

Special Ed

THE FAMILY UNDER THE BRIDGE

1959

Newberry Medal Honor

17 activities

5 questions/
chapter



Special Needs for Special Kids



These novel units are something I created and started using in my classroom. I had students with significant challenges and most were **non-readers**. They were the best thing I ever did, and my students LOVED them.

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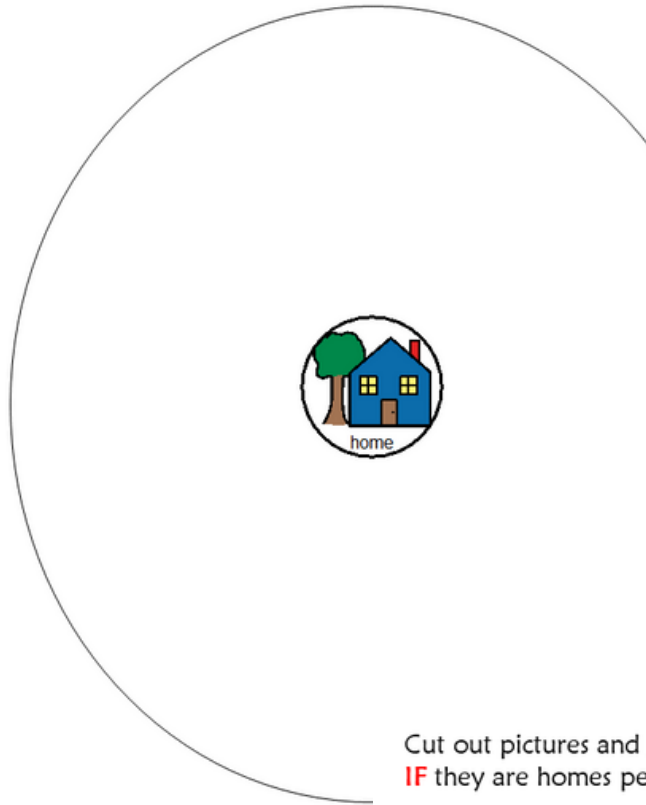
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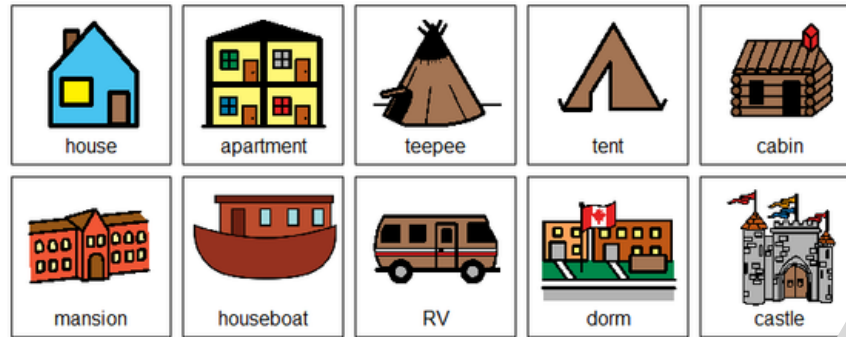
This novel unit has **17** different activities.

These activities are NOT comprehension-based. So, even if your students do not pay attention, they can still complete the activity.

People live in all different types of homes. What are some types of homes people live in?

