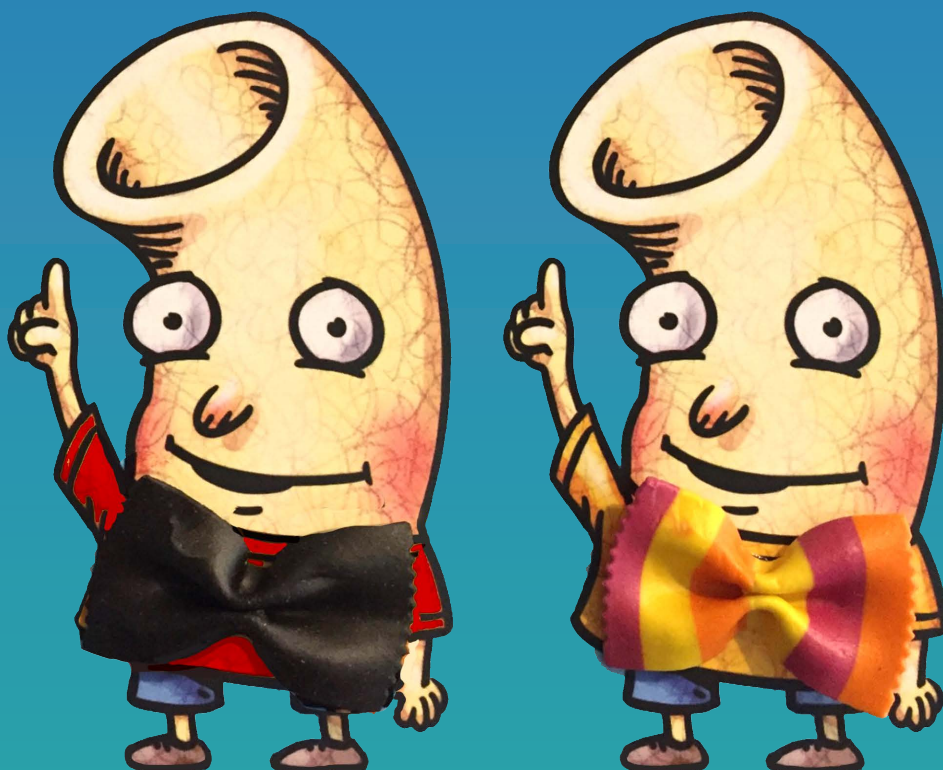


Noodleheads

Event Kit



The Noodleheads series is created by beloved author-illustrator Tedd Arnold (the guy who does Fly Guy) and two renowned storytellers, Martha Hamilton and Mitch Weiss.

These Noodlehead brothers, Mac and Mac (and their adventures), bring the classic folktale fool into the 21st century—and slapstick, puns, and wacky fun abound!

Inside the Noodleheads Event Kit you will find creative and entertaining activities, perfect for your school, library or, bookstore event.

From Tedd, Martha, Mitch, Mac and Mac (and all of us at Holiday House), we hope you love these books as much as we do!

HolidayHouse.com/Noodleheads

#ReadNoodleheads

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HOLIDAY HOUSE

A conversation with the Noodlehead creators, Tedd Arnold, Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss

People of all ages enjoy a good numskull tale—because we’ve all been caught not using our brains at one time or another! When we hear a story in which someone else is the fool, we are reminded that we’re not alone. In our Noodleheads series, we have used some of these traditional tales, often referred to as “noodlehead stories,” as inspiration. In each book, we freely rework and combine parts from a few folktales. For the curious minded, we include an authors’ note detailing the origins of each story from which we’ve borrowed. We hope to show children that anyone can find inspiration in these stories that are as old as the world—and turn them into something as fresh as morning dew.

WHO IS A NOODLEHEAD?

TECHNICALLY,
I’M A PASTA.
I SHOULD KNOW.
I USED TO WASH
DISHES AT A
RESTAURANT.

NOT I,
AHHHHHBVIOUSLY.

PICK ME!
PICK ME!
WAIT, WHAT
ARE WE
PLAYING?



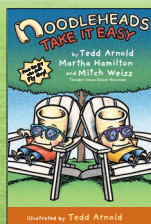
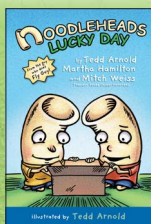
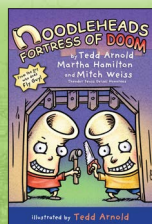
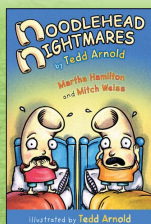
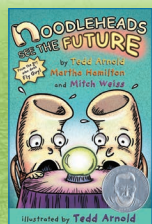
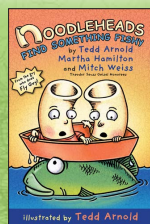
Mitch: As storytellers, we have always loved the “noodlehead” genre. If we say, “We’re going to tell a noodlehead story,” to any group of elementary school children, we always get a big laugh. Before telling one of these stories, we ask our listeners if they have ever done something foolish—and every hand goes up. We also share a silly thing that we have done to make clear that the whole idea of these stories is never to make fun of someone who might not be as smart as you, but rather to laugh at the “noodlehead” in all of us. It would be hard to insult someone by calling them a “noodlehead” because the word itself makes people laugh.

Martha: While doing research, we found *The Book of Noodles* by W. A. Clouston, a scholarly work published in 1888 on the history of these stories. Even the idea that such a book existed was funny! One of the most interesting things about noodle tales is how often the same stories are told in different cultures.

**The stories of Mac and Mac are based on folklore.
What made you decide to tell these stories in comic-book style?**

Tedd: These stories are so hilariously visual. I wanted to capture all the great slapstick images behind the words. The comic-book form is perfect for that. And although these are based on old folktales, I wanted to create a more modern-day context for our readers—to remove the Noodleheads from “the old days” and place them closer to, oh, I don’t know, SpongeBob maybe. The comic-book form does that for me.

In comic form I am able to depict so many more scenes. A picture book may have one scene—or less— per page but my comic pages often have five or six scenes each. I am also able to depict many, many changes in facial expression. So much humor can be conveyed in a character’s face. And so many action scenes are depicted that fewer words are needed to describe the action. I will confess that the comic form is a lot more work for me, but it was my suggestion so I guess that makes me a noodlehead!



Noodleheads

Books by Tedd Arnold,
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Illustrations by Tedd Arnold

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What do you hope readers learn from the Noodlehead series?

