

The WHYS Get in Trouble



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parent and teacher
resource guide

About the Book

Naomi has a serious case of the Whys. They appear everywhere and wonder about everything. At home, her questions are welcomed. At school, they do not always fit the moment. When Naomi's Whys keep getting her into trouble, she begins to wonder if there is space for all her curiosity.

The Whys Get in Trouble is a warm and playful picture book about questions, classroom expectations, self-expression, and learning how to make room for wonder. It invites children and adults to think about how curiosity can be both powerful and challenging - and how guidance, timing, and understanding can help it grow.

Recommended for Grades K-3



Themes and Skills



- curiosity and inquiry
- school routines and expectations
- self-expression
- emotional regulation
- perspective-taking
- classroom community
- asking and holding questions
- research and discovery

Before You Read:

Use these prompts to activate thinking before reading:

- What does it mean to be curious?
- Why do people ask questions?
- Have you ever had a question at a time when you were supposed to be doing something else?
- Can questions be helpful and hard at the same time?
- Why do classrooms have rules?
- Can you be curious and respectful at the same time?

You might invite students to turn and talk about a time they asked a lot of questions, or something they are currently wondering about.



Discussion Questions

Comprehension

- What were Naomi's Whys like?
- Why did Naomi get in trouble at school?
- How were things different at home and at school?
- What happened when Naomi stopped asking questions?
- Why did Ms. Rose begin to miss Naomi's Whys?
- What did Naomi and Ms. Rose learn by the end of the story?

Social-Emotional Reflection

- How do you think Naomi felt when she was corrected?
- How did she feel when she stopped asking questions?
- Have you ever felt misunderstood when you were trying to learn or share something?
- What is the difference between being disruptive and being curious?
- How can adults help children feel safe asking questions?

Critical Thinking

- Why do classrooms need routines and rules?
- Are rules meant to stop curiosity?
- What are some ways to save a question for later?
- How can a classroom make room for both learning and wonder?

Teaching the Big Idea

One of the central ideas in *The Whys Get in Trouble* is that curiosity is a strength, but children also need support learning when and how to share their questions in a group setting. This book offers a meaningful starting point for conversations such as:

- Questions help us learn.
- Timing matters.
- Rules are meant to help a group function.
- Wonder should be celebrated.
- Children can learn strategies for holding onto questions without losing them.



Activity 1: Wake Up Your Whys

Invite students to imagine what their own Why creatures might look like.

Prompt:

- Naomi's Whys bounce, swirl, whisper, and sparkle. What do your Whys look like?

Directions

Students draw one or more Why creatures and answer:

- What does your Why look like?
- When does it show up?
- What kinds of questions does it ask?
- Is it quiet, wild, sleepy, wiggly, or glowing?

Then students write or dictate three questions their Why might ask.

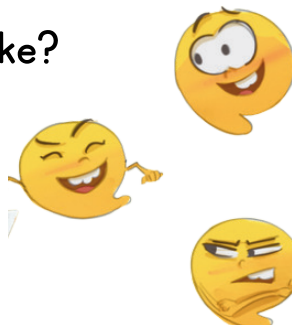
Why This Matters

This activity helps children externalize curiosity in a playful way. It also gives teachers insight into the kinds of questions and interests students carry with them throughout the day.

WAKE UP YOUR WHYS

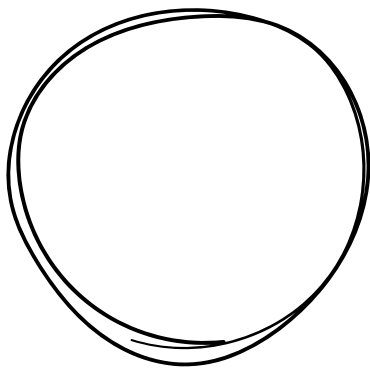
I wonder what your whys look like?

- Draw a few of your whys!
- Write the names of your whys!

