

Nouns

BACKGROUND

Explain that nouns are words that name people, places, or things. There are several types of nouns. Common nouns name general people, places, or things (*doctor, store, car*), while proper nouns name specific people, places, or things (*Dr. Percy, Statue of Liberty, Mt. Everest*). Proper nouns always begin with a capital letter.

Another way to distinguish nouns is concrete versus abstract. Concrete nouns, like *pencil* or *soup*, are people, places, or things that one can see, hear, feel, or smell. Abstract nouns, like *peace, kindness, or anger*, name ideas or qualities that one cannot see, hear, feel, or smell.

You may want to point out that nouns can be singular or plural. This distinction is explored in another lesson plan (see page 44).

VOCABULARY

diva: NOUN a leading lady or main singer in an opera or concert

committee: NOUN a group of people chosen to discuss things and make decisions for a larger group

TEACHING THE POEM

Real-Life Grammar

Encourage students to label the nouns in your classroom (book, chalk, desk, closet, Cindy, Sam). Provide two different colors of sticky notes or construction paper; one for common nouns and one for proper nouns. Students can use masking tape to affix the labels to the appropriate people, places, and things.

Noun Storm

To help students identify nouns, play this game:

1. Write the letters of the alphabet on slips of paper and place the slips in a box or hat. Ask a student to randomly choose a letter from the hat.
2. Announce the letter to the class and explain that students will write as many nouns as they can think of that begin with that letter.
3. Allow students one minute to list their nouns. Use a watch with a second hand to measure the time.
4. When time is up, have students display their lists. Read aloud any unique or unusual nouns that begin with the designated letter.

Practice

Divide students into pairs and distribute one *Nouns* reproducible activity to each pair (see page 13). After students have completed the activity using the directions on the reproducible, they will have a humorous poem using plenty of nouns!

Answers to Reproducible: Answers will vary.

Nouns

A noun is
 a person,
 a place,
 or a thing.

Three words that cover a lot.

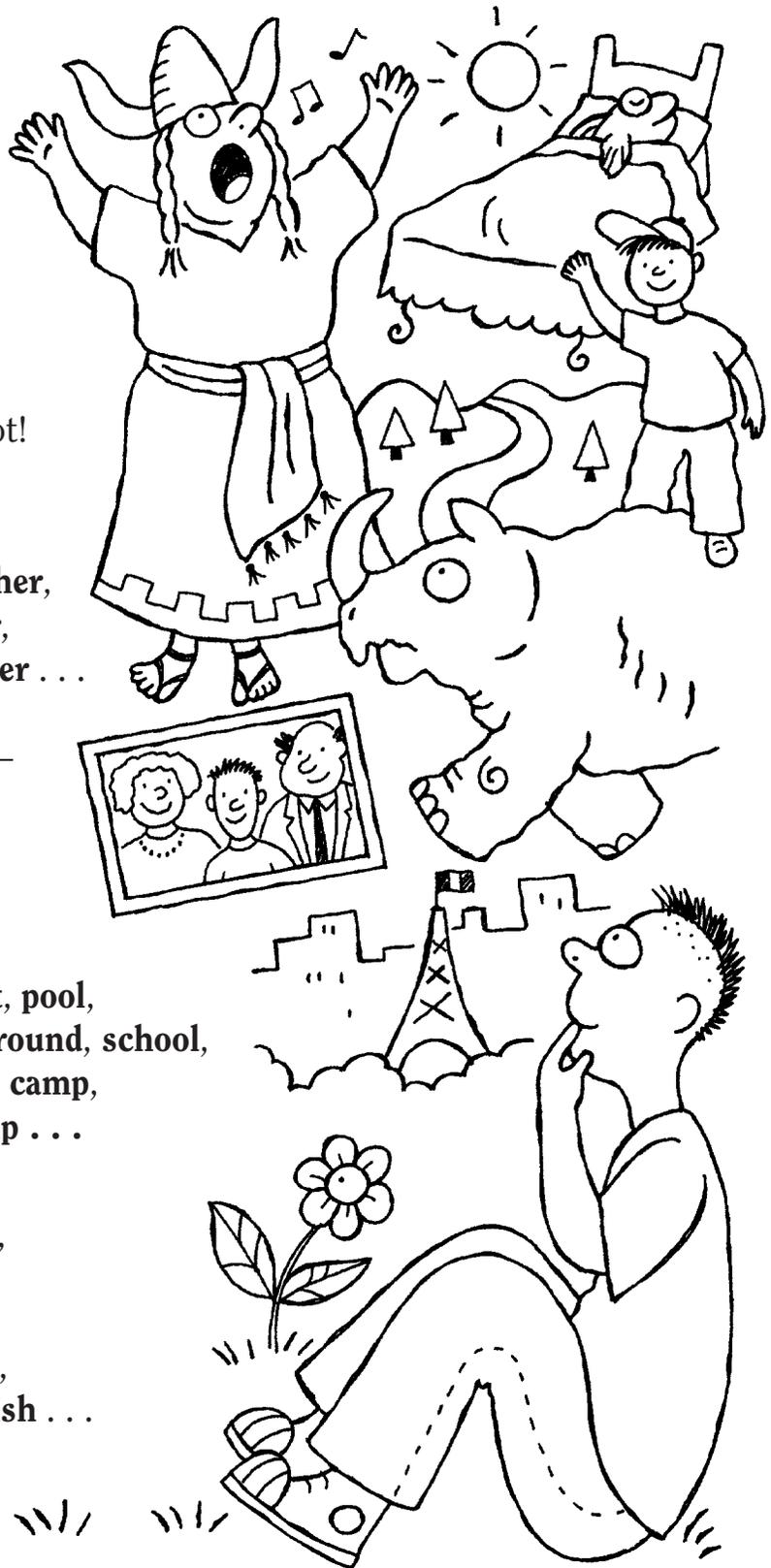
Once you start to think people
 and places
 and things,
 it's hard to find words that are not!

Think person:
 brother, sister, teacher,
 tailor, sailor, doctor, preacher,
 taker, talker, walker, driver,
 drummer, dancer, diva, diver . . .

And *more* than one person?
 Think group, crowd, committee—
 the population of a . . .
 place—
 a city.

Think place:
 park, meadow, cloud, court, pool,
 town, state, country, playground, school,
 office, market, street, trail, camp,
 highway, bridge, river, ramp . . .

Think thing:
 flower, flashlight, fire, flea,
 rhino, hippo, chimpanzee,
 color, crayon, water, fish,
 blanket, pillow, bed, dream,
 wish . . .



Nouns

Now use your noun smarts to create a poem of your own. Ask a partner to provide the nouns for "A Noun Poem." Use the list below. When the list is complete, write the nouns in the poem. Do not let your partner see the poem until you are through!

NOUN LIST

1. Noun/Thing _____
2. Noun/Person (classmate) _____
3. Noun/Place _____
4. Noun/Place _____
5. Noun/Person _____
6. Noun/Person _____
7. Noun/Thing _____

A Noun Poem

My _____₁, my _____₁, I love it! It's cool.

I'd like to buy one for _____₂ at school.

I bring mine with me wherever I go,

from _____₃ to _____₄ to Colorado.

My friends _____₅ and _____₆

say a _____₇ is more useful.

But I feel that I must remain truthful:

I will hold my _____₁ close to my heart.

And hope that we never, ever must part!