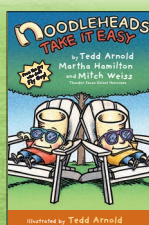
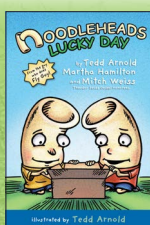
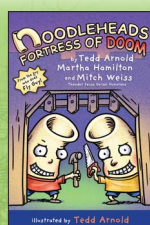
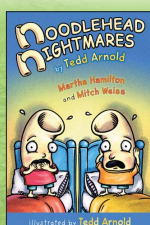
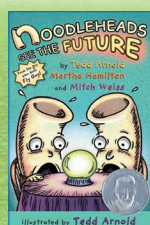
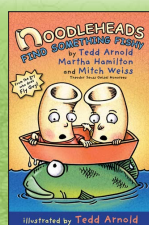
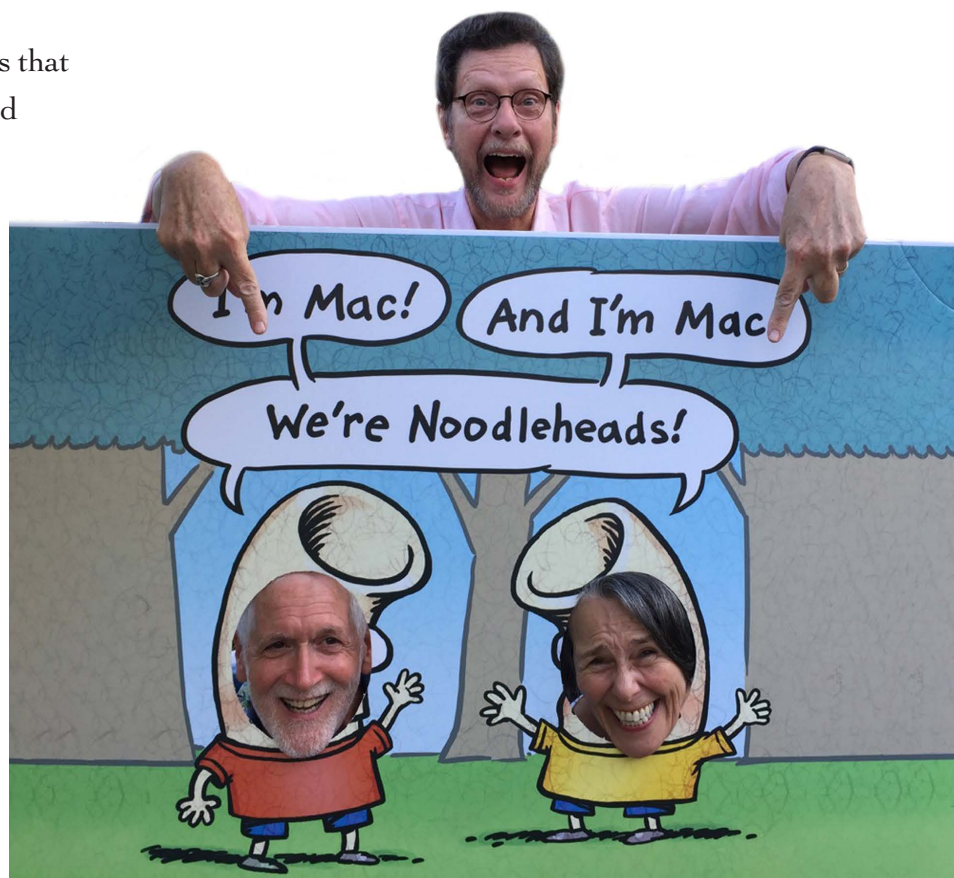
Martha: There is an old expression, “Fortune, that favors fools.” This is certainly true in the classic noodlehead genre of folktales where everything seems to turn out okay for fools in spite of the mistakes they have made. Perhaps this is because noodleheads always are kind and well meaning, so we don’t want to see them punished. For example, in “Jack and the Beanstalk,” he foolishly trades the valuable family cow for a few beans, but the beans turn out to be magical. So one message that we hope kids take away is that it’s okay to make a mistake, and that it will not mean the end of the world. Mistakes are how we learn, after all. And sometimes a mistake will eventually lead to something better—and it would never have happened but for the mistake.

Mitch: Even if Mac and Mac don’t always learn from their mistakes, children who read about their adventures do. Everyone has awakened from a dream and thought, “Was that real? Did that really happen?” However, we quickly realize that it was just a dream—but not the Noodleheads! When we told our original version of Noodlehead Nightmares to children, they immediately got the humor in the idea that someone would assume a dream was real. Noodlehead stories help children understand humor, logical thinking, and the importance of distinguishing between what’s true and what is a lie. They quickly see that they should not always believe what they hear, especially when the source is a bully like Meatball.

Tedd: My hope with ANY of my books is that young children learn books can be fun and reading is what makes that fun possible.

The activities in this event kit are in the spirit of the Noodlehead series, full of creativity and humor! Thank you for sharing the Noodleheads series with kids everywhere.

Martha, Mitch, and Tedd



Noodleheads

Books by Tedd Arnold,
Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss
Illustrations by Tedd Arnold

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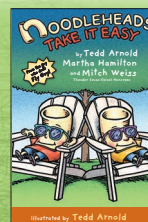
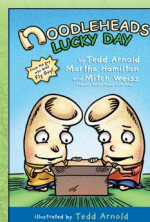
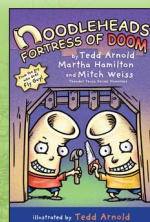
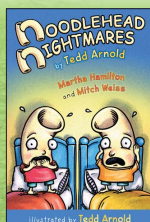
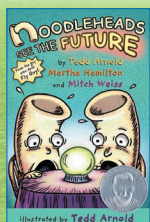
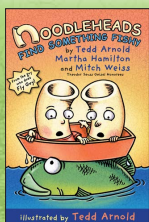
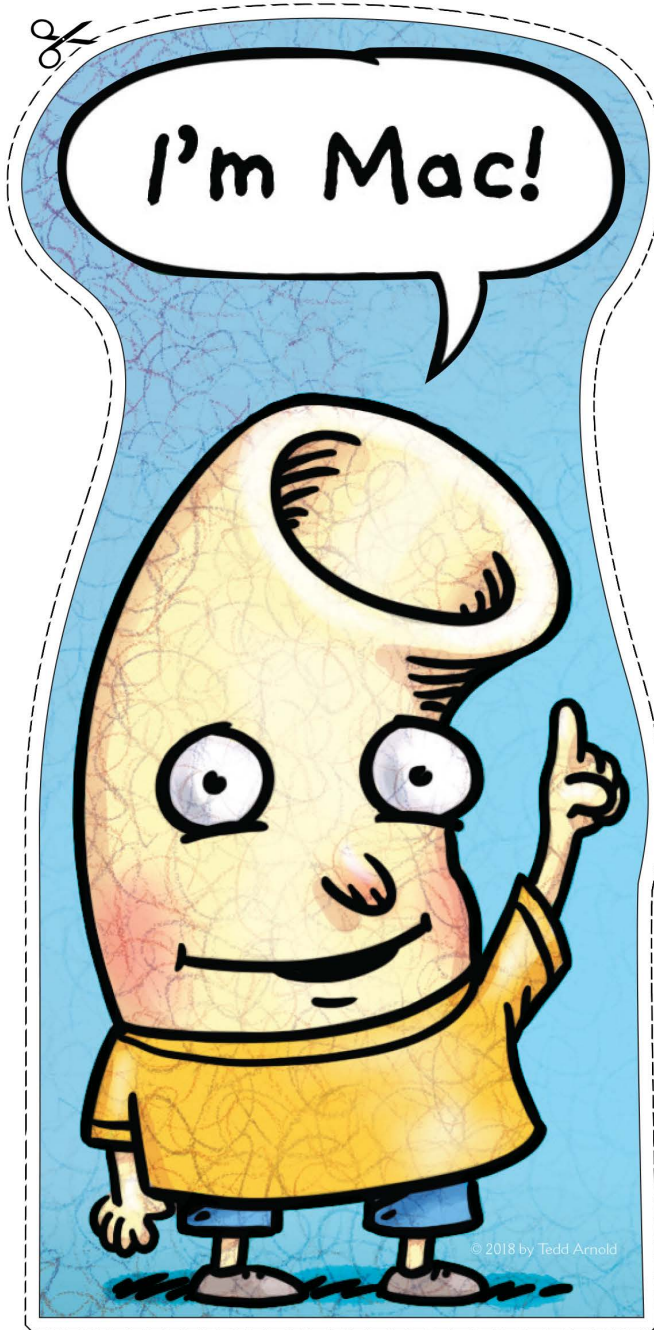
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NOODLEHEAD BOOKMARKS

