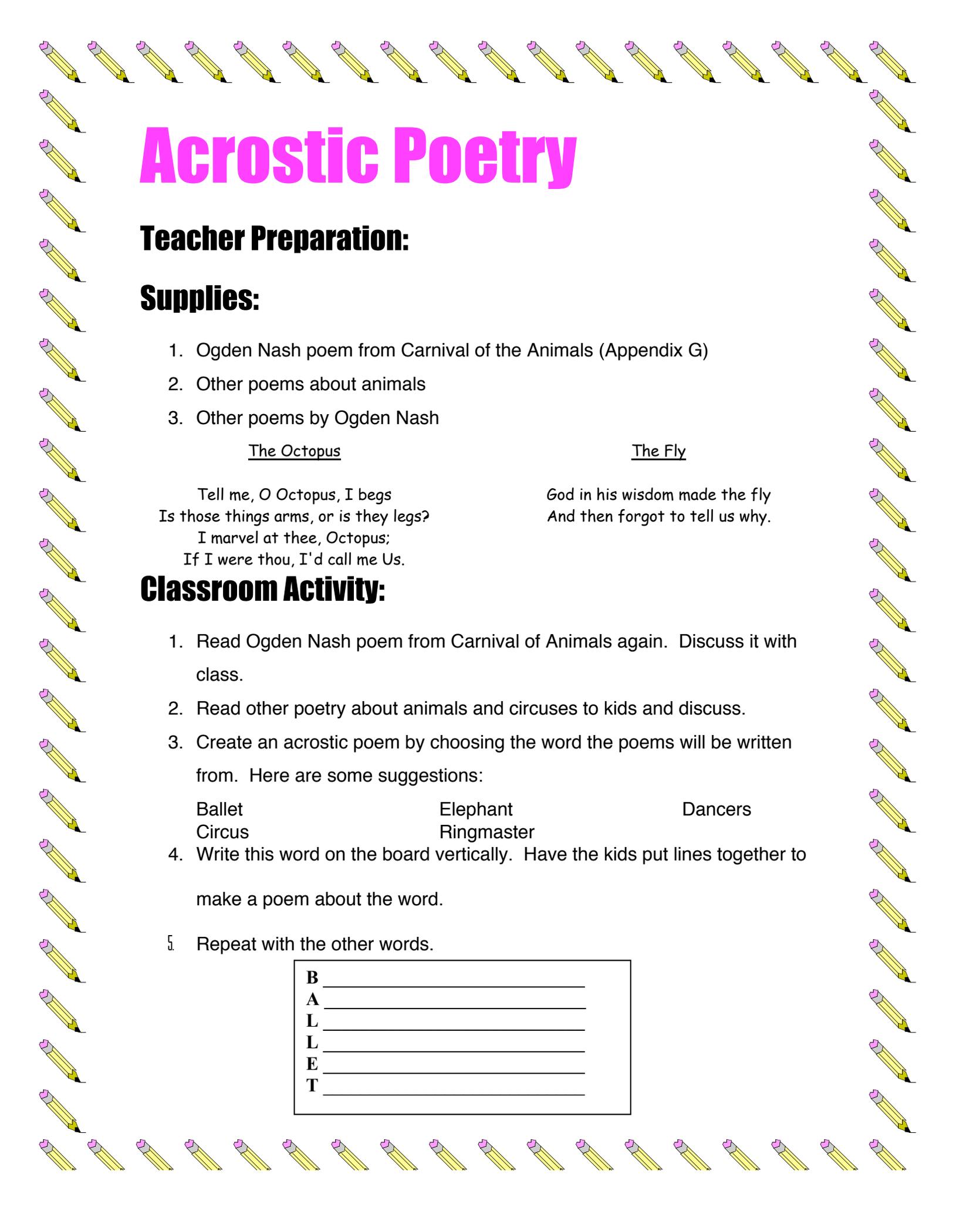
## Teacher Preparation:

## Supplies:

1. Index cards with characters on them. Here are some suggestions:  
Elephant, Ringmaster, Chicken, Cuckoo, Donkey, Fish, Mule, Lion, Narrator

## Classroom Activity:

1. Discuss how dancers convey their feelings without talking or making sounds.
2. Give each child an index card with a character written on it. They will act this out in front of the class. The class guesses what each child is portraying.
3. Then, all kids join a circus parade where they act like their animal and march around the room.



