

Book Study:



# KATHERINE JOHNSON

BY THEA FELDMAN

Literacy activities created by:

The Curriculum Corner



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## What I've learned about Katherine Johnson's Childhood

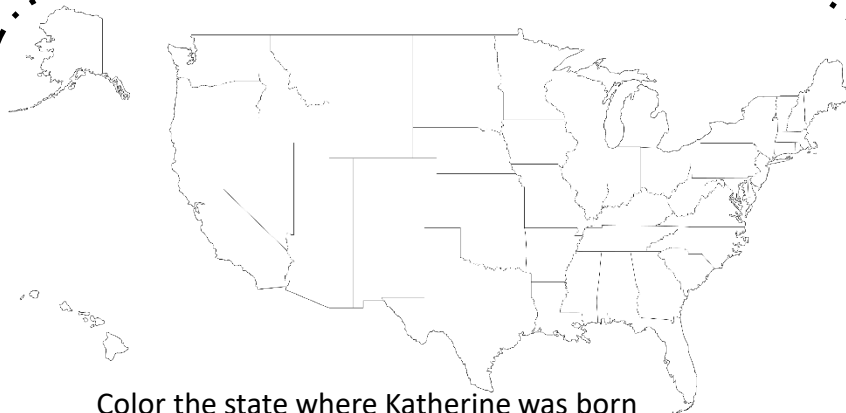
Find facts and complete the graphic organizer. You will need to use the book and research on-line to find the answers.

Katherine Johnson was born in

\_\_\_\_\_  
(place)

Birth date: \_\_\_\_\_

What do we learn about Katherine's parents?



Color the state where Katherine was born  
blue. Color the state where you live red.

Why was it difficult for Katherine and  
her siblings to attend high school?

**August 26, 1918**

Katherine Coleman was born in White Sulfur Springs, West Virginia.

**Fall 1928**

Katherine began high school in the town of Institute, West Virginia.

**Fall 1933**

Katherine began attending West Virginia State College at the age of 15.

**Spring 1937**

Katherine graduated from college with a degree in mathematics and French.

**Fall 1937**

Katherine began teaching at a school in Marion, Virginia.

**1939**

Katherine married James Francis Goble. They had three daughters.

**1953**

Katherine was hired as a mathematician at NACA (National Committee for Aeronautics.) She was quickly transferred to the flight research division.

**1956**

Katherine's husband died of a brain tumor.

**1958**

NACA became NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration.)

**1959**

Katherine married  
James Johnson.

**1961**

Katherine was responsible  
for plotting the path of Alan  
Shepard as he traveled into  
space.

**1962**

Katherine was responsible  
for checking the computer's  
math for sending John Glenn  
around the earth.

**1969**

Katherine helped perform  
calculations when Apollo 11  
traveled to the moon.

**1970**

Katherine helped the crew of  
the Apollo 13 return to earth  
when the ship malfunctioned  
in space.

**1986**

Katherine retired from  
NASA.

**November 2015**

President Obama presented  
Johnson with the  
Presidential Medal of  
Freedom.

**September 2017**

NASA honored Katherine  
with naming a new research  
building after her.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## The Life of Katherine Johnson

Create a timeline. Research to find 7 events that you feel are an important part of Katherine Johnson's life.  
You will need to write the dates on the timeline and then write about the event in the box.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.

7.