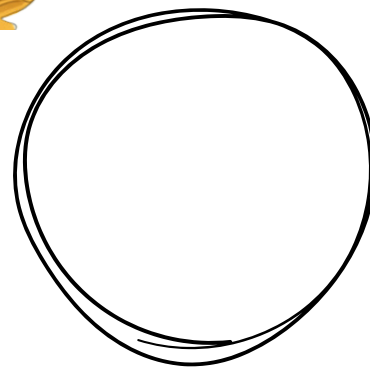


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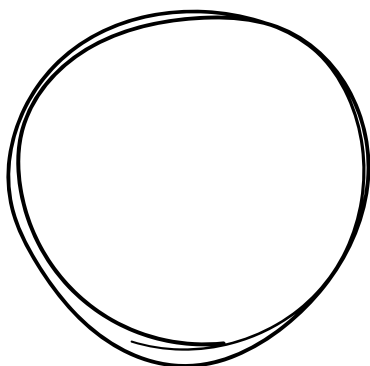
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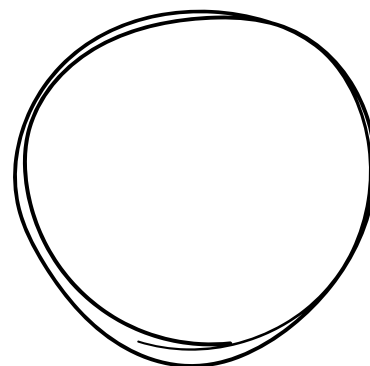
HELLO
MY NAME IS



HELLO
MY NAME IS



HELLO
MY NAME IS



HELLO
MY NAME IS

Activity 2:

“I am Curious About” Class Poster

Curiosity grows when we notice the questions all around us. In this activity, students create a classroom display filled with the wonders they want to explore.

Prompt

- Naomi's Whys loved asking questions. What are you curious about right now?

Directions

- Give each student a paper speech bubble, sticky note, or small cloud shape.
- Invite them to complete one sentence:
 - I am curious about...
- Students may draw a picture, write a sentence, or dictate their idea.

Throughout the year, revisit the display and celebrate when students discover answers—or add new questions.

Why This Matters

Children see that everyone wonders about different things. The activity builds a classroom culture where questions are valued and reminds students that curiosity is something we share.

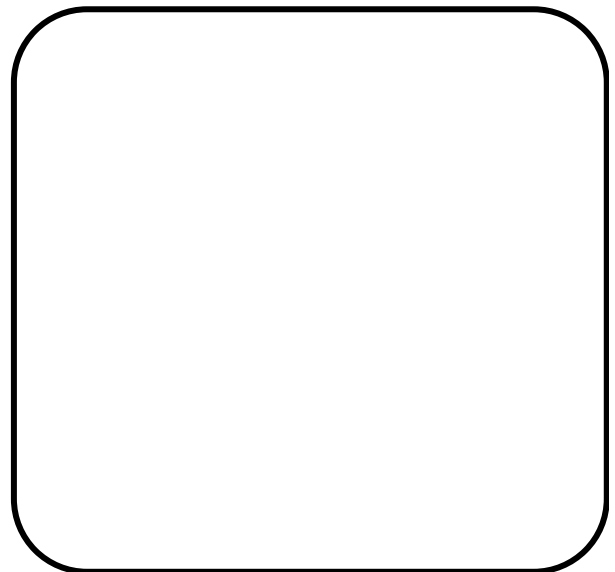
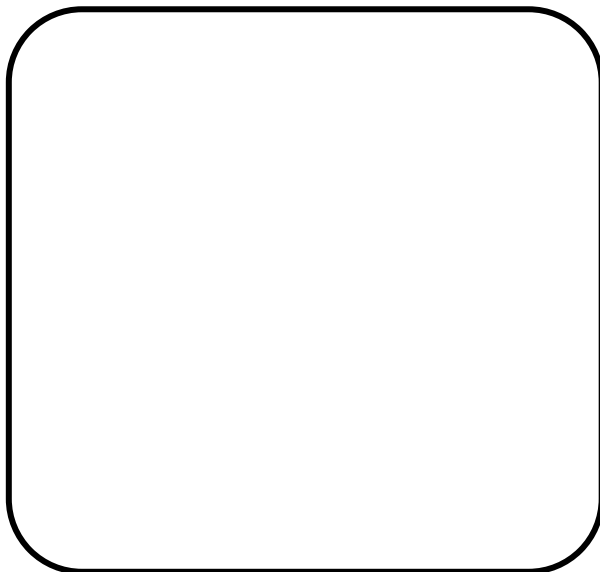
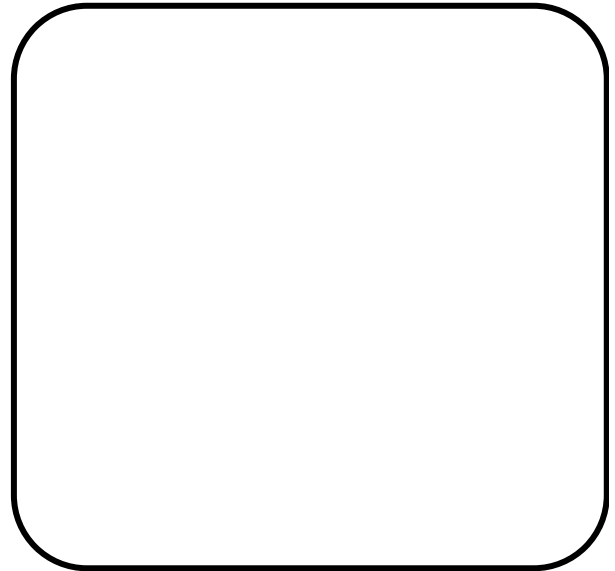
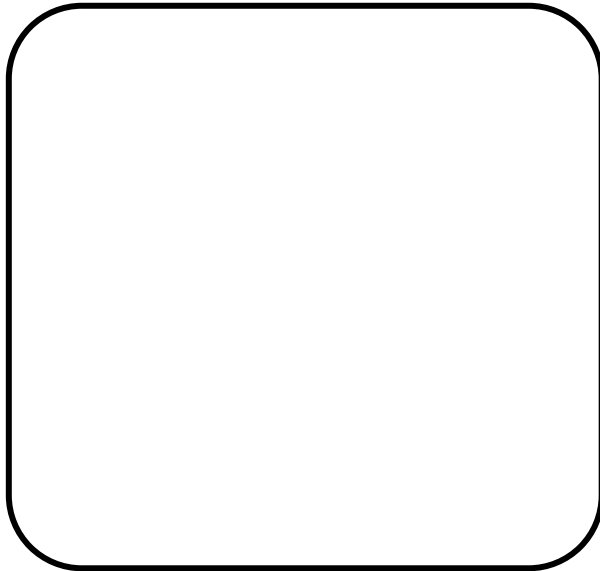
Class Curiosities