# Acrostic Poetry

## Teacher Preparation:

## Supplies:

1. Ogden Nash poem from Carnival of the Animals (Appendix G)
2. Other poems about animals
3. Other poems by Ogden Nash

### The Octopus

Tell me, O Octopus, I begs  
Is those things arms, or is they legs?  
I marvel at thee, Octopus;  
If I were thou, I'd call me Us.

### The Fly

God in his wisdom made the fly  
And then forgot to tell us why.

## Classroom Activity:

1. Read Ogden Nash poem from Carnival of Animals again. Discuss it with class.
2. Read other poetry about animals and circuses to kids and discuss.
3. Create an acrostic poem by choosing the word the poems will be written from. Here are some suggestions:

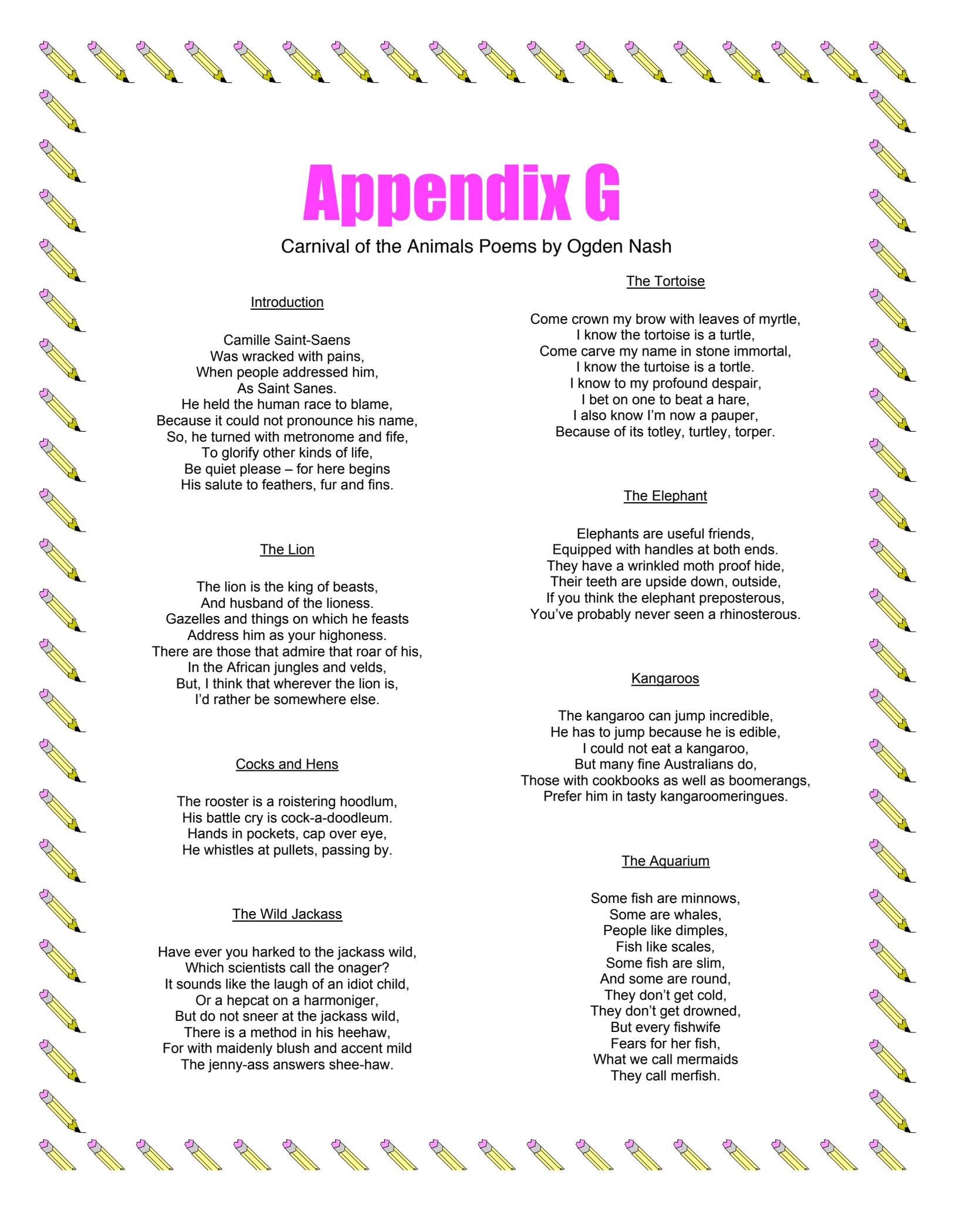
Ballet  
Circus

Elephant  
Ringmaster

Dancers

4. Write this word on the board vertically. Have the kids put lines together to make a poem about the word.
5. Repeat with the other words.

