

The Three Ninja Pigs

Inside this Book of the Month kit, you'll find activities to engage your students, encourage critical thinking, practice necessary skills, and make reading fun.



Tracking #: 369379

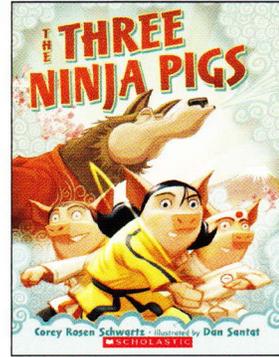


0-545-65678-8

Art from *Three Ninja Pigs*, by Corey Rosen Schwartz,
illustrated by Dan Santat.

Created with help from **Mike Lewis**,
a Reading Club teacher in Cohasset, MA

A Discussion Guide for *The Three Ninja Pigs*



In addition to the reproducible pages inside, use the following discussion questions to get your students thinking and talking about *The Three Ninja Pigs*!

Before Reading:

Discuss the cover and title page as a class and ask the following questions:

1. What is a ninja?
2. What clues do the illustrations give the reader about where this story takes place?
3. What can we predict about the pigs in the story based on the book's title?

Activate background knowledge and generate excitement for the story:

1. Pull out potentially familiar terms, such as *karate*, "*kiya!*", and *sayonara*. Allow time for students to share their knowledge of ninjas, martial arts, and belt colors.

During and After Reading:

1. What details are used in the illustrations to show the reader the Japanese setting of this story? Note the cherry blossoms, the symbolic red disk (representing the sun) found on the crane's kimono and Pig One's headband, and Mount Fuji seen behind the ninja school.
2. What does the author's use of rhyme add to the story? Consider if the author did not use a rhyme pattern, how might this change the story for the reader?
3. How does the author keep the story similar to other versions of *The Three Little Pigs*? Consider the different houses of each pig and the familiar phrasings "Hey, Pigs, let me in!" and "chinny-chin-chin."
4. Do people who practice karate really learn to break bricks? How could you tell if the author accurately represented martial arts? What questions could you ask? Where could you go to discover more about martial arts?

A Letter from the Illustrator

Thank you for being so enthusiastic about my book, *The Three Ninja Pigs*! It was an extremely fun book to illustrate. I am especially fond of the illustrations I made depicting the sister pig's home and how she dealt with the wolf at the end of the story.

When I was in second grade, one of my favorite books was *Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs*, which was one of a long list of many books that made me want to become my own storyteller. As a child, I had fond memories of being asked by my teachers to draw my favorite scenes in books that we had read in class, and I would always try my hardest to make my art work look exactly like the art in the books. My parents had never encouraged me to do art for a living, and so had it not been for the support of my teachers I probably wouldn't be doing what I do today.

This book was very special to me because it was one particular project where the art director was pushing me to do more than I have in most of my other books in recent years. Art director Cecilia Yung pushed me to really break out of my comfort zone in terms of color theory and design, and because of that I feel it has made me into a much more balanced artist. There were times when I got frustrated (which doesn't happen often), but the theme of hard work throughout this book actually inspired me to reach for that new level that I didn't think I was able to achieve. It takes me back to when I was a young boy growing up and when I earned my black belt in karate at the age of 15 and realizing that hard work and dedication can really pay off.

Thank you again for ordering my book! It makes me so happy to know that it will be part of your classroom library this year.



How to Stop a Wolf: Cause and Effect

INSTRUCTIONS: Describe how you would react to stop each of the wolf's actions!



CAUSE	EFFECT
<p>IF the wolf asked to come into my house nicely, I would...</p>	
<p>IF the wolf tried to come in through my chimney or window, I would...</p>	
<p>IF the wolf wanted to challenge me to a fight, I would...</p>	
<p>IF the wolf promised not to blow any more houses down if he got to live in my classroom, I would...</p>	

Ninja Pig Word Search

INSTRUCTIONS: Can you find all the vocabulary words from the book in the puzzle below?

(Hint: The words go forward, backward, and diagonally.)



DEFEAT

HEAPED

RETREAT

DEVOTED

LODGED

SUFFER

EARNEST

OUTRIVALED

TECHNIQUE

GROOVE

PERSISTED

TREND

U S F I N V G H M O R Q T K D
P S D E G C A U U B W G A V E
D W U V M V G T Y Q E X E Y F
D E Y F N D R T F Y R A R A E
S E T T F I D E G D O L T D A
V U P S V E U Q I N H C E T T
E L S A I K R V H Y P T R G U
B B L J E S J V P S O A R I B
L E K O K H R P W V P O F S B
D P T Q T F W E E L O D C F G
E A R N E S T D P V Q N W C Y
O H M E F U D G E B C E T Z K
V S B Q X D W D R G O R D V Z
G U W S N Y X K F O H T A M T
X W A A O R P S O M S S S D W

Wolf-Proof Your House!