**intelligent**

**courageous**

**hard worker**

**curious**

**positive**

**disciplined**

**humble**

**cooperative**

**determined**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

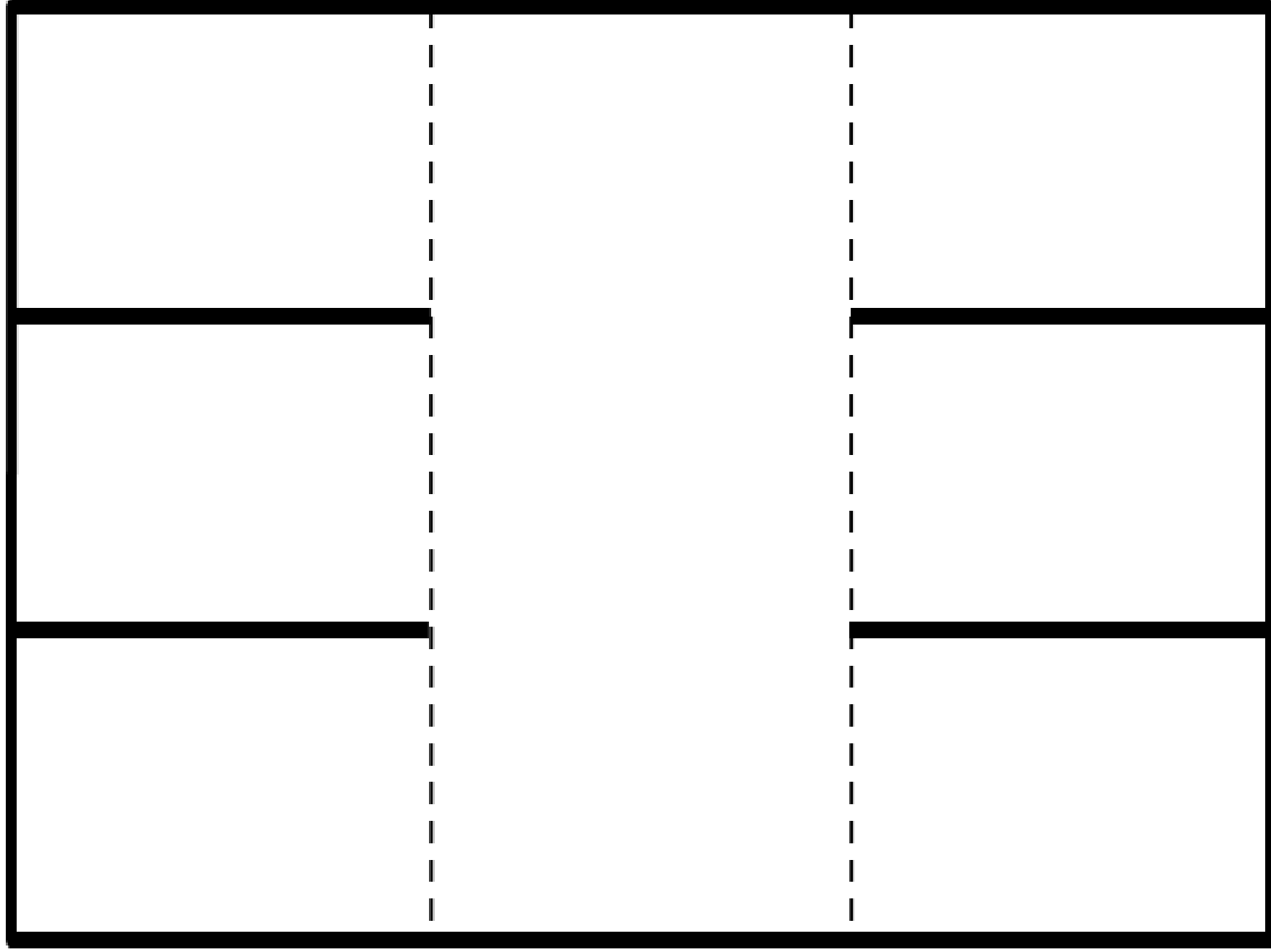
## Supporting Your Beliefs

Use the book to complete the graphic organizer.

One word  
that can  
describe  
Katherine  
is:

Share three events or ideas from the book that support your word.