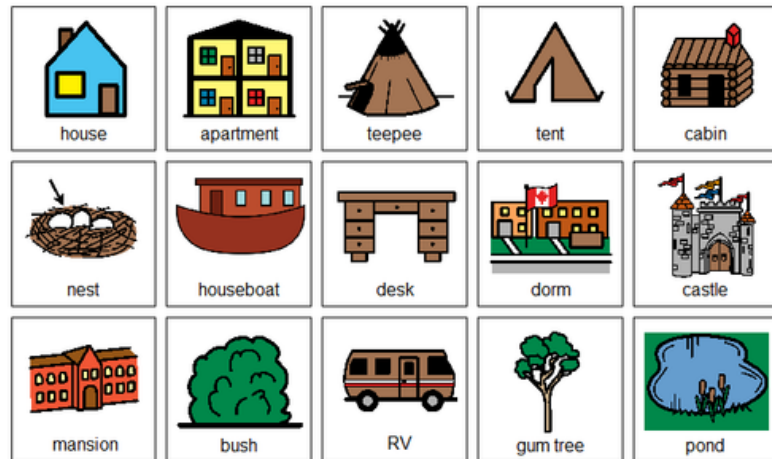


Cut out pictures and glue in circle map on previous page showing homes people live in.



errorless

Cut out pictures and glue in circle map on previous page **ONLY** IF they are homes people might live in.



For example, the gypsies live in houses on wheels. This activity looks at different types of homes. There is an errorless option, and one with wrong answers mixed in. It does not require comprehension of the chapter but relates to what is going on.

Suggestions for Use

- I made this unit to go along with the book, *The Family Under the Bridge* by Natalie Savage Carlson.
- The thought is that you would be reading it aloud to your class at a rate of about 1 chapter per day.
- Be sure to give each student their own copy of the story board (pg. 7) to use while reading and discussing the story.
- Benefits of reading out loud, even to classes made up of severely affected students:
 - Teaches students to sit quietly even when there isn't something for them to do. This is such an important life skill. We all have to spend time sitting and listening to someone we are not that interested in at some point.
 - Parents will LOVE you. Not only will they be excited their child is being exposed to age appropriate material, but you are teaching them how to sit quietly, which will hopefully transfer to home as well.
 - Even with your lowest level learners, you will have 1 or 2 that will truly enjoy the story.
 - It can be a calming experience to sit and listen to the teacher read in a methodical way.



Suggestions for Use

- For students who need more structure, place the number of post-it notes in front of him/her that corresponds to the number of pages you intend to read. Remove a post-it as you finish each page. This visual will help lessen their anxiety.
- As you finish each chapter, there is an activity for students to complete.
- Differentiation:
 - For any activity, you can quickly differentiate for your lower level learners by using a color coding technique.
 - If sorting, outline each sorting category a certain color and then outline the corresponding pictures the same color.
 - Becomes a matching task.
- In a separate file, there are comprehension questions. There are 5 multiple choice questions to go with every 2 chapters. An answer key is included.
- There are 2 separate files included in this unit. One is completely in color and one completely in BW. Consider sending home the BW copies for additional practice at home.

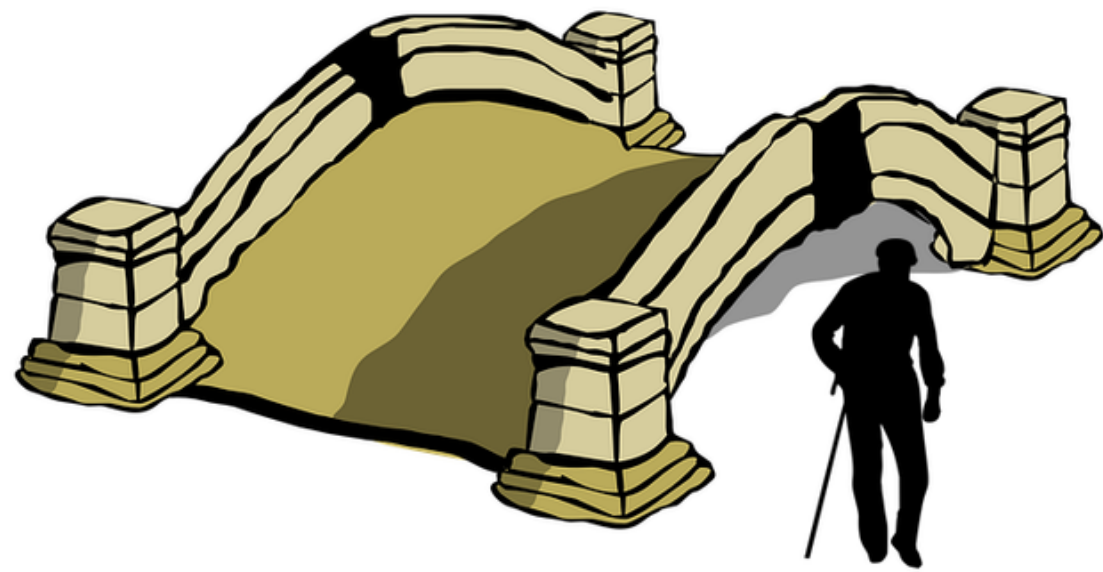
Suggestions on how I found this activity worked best in my classroom are provided. I typically had 6-8 students with one adult assistant in the room with me.