INSTRUCTIONS: Design a house that the Big Bad Wolf cannot get into. (But remember—be creative, not hurtful!)

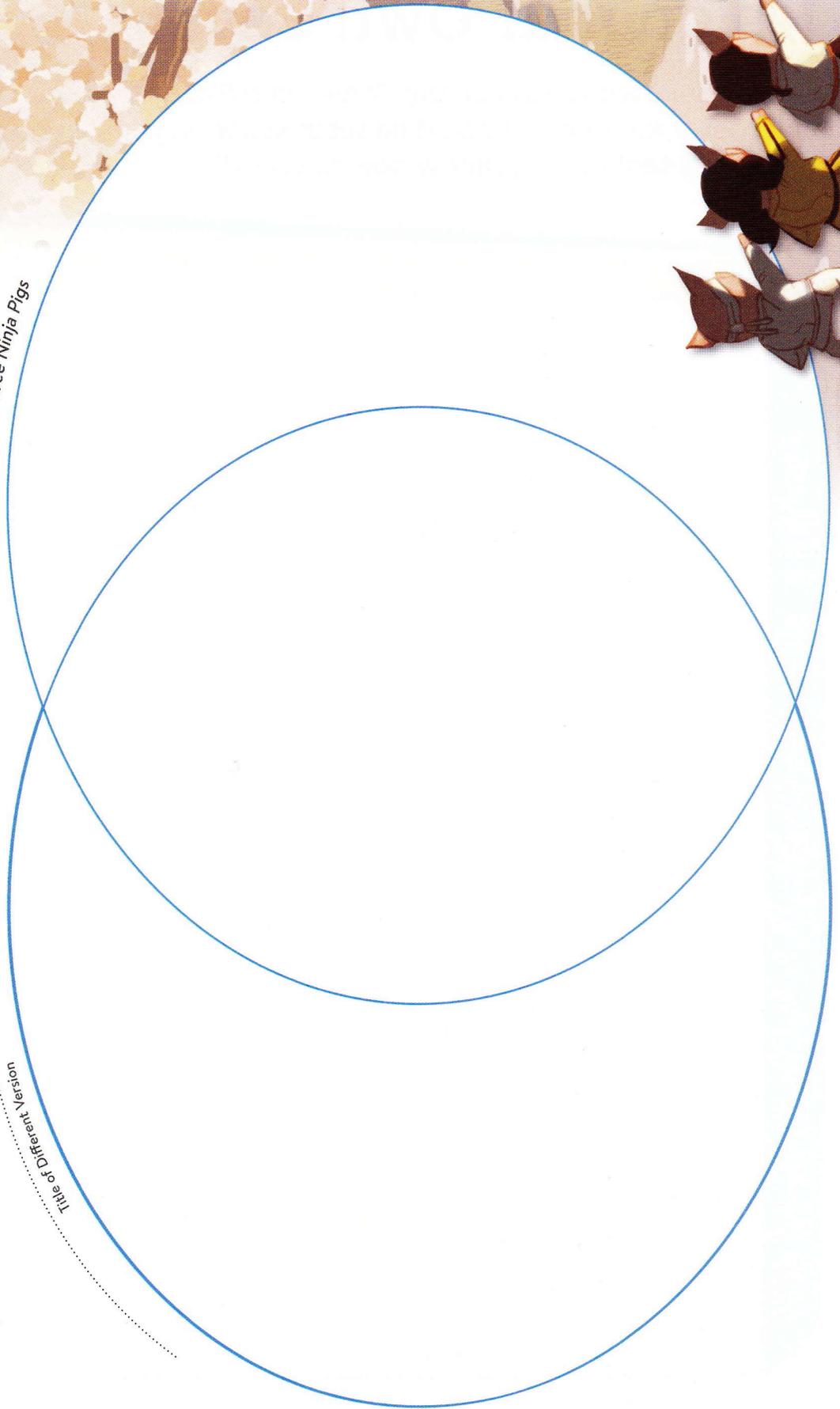


Different Versions of the Same Story

INSTRUCTIONS: Compare and contrast *The Three Ninja Pigs* with a different version of the story—either one you already know or a different version from your library. Use the Venn diagram below to list the similarities and differences.

The Three Ninja Pigs

Title of Different Version



Design Your Own Cover

Imagine your own version of *The Three Little Pigs* story, and draw a cover for it here. It could be set in space, in your school, or under the sea! (Do pigs know how to swim?)

