

# Motivated

FOR KIDS

BUILDING CHARACTER



Featuring: Giving and Sharing



### Snap's pond

If you give, you will receive



### Mr. Farmer's lesson

A lesson on love and sharing

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## NOTE TO PARENTS AND TEACHERS

*Motivated for Kids* is a series of magazines made especially for children. *Motivated for Kids* focuses on providing character-building input wrapped in meaningful fun. It is our hope that the material provided in this series will help children to acquire important moral values and establish positive habits that they can draw on to make the right choices and overcome the difficulties they'll confront in life.

In this issue, we'll focus on giving and sharing—virtues that can be somewhat lacking in today's world. Through a variety of stories and activities, we hope to help children appreciate these attributes, and encourage them to manifest them in their own lives more.

While the *Motivated for Kids* magazine is primarily directed towards children between the ages of four to eight, older or younger children may benefit from the content as well. You may even enjoy reading some of these heartwarming and character-building stories together with your whole family, as they put forth valuable principles for readers of all ages.

May God bless you and your children, and may this and other future magazines in the *Motivated for Kids* series prove helpful to you.

Your *Motivated* family

P.S. We welcome any comments or suggestions on our *Motivated for Kids* series. Please feel free to write us at: [motivated@motivatedmagazine.com](mailto:motivated@motivatedmagazine.com)

**BUILDING CHARACTER**  
**TOPICS: Giving and Sharing**

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# SNAP'S POND

By Jasmine St. Clair

Once upon a time there lived a crocodile named Snap. He was green and scaly, and had a long snout and lots of pointy, jagged teeth. He swam on the surface of his pond, so that his big, beady eyes poked out of the water. He could see very well. He would look to the right, and then he would look to the left, and he would watch the whole pond as he swam around.

"This pond is my home," Snap said to himself. He didn't want anyone else coming to play in his pond. He thought it was his very own.

Sometimes the flamingoes would wade into the water on their long legs. "Can we come into

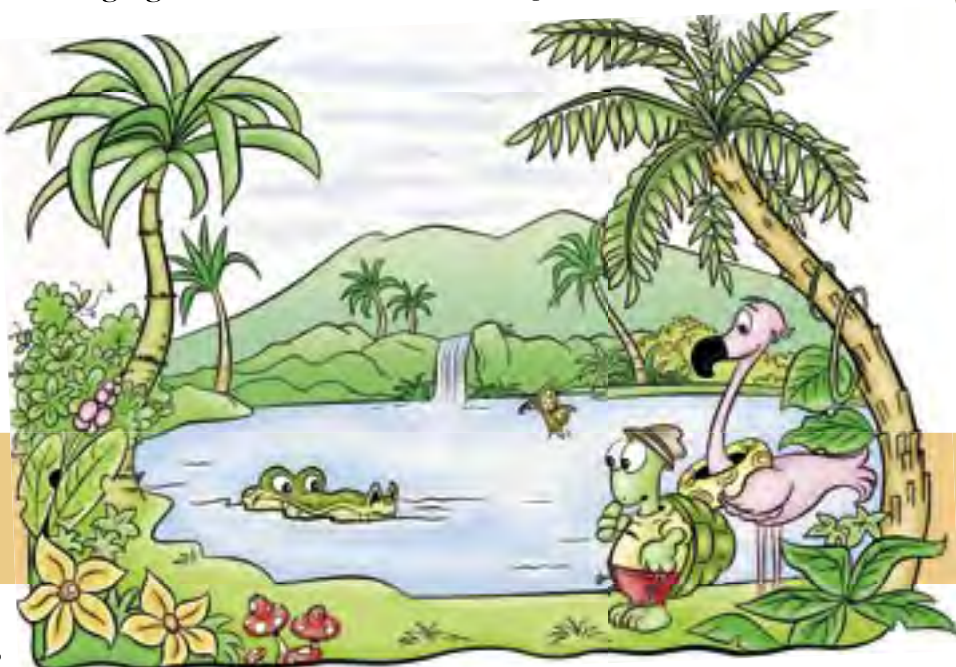
the pond for a while? We'd like to play and drink some water here."