Noodleheads need bookmarks. And so do you!

*Ask an adult to help in cutting these out.



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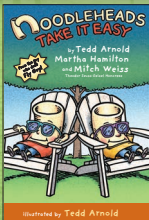
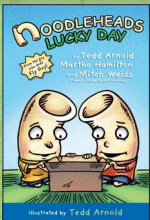
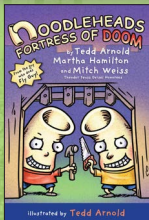
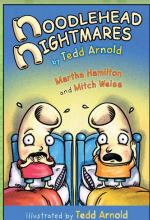
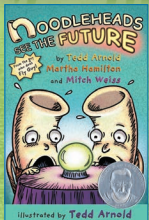
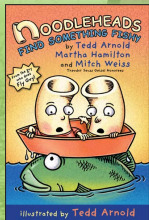
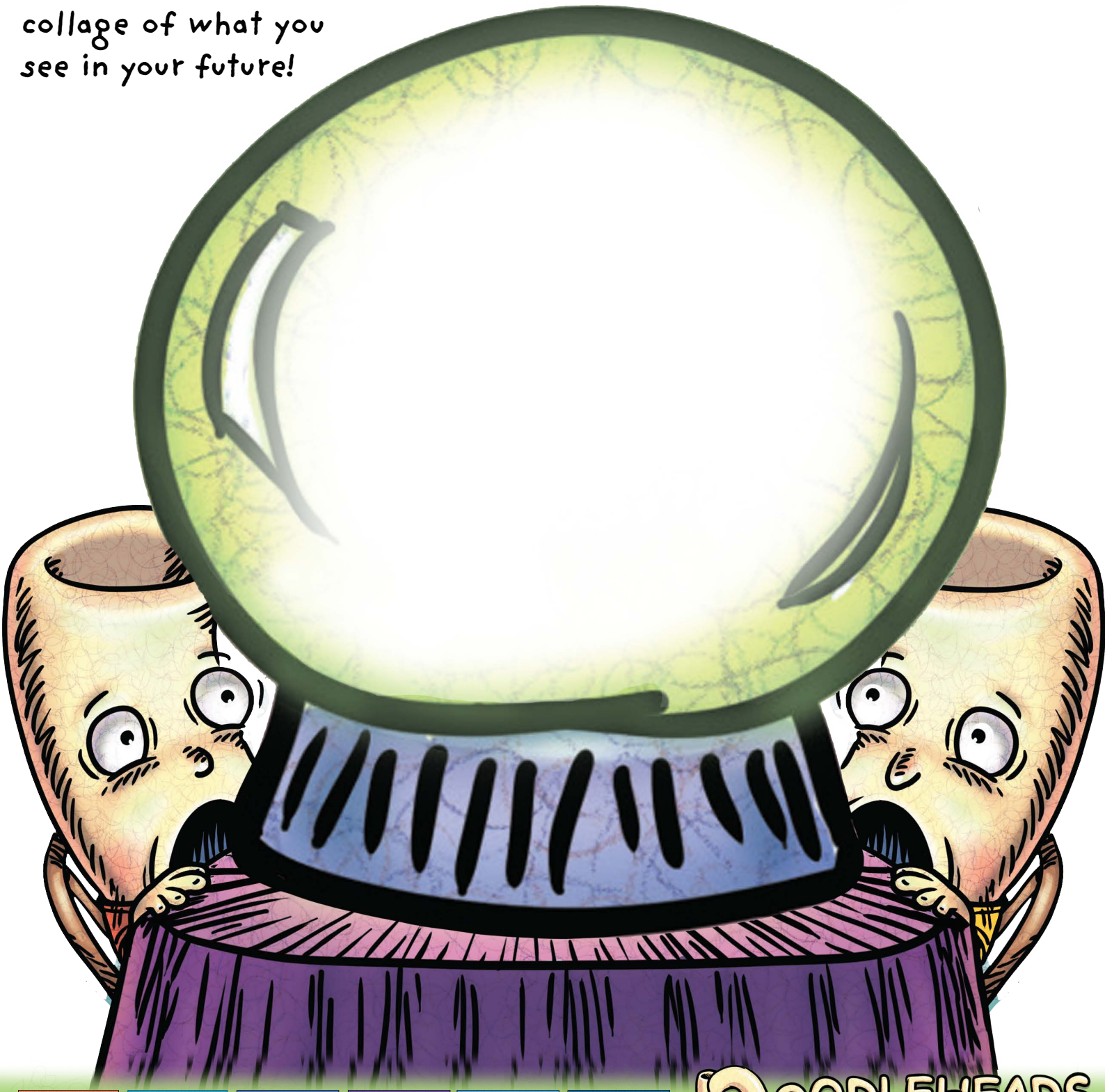
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NOODLEHEADS: SEE THE FUTURE

Sometime in the future . . .

Draw, color, or make a collage of what you see in your future!



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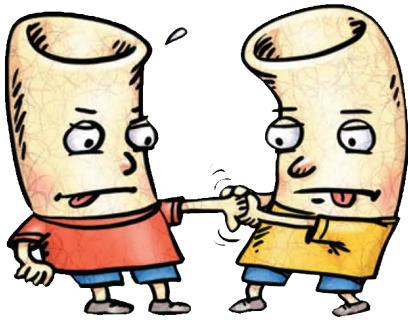
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NOODLEHEADS: WHAT'S THE MEANING MATCHING GAME

What's the meaning . . . Pun Fun!

