



Changing life stories



Copyright Knights and Plagiarism Pirates



The Authors' Licensing and Collecting Society (ALCS) is a not-for-profit organisation, with around 95,000 members. It looks after and protects the rights of thousands of writers making sure their creativity is protected and rewarded. With National Writing Day approaching, it's a good time to be thinking about why we should protect copyright and support the creativity of our wonderful authors – many of whom have written our favourite children's stories.

Copyright Knights and Plagiarism Pirates challenges pupils to think about what copyright is, who and what it protects and why it is so important to protect creativity. It also asks them to consider what plagiarism is, what happens when you plagiarise and why it is wrong to do so.

The task is simple and flexible, so teachers will be able to slot it into their class time. Equally it can be run as a voluntary activity in the school library or as a club activity. Activities are designed to encourage pupils to consider the issues surrounding copyright and be creative in their thinking, with the final tasks promoting the values that underpin the work of the ALCS.

Understanding copyright and plagiarism

It is recommended teachers read the [Get Your Copy Right](#) resource to familiarise themselves with the issues, in particular the Guide to Copyright and the Guide to Plagiarism at the end of the resource. Visit:

<https://literacytrust.org.uk/resources/get-your-copy-right/>

Activities to help pupils understand copyright

Word search - Begin by explaining the meaning of each word that can be found in the word search to help pupils understand the issues of copyright and plagiarism.

Make sure pupils understand that whenever they come up with an idea or do a piece of work, they automatically 'own' the copyright. Copyright is essentially where the owner of a piece of work (which can be anything from written words to music or art) has the right to make copies of it, but no one else does unless they have permission.

Class discussion on codes of conduct - A code of conduct is a set of rules which a group of people agree to abide by; it acts as a guide and reminds us of the right way to behave. A code of conduct can help us avoid breaking the law, especially when we don't realise we might be doing something wrong. Ask your pupils to discuss the following questions in class:

- What are codes of conduct for?
- Who uses them?
- Why are they important?

A code of conduct for knights was a moral code that went beyond rules and required knights to uphold ideals such as bravery, courtesy, honour and protection. See an example on page 5. What other qualities can pupils think of that would be good for a knight to have?

Write a classroom code of conduct - Put pupils into groups and ask them to think of any codes of conduct they use every day. For example: school uniform; school rules; crossing the road; the Highway Code; good manners. Can they think of any other situations where a code of conduct might be useful? Using the template provided on page 6, ask pupils to write a classroom code of conduct.

Consequences - In groups, ask pupils to write down what happens if people break a code of conduct. What would the impact on them be? What kinds of punishments are there for breaking the rules? Breaking school rules may result in being sent to the headmaster or a detention. Breaking copyright law or plagiarising can result in being disqualified from exams and excluded from school, paying huge fines or even going to prison.

Protecting creativity - How would pupils feel if someone stole their ideas? Give each pupil a piece of paper and ask them to come up with one idea for why they should be allowed to wear their own clothes to school. Don't let them write their names on the paper. Collect the bits of paper, choose one idea and deliberately congratulate the wrong person for suggesting it – even going so far as to give them a reward! How does that make the person who really came up with the idea feel? Imagine someone not only taking or copying your idea, but then making money from that. How would pupils feel if that happened to them?

Piracy - Pirates were people who sailed the seas and made a living out of stealing from others. See the pirate song on page 7 for an example! The term 'piracy' also refers to a type of copyright infringement where people illegally copy or make use of information without the owner's permission and without paying for it. The most familiar type of piracy is where people download music, film or television programmes without permission. Can pupils decipher the pirate message in a bottle using the pirate code?

A world full of treasure - People are very good at coming up with ideas. Think of all the wonderful inventions even just from the last fifty years. What would happen if people stopped wanting to think of good ideas and innovations? What kinds of inventions, gadgets, medicine, homes, art and music would we live without? Ask pupils to make a list of all the things that might not have been invented if creativity wasn't protected.

A world without ideas - Imagine a world where there are no more ideas because people are afraid they will get stolen. What would it be like? Ask pupils to draw a picture of how the world might look without creativity.

How can we protect our creativity?

Walk the plank - Using the list of misdemeanours on page 10 reflecting different types of plagiarism, discuss whether each one is right or wrong. Are they plagiarism? For every answer pupils get wrong they must walk the plank! If they get it right, give them a reward (house point, merit, chocolate coin).

Copyright law is there to protect all the wonderful ideas we have. In particular, the ALCS works to ensure authors' ideas and stories are protected. What else can we do to ensure people protect creativity?

Visit www.getitrightfromagenuinesite.org for information and advice about legally downloading content online.

The task: Knights vs Pirates

What was the job of a knight? To protect and serve! What was the job of a pirate? To steal and plunder! Pupils are challenged to complete one of the follow writing tasks and be a **Copyright Knight** or a **Plagiarism Pirate**:

Copyright Knights - write a code of conduct to teach people about copyright and help people understand the importance of protecting creativity. Use the shield template on page 12 to write your code of conduct on.

OR

Plagiarism Pirates - write a song explaining what plagiarism is and what happens to people if they plagiarise. Use the scroll template on page 13 to write your song on.



A Knight's Code of Conduct

Protect the weak and innocent

Keep faith and always speak the truth

Unselfishness and caring for others before yourself

Courtesy and good manners with everyone

Bravery and courage in the presence of danger

Patience at all times even when suffering

Nobility, grace and decency in every situation

To work without reward

To defend against deceit and unfairness

To guard with honour your fellow Knights.

