

Puddles at the Zoo

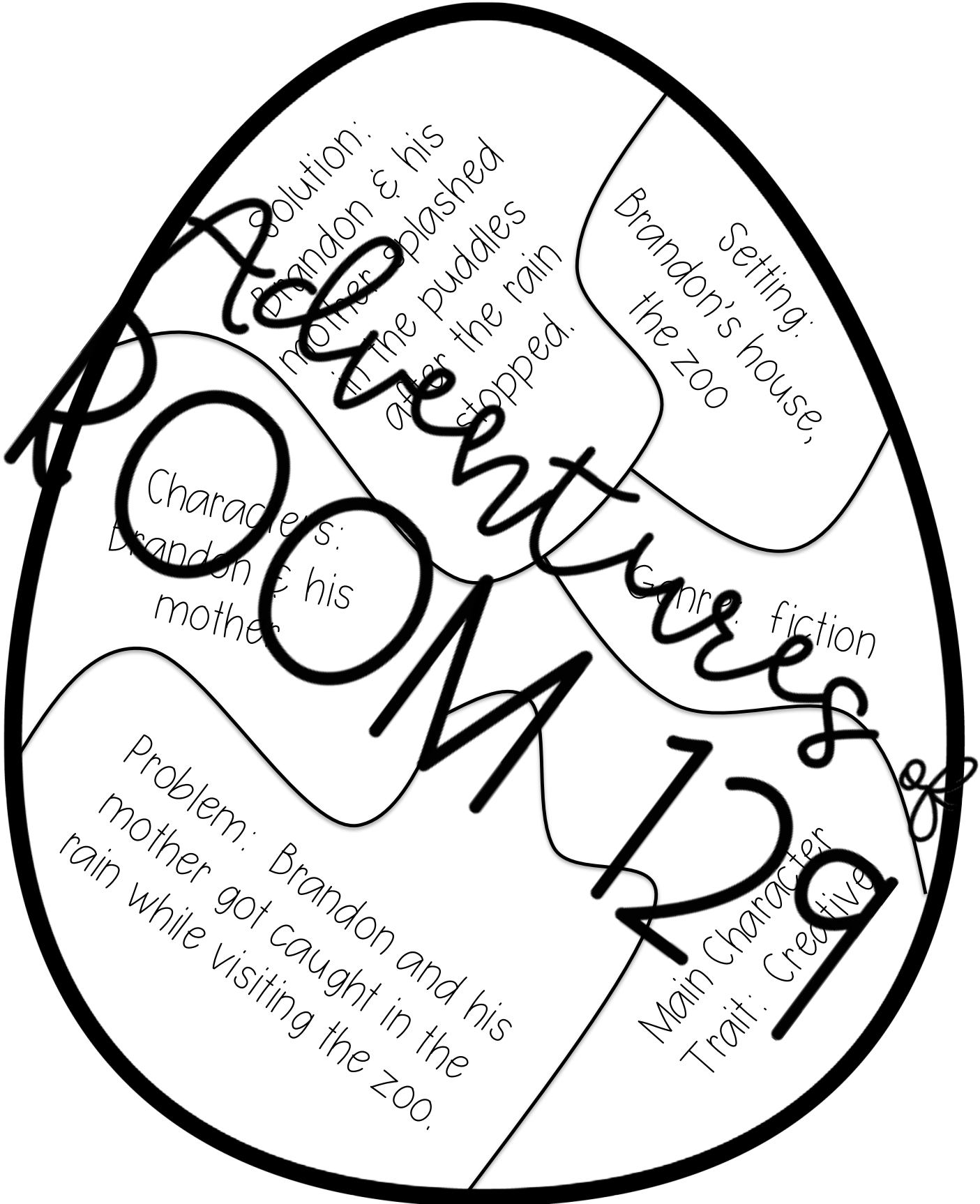
#1

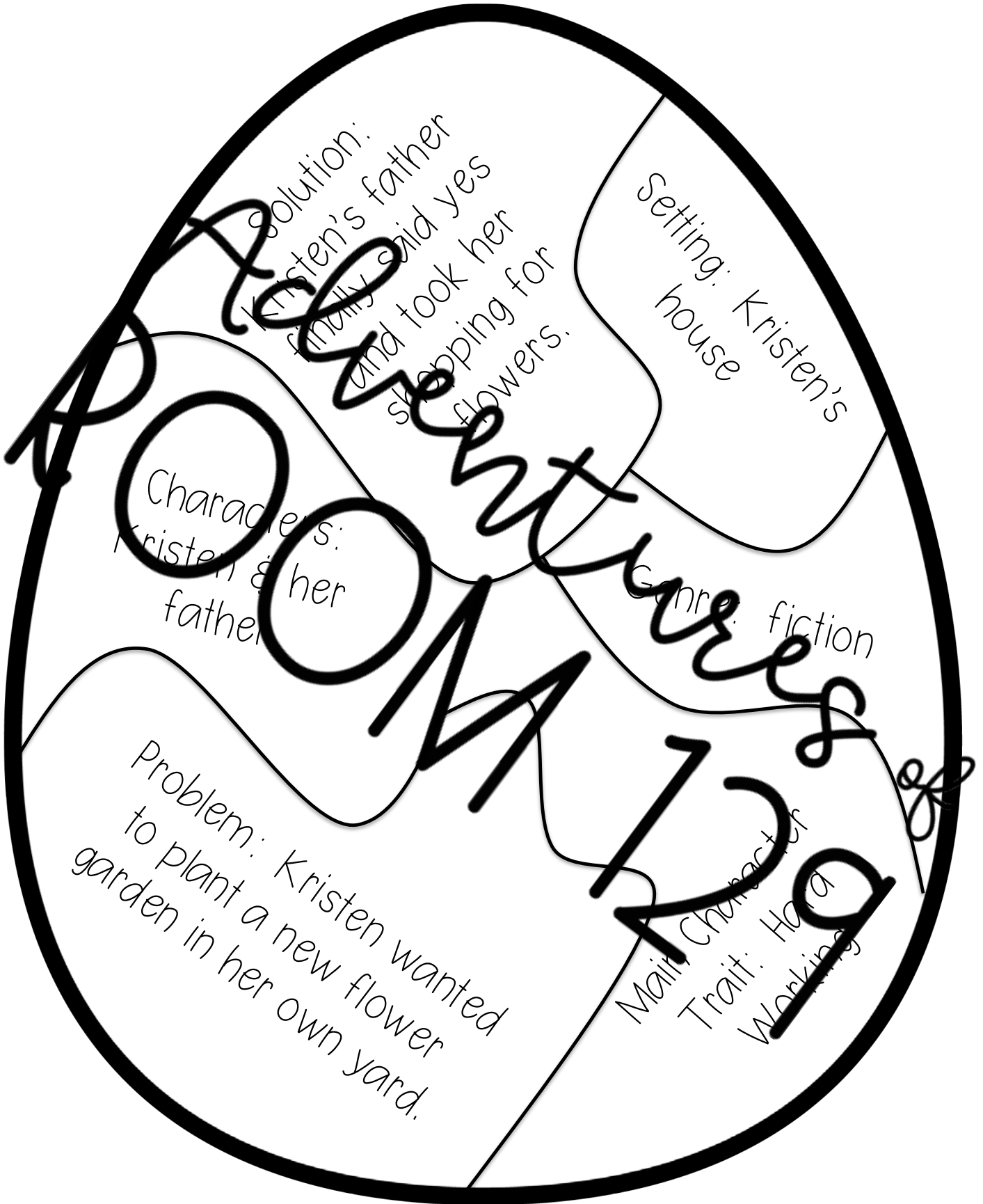
Brandon woke up and realized it was Saturday. "Mom!" he yelled as he ran down the stairs towards the kitchen. "Mom! Can we go to the zoo today?" He looked at mom with his best 'puppy dog' face. He had been wanting to go to the zoo ever since it started getting warmer outside. Mom looked at the calendar to make sure nothing else was happening. "I guess we can go," she said smiling. Brandon jumped up and down with excitement. He ran up to his room to get dressed. He picked out his monkey shirt especially for the fun day ahead. Later that morning, Brandon and his mother arrived at the zoo. They began to walk around when they heard a sound they weren't expecting, thunder. "Oh no!" Brandon said looking up. There were black clouds rolling in from every directions. He felt a wet drop on his nose and in a matter of seconds, it began to pour. He huddled together with his mother under a tree nearby. It poured and poured for over fifteen minutes. Finally, the rain stopped and the sun came back out. There were puddles everywhere! Brandon looked up at his mother and they both nodded their heads. Together, they jumped right into the first puddle they came to! From puddle to puddle they jumped having the time of their lives. The rain made for an even more special day than they imagined.

