

# Summer Fun!

Writing Prompts & Bulletin Boards



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**Simon**

I had a whale of a wonderful summer because I got to go to camp for the first time.

We went hiking, canoeing, swimming, biking and did some crafts.

I really liked competing in all of the team games!

We also sang around the campfire and made s'mores.

I made lots of new friends and hope I can go again next year.

Spouting Off About . . .  
taking care of the whales.

Whales are at the top of the food chain and have an important role in the overall health of our marine environment.

Seven out of 13 great whale species are classified as endangered or vulnerable, even after decades of protection.

Please help save the whales.

**Simon**

I had a whale of a wonderful summer!

1. I went camping with my brothers.
2. I went canoeing at summer camp.
3. I learned how to swim.
4. I read 3 books.
5. I road my bike.
6. I stayed up late.
7. I went to the movies.
8. I went tubing down the river.

**Kayla**

Eight fun things I did . . .

I had a whale of a summer!

I had a whale of a great summer!

I went swimming at the city pool with my friends Josh and Gabe.

I attended vacation Bible school at my church.

I got to stay up late and sleep in.

I went fishing with my grandpa Ray at his cabin in Wisconsin.

**Kaiden**

I had a whale of a summer!

I had a whale of a great summer!

My family went to the beach and we had fun swimming into the waves.

We also visited the zoo. My favorite animal was the elephant.

In July I went camping with my best friend Anna. We roasted marshmallows and made s'mores.

I loved going to the fireworks too.

**Kaitlyn**

You're going to have a whale of a fun time in 1st grade because you get to go on a field trip to the zoo!

You'll also learn how to read and write stories.

My favorite part of the day was when we got to do centers.

I also enjoyed learning addition and playing all sorts of math games.

I'm Rachel, and I'm wishing you a whale of a wonderful year!

**Rachel**



The whale that's featured as a freebie in this Summer Writing Packet, comes from my big whale-themed writing craftivity packet on TpT. The 80-page packet is just \$3.95. <http://bit.ly/1QiXZeW> I've included a preview.

# Whale-Themed Beginning & End of the Year Writing Prompt Packet

**Simon**

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## Tiny "Tales" About Summer

You're going to have a whale of a fun time in 1st grade because you get to go on a field trip to the zoo!

You'll also learn how to read and write stories.

My favorite part of the day was when we got to do centers.

I also enjoyed learning addition and playing all sorts of math games.

I'm Rachel, and I'm wishing you a whale of a wonderful year!

**Rachel**

### Spouting Off About ...

taking care of the whales.

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**Kaitlyn**

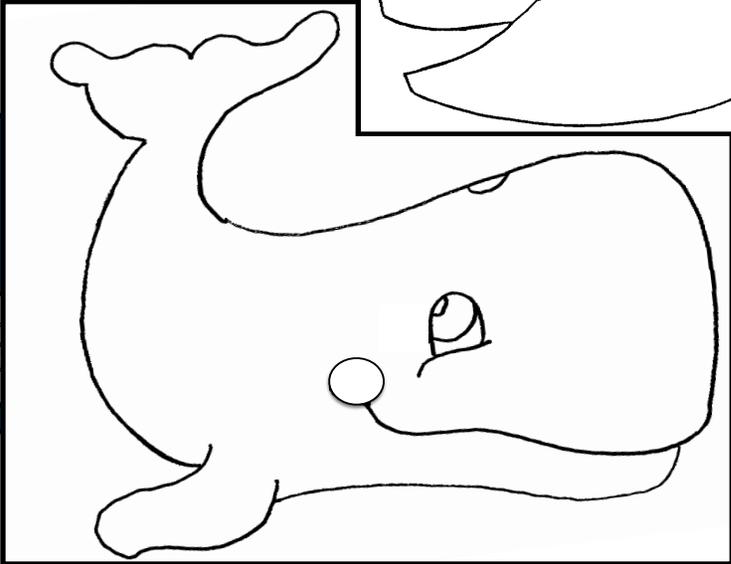
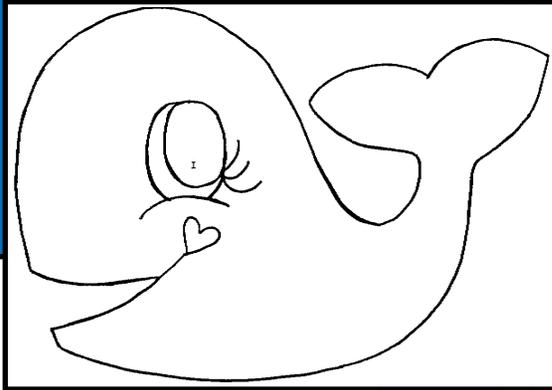
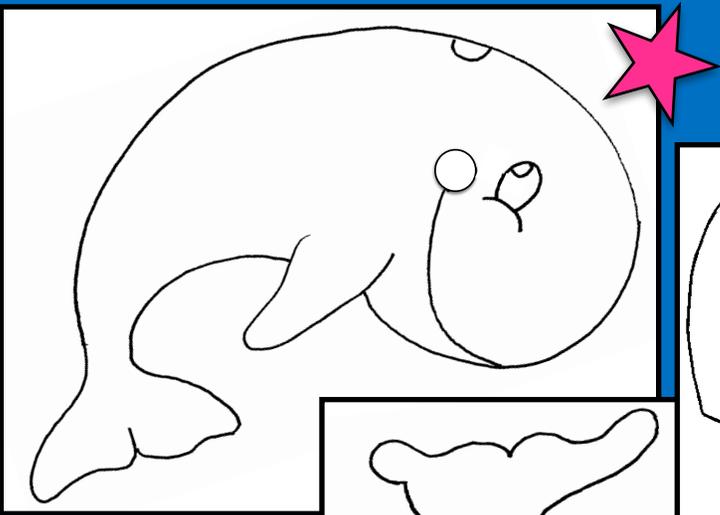
You've been a whale of a great student!

I had a whale of a wonderful summer!

1. I went camping with my brothers.
2. I went canoeing at summer camp.
3. I learned how to swim.
4. I read 3 books.
5. I rode my bike.
6. I stayed up late.
7. I went to the movies.
8. I went tubing down the river.

**Kayla**

Eight fun things I did ...



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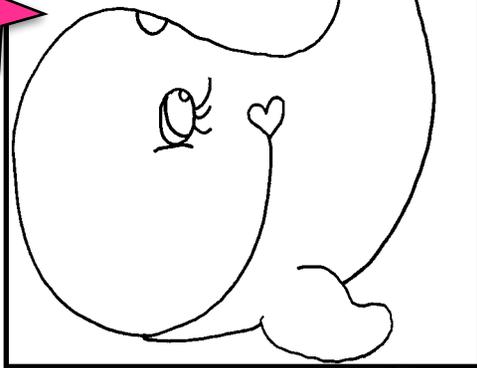
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Kaitlyn

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I had a whale of a



I had a whale of a great summer!

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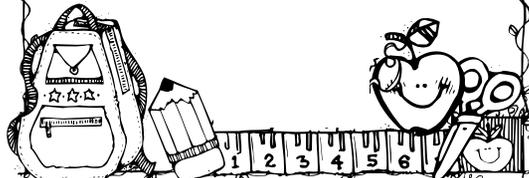
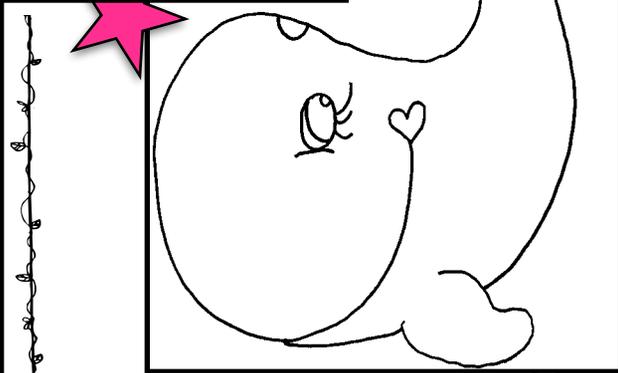
I went fishing with my grandpa Ray at his cabin in Wisconsin.

Kaiden



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Eight fun things I did ...



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# Tiny "Tales" About School



A Class Book By:

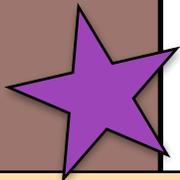
# Tiny "Tales" About Summer



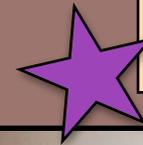
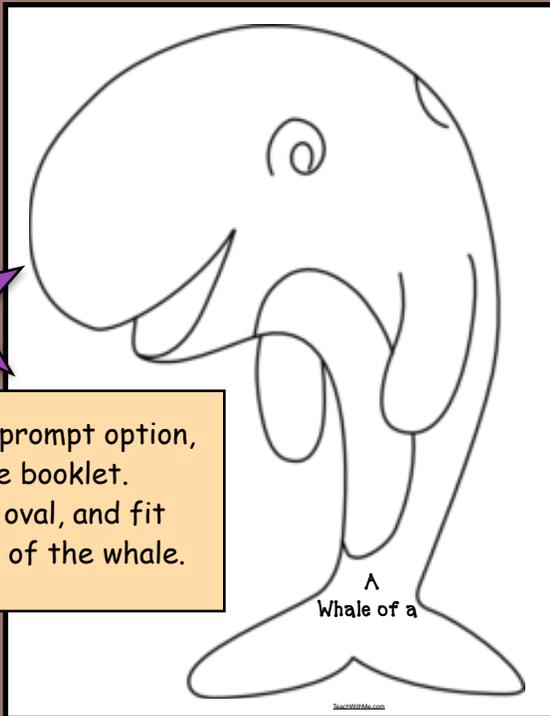
Tiny "Tales" is a mini flip booklet. Each child can contribute a page for a class-made book, or they can make their own individual one.

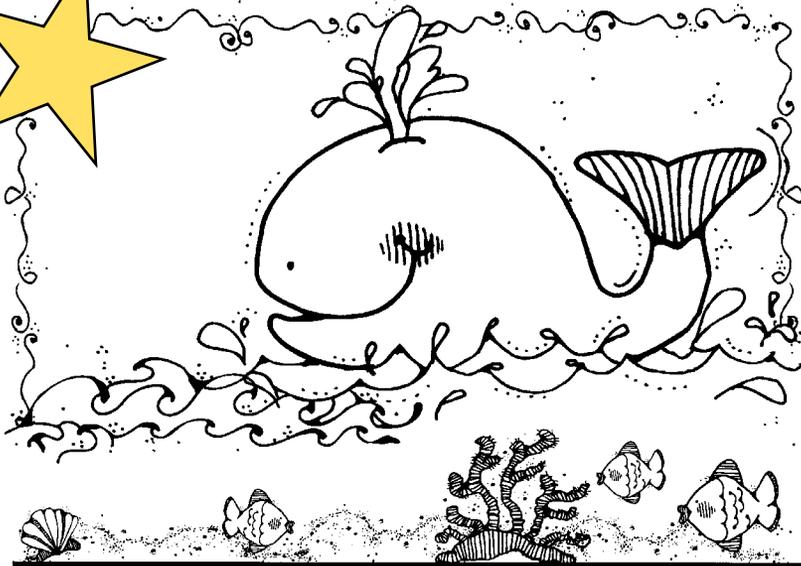
## A Whale of a "Tale" About

Run off the whale's tail pattern on a variety of colors. Children trim and glue to the top of a sheet of writing paper, where they've written a "tale" about school, summer or whatever.