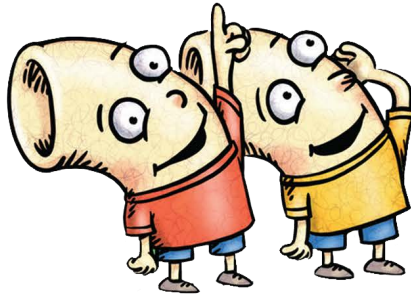
Give Mac and Mac a hand and connect the images and sayings with the real meanings!
What do the phrases on the left really mean? Draw a line.



Give me
a hand.



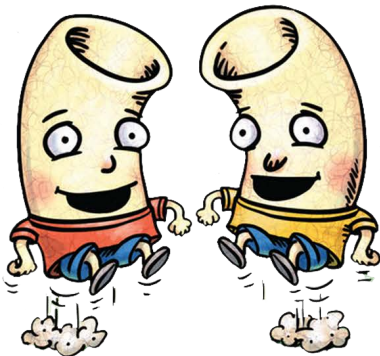
Easy.



Listen up!



To help.



A piece
of cake.



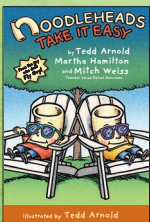
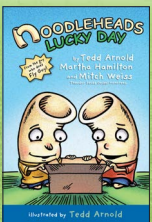
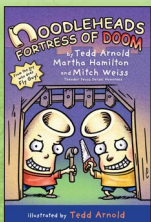
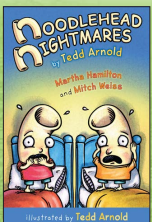
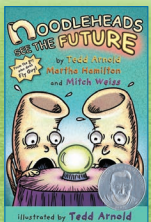
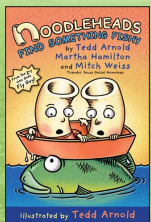
To learn.



Learn the
ropes.



To listen.



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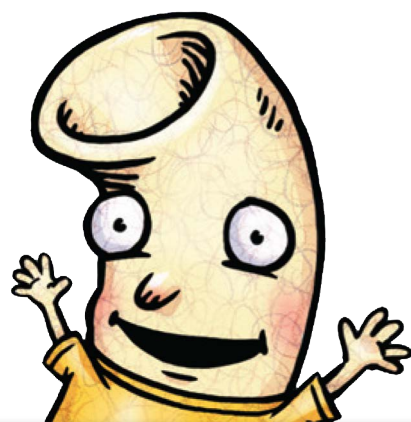
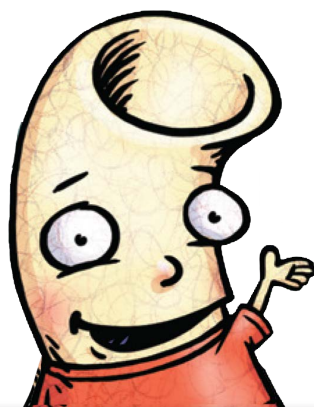


NOODLEHEADS: NIGHTMARES WORD SEARCH

What a nightmare!

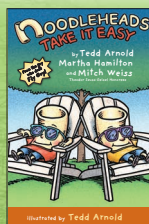
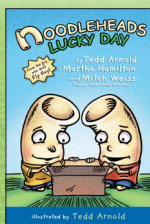
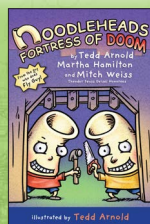
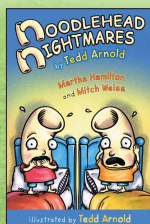
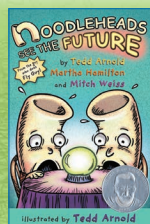
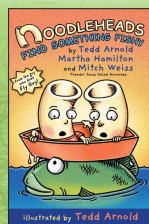
Help Mac and Mac find the words.

Words can be found horizontal, vertical, diagonal, and backwards.



Nightmare
Sleep
Pillow
Scared
Dark
Howl
Yawn
Tired
Bed

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



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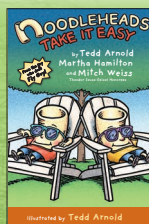
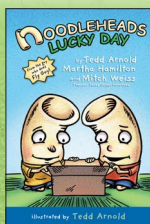
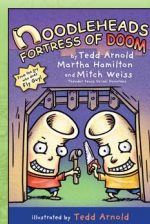
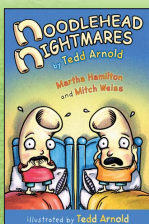
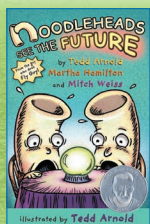
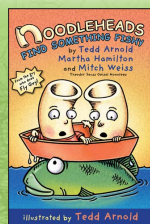
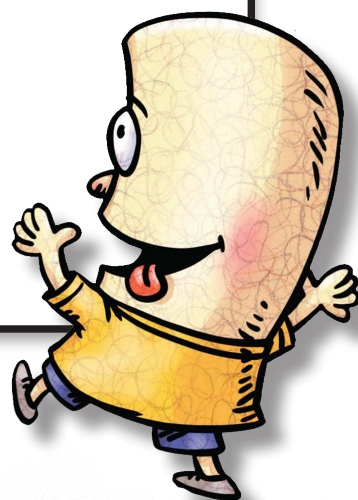
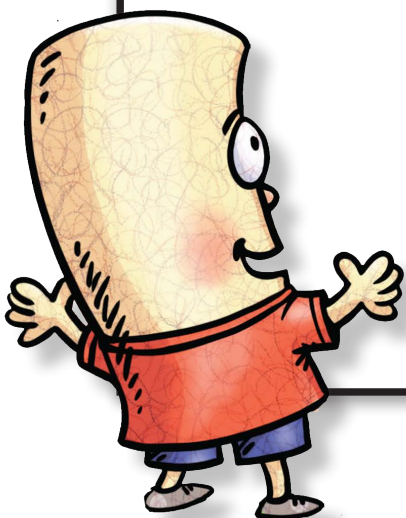


NOODLEHEADS: FAVORITE FOODS

Mac and Mac have lots of favorite foods. Here are just a few of them.

Using the space below, draw your favorite food.

Tell a story about these foods.