Why do you think Katherine Johnson  
is considered a role model?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Why do you think it is important for  
us to learn about Katherine  
Johnson's life?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

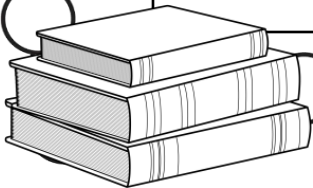
# Making Connections

## Text-to-World Connection

something from the text

something from the world

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

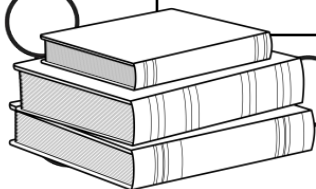
# Making Connections

## Text-to-Self Connection

something from the text

something from my life

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Thinking about Katherine

What do you know about the history of space travel in our country?	SCHEMA
Share how you felt as you read pages 10 and 11, what you saw in your head & questions you have.	THINKING
Share what connections you can make to the reading. (It might be about school or a challenge you have faced.)	CONNECTIONS
Share how your thinking has changed or what you understand now that you did not before. Or, share how what you have read has made you feel.	SYNTHESIZING



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Author: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Problem & Solution**

A problem Katherine faced:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

This is what the text told me  
about the problem:

This is what the text told me  
about the solution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

You're as good as anybody. But you're no better.

~ Katherine's Father



Katherine Johnson

Share three words that you would use to describe Katherine Johnson's childhood.

Katherine's father used to say to her:

You're as good as  
anybody. But you're  
no better.

What is a skill you have? What can you do to become better at that skill?

What is an obstacle Katherine had to overcome?

Page 4

Use pictures to show how one of Katherine's mentors made an impact on her life.

Page 9

Katherine had to work very hard.

Share two examples in the book that show she worked hard to reach her goal.

Working Hard to Be Successful

Page 8

Use words and pictures to show one way Katherine has been recognized.

Page 5

Katherine had people who worked to help her reach her potential. Tell about one of those people.

Mentors



Use pictures to show your answers.

Page 7 Katherine has overcome many obstacles. Share two obstacles she worked to overcome.

Overcoming Obstacles



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Continue your Learning

Katherine Johnson was a mathematician at NASA when space travel was new in our world. Research to find an important event that occurred in space travel. Find two facts to share to help others learn about this event.

The event  
was:



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Continue your Learning

Katherine Johnson was a mathematician at NASA when space travel was new in our world. Research to find an important event that occurred in space travel. Find four facts to share to help others learn about this event.

The event was:	

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Cause & Effect

Name two events that happened in Katherine's life. Next, write the effect each event had on Katherine's life.

Cause	Effect

CAUSE

EFFECT

Katherine could  
already read  
when she  
started school.

She skipped first  
grade.

Katherine would  
finish her  
homework first in  
her family.

She would help her  
siblings with their  
homework.

Katherine's father  
felt that it was  
important for all of  
his children to attend  
high school.

Her father moved her  
family to Institute,  
West Virginia where  
there was an African  
American high school.

Katherine skipped  
two grades in  
elementary school.

She started high school when she was ten.

Katherine took every math class her college offered.

One of her professors created new math classes just for her.

When she graduated in 1937, it was difficult for African American women to find good jobs other than nursing or teaching.

Michaela's first job was teaching French and piano to elementary children.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

Share something Katherine's parents did that showed they were determined.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

Share something Katherine's parents did that showed they were determined.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

Share evidence that Katherine is a persistent person.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

Share evidence that Katherine is a persistent person.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

How do you know that Katherine had a positive attitude?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

How do you know that Katherine had a positive attitude?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

What has Katherine done that will inspire you in your life?

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Reading Response

What has Katherine done that will inspire you in your life?

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Name:

3-2-1

The topic is:

3 things I learned

2 questions I have

1 opinion I have

Name:

3-2-1

The topic is:

3 things I learned

2 questions I have

1 opinion I have

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



# What would she say?

What would Katherine say to her followers on Facebook?  
Write two Facebook posts you think she would share.

Two sets of horizontal lines for writing Facebook posts, separated by a dashed line.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Making Words

Use the letters in the word below to make new words. List all of the real words you think of.