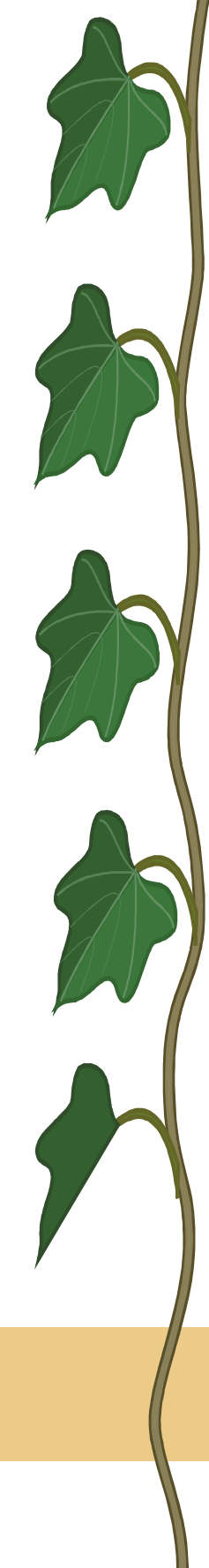
But Snap would go "snap"! "No! This is my pond, and I don't want any flamingoes in it."

Sometimes the big, round, hard-shelled tortoises would come waddling up. "Hey, Snap! Do you mind if we go sit in the corner of the pond, where the shallow water is?"

Snap snapped again, "No, I don't want you cluttering up my pond! This is my special pond and only I can stay in it."

Snap made the other animals feel sad. He would even snap at the beautiful birds that would stop for a drink of water from the pond. He would scare them





and they would fly away.

It wasn't long before Snap began feeling lonely because nobody came around the pond anymore. Snap just swam by himself to one end of the pond, and then he would swim back. He had worked so hard at protecting his pond, but now he was very lonely.

One day he thought, *I'm going to explore the area, and see what else is around.*

He waddled across the turf. Soon he arrived at another pond. The pond was pretty small and the water was very murky, but it was full of animals! They were having so much fun. A great, round, chubby hippopotamus was rolling over and over in the mud. A couple of tortoises were playing catch, chasing each other up and down the side of the pond. A bunch of tall, beautiful pink flamingoes were standing and splashing in the water. They would reach their beaks down and flick the water up in the air, and all the little droplets would fall down on them. And other beautiful, brightly colored birds fluttered around, interested to see what all the fun was about.

Snap hid himself in a bush just outside the pond, and watched everybody playing.

They seemed to be having such a good time. Snap was afraid they might see him and send him away, like he had sent them away, so he soon crawled out of his bush and went scurrying back to his own pond.

Snap sat in his pond all by himself. He felt very sad as he remembered all the animals that had tried to come and play in his pond, and how he had sent them away. Now he was very sorry.

*What can I do to get the animals to come and play in my pond?* he thought.

Then he had an idea. *I'm going to make this the best pond ever!*

He got busy right away and started digging a mud hole on one side of the pond. He dug and dug in the soft ground until he had made a huge mud hole. Then he opened his great jaws and grabbed a bunch of leaves that were lying along the ground, and set them in a pile. There were many fruit trees surrounding his pond, so he grabbed some of the fruit that had fallen from the trees and set it all on the pile of leaves. At last everything was ready.



Snap went waddling back over to the other pond. As soon as he got there, he stuck his head out of the bushes and went "snap"! All the animals stopped what they were doing. They slowly looked around. For a moment they were worried, and thought, *Oh no! What is Snap coming to tell us now?* They thought he might have more nasty things to say to them.

But Snap was different now. "Hey, everybody! You can come and play in my big pond, if you'd like. I'm sorry that I was nasty to you.

I made a nice mud hole, and I got some fruit and leaves so that everybody can have snack. If you want, you can come over and play there."

The animals all looked at each other. "We'd like that!" they all

chorused.