Noodleheads

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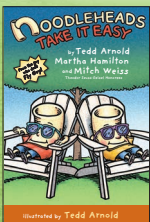
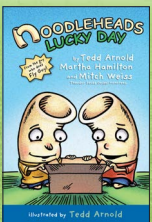
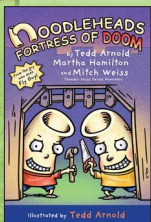
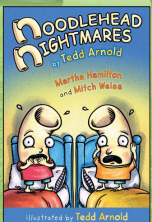
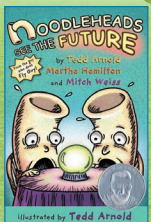
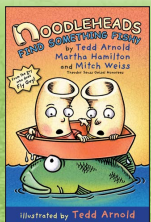
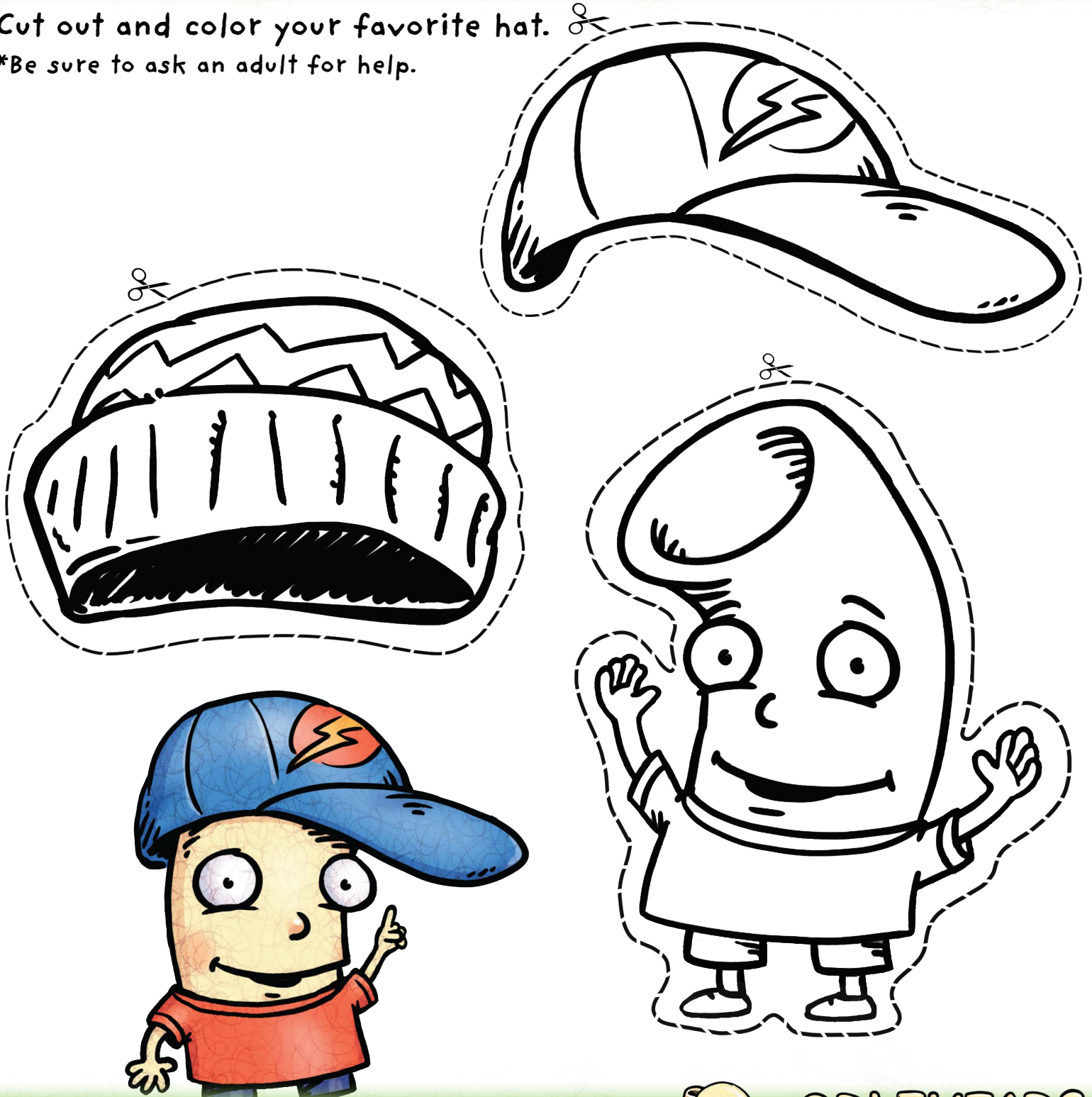


NOODLEHEADS: TOTALLY DISGUISED!

I'm Mac! And I'm Mac! We're both Noodleheads. But we are harder to spot when we wear a disguise!

Cut out and color your favorite hat. ✂

*Be sure to ask an adult for help.



Noodleheads

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Illustrations by Tedd Arnold

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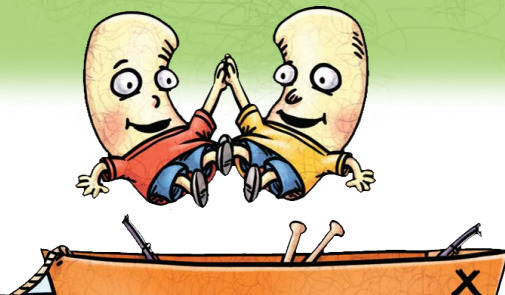


