

A Teacher's Guide to

**THE LEGEND
OF
SASSAFRAS HOUSE**



Anita Stafford

A Teacher's Guide to The Legend of Sassafras House
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Vocabulary

Matching game: Write each word on an index card. Write a short meaning for each word on another card. Give students on one side of the room the word cards. Give students on the opposite side of the room the meaning cards. Call on a student to stand and read the meaning card aloud. The student with the matching word card stands. If correct, move on to the next meaning. Repeat the reading of the meaning until the student with the correct word stands. Continue until all meanings are read and matched. Redistribute cards to play again.

Legend

Surveillance

Century

Evaporate

Metamorphosis

Hooligan

Eccentric

Whippoorwill

Banister

Ancestor

Phenomenon

Group Discussion

After reading *The Legend of Sassafras House*, appoint a student as discussion leader. Answer the following questions.

1. What two things did Kale want after moving to Morning Glory?
2. How did Kale and Jasmine become friends?
3. Why was Kale jealous of Briar and Quince?
4. Chief Fields told Kale to stay out of the Sassafras house. Do you think he was warning Kale or threatening him?
5. Why did Kale believe he had a right to the hidden money?
6. How did Kale change after being trapped in the underground room?
7. Where did the outlaws hide the money? Why was this a good hiding place?
8. What did Kale decide to do with the money?
9. If you were Kale, what would you do with the money?
10. Do you believe Treasure was an ordinary cat? Why or why not?
11. What else did Kale find inside the chair with the money?
12. Do you think Kale will go on another treasure hunt? Why or why not?
13. Name the characters and places that have names connected to plants.
14. What did Kale mean when he said he was putting down roots in Morning Glory?

Extension Activities

- Jasmine told Kale he wasn't the only kid with problems. Write about a problem many kids face today.
- Small group or individual activity: Choose a plant name from the book. Research the plant. Make a poster and share findings with the class.
- Draw and label a map of the town of Morning Glory. Include all the places in the story.
- Kale and Jasmine were different. Compare and contrast their personalities.
- Kale had mixed feelings about his dad. If Kale's dad came to Morning Glory, write a conversation they might have.
- Research animals with heterogeneous eyes. Write a paragraph describing what you learned.