B	_____
A	_____
L	_____
L	_____
E	_____
T	_____



# Appendix G

## Carnival of the Animals Poems by Ogden Nash

### Introduction

Camille Saint-Saens  
Was wracked with pains,  
When people addressed him,  
As Saint Saens.  
He held the human race to blame,  
Because it could not pronounce his name,  
So, he turned with metronome and fife,  
To glorify other kinds of life,  
Be quiet please – for here begins  
His salute to feathers, fur and fins.

### The Lion

The lion is the king of beasts,  
And husband of the lioness.  
Gazelles and things on which he feasts  
Address him as your highness.  
There are those that admire that roar of his,  
In the African jungles and velds,  
But, I think that wherever the lion is,  
I'd rather be somewhere else.

### Cocks and Hens

The rooster is a roistering hoodlum,  
His battle cry is cock-a-doodleum.  
Hands in pockets, cap over eye,  
He whistles at pullets, passing by.

### The Wild Jackass

Have ever you harked to the jackass wild,  
Which scientists call the onager?  
It sounds like the laugh of an idiot child,  
Or a hepcat on a harmoniger,  
But do not sneer at the jackass wild,  
There is a method in his heehaw,  
For with maidenly blush and accent mild  
The jenny-ass answers shee-haw.

### The Tortoise

Come crown my brow with leaves of myrtle,  
I know the tortoise is a turtle,  
Come carve my name in stone immortal,  
I know the turtoise is a tortle.  
I know to my profound despair,  
I bet on one to beat a hare,  
I also know I'm now a pauper,  
Because of its totley, turtley, torper.

### The Elephant

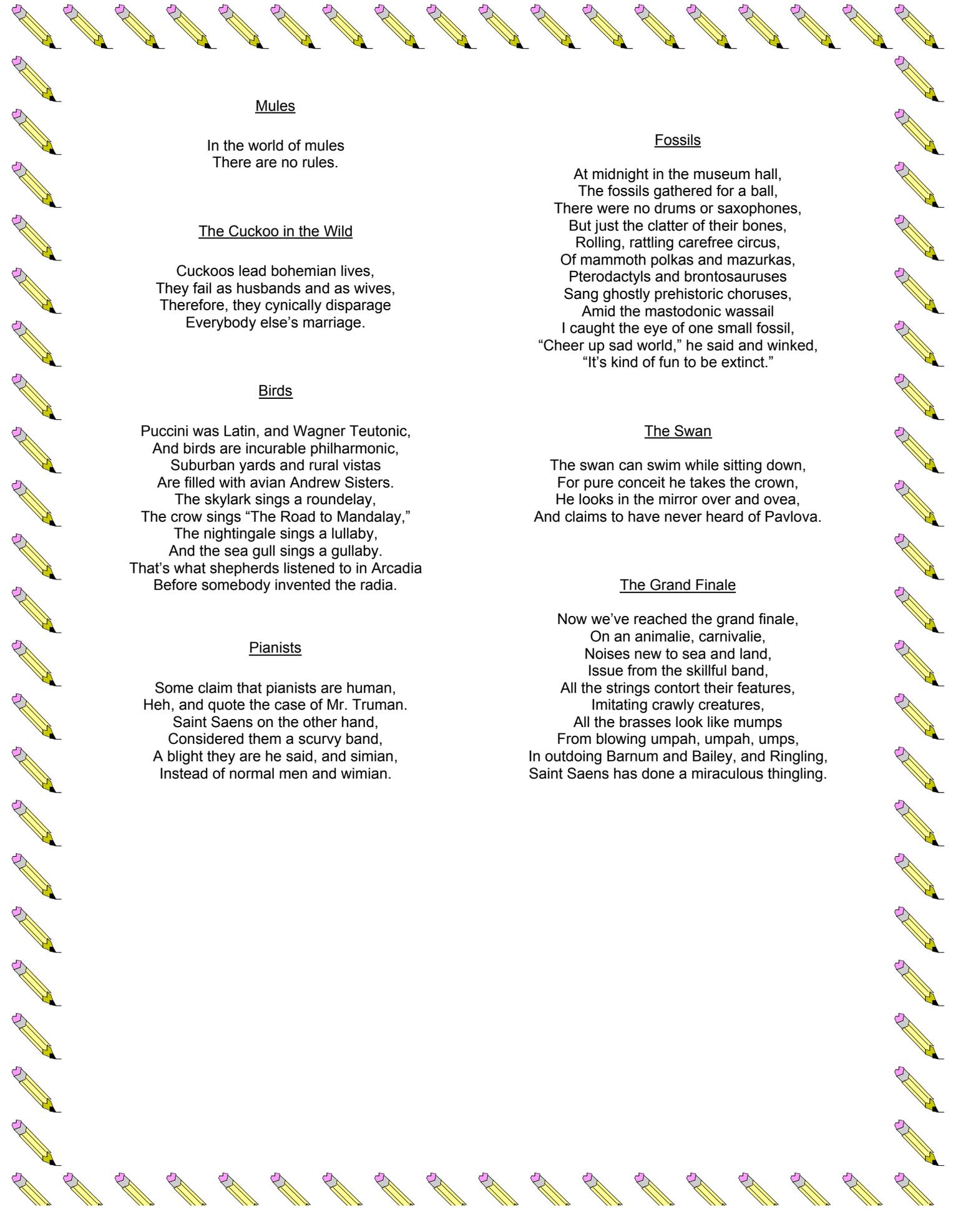
Elephants are useful friends,  
Equipped with handles at both ends.  
They have a wrinkled moth proof hide,  
Their teeth are upside down, outside,  
If you think the elephant preposterous,  
You've probably never seen a rhinosterous.