NOODLEHEADS BINGO : Part one

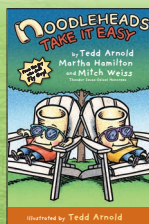
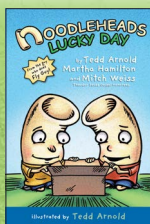
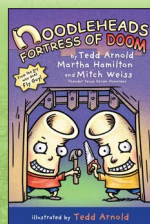
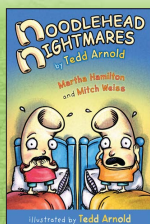
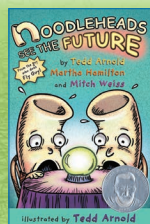
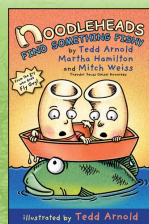
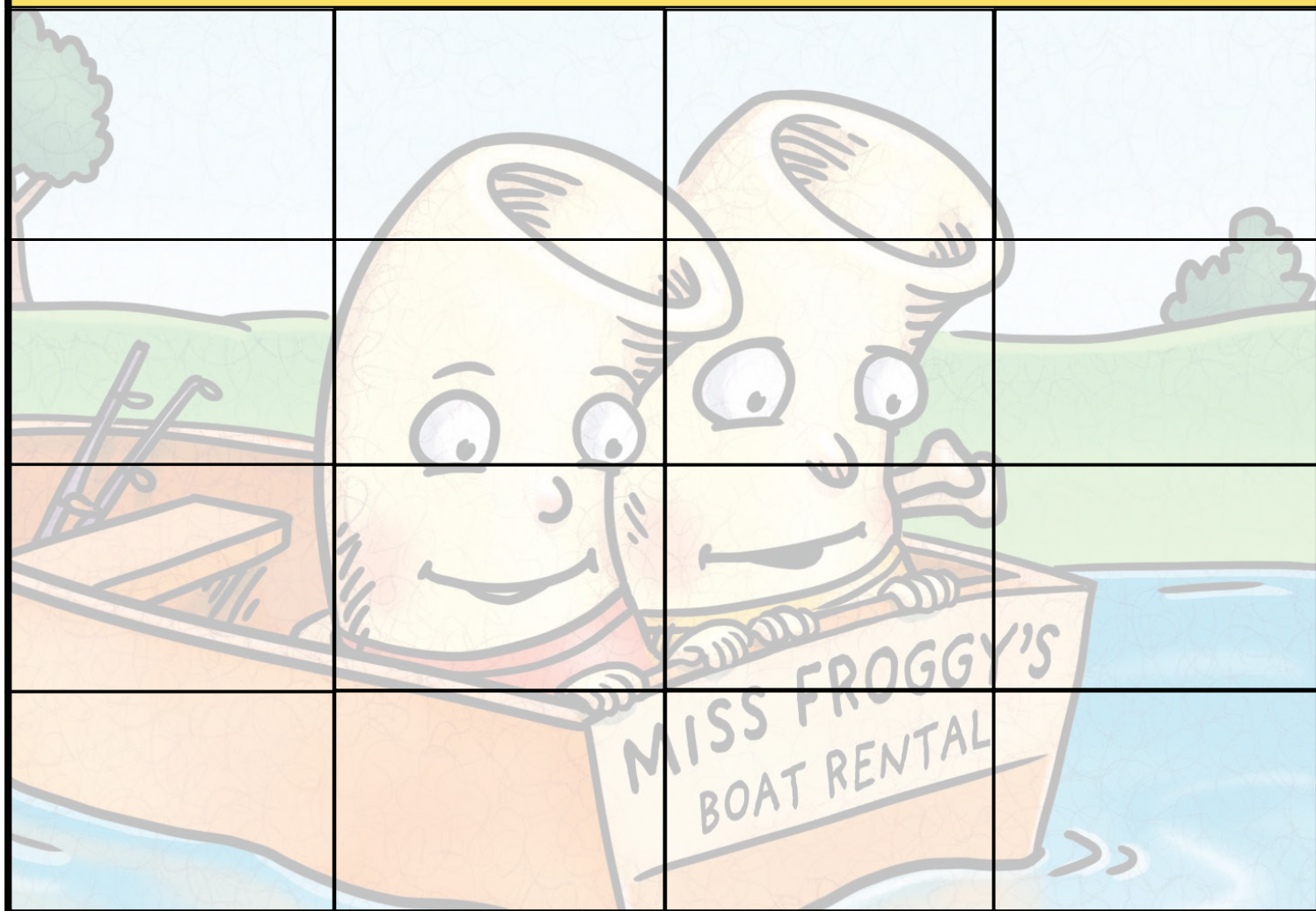
Mac and Mac love all kinds of games!

If a player covers four spaces in a row,
they call out "Noodleheads!" and win!

*Be sure to ask an adult for help with cutting.



NOODLEHEADS BINGO



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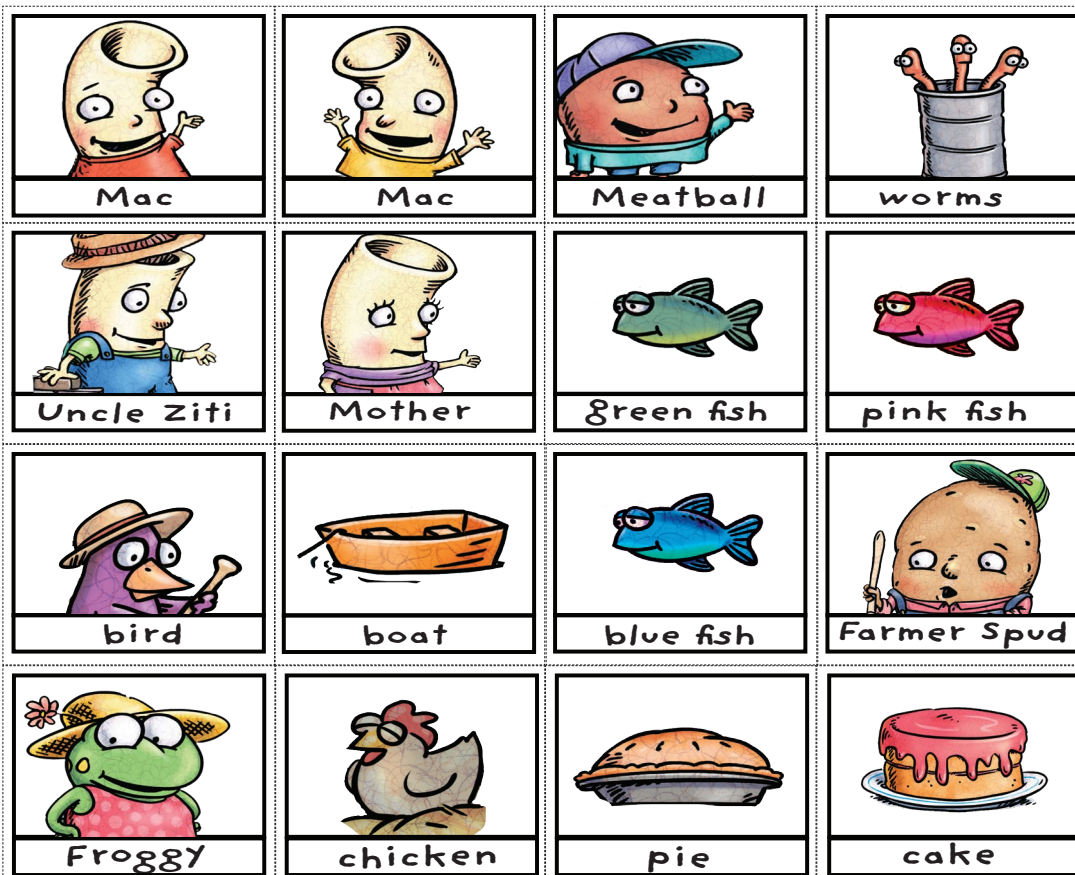
NOODLEHEADS BINGO : Part two

Mac and Mac love all kinds of games!