Name:

Date:

What are you curious about?

1. Brainstorm what you feel curious about 
2. Pick a few to write and draw 
3. Cut out your curiosities --- 
4. Glue them to your class chart! 



Activity 3: This Year, I Hope to Learn

At the beginning of a new school year, every student brings new questions, new ideas, and new dreams for learning. Just like Naomi, we all have Whys that are ready to grow.

Prompt

What are you hoping to learn this year?

Directions

Invite students to complete the sentence:

- This year I hope to learn...

Students can draw a picture, write a sentence, or dictate their ideas.

After everyone has shared, gather the class to look for ideas they have in common.

Ask questions such as:

- What are we all excited to learn?
- What questions do we already have?
- What do we think we might discover together?
- How can we help one another learn?

Activity 3: This Year, I Hope to Learn

Record students' ideas on chart paper to create a class learning plan.

Possible headings include:

- Our Hopes for Learning
- Our Classroom Wonder Goals
- What We Hope to Discover Together
- Things We Can't Wait to Learn

Keep the chart posted throughout the year and return to it during morning meetings, inquiry projects, or class reflections. Add new questions as students' curiosity grows, and celebrate when the class discovers answers together.

Why This Matters

Children see that learning is something we build together. By sharing their hopes, questions, and interests, students begin to see themselves as part of a classroom community where curiosity is welcomed, everyone's ideas matter, and learning starts with wondering.

_____ 's Hopes + Dreams

Handwriting practice lines consisting of three sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed middle line for letter height guidance.



Activity 4: Rules and Wonders

Use the story to discuss how classroom routines and curiosity can both belong.

Try a T-chart:

Classroom Rule	Why it Helps
Walk in a line	Keeps everyone safe and organized
Listen when others speak	Helps everyone learn
Raise a hand	Gives everyone a turn
Sit in a learning spot	Helps us focus

Then ask:

- How can we respect the rule and still keep our question?
- What can we do when we have a Why at the wrong time?