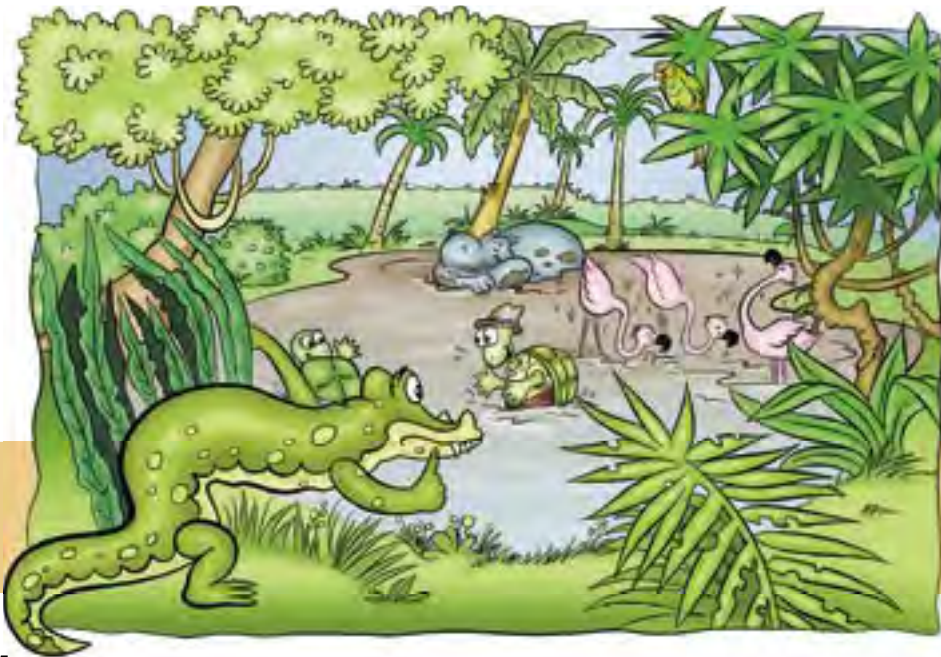
The animals followed Snap back to his pond.

Henry, the big hippo, went wob, wob, wob, wob as he wobbled over to the pond. "Wow! Look at this mud hole!" he exclaimed when he saw Snap's pond. The hole was two or three times as big as the mud hole in their old pond. Henry dove into it. Slosh! He slipped and slid around in the mud, and had so much fun.

The four graceful flamingoes were delighted to join Snap's lovely pond, as they'd always wanted to. And as for the tortoises, they had a great time chasing each other up and down the pond.

Snap sat on the side of the pond, happy to see all his new friends having so much fun.

In the days that passed, more





and more animals came by Snap's pond. Word had spread that it was the best pond in the area.

One day Snap noticed another animal slowly coming across the marsh towards his pond. His eyes lit up: It was another crocodile!

"Hello, what's your name?" she said, as she came near.

"I'm Snap," he replied.

"I'm Flora. I heard that your pond is the place to be. Do you mind if I stay here for a bit?"

"I would love to have you stay!"

Snap exclaimed, "We could be friends."

"Oh yes," said Flora. "I think I will be very happy here. You seem like such a kind crocodile."

And so Snap and Flora lived happily together.

Snap was very happy that he had learned to share, because when he shared, he was blessed with friends in return.



"When you share, it not only makes others happy, but it also makes you happy."





1

## FIND THE DIFFERENCES

Find the seven differences in these pictures and circle them.



2

## LET'S MAKE A POND!

You will need:

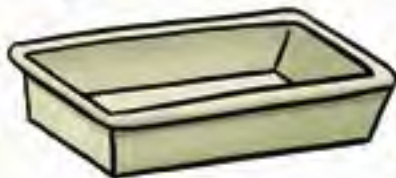
a basin

water

several  
small stones  
or rocks

a couple of  
small leafy  
branches

some toys  
that can  
get wet



### Ask your parents to help you with this activity!

Instructions: Put the stones around the basin. Make sure you have enough stones or rocks to go all around the basin. Then, place the leafy branches around the rocks—you can hold the branches up by placing them in between or behind the rocks.

Pour the water into the basin. The water should only be a couple of centimeters deep and should not completely cover the rocks.



And there you have it—a pond! Now you can play with your toys in the pond and invite your friends to play with you too! Have fun!





# MR. FARMER'S LESSON

## A LESSON ON LOVE AND SHARING

By Simon Peterson,  
adapted

"Mom," Kareem said sadly as he was getting ready for bed, "no one ever wants to play with me!"



"Oh my! And why is that, dear?"  
Mother said sympathetically.

"Well, whenever I invite someone to play with me, they always choose the toys I want to play with. Then I don't want to play with my friends anymore and they get all upset! But, it's because they take all my favorite toys. I want to play with other kids, but I also want to play with all of my toys. Why should I have to share them?"