Another writing prompt option, is this shape booklet. The pages are oval, and fit behind the face of the whale.





I had a whale of a great summer.

I'm going to have a whale of a good summer.

I had a whale of a good year.

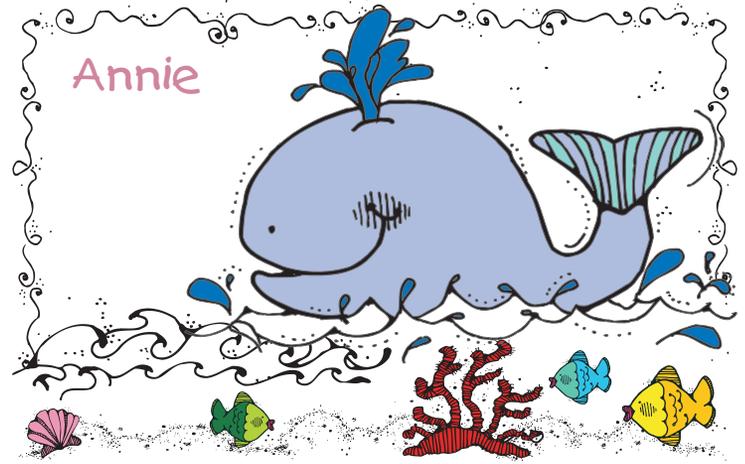
I had a whale of a great time in \_\_\_\_\_ grade.

You're going to have a whale of a good year.

You're going to have a whale of a fun time in \_\_\_\_\_ grade.

I'm going to have a whale of a good year.

Annie



I had a whale of a great time in 1st grade!

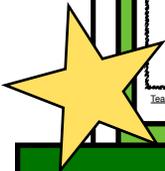
I met my best friend Kiesha. We like a lot of the same things and have fun playing together at recess.

I really liked learning how to read. I love Junie B. Jones books.

I also liked all of the math games we played.

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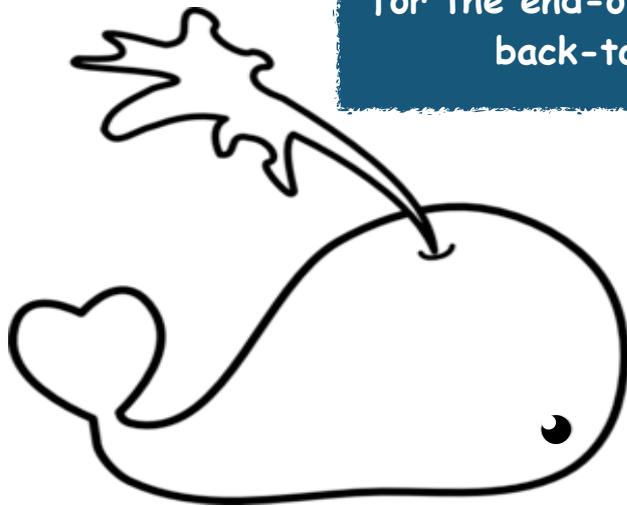


7 "color-me" writing prompt options or make one up of your own.



We had a whale of  
a good time  
this this year!  
A Class Book By:

5 writing prompt cover options  
for the end-of-the-year and  
back-to-school.



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I had a whale of a great year ...

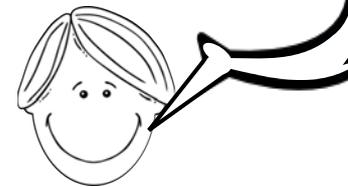
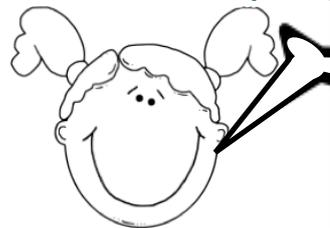
in first grade because I learned  
a lot. My favorite thing that I learned was  
how to read.

I also had a whale of a great year because I  
made lots of friends.

We did many fun activities and even  
went on a field trip to the zoo!  
Now I'm looking forward  
to a whale of a great  
summer.



Students can draw their own face,  
glue on their photo, or choose &  
color one of my face templates.



**"Spout off"** is an idiom, which means to brag or boast about someone or something, or to speak out publicly about someone or something, revealing information.

Negatively, it can mean to speak continuously, so that what a person is saying is long-winded and tedious, or to speak without being knowledgeable considering all of the facts.

Here, the writing prompt should be positive. It's OK to boast about the wonderful year in school that you've had, or the great summer that you've experienced or are looking forward too.

You can also "spout off" about something that concerns you. Such as taking care of endangered species, or protecting whales.

An idiom is a phrase or expression that has a figurative meaning. An idiom's figurative meaning is different from the literal meaning. ("She's pulling my leg.") There are thousands of idioms, and they occur frequently in all languages.

For an excellent list of idioms and their meanings check out this site:  
<http://bit.ly/1AUxqGd>

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Spouting Off!

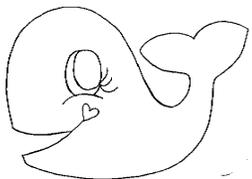
Bookmarks are often less overwhelming for beginning writers.

Spouting Off About ...

Another writing prompt option, is to run off these "water" (spouting off) speech bubbles. Students trim and glue to the top of one of the whales after they've "spouted off", completing the prompt.

Spouting Off!

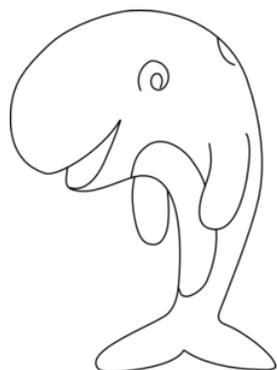
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Wishing you a whale of a wonderful year!

You're going to have a whale of a fun time in

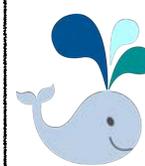
Writing prompt bookmarks for this year's kiddos to write and color for your new students.



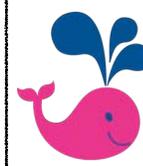
Wishing you a whale of a wonderful summer!



Wishing you a whale of a wonderful summer!



Wishing you a whale of a wonderful summer!



Wishing you a whale of a wonderful summer!

Bookmarks from the teacher.



Wishing you a whale of a wonderful year!



Welcome! Swinning by with a friendly hi.



You've been a whale of a great student!





If you liked this resource,  
you may also like these other activities as well.

*Diane*

### Beginning Or End Of The Year Backpack Writing Prompts

School was great. This is better. I'm all packed up and ready for the summer's here. We had to go!

School was great. This is better. I'm all packed up and ready for the summer's here. We had to go!

School was great and packed with fun. There's a pack of what I've done.

Backpacks. Packed on your back. Help us guess what's in your sack.

School is real and packed on it. Real there's a pack of what I've done!

Real goals are packed on it. Learning and a little on it. Real!

*Diane Henderson*

### Look Who's Leaping! Beginning & End of the Year Frog-Themed Activities

Rabbit! Write it! Read it!

This stuff should be what I learned!

Look who's leaping!

Rachel

is leaping into 2nd grade. Congratulations!

Before we go we'd like you to know...

I left most items of my friends because they will be moving to a different school.

*Diane Henderson*



Thank you so much for buying this product.

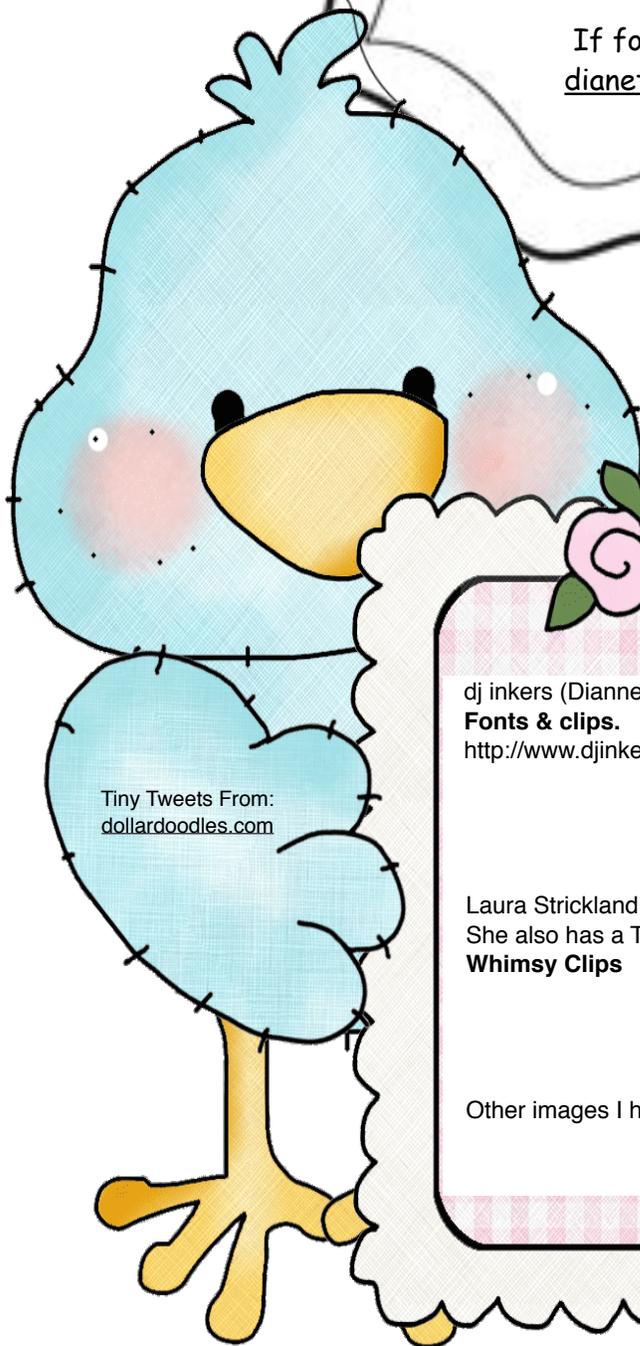
I truly hope you'll love this item & that it will make your life easier & teaching more fun!

To my loyal followers: I promise to post at least one knock-your-socks-off FREEBIE each month!

Please take a moment to leave feedback to earn valuable points, which equal money for future TPT purchases! Woo hoo.

If for any reason you're unhappy, please email me at: [dianetpt@gmail.com](mailto:dianetpt@gmail.com)

Blessings, *Diane*



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**"Believe you can and you're half way there."**

## Double-Duty! Writing Prompts and Bulletin Boards

Are you still in school and looking for something to do, or have you just started summer school and looking for some cool writing prompts, or are you a super-savvy homeschooler who wants to do something fun under the sun? This is the book for you!



### Make A Bucket List!

I had a bucket list when I was in college. It filled up an entire notebook.

Now that I'm "officially" a senior citizen at some restaurants (There are perks to getting old!) my bucket list is not quite that long.