List student ideas, such as:

write	whisper it to yourself
save it for question time	tell a partner later
add it to the Wonder Wall	

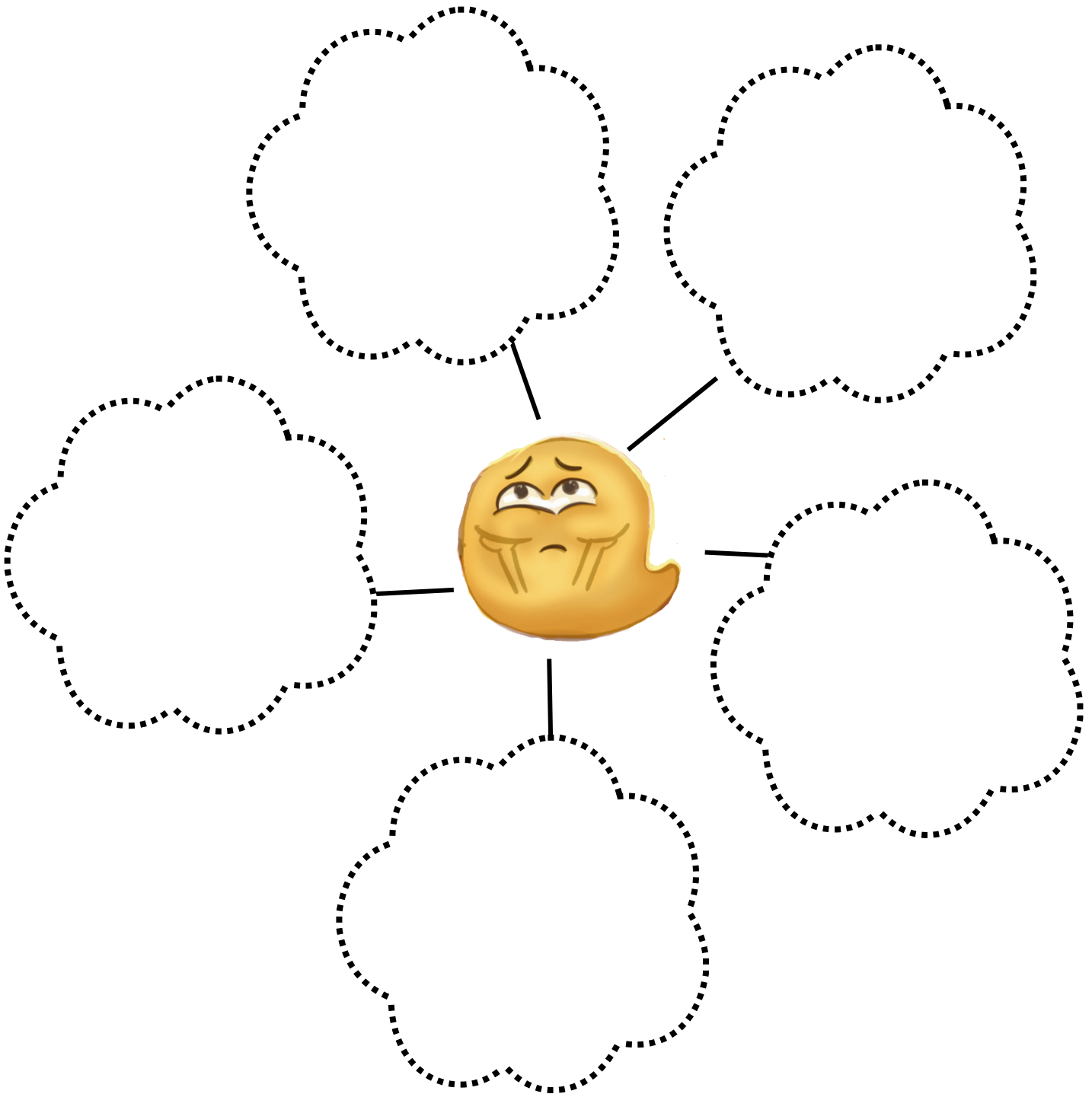
This reinforces that rules are not the opposite of curiosity. They help a community learn together.

THE WRONG TIME FOR WHYS?!

Name:

Date:

What can you do when you have a
Why but it is not the time to ask it?



Activity 5: Wonder Journal

A Wonder Journal gives students a place to hold onto their questions when it is not the right moment to ask them aloud.

Materials

- stapled booklet, notebook, or folded pages
- pencils, crayons, markers

Directions

Invite students to create a journal cover, or to color the cover attached below. If students make their own covers, they can experiment with one of these titles:

- My Whys
- Questions I Want to Keep
- Wonder Fuel Notebook

Students can decorate the cover with their own "Why" creatures inspired by the story.