The Family Under the Bridge

Novel Unit for Special Education

By
Christa Joy

Special Needs for Special Kids



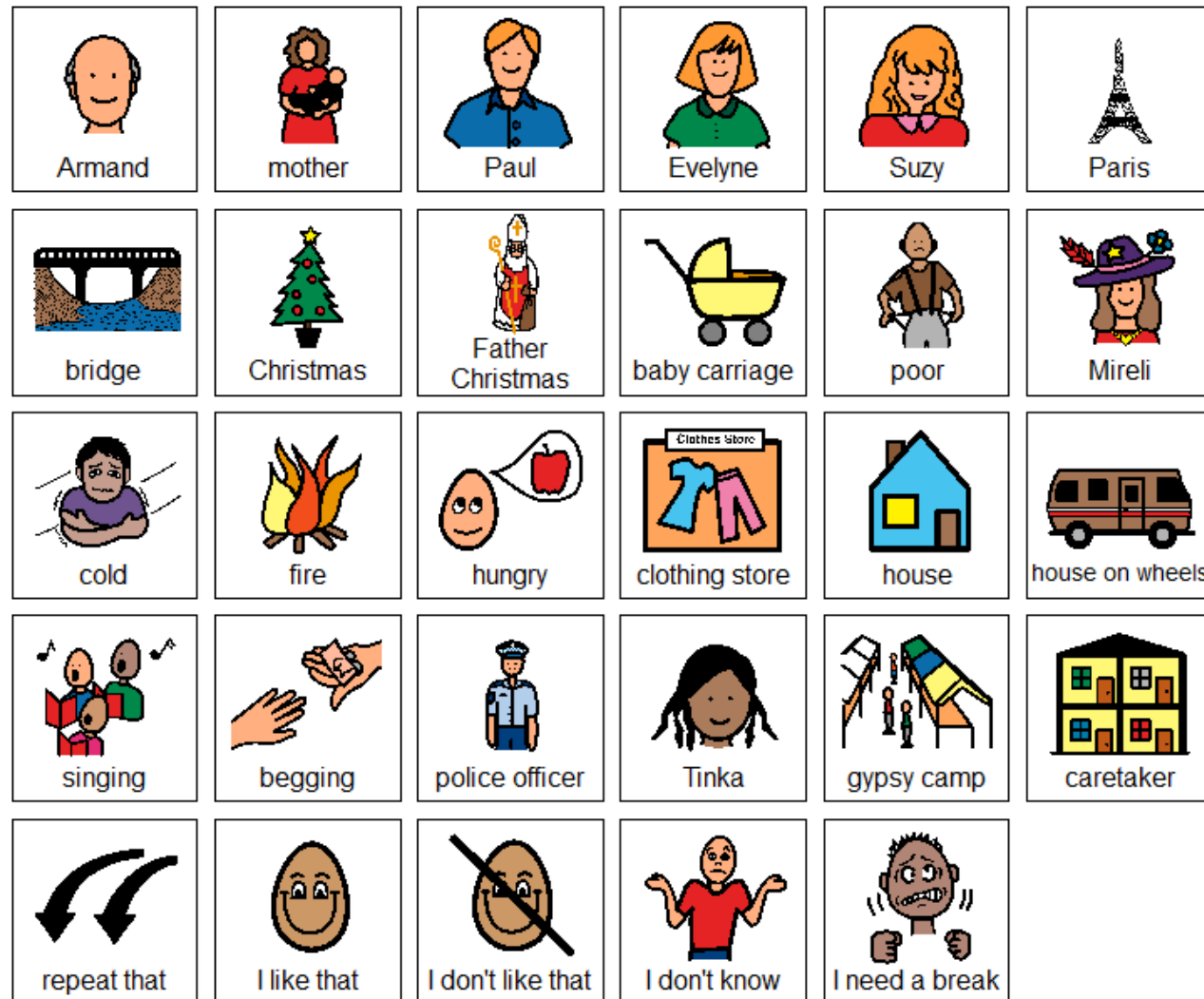
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This entire novel unit comes in 2 separate files. One is completely in color and one is completely in black and white.