Grandpa came into the room just in time to hear Kareem's dilemma.

"Oh look, Grandpa is here!" said Mother. "How about you read a story with Grandpa? I'm sure he knows a good story that can help to solve your problem!"

"I think I do!" Grandpa said.  
"Kareem, why don't you bring me your story book, and I'll read you a story before bed."

"Yes, please!" Kareem said, as he went and found his book.

Grandpa put his arm around Kareem and began to read.



Once upon a time, there was a certain wealthy man whom we will call Mr. Farmer. He had a very big farm. One year, there was a great



harvest and his workers gathered lots and lots of grain.

Mr. Farmer stood outside of his house and watched to make sure the workers were carefully putting all the sacks of grain safely in his barns.

As he stood there, admiring the endless piles of grain sacks, one of Mr. Farmer's neighbors passed by, and said, "That is a lot of grain you got this year!"

"Yes!" Mr. Farmer replied, "I have so much livestock and land to grow grain. How blessed I am! I am so rich!"

As he was bragging about his great wealth, a poor worker approached him and asked, "Sir, you've had such a good harvest. Can you spare a few bags of grain for our families?"

"What?" exclaimed Mr. Farmer. "No! I can't. I have



to keep it all for myself!"

The poor worker looked at the barns and then at Mr. Farmer, "But ... but, Master, your barns aren't even big enough to store all this grain!"

"Nonsense!" replied Mr. Farmer. "It will all fit."

"Well," said the worker again, "I'm sure you wouldn't even notice it if you just gave us a few bags. We've worked so hard, and we're very poor."

"No! No! I can't give away any of the grain. I need it all for myself."

And with that, Mr. Farmer walked off towards his house.

Later that day, after the workers had finished putting all the sacks of grain they could possibly fit into the barns, Mr. Farmer saw that there were still many more piles left that would not fit.

"Oh my!" Mr. Farmer said to himself, "The worker was right—all the grain doesn't fit. The harvest was so great that I have no room in my barns to store it all! What shall I do?"

Mr. Farmer started to worry. "Oh no, I may have to give some of it away!" he gasped. But then he had an idea.

"Aha! I know what I'll do. I will build bigger barns! And in there I will store all my goods, and that way I won't have to

share them with anyone.”



“Grandpa, what a selfish man!” said Kareem. “His poor workers were very poor and he had so much grain that it didn’t even fit in his barns, but still he didn’t want to share.”

“I know.” Grandpa agreed. “He was a very selfish man. Instead of sharing what he had with others, he decided to build bigger barns to hold more for himself. It wasn’t bad that he was rich and had all those barns. Do you know what he was doing wrong?”

“Yes!” said Kareem. “It was that he didn’t want to share. The poor workers just wanted a little, but Mr. Farmer didn’t want to give them anything. He wanted it all for himself.”

“That’s right!” said Grandpa. “Mr. Farmer could have been passing out food to the poor from those barns, but he didn’t.”

“Grandpa, I’ve got lots of toys.” said Kareem. “But no one wants to play with me.”

“You are rich in toys, Kareem. Maybe God gave you so many so that you can share them! Remember,

you get more blessings by giving to others, rather than only by receiving.  
And you can never lose by giving!”

Just then Mother appeared at the door. “I think it’s time to go to bed!” she said with a smile.

“Good night, Kareem!” Grandpa said, giving Kareem a big bear hug.

“Good night, Grandpa! And thank you for reading me that story.” said Kareem.

Mother tucked Kareem into bed, said a prayer and gave him a goodnight kiss. And soon Kareem was fast asleep.

The following day, Kareem saw Hisham passing by his house on his bicycle.

“Hey, Hisham!” Kareem called out. “Do you want to come and play with me?”

Hisham looked surprised.

“Sure!” He answered happily.

Kareem opened the garden gate and showed Hisham to his toy box. “Look, I just got a new set of cars. Why don’t you pick the ones you would like to play with and then we can build roads and play with the cars together?”

“Really?” I can choose first which cars to play with?” Hisham was looking at Kareem with wide eyes.

“Yes, go ahead!” Kareem said, with a big smile as he showed Hisham the new car set.

“Well, “I would like to play with the Police car and the Fire truck,” he said sheepishly.