Our Beautiful New Garden

#2

Kristen and her family came inside one evening taking an evening walk. It was warmer now that spring had arrived and they loved being outside together. Kristen took the flowers that she collected along her walk and went to put them into water. "Hey Dad," she said while filling up the vase. "Can we plant our own flower garden?" She looked at her father while he thought about the answer. "Why do you want a flower garden?" he said, finally. Kristen walked over to the back door window. She pointed to all of the other neighbors' houses. "Everyone around us has such a beautiful garden in their yard. They have something to take care of in the spring and summer and get to enjoy them every time they are outside. Plus, it would make our house so much prettier! We could plant flowers out back and even some in the front for everyone to see!" Kristen was very adamant about this. She came up with lots of reasons why they should have a flower garden. Later that afternoon, Kristen's dad knocked on her bedroom door. "Do you want to go with me to pick out the flowers?" he asked. Kristen jumped off her bed in excitement. "You mean we can make a flower garden?" she asked. Dad nodded and smiled. "But you have to help me with it," he said. "I can't just be the only one to water all of these flowers everyday." Kristen and her father set off to the store and bought a whole truck load of flowers. Their garden turned out perfectly.





Making a Difference

#3

"Ouch!" Brenda yelled. She had fallen off of the monkey bars for the third time that week. "I wish they would have something on the playground that was softer so when we fell, it wouldn't hurt so badly," she told the nurse and she bandaged up her knee. "You know," the nurse said, "that if we collected enough shoes, they could be recycled into rubber to put around the playground! I've heard of other schools doing this as a fun recycling project and maybe now is the time for us to do it as well!" Brenda smiled. She thought it was a fantastic idea. "I can start making the flyers to collect shoes and you can talk to the principal about the project," Brenda told the nurse. That night, Brenda spent hours making boxes, flyers, and signs to put all around the school. She even had her mom type up an email to send to all of the teachers so the parents could find out about the project quicker. Within two weeks, they had already collected over 400 pairs of shoes. They needed 1,000 pairs in order for the project to work. "I've got an idea," the nurse said. "Why don't we ask the other schools in the city to help us out?" She made the call and within one week, they had all 1,000 pairs of shoes. That next school year, Brenda and all of the rest of the students loved having a safer playground to enjoy.

The Best Spring Break

#4

"Why aren't we going anywhere?" Tyler whined. "We always go to fun places on Spring Break!" Tyler's mom shook her head. "You know we can't go anywhere. Your sister has an important softball game and she can't miss it." Tyler groaned and walked off, slamming his bedroom door to let everyone know that he was definitely mad. "I hate that he is so upset," his sister said. "I'm going to try and make his week off of school a fun one, even if we can't go anywhere." She got up and went to her room to get onto her computer. She researched places around the city that they like to go to. She found an awesome fishing competition for boys his age, and Tyler loves to fish. She also found a new section of the zoo was opening up and his favorite author was coming to the local library. She planned out an entire week of activities for just them two. She made a schedule and printed it out and placed it on the refrigerator where he would in fact see it in the morning the next day. The next morning, Tyler woke up, again in a bad mood. "What's this?" he asked taking the piece of paper off of the refrigerator. His sister explained all of the amazing activities they were going to do together. Tyler's mood instantly changed from angry to excited. He was so touched that his big sister, who typically he argued with, did something so kind for him. They got ready for the day and enjoyed every minute of their special week together.