I'm happy to report I've achieved just about everything I've wanted to accomplish in that notebook, and that's a wonderful feeling.

I now have mini-bucket "to-do" lists on a daily basis which triggered this idea.

These colorful sand pail buckets make an adorable bulletin board or hallway display, or can simply be sent home with your students.

If you're homeschooling they are perfect for a summer scrapbook page.

Run off my masters on a variety of brightly colored construction paper and give students a choice of colors. Make sure children choose a DIFFERENT color for their pail and shovel as it makes a nicer contrast and more colorful bulletin board.

You could also do different shades of pink and purple, because if your children are like my Y5's and Sunday school kiddo's the little girls will want all pink or purple "everything!"

Students CUT out their pails and write their name on the back of them. Children also cut out their shovel and write their name on that as well.

If you want to make this even more of a keepsake, add their school picture to the shovel as well. Cut two, 2-inch strips of complimentary-colored construction paper, and glue them together. Mine are 22 inches long.

Glue the ends to the back of the pail on either side, for a 3-D handle. I looped mine down so that it crossed over the written paper, and then I folded the right end down.

Have children brush on Elmer's school glue to the oval section of their pail and then sprinkle on play sand. Set the pails aside to dry.

While the pails are drying, students write their "bucket list" of all the things they want to do during the summer and then glue the list to the bottom of their sand pail.

Mount the pails on the bulletin board or wall with the shovels leaning against them. Use light brown paper as a background so that it looks like a beach or big sandbox.

Two or three paper seagulls suspended from fish line, flying overhead, complete the picture. The caption: ***Our Summer Bucket List***

You could expand this idea and have a "not fun" bucket list for another day of writing.

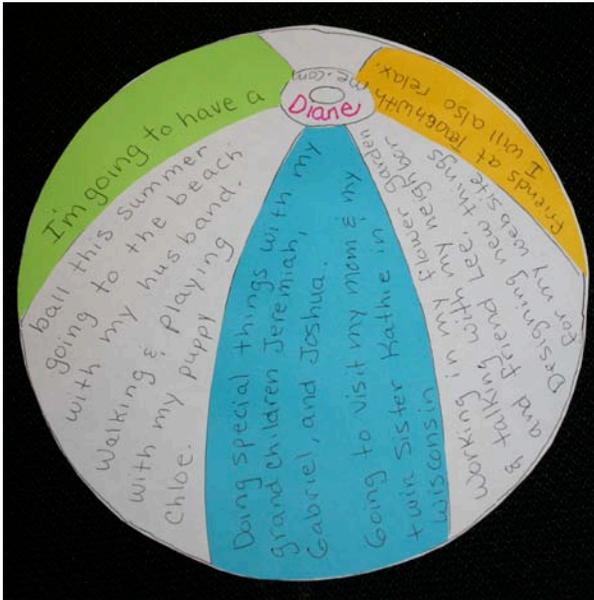
This would be a list of things students have to get done over the summer that they don't really want to do, like clean their rooms, do yard work, etc. For these buckets and shovels they would pick colors they don't like.

I've made two kinds of sand pails. One has the "bucket list" printed right on the pail, the other is plain and students cut and glue their list to the bucket. I like the contrasting look of the white paper on the construction paper bucket.

It also allows me to set aside the wet sand buckets while the students write their bucket list. It's totally up to you.

If you opt for the printed bucket, you could cut ovals for the sand pails and have students "paint" glue on those and then sprinkle sand on them and then set the ovals aside to later be glued on to the sand pails and then students could write on the pails while the ovals were drying.

Have students do their rough drafts on a sheet of scratch paper, and then copy them with pretty colored markers.



## Having A Ball This Summer:

A little bit different twist to the above activity is to use a beach ball instead of a sand pail. Run off my master and have students fill in the writing prompt: ***"I'm going to have a ball this summer doing..."***

Children have the option of writing their list on the balls and then coloring them, or cutting out brightly colored pieces of construction paper and gluing them to the beach ball like a puzzle and then writing on them.

The easiest way for them to do this, is to give them two copies of the white beach ball and three 5x7 sheets of 3 different colors of construction paper of their choice.

One of the white beach balls will be their template, the other one they will lay on top of a piece of construction paper and cut out the desired colored piece and then glue it to the white template.

After they have glued all of their pieces down, they write their prompt: ***"I'm going to have a ball..."*** and then cut out their beach ball. Students write their name in a pretty colored marker around the small circle on the ball.

Put royal blue paper on your bulletin board, gently scrunch up some light blue tissue paper and arrange it in long rows to look like waves and then staple it across the board.

Tuck the beach balls in and on top of the waves. Purchase 3 beach balls at The Dollar store, blow them up and suspend them with fish line from the ceiling.

Write: ***Having A / Ball This / Summer!*** on 3 different index cards. Use a thick black magic marker. Put scotch tape on the back of the index cards and stick them to the beach balls.

If the balls spin around so that you can't read them, make another set of cards for the backs of the balls.

If you want to do the pail as well as the beach ball, then have the beach ball be about friends they are going to do things with.



## **A Whale Of A Good Time:**

This is along the same lines as the above. If you want to do this writing prompt too, have them write about the places they will go.

You can make one huge whale and give each student a blue wave to fill out, and then put the waves around your whale, or you can give each child their own whale and the writing prompt paper for them to complete and then arrange these on a bulletin board that's covered with blue paper.

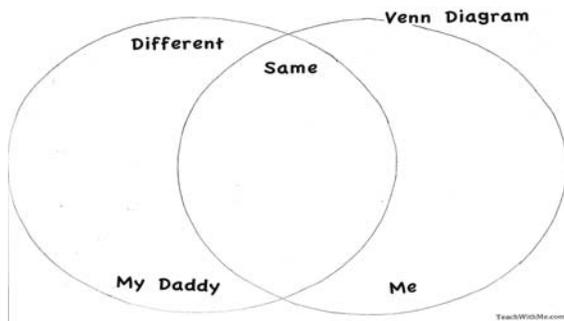
To make the whales more personal, cut your students' school picture out as an oval, children glue the photo to a white oval, and then glue the white oval to a blue oval. Students glue the eye to their black whale.

Wiggle eyes also look cute. Students can add a red heart sticker for a cheek or use a crayon to color one in. Students also cut out a blue wave and glue it to the back of their whale.

Write child's name with a silver sharpie on the largest part of the wave.

I like to add a spray of water coming out of the spout. To add even more pizzazz, add silver glitter glue for the water. You can also add a bit of white glitter to the tops of the blue waves as well.

Students glue their whales to the top of their paper and trace the writing prompt with a blue marker and complete the thought with a list of things they are going to have a whale of a good time doing for the summer.



## Happy Father's Day Venn Diagram Comparison:

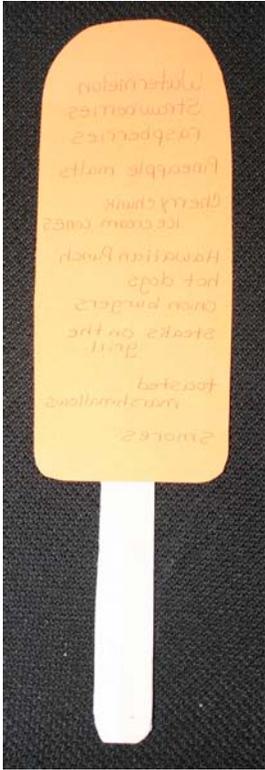
Brainstorm with your students how they are the same and different from their dads. A fun way to do this is with a Venn diagram.

I like to use 2 brightly colored hula-hoops to do this, and then write words on index cards.

I then transfer this information to the white board so that students are seeing it again, and can copy what applies to them on their own Venn diagram.

As an added writing extension students could also compare their grandpa's with their dads. After they make their Venn Diagrams have them draw a picture of their dad and themselves/grandpa inside the diagram.

This makes a cute card to give to their dad's on Father's Day by adding "*We may be different, but we are also the same, and this you know is true: I LOVE you!*"



## The Sweet Taste of summer:

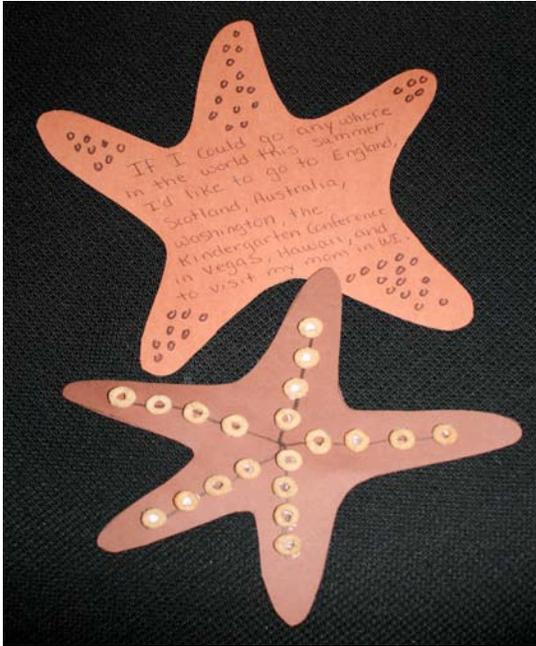
Brainstorm with your students of all the fun things they like to eat during the summer that are a bit different than the foods they eat during other months, such as Popsicles, ice cream, things cooked on the grill, stuff they take on a picnic, watermelon, strawberries, etc.

Run off my master of a Popsicle. Students cut them out and write their favorite things to eat during the summer.

When they are done, tape a large Popsicle stick to the back of their work. Buy a checkered tablecloth at The Dollar Store, cut it into a small rectangle to look like a picnic table and staple it to your b. board.

Arrange the Popsicle sticks around the table as a border in a crisscross fashion. The caption: *The Sweet Taste Of Summer*

Or... cover your b. board with blue paper. Cut out two Peach lips. (One top and one bottom) Make these so that the mouth looks open. Cut out a long pink tongue. Place the Popsicles in and around the mouth.



## Wishing On A Summer Star:

Brainstorm with your students some of the places they'd like to go during the summer, if they could go anywhere in the world. Write them on the white board.

Run off my masters of the starfish on two different shades of light brown construction paper. Each student will need one of each color.

Children cut out their starfish. On the larger, front view one, they complete the writing prompt: "***If I could go anywhere in the world this summer I'd like to go to...*** and list all the places they'd like to visit.