Journal Prompts

Use these sentence starters:

- Today I wondered...
- A question I had was...
- Something that made me curious was...
- I noticed...
- I still want to know...
- One question I want to ask later is...

Activity 5: Wonder Journal

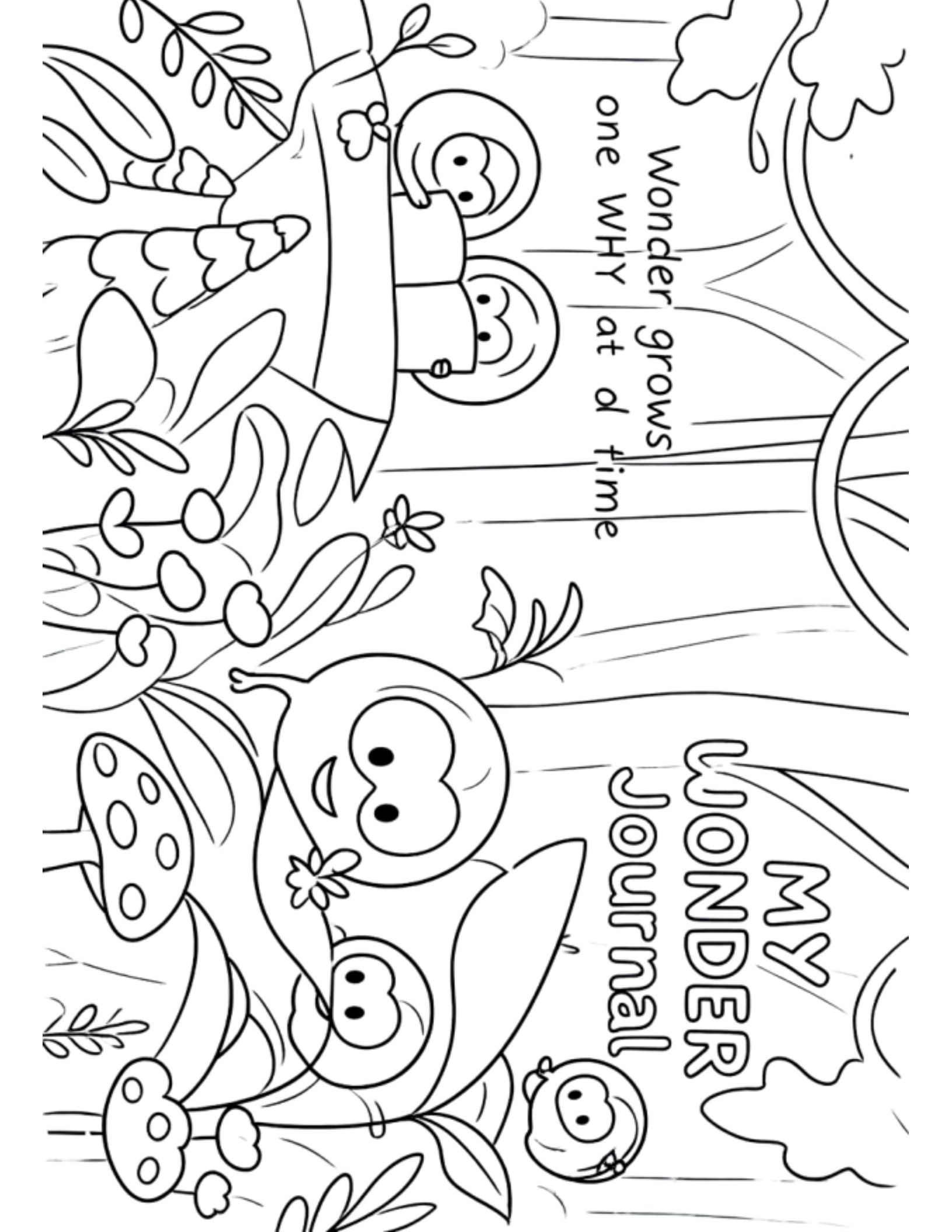
Teaching Purpose

This activity helps students learn that they do not have to lose their curiosity just because the timing is not right. It supports self-regulation while honoring inquiry.

Extension

Create a regular classroom routine where students can revisit one question from their journal during:

- morning meeting
- science
- writing time
- partner talk
- end-of-day reflection



Wonder grows
one WHY at a time

MY WONDER Journal



This Book Belongs To

Name : _____