## MATHEMATICIAN

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Katherine

Coleman

was

born

in

White Sulfur  
Springs, West  
Virginia

on

August  
26, 1918

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Katherine

skipped

the

first

and

fifth

grades

of school

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Katherine

started

college

when

she

was

15

years old

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Katherine's

mathematical

skills

helped

NASA

send  
Americans

to

space

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At

the

age of

97

Katherine

received

the

Presidential  
Medal of  
Freedom

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NASA

named

a

new

building

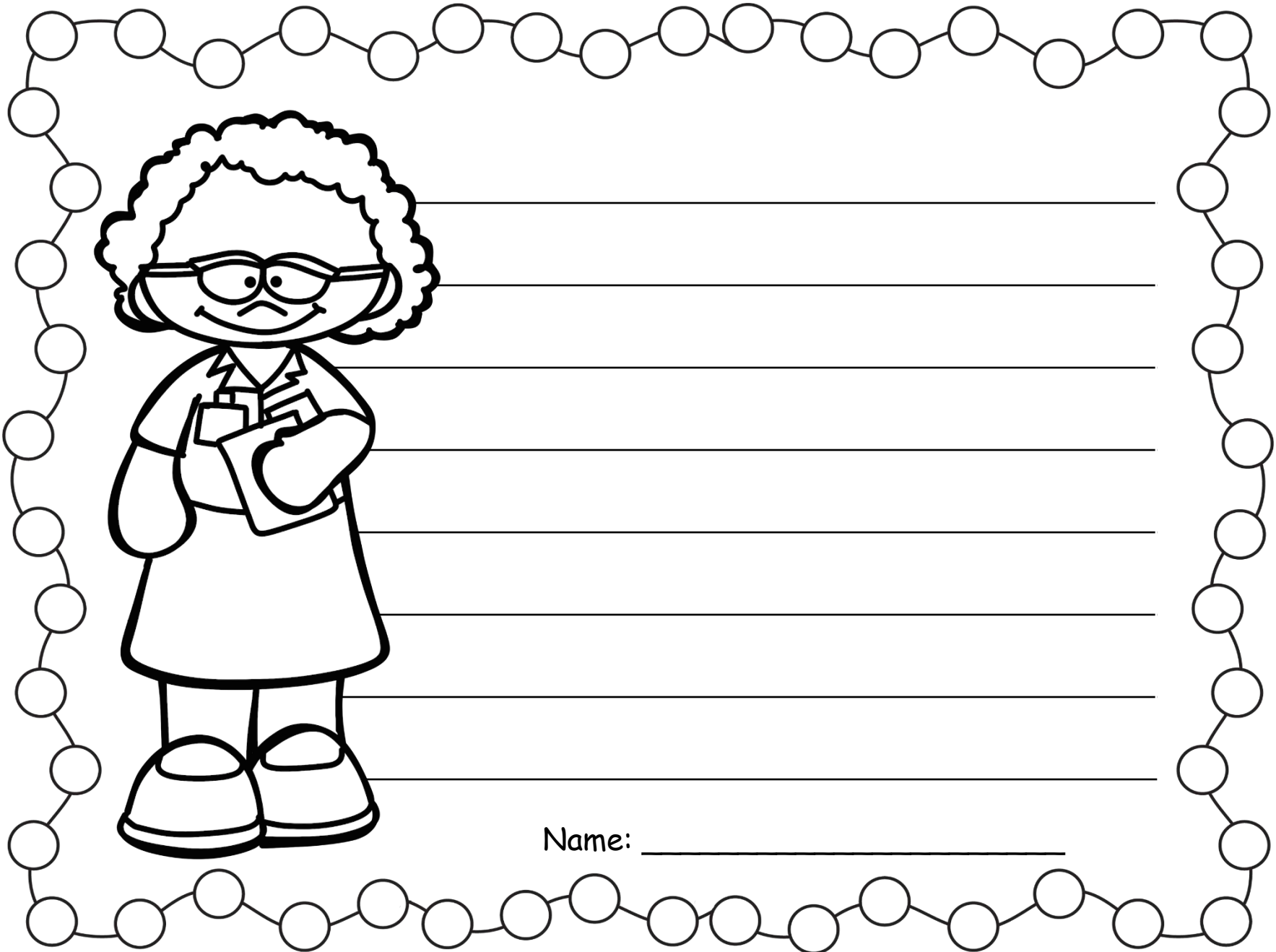
after

Katherine

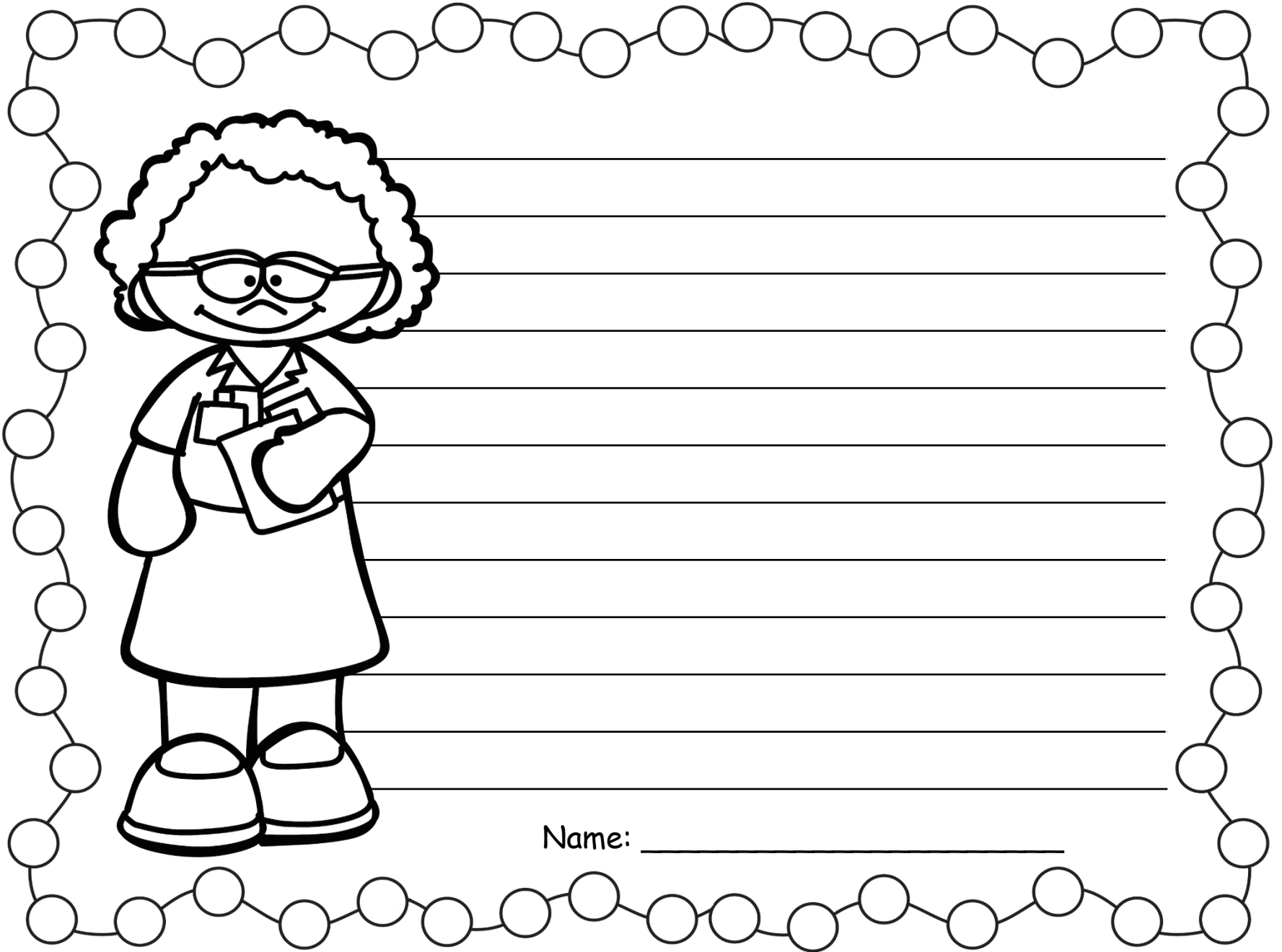
in 2017

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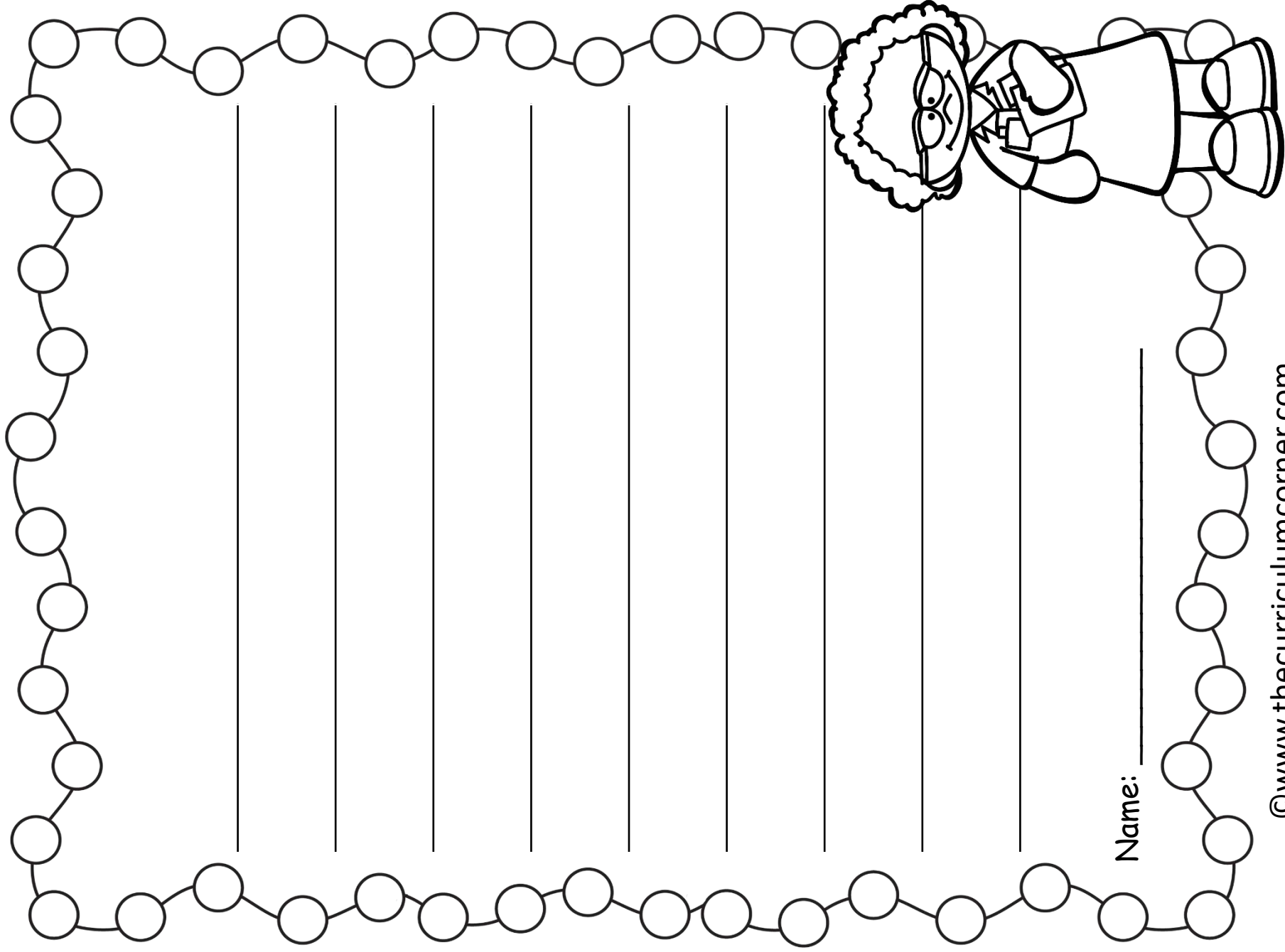