“Okay!” answered Kareem, even though those were some of his favorites too. “I’ll play with the Ambulance, and the Tow truck. Now let’s start building some roads with these blocks!”

Kareem had a big smile on his face as he and Hisham began placing the blocks in place. He was having so much fun playing with a friend and sharing, instead of playing all by himself.

The two boys played happily together that afternoon. When it was starting to get dark, Mother came out to announce that Hisham’s mother had called for Hisham to go home for dinner.

“I’ll help you put the toys



away before I go," said Hisham.

"Thank you!" Kareem answered, and then added, "Tomorrow afternoon you can come and we can play again."

"Really? That'd be awesome!" exclaimed Hisham. "Thank you, Kareem. You're such a good friend. I had a really good time. Tomorrow I'll bring my LEGO and cars too, and that way we'll have more cars to play with, and we can even start to build a city for the cars to drive around in."

"That's a great idea," said Kareem. "You're a great friend too, Hisham. See you

tomorrow!"

Hisham got on his bicycle and pedaled away to his house.



At dinner time, Kareem told his parents, "You know, today I understood what Grandpa meant last night when he said that you never lose by giving. I never wanted to share my toys with anyone, because I thought that to have fun I needed them all to be able to play. But today I realized that when I shared them, I made my friend happy, and I had lots of fun as well, even if I didn't play with all of the cars!"

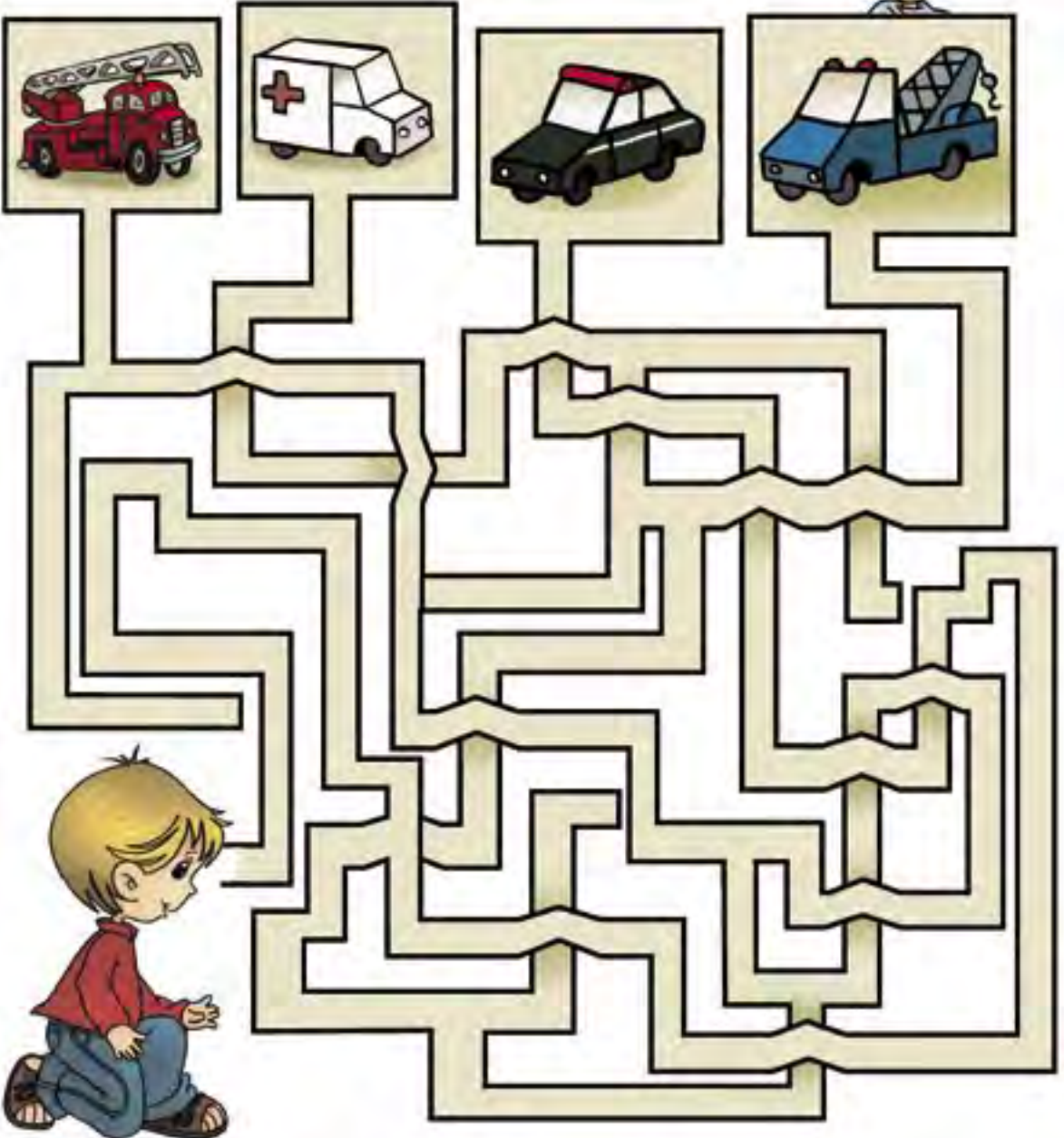
"I am very proud of you, son, for learning that valuable lesson and deciding to share with others," said Father. "Your Grandpa is right—you never lose by giving!"