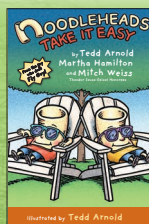
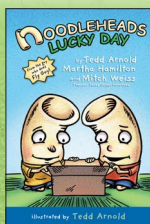
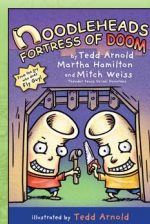
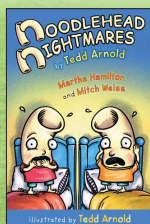
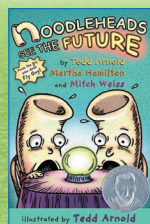
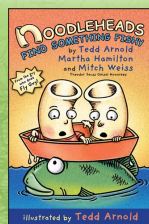
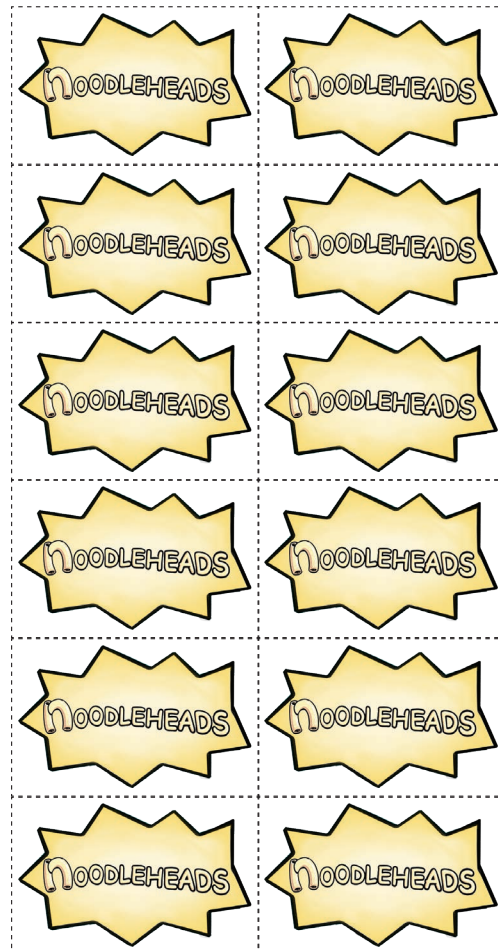
1. Give every player a blank bingo card.
2. Reproduce and cut out the character pieces.
3. Reproduce and cut out the game pieces.
4. Give each player a set of words to tape or glue to their bingo card in any order they choose, and a set of game pieces.
5. Reproduce and cut out a set of cards to call out. Place cards in a bag or basket for drawing and calling out.
6. Call out each character.
7. Players must identify the character on their card and cover the space with a game piece.
8. If a player has all the characters covered diagonally, across a row, or vertically in a column, they should call out "Noodleheads!"

*Be sure to ask an adult for help with cutting.

character pieces



game pieces



NOODLEHEADS

Books by Tedd Arnold,
Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss
Illustrations by Tedd Arnold

#READNOODLEHEADS
HolidayHouse.com/Noodleheads

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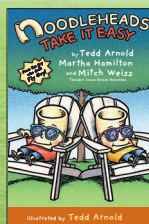
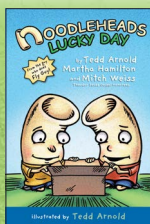
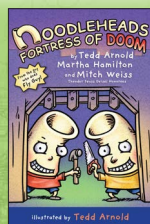
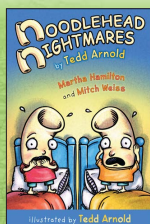
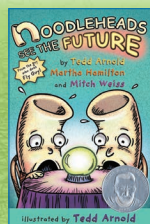
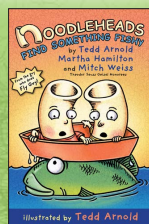
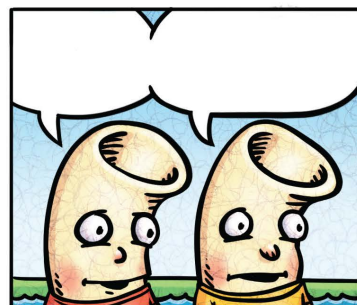
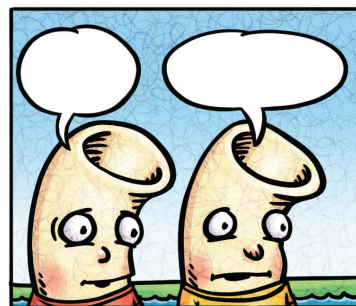
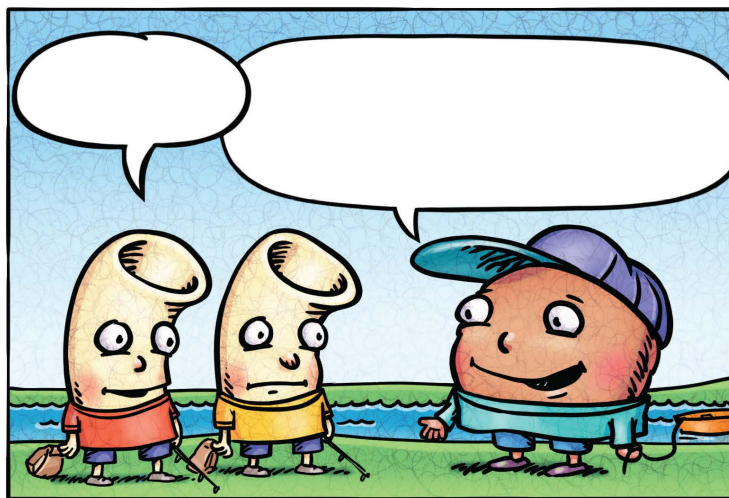
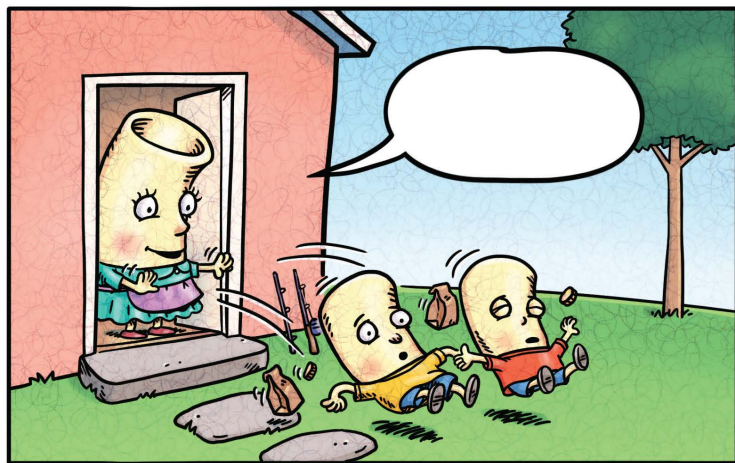
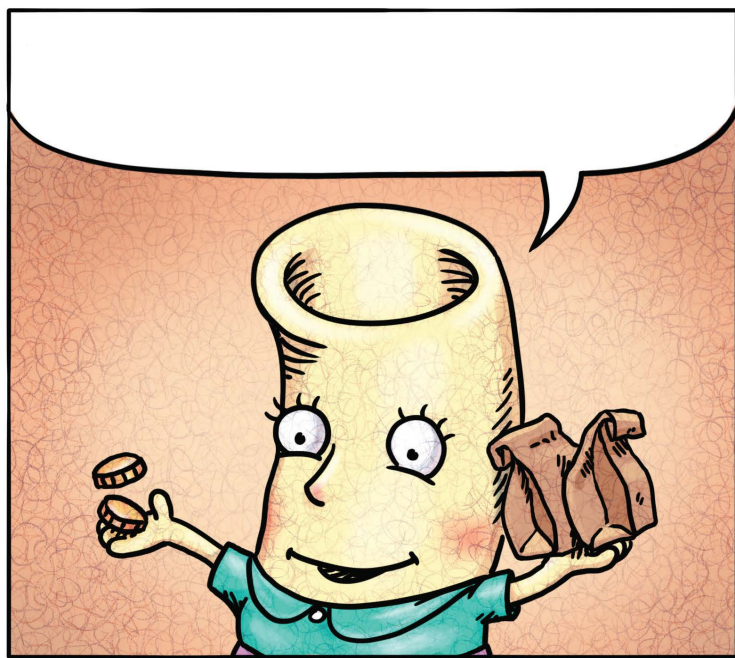
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NOODLEHEADS: Make your own magic story!