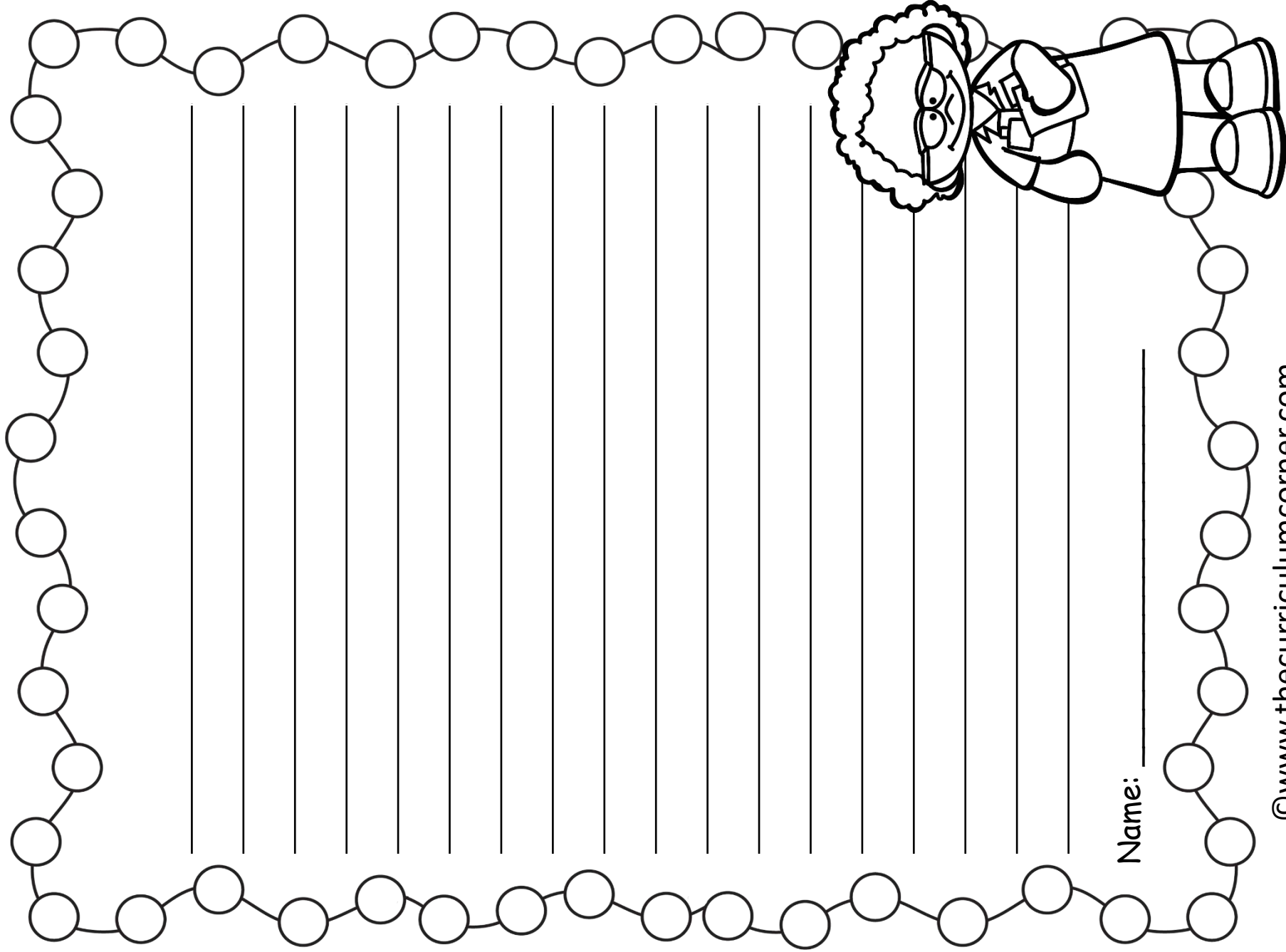
Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## Contrasting Books & Movies

	What I Read	What I Saw
1.		
2.		
3.		