This unit comes with a vocabulary board.

Vocabulary boards are great for ALL students to assist with participation and engagement in group discussions.

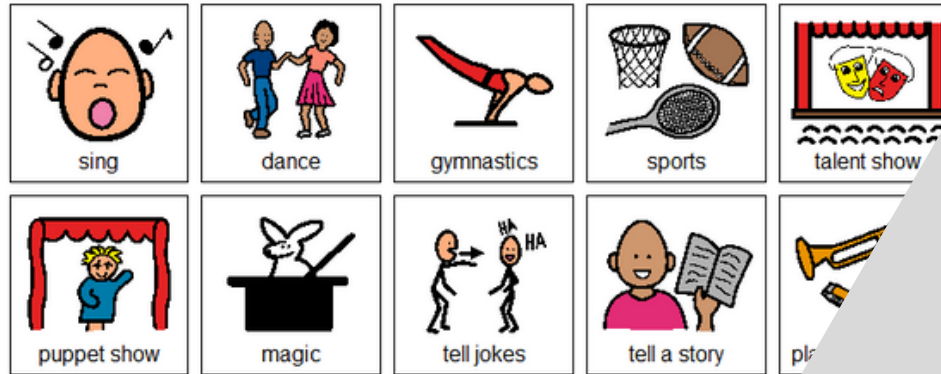
Tips on how to use in the unit!!



Story Board : to use while reading and for class discussions. Laminate and make 1 copy for each student.

The children sing to the crowd. What are some ways to entertain people?

Cut apart the pictures and place in circle map showing different ways to entertain people.



Cut apart the pictures and place in circle map **ONLY** if they are ways you could entertain people.