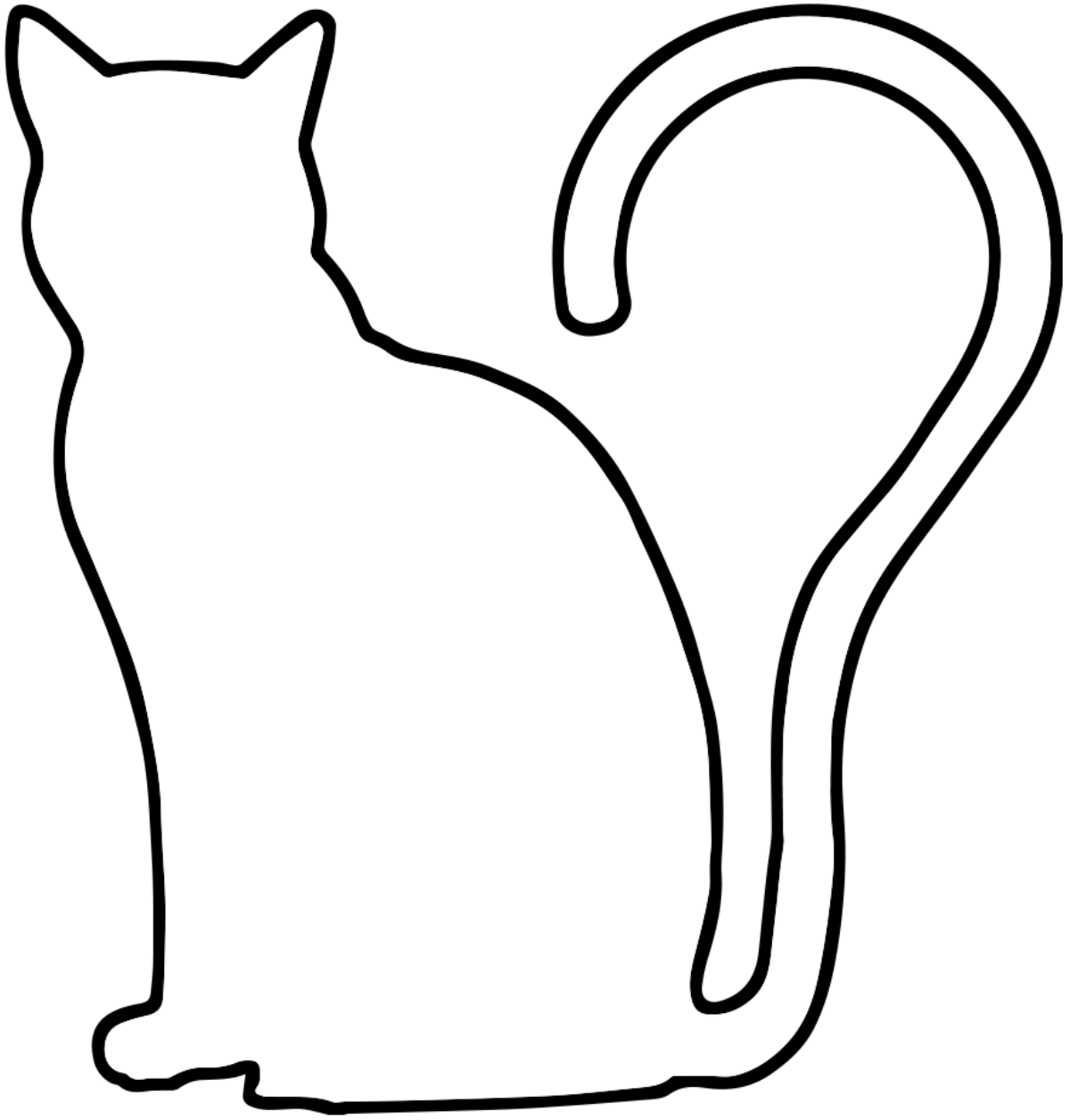
Student Creations

1. Draw your favorite scene from *The Legend of Sassafras House*. Give your work a title.
2. Craft project to make Treasure, the cat: Each student will need one cat outline (enlarge and copy), one round blue craft jewel, one round gold craft jewel, one heart-shaped pink craft jewel, white tissue paper cut into small squares, one white chenille stick, pencil, glue. Place eraser end of the pencil in the center of a tissue paper square. Press tissue paper around the eraser. Using a small dot of glue on the cat outline, press the wrapped eraser down on the glue. Remove pencil, repeat until the cat (except for the eyes and nose) is covered in 'fur'.

Glue the blue and gold jewels in place as eyes. Glue the pink jewel for the nose. Cut the chenille stick into pieces to form whiskers. Glue in place.

Discussion Questions Answer Key

1. A million dollars (money) and a friend.
2. Kale helped Jasmine look for Barley. Kale apologized for being rude. Kale invited Jasmine to walk to school with him.
3. He said they got everything they wanted, for example good clothes and computer games. They both had dads. Students may choose
4. either warning or threatening if they have reasons to back up the choice.
5. Kale found out that Hazel Sassafras was his ancestor.
6. He decided money wasn't the most important thing to him. He realized his mother, Jasmine, and Treasure meant more to him than money.
7. They hid the money in the stuffed chair. It was a good hiding place because it was unexpected.
8. He wanted to donate most of it to build an animal shelter. He also wanted to repair his mom's house and to buy a bed for Treasure.
9. Accept any reasonable answers.
10. Accept any reasonable answers.
11. He found a treasure map.
12. Accept any reasonable answers.
13. Morning Glory, Kale Flores, Rosa Flores, Aunt Fern, Bramble Street, Sassafras house, Hazel Sassafras, Jasmine Palmer, Barley, Chief Fields, Briar Fields, Quince, Mrs. Tulip Bloom, Herb Gardener, Herb's Deli, Flora, Pansy, Linden Sassafras, Dr. Forest, Cottonwood Pass.
14. He meant that Morning Glory was now his home. He belonged in Morning Glory, and he would be staying there.



About the Author

Anita Stafford is the author of a middle grade novel, *The Legend of Sassafras House*. She is a former teacher and counselor, having worked in public education for more than twenty years.

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