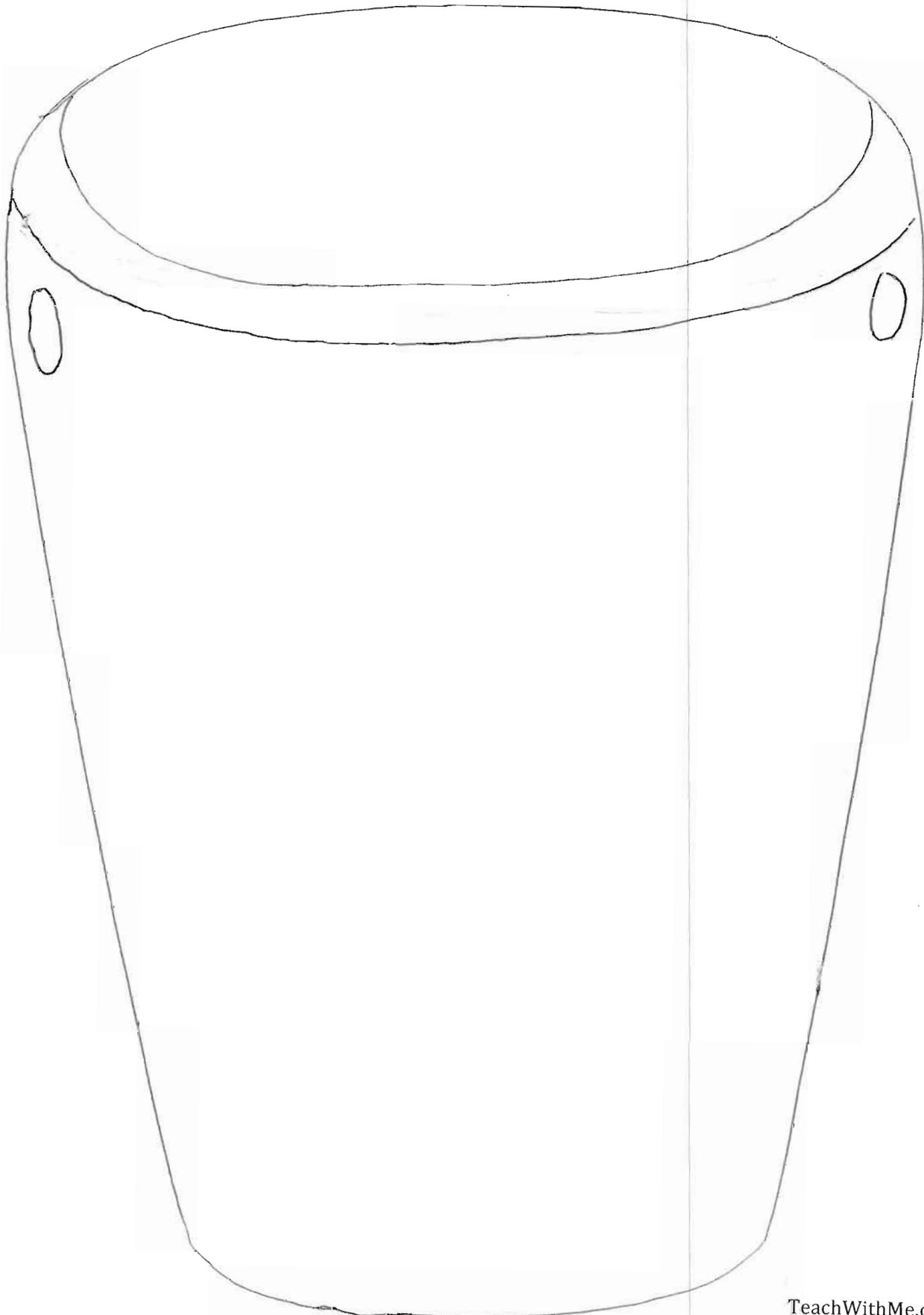
On the other smaller back of the starfish, they glue Cheerie-O's on the lines, for a nice 3-D touch. Glue the two stars together in a kitty wampus way.

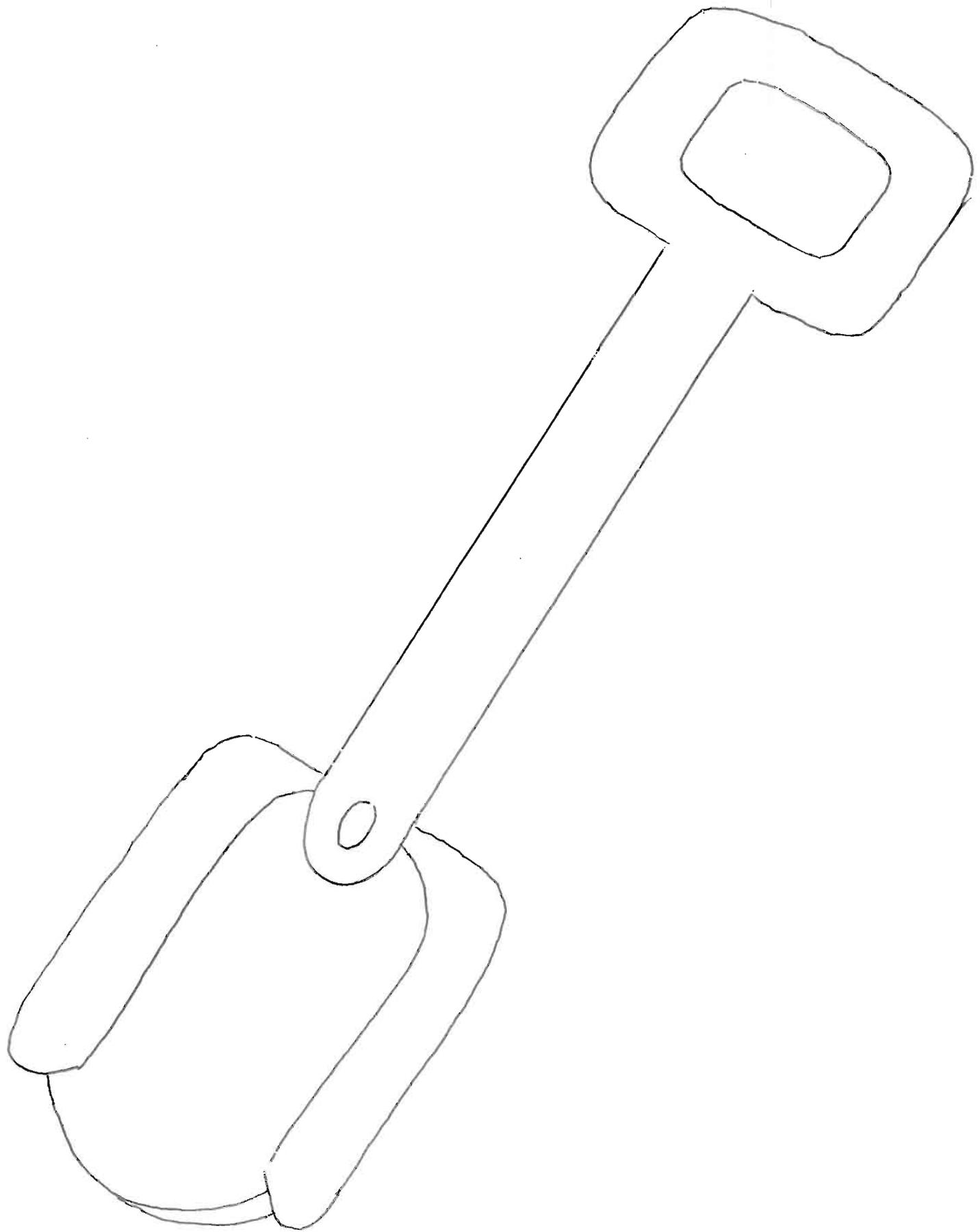
Put light blue paper on your bulletin board. Buy a fish net from The Dollar store and staple it diagonally in the middle of the board.

Sprinkle the starfish on the net. Caption: ***Wishing On A Summer Star***

I hope these ideas will excite your students and get them to WANT to write.

Wishing you a summer that simply sizzles!



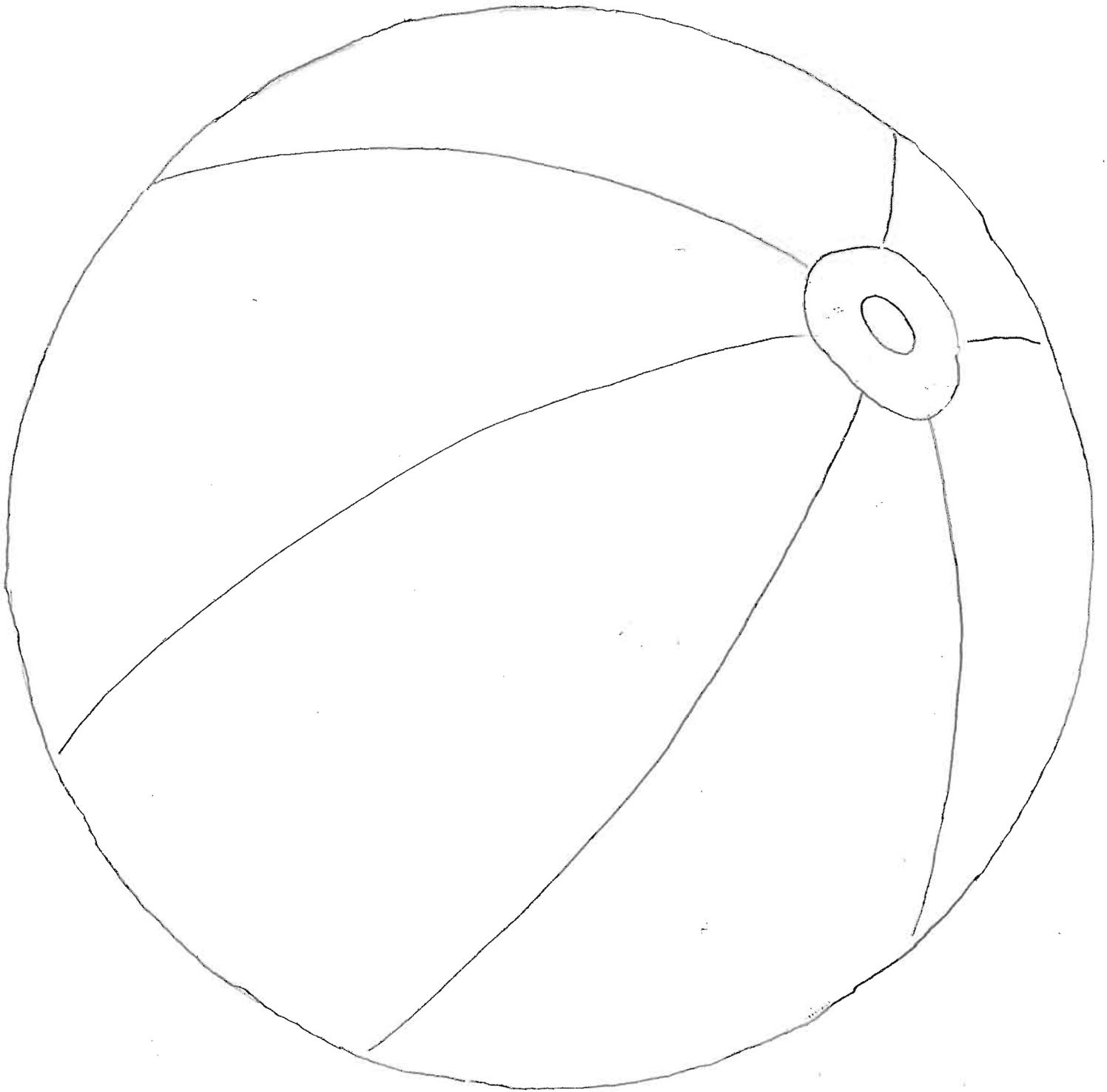


My Bucket List

My Bucket List



My Bucket List



# Venn Diagram

**Different**

**Same**

**My Daddy**

**Me**

# Venn Diagram

**Different**

**Same**

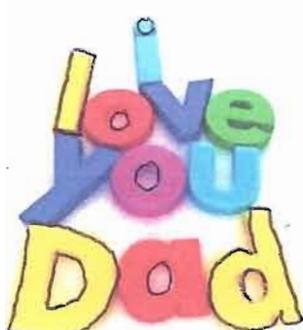
**My Daddy**

**My Grandpa**

*"We may be different,  
but we are also the same,  
and this you know is true:  
I LOVE you!"*