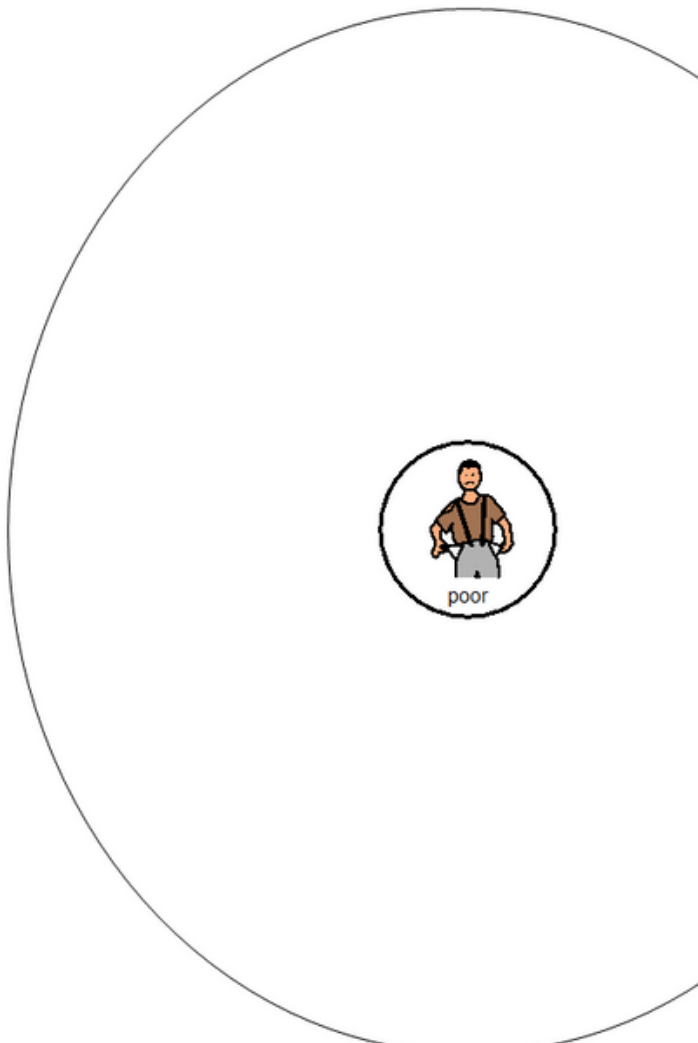


There are circle maps in this unit.

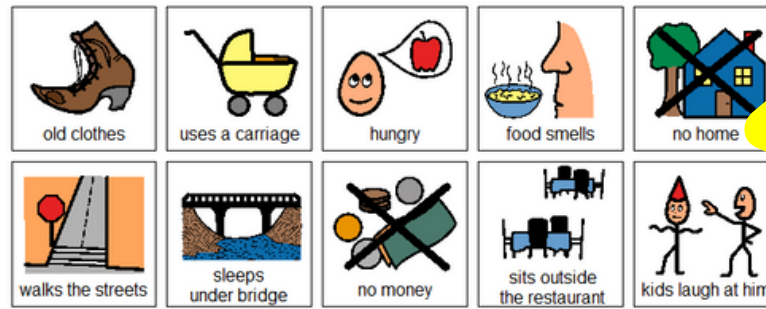
Circle maps are a great way for students to see the big idea.



Armand appears to be poor. Complete the circle map below depicting the ways you can tell that Armand is poor.

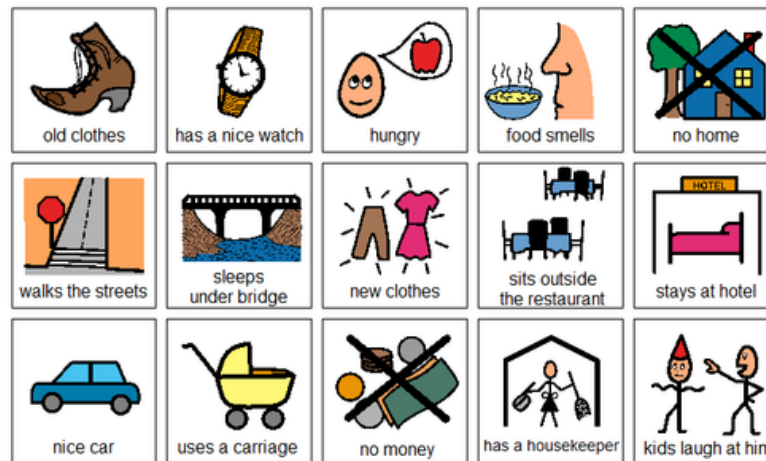


Cut apart the pictures and place in circle map.



errorless

Cut apart the pictures and place in circle map **ONLY** the ones that relate to how you can tell Armand is poor.

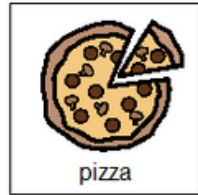
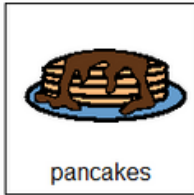


Each circle map comes with 2 choices:

An errorless option with only correct answers

An option that has wrong answers mixed in students will need to set aside.

Sort pancake versus pizza toppings.