### Kangaroos

The kangaroo can jump incredible,  
He has to jump because he is edible,  
I could not eat a kangaroo,  
But many fine Australians do,  
Those with cookbooks as well as boomerangs,  
Prefer him in tasty kangaroomeringues.

### The Aquarium

Some fish are minnows,  
Some are whales,  
People like dimples,  
Fish like scales,  
Some fish are slim,  
And some are round,  
They don't get cold,  
They don't get drowned,  
But every fishwife  
Fears for her fish,  
What we call mermaids  
They call merfish.



Mules

In the world of mules  
There are no rules.

The Cuckoo in the Wild

Cuckoos lead bohemian lives,  
They fail as husbands and as wives,  
Therefore, they cynically disparage  
Everybody else's marriage.

Birds

Puccini was Latin, and Wagner Teutonic,  
And birds are incurable philharmonic,  
Suburban yards and rural vistas  
Are filled with avian Andrew Sisters.  
The skylark sings a roundelay,  
The crow sings "The Road to Mandalay,"  
The nightingale sings a lullaby,  
And the sea gull sings a gullaby.  
That's what shepherds listened to in Arcadia  
Before somebody invented the radia.

Pianists

Some claim that pianists are human,  
Heh, and quote the case of Mr. Truman.  
Saint Saens on the other hand,  
Considered them a scurvy band,  
A blight they are he said, and simian,  
Instead of normal men and wimian.

Fossils

At midnight in the museum hall,  
The fossils gathered for a ball,  
There were no drums or saxophones,  
But just the clatter of their bones,  
Rolling, rattling carefree circus,  
Of mammoth polkas and mazurkas,  
Pterodactyls and brontosauruses  
Sang ghostly prehistoric choruses,  
Amid the mastodonic wassail  
I caught the eye of one small fossil,  
"Cheer up sad world," he said and winked,  
"It's kind of fun to be extinct."

The Swan

The swan can swim while sitting down,  
For pure conceit he takes the crown,  
He looks in the mirror over and oeva,  
And claims to have never heard of Pavlova.

The Grand Finale

Now we've reached the grand finale,  
On an animalie, carnivalie,  
Noises new to sea and land,  
Issue from the skillful band,  
All the strings contort their features,  
Imitating crawly creatures,  
All the brasses look like mumps  
From blowing umpah, umpah, umps,  
In outdoing Barnum and Bailey, and Ringling,  
Saint Saens has done a miraculous thingling.