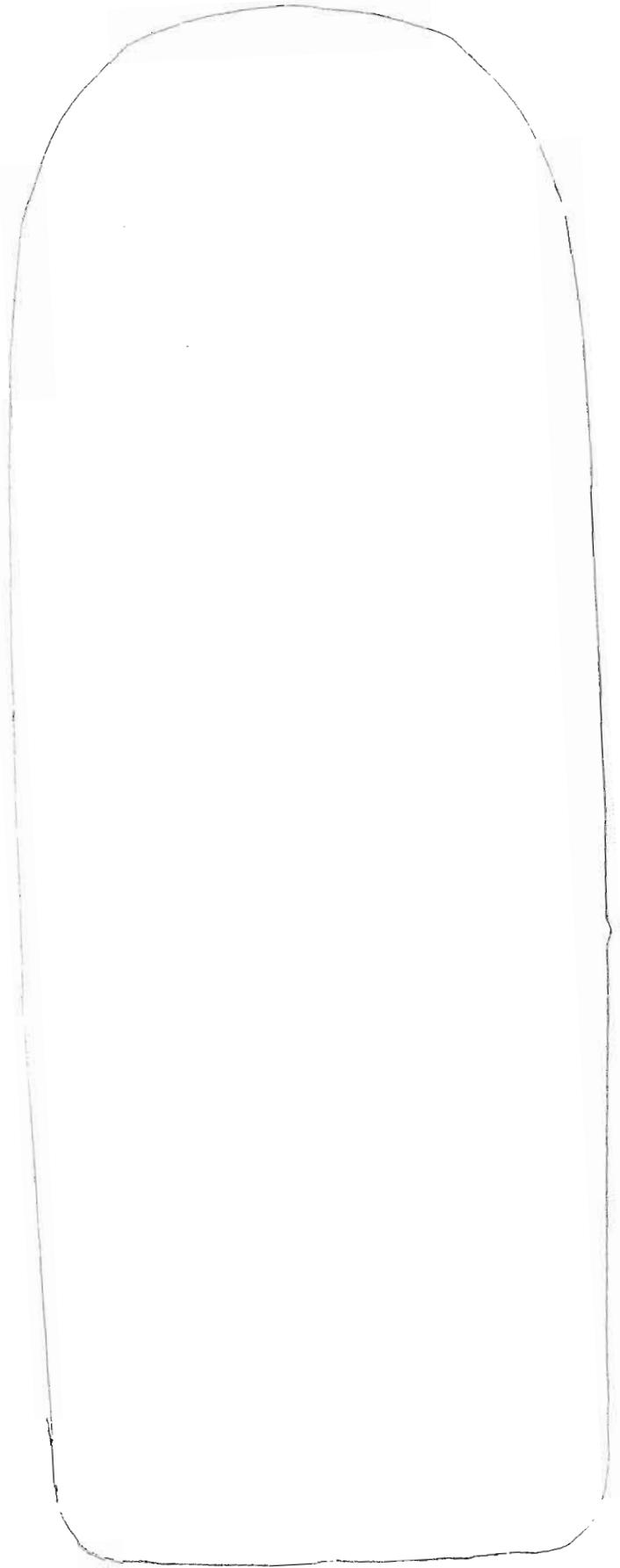
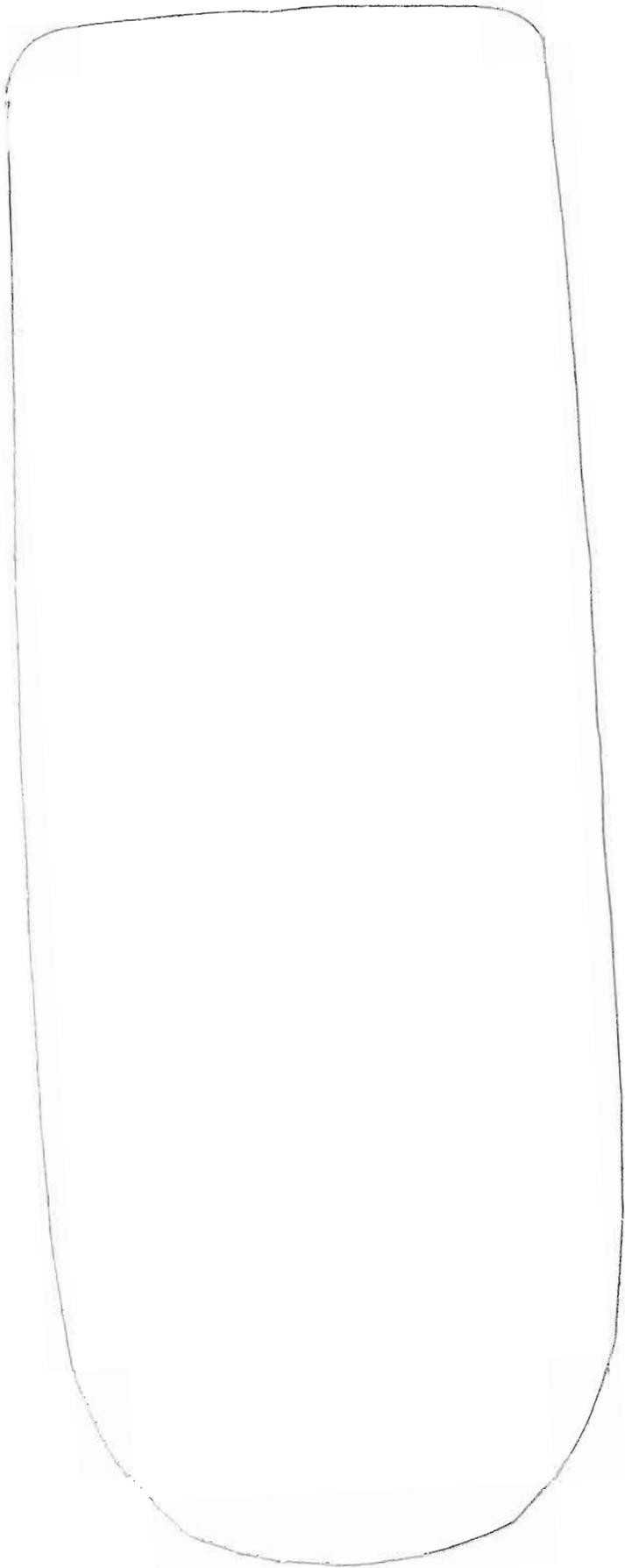
*Happy Father's Day*

*Love,*

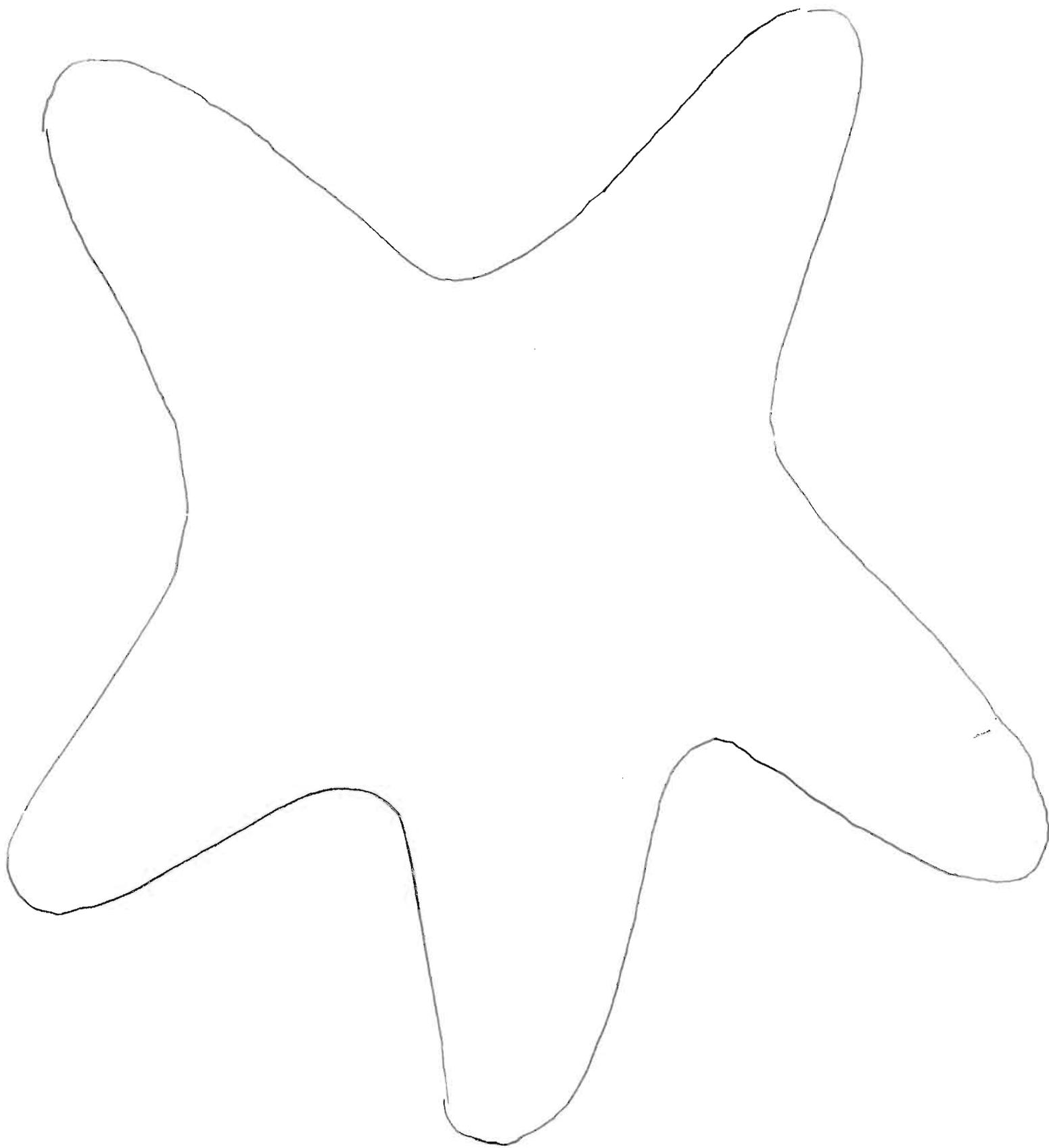


Watermelon  
Strawberries  
raspberries  
Pineapple malts  
Cherry chunk  
ice cream cones  
Hawaiian Punch  
hot dogs  
onion burgers  
Steaks on the  
grill  
toasted  
marshmallows  
Smores