Mac and Mac are given a coin and a snack and are sent out to learn something!

Using the below images, write your own story for Mac and Mac.



NOODLEHEADS

Books by Tedd Arnold,
Martha Hamilton, and Mitch Weiss
Illustrations by Tedd Arnold

#READNOODLEHEADS
HolidayHouse.com/Noodleheads

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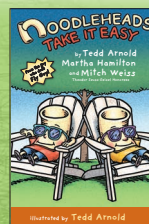
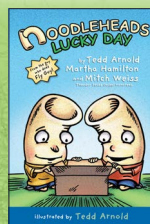
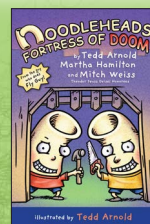
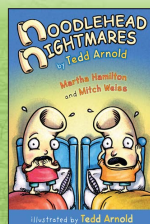
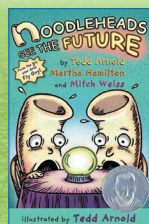
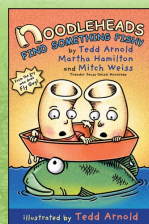
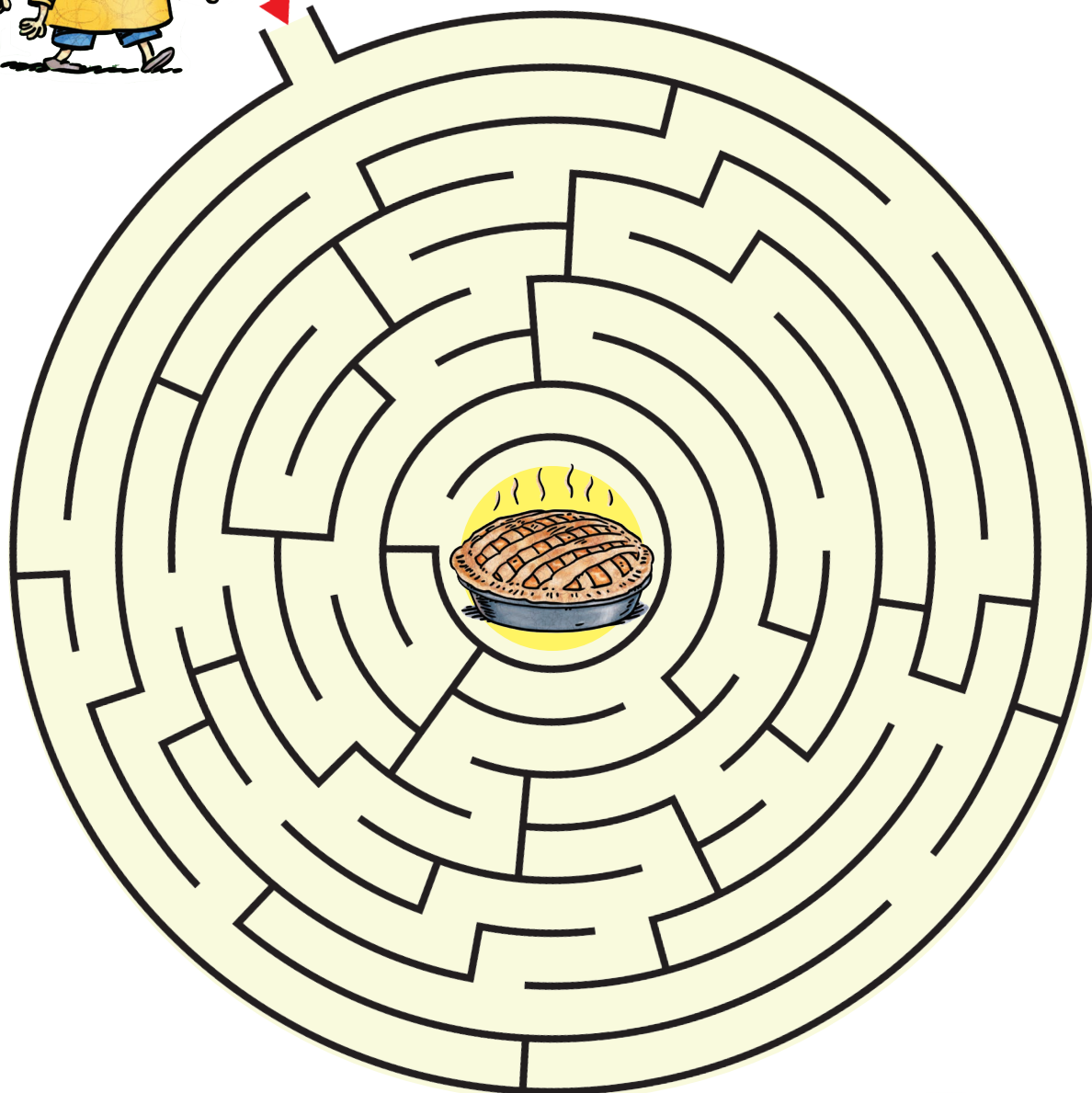
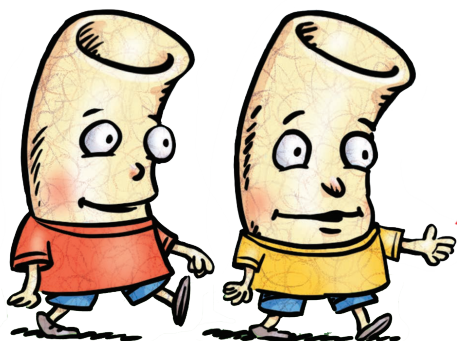
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NOODLEHEADS: Make your own magic story!

Mac and Mac are given a coin and a snack and are sent out to learn something!

Noodleheads Pie Run **Directions:** Help the Noodleheads Mac and Mac find the way through the maze to grab their favorite pie in the center.



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