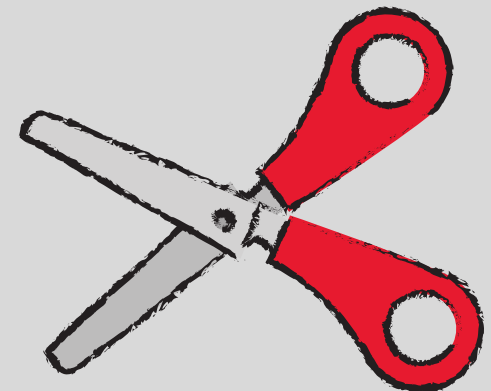


Sort pancake vs pizza toppings. If you think it could be both, then put it on the middle line.

 syrup	 pepperoni	 sausage	 walnuts
 berries	 tomato	 jelly	 onions
 mushrooms	 butter	 spinach	 cinnamon
 fruit	 cheese	 hot peppers	 peanut butter

There are sorting activities.

Directions on how to add color coding for differentiation is included.



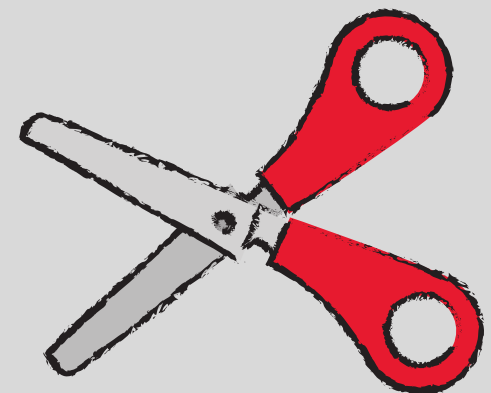
Armand refers to children as starlings. Find the two things being compared in each metaphor below.

The hurricane was a monster.	The kitten was a tornado.
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
The fog was a blanket over the city.	His eyes were daggers.
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>
The classroom was one big circus.	His bedroom was a danger zone.
<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>

Match the pictures with the metaphors.



There are matching activities. Directions on how to add color coding for differentiation is included.



Dear Father Christmas,



This year, I have been very

I want a

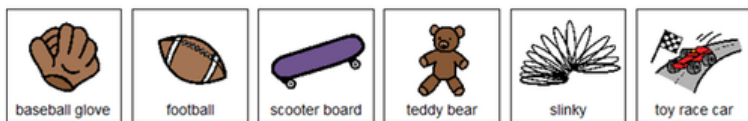
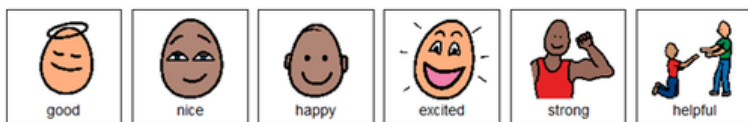
this year for Christmas.