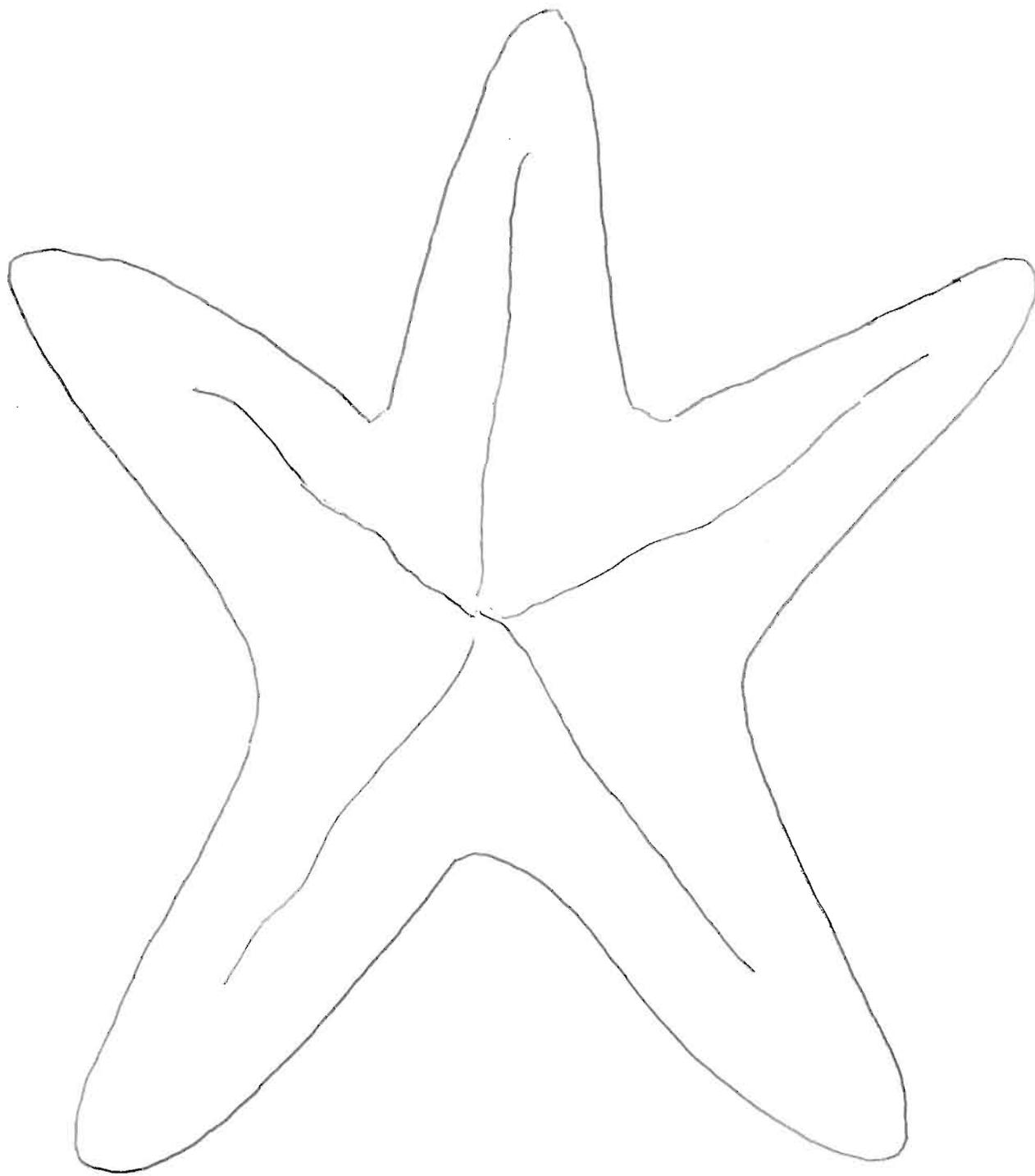
Popsicles Run Off on a variety of colors