3

**MAZE FUN**

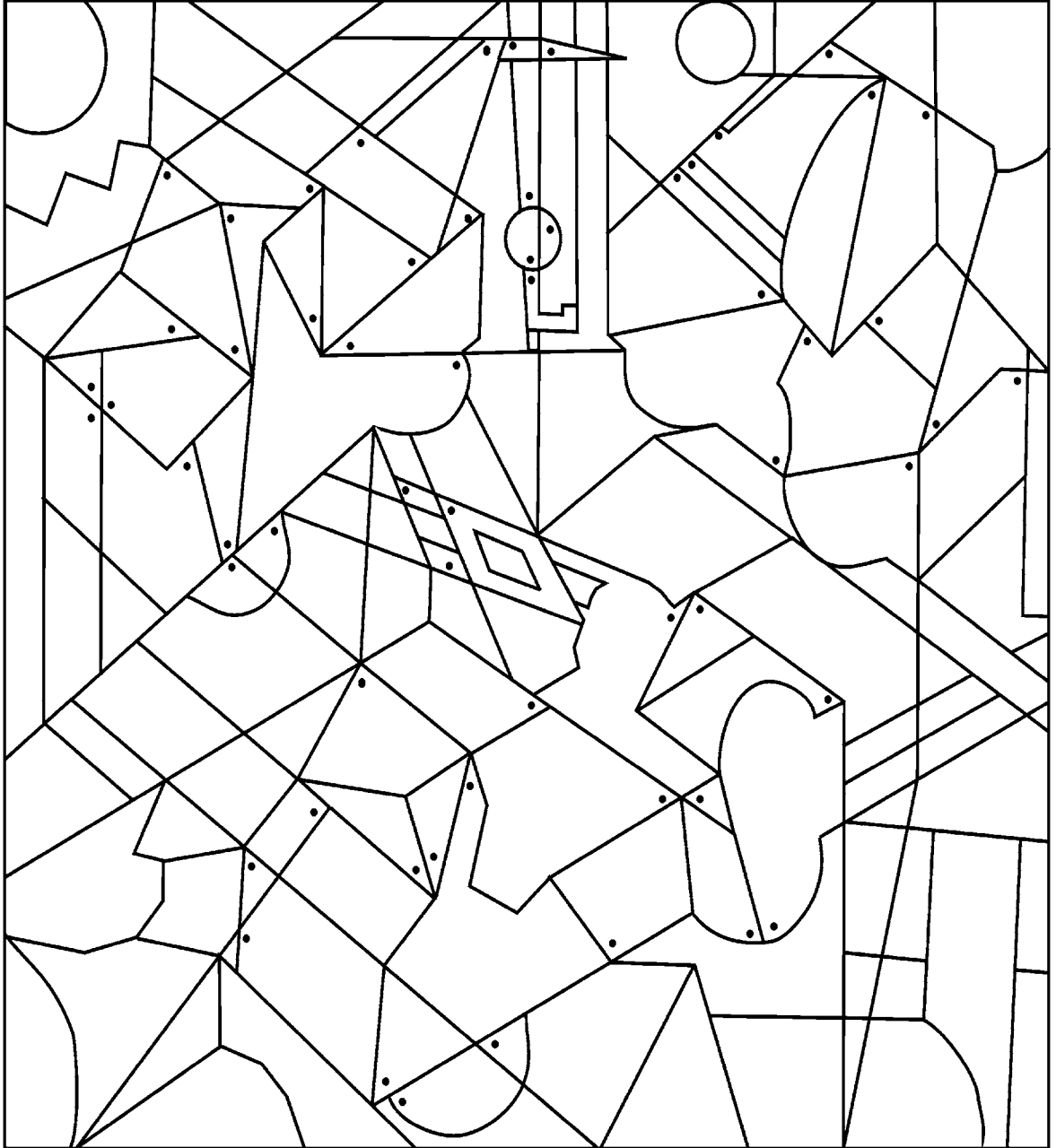
Kareem would like to share his toy cars with Hisham. Go through the maze and under the arches to find out which ones Hisham wants to play with.