My brother/sister would like a

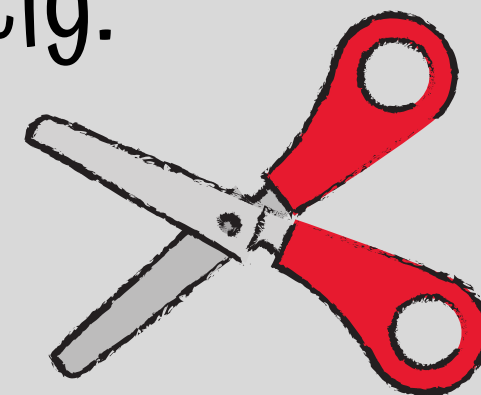
I will be sure to leave you some

Be sure to tell

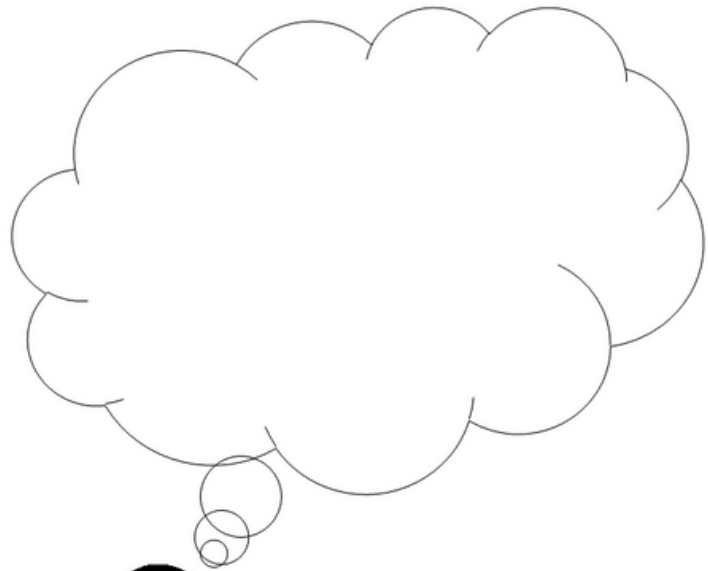
I said hello!!



There are writing prompts. These are errorless activities that allow students to write a story independently.



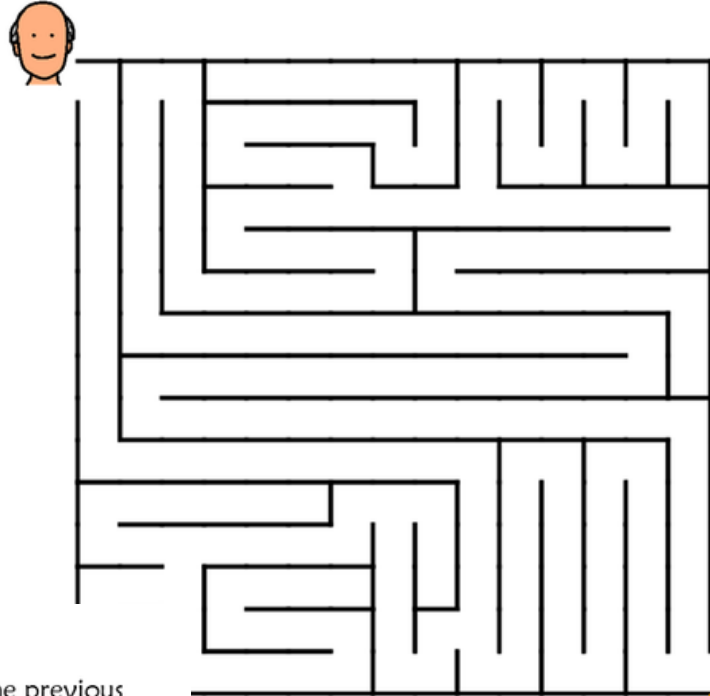
The children hope that Father Christmas will bring them a house on wheels. Do you have any dreams or hopes for your future?



You can add your own hopes and dreams to the previous page or use some of the pictures below.



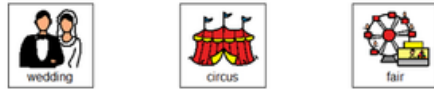
Help Armand and the children find their way to Father Christmas.



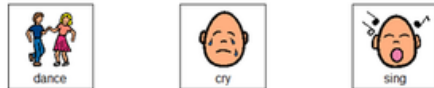
Because there are so many activities, you can choose the ones that fit your students the best.

CH 4

1. What was the scene in the store window everyone was looking at?



2. What did Armand have the children do?



3. What did Armand gather from the crowd?



4. What did Armand buy the children for breakfast?



5. Was Mother happy when she learned the children had been singing for money?



CH 8

1. Who came to the gypsy camp looking for Nikki?



2. What did the gypsies do after the police came?



3. Who wanted to leave with the gypsies?



4. Did Paul leave with the gypsies?



5. What did the police want to return to Nikki?



This unit does come with comprehension questions. There are 5 questions for every chapter. Each question has 3 picture choices. They are in color and black and white.

Answer key included!!



I realize there will be some students out there unable to do cutting activities. I have a blog post with ways to complete activities without a pair of scissors!!

[Click Here to read more!!](#)