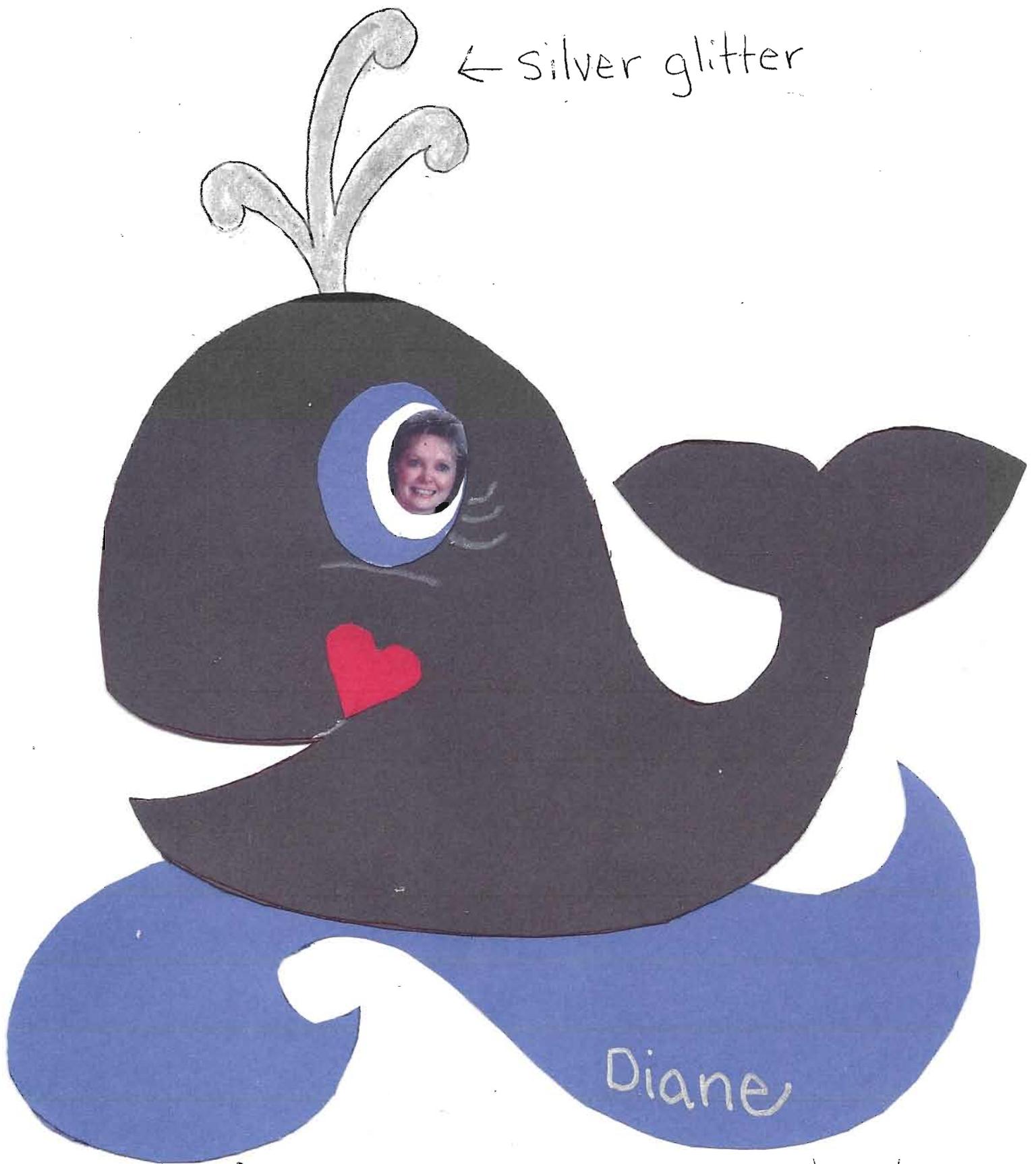
The Sweet Taste of Summer



Wishing On a Summer Star

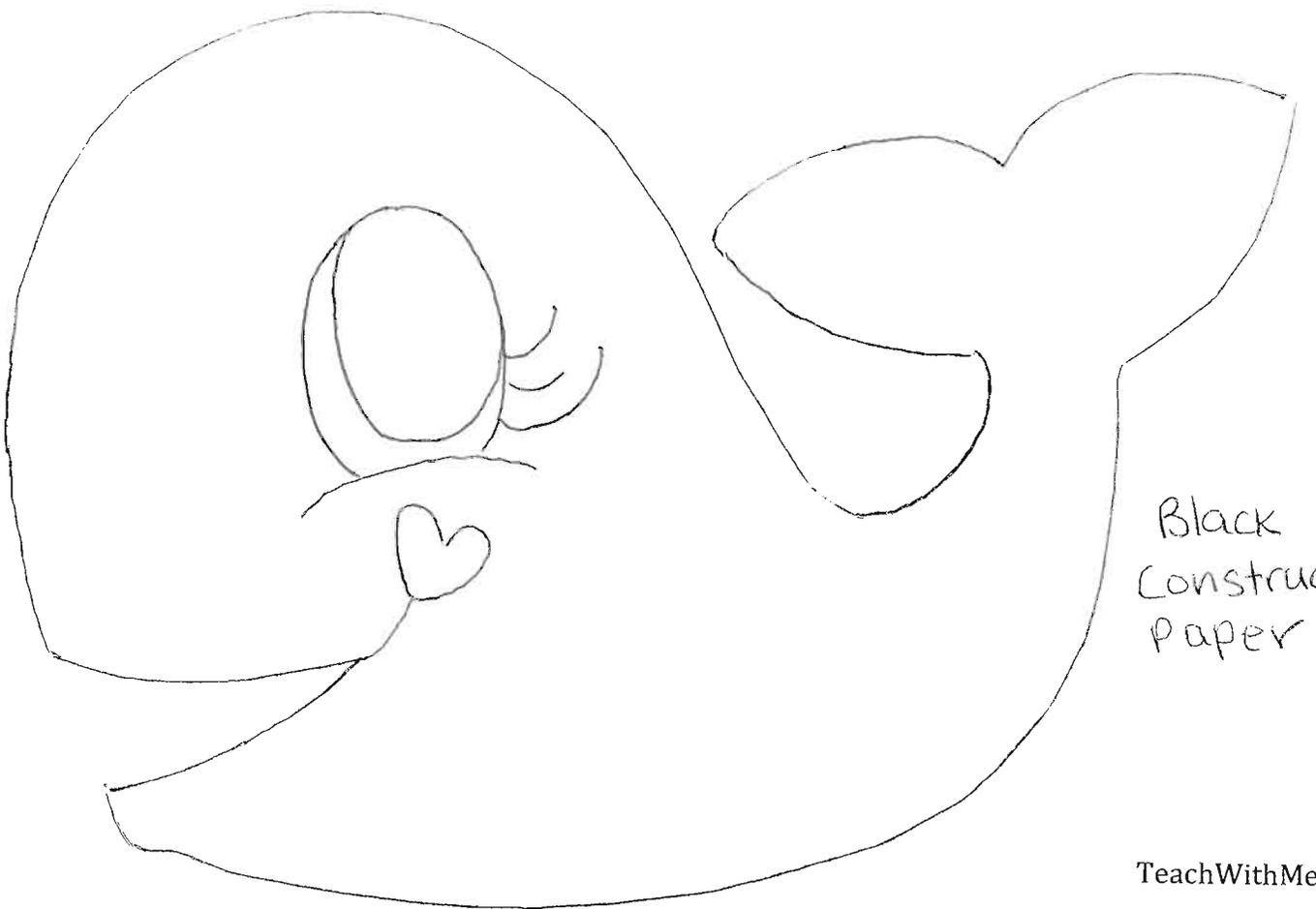
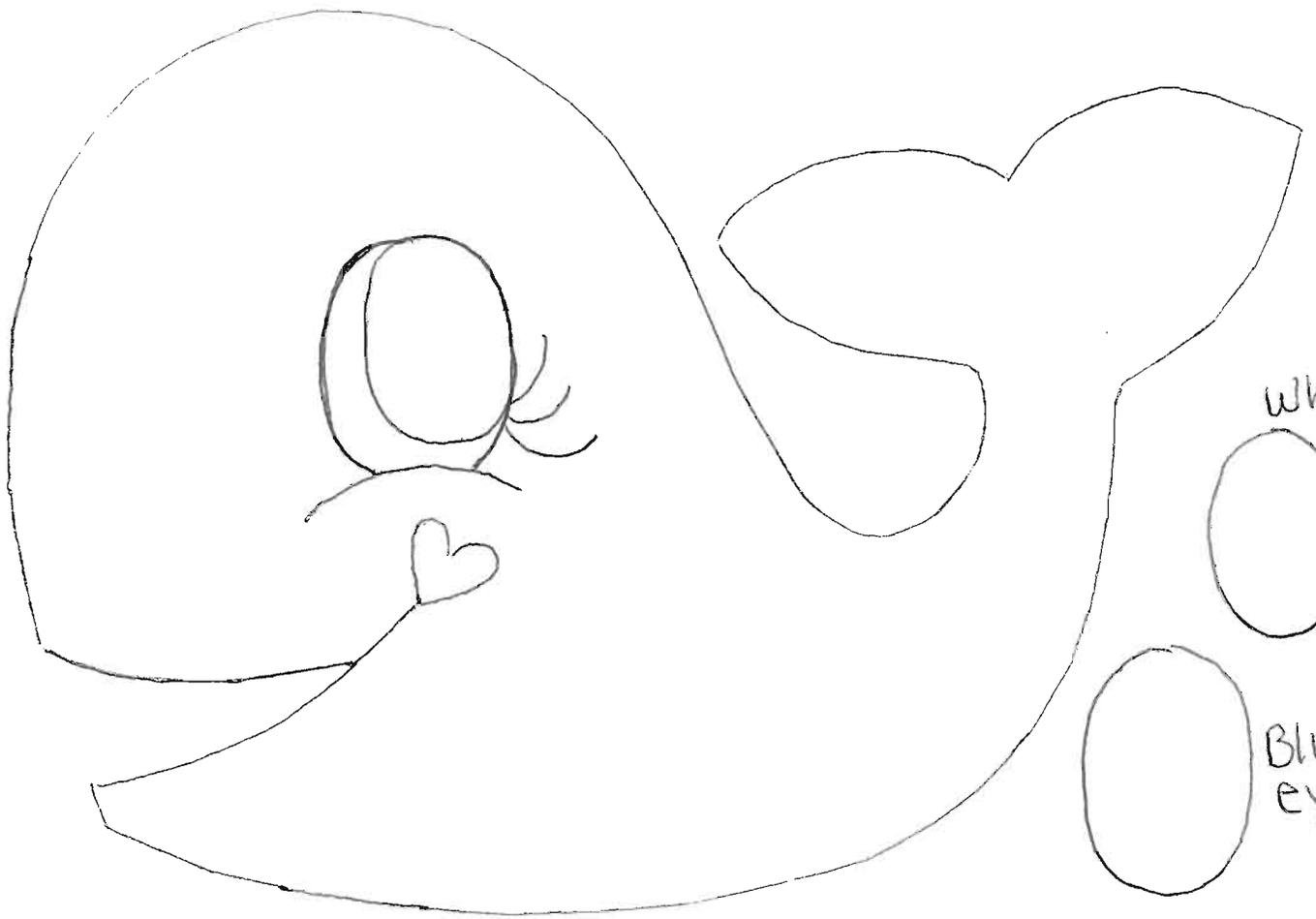


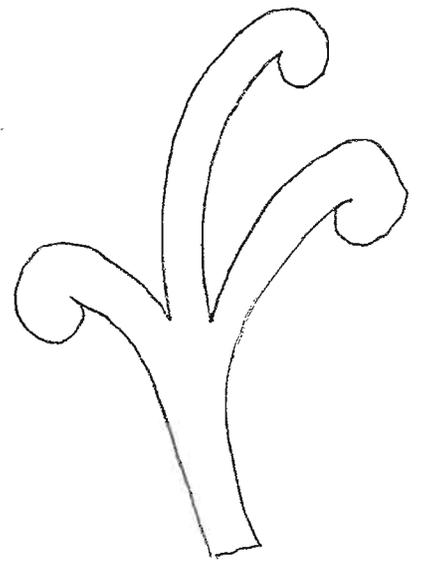
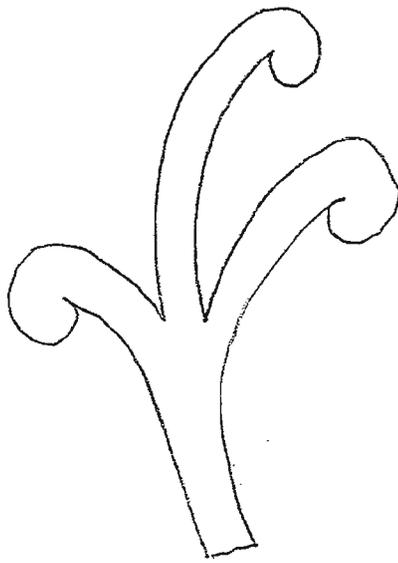
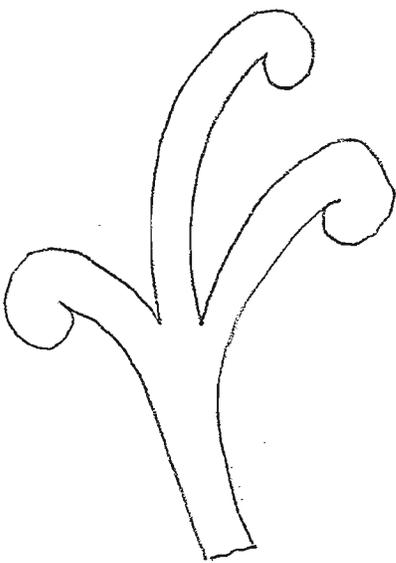
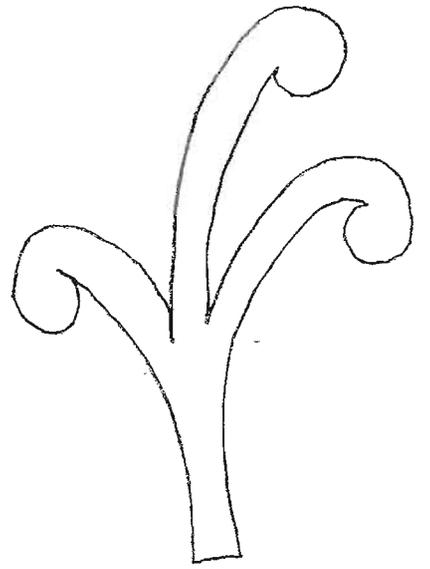
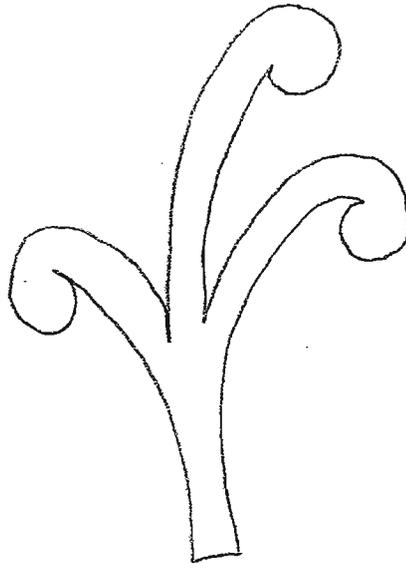
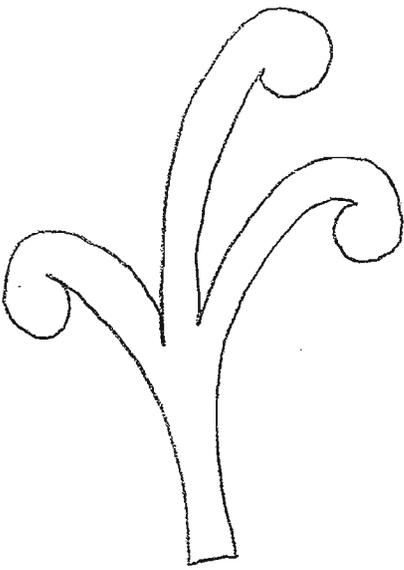
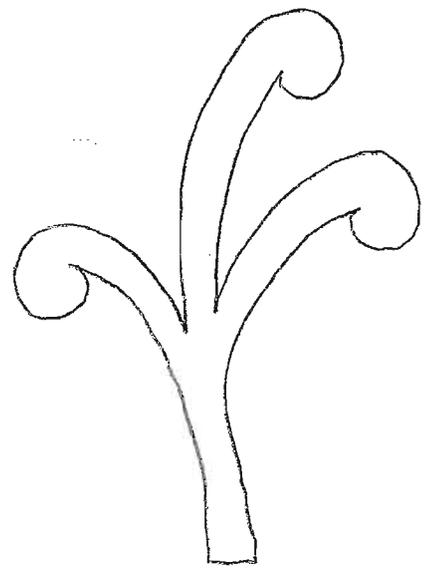
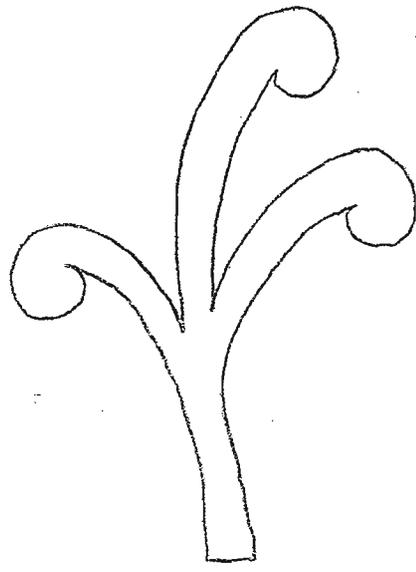
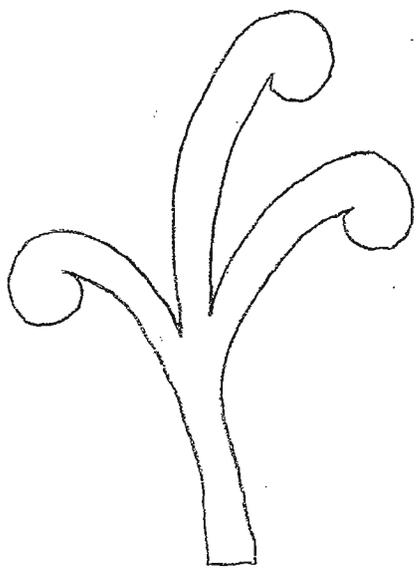
Wishing On a Summer Star