## HIDDEN PICTURES

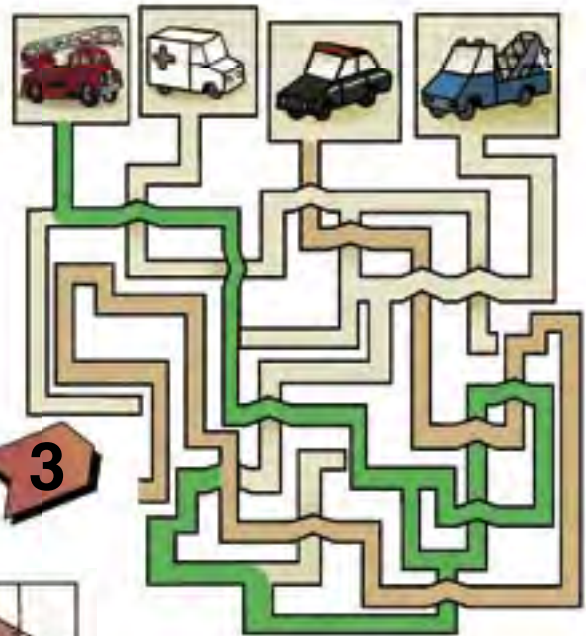
Color each shape that has a black dot inside, to discover the hidden pictures.





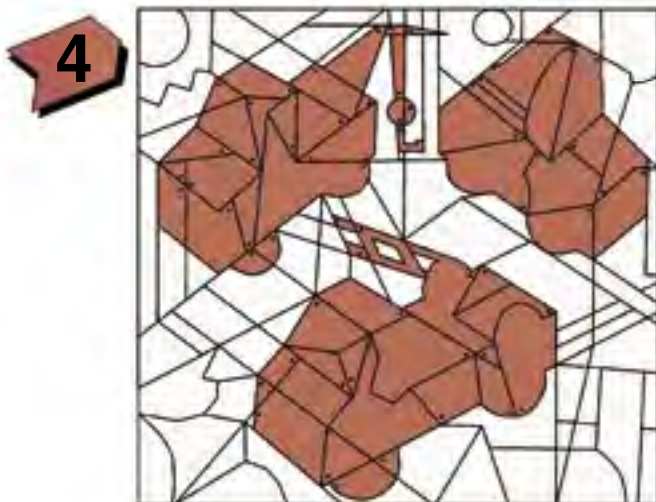
# ANSWERS TO THE ACTIVITY PAGES

## FIND THE DIFFERENCES



MAZE FUN

## HIDDEN PICTURES



# It comes back to you

Do you know what the greatest gift you could ever give to someone is? It's love! Love is the greatest gift in the universe, and when you give love you receive love in return. You never lose when you give love.

Here are a few ideas of ways in which you can give love, and in return you will receive love.

When you give and share with those around you—your family, your brothers and sisters, and your friends—then you will be happier too!

© Next time you see your mommy or daddy, give them a big hug and tell them how thankful you are for how well they care for you.

© Next time you are playing with your friends or brothers and sisters, let them be the first to choose what toy they want to play with, and then tell them how much you enjoy playing with them.

© If someone wants to borrow something of yours, lend it to them happily, and see how you brighten up their day!

© Invite someone whom you don't normally play with, to play with you. You may find that a little act of love is just what it takes to become good friends.

There are many more ways you can learn to be more sharing and giving. See how many you can think of, check your ideas with your parents or teacher, and then do them!