← silver glitter

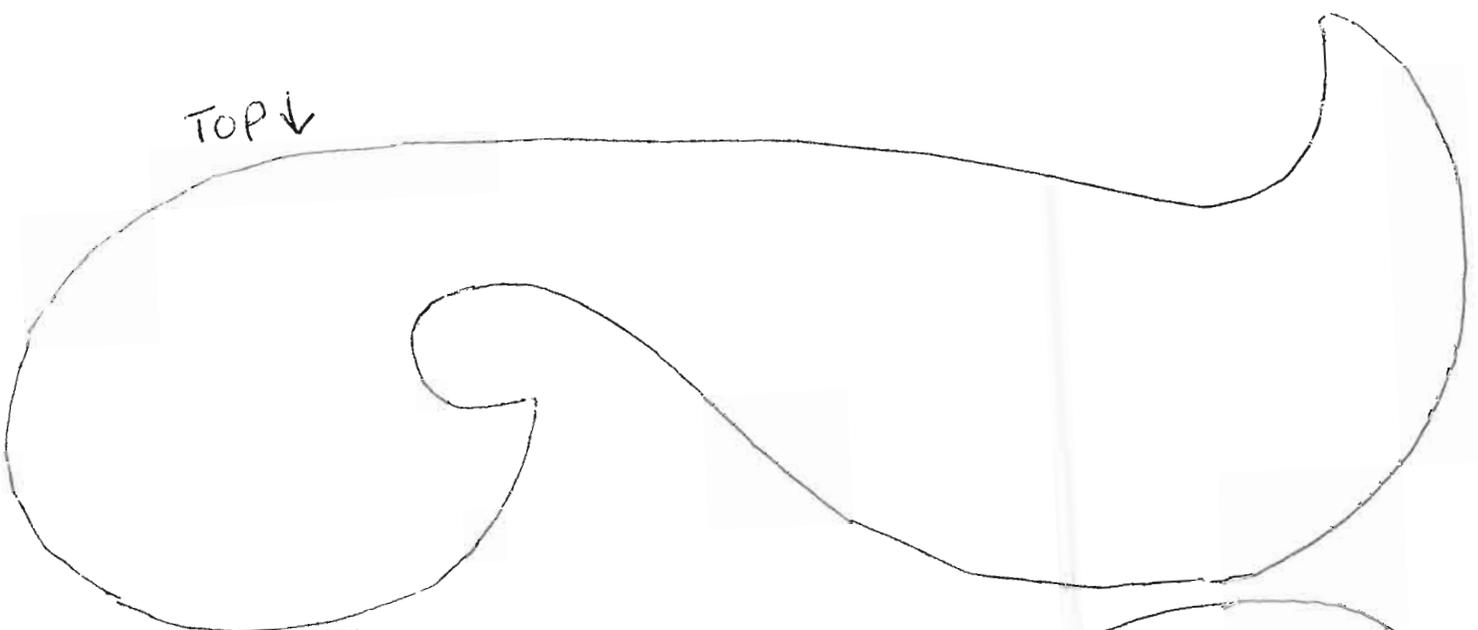
↑ you could also add a touch of white glitter to the edges of the waves.



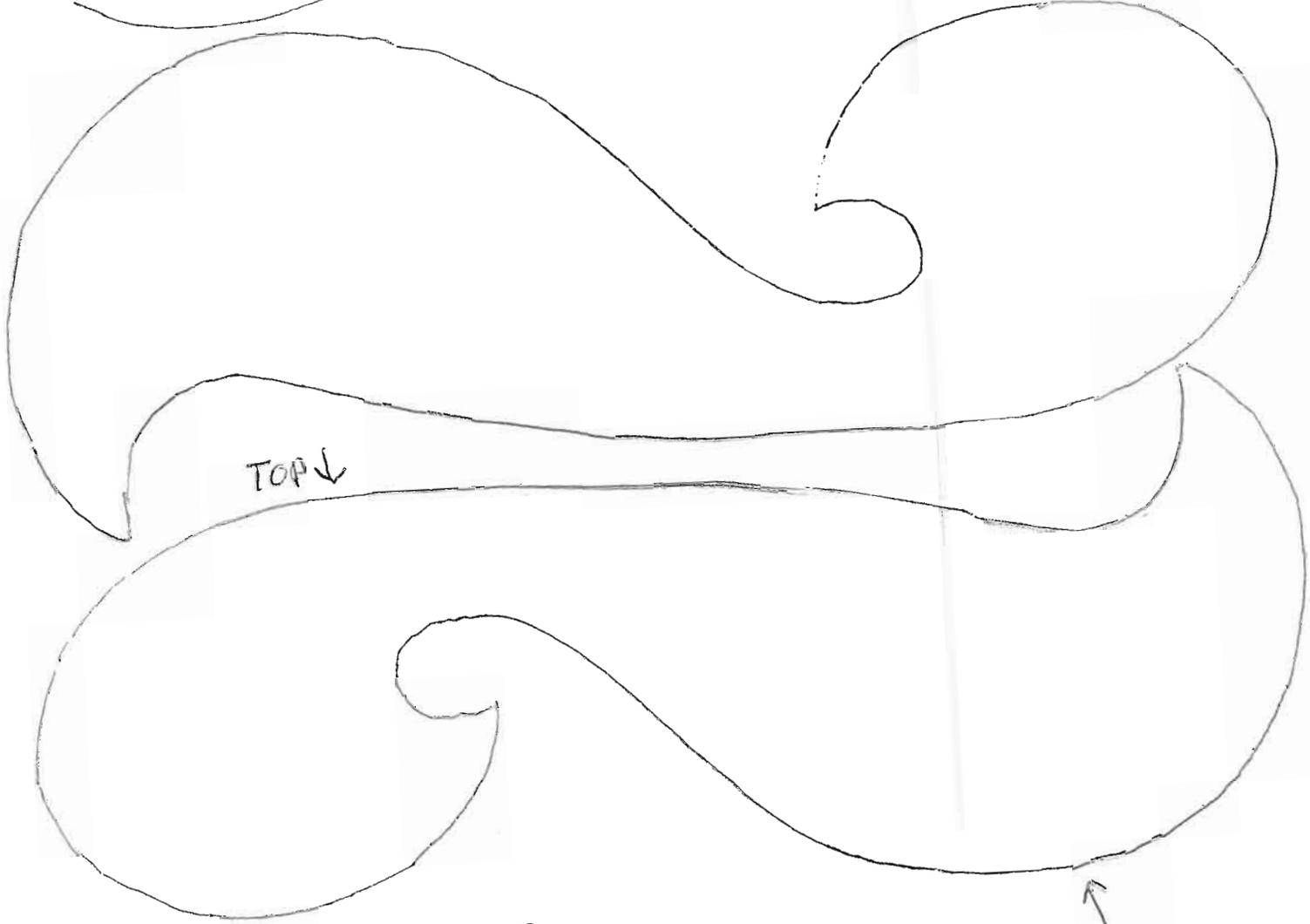


White Construction Paper  
cut & cover w/ silver glitter.

TOP ↓



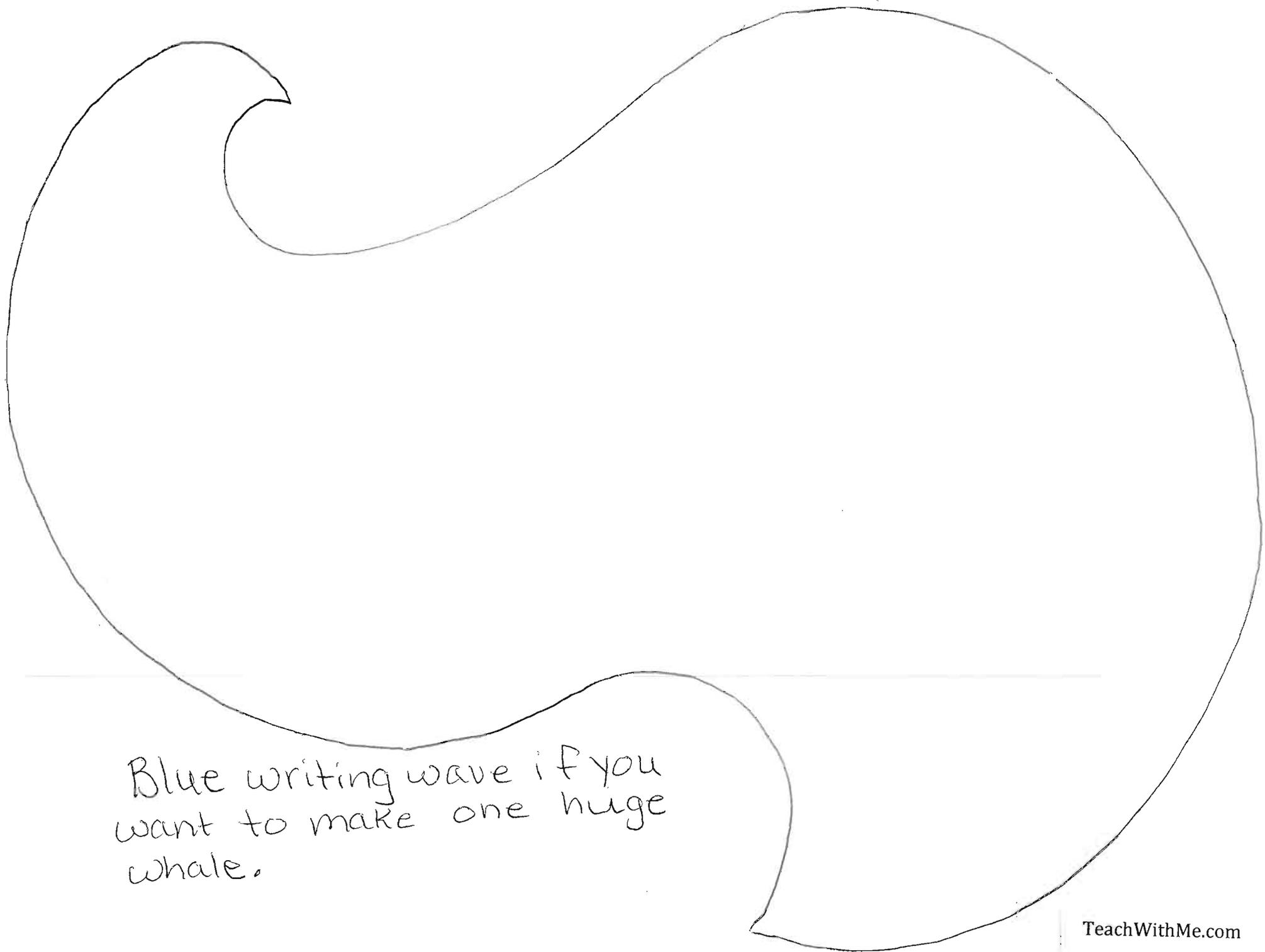
TOP ↓



Blue Construction Paper  
Whale Of A Great Summer - wave

↑ write name here in silver/white sharpie.

I'm going to have  
a whole of a  
great summer



Blue writing wave if you  
want to make one huge  
whale.