Our Classroom Code of Conduct

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Pirate Song

I'll steal your words, I'll steal your songs

It's a pirate's for life me!

I'll copy them all, I'll do you wrong

I'll sell them for a fee, yo ho!

I'll wager I'll put your ideas
in danger,

I'll plunder and pillage and nick!

I'll pretend they're mine, you won't
get them back

And that's the pirates trick, ahoy!

They're not my words, they're not
my songs

No more pirate's life for me!

I'm in this cell 'cause I did wrong

And I'm no longer free, arrrrr!

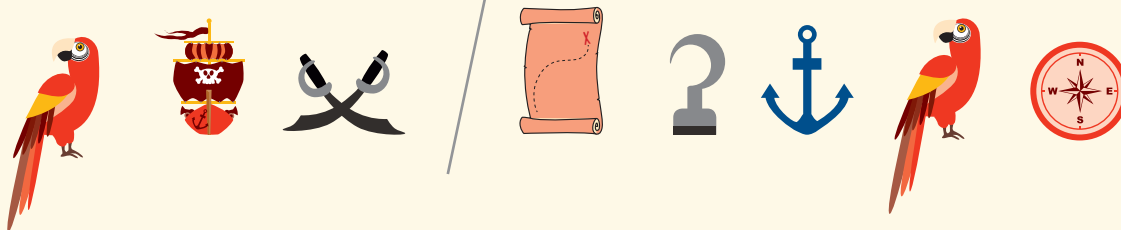
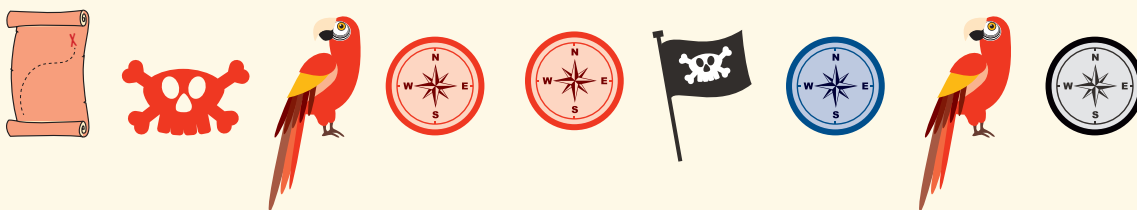
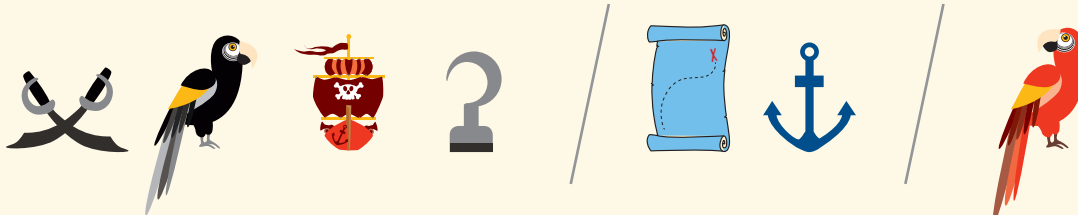


Message in a bottle

6

Ahoy! This be a warning to all pirates!

Can you unravel the following message using the code on the next page?

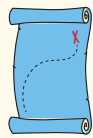


7

Pirate code



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



I



J



K



L



M



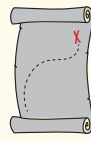
N



O



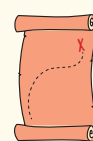
P



Q



R



S



T



U



V



W



X



Y



Z

Walk the plank!

Can pupils decide what is right and wrong from these ideas? Set up a 'plank' using a gym mat or similar. Call out the following scenarios and see if the pupils can guess whether they are plagiarism or not. If they are correct, reward them; if not, make them walk the plank by jumping off the end of the gym mat.

Isaac has to write about Roald Dahl's *Fantastic Mr Fox*. He finds an essay online which is answering the same question. He copies the essay, changes one or two words, and hands it in. *Answer: PLAGIARISM*

Aliyah can't remember how to do her homework. She asks her Mum for some help, who explains how to do it, but doesn't give her the answer. Aliyah works it out for herself and hands the homework in. *Answer: NOT PLAGIARISM*

Josef gets stuck with his history homework and asks Mia if he can look at hers. Mia feels sorry for Josef, so she gives him her book so that he can see how she has answered the question. Josef just copies her work and hands the homework in. *Answer: PLAGIARISM*

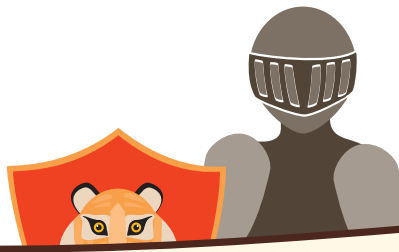
Syed reads a story he has written out loud to the class. Jamila hears it and thinks it's very clever so asks him if she can use some of the story for her work. Syed says yes and gives her permission. *Answer: NOT PLAGIARISM*

Jayden listens to some music on his iPod. He wants to share it with a friend, so he downloads it and copies it onto a disc and gives it to his friend as a gift. *Answer: PIRACY*

The class have to find some pictures on the internet about volcanoes. Zara finds some images and copies and pastes them into her work, without permission to use them. *Answer: PLAGIARISM*

Marek has a project about the human body for science. He knows that his older sister did the same project and got a good mark for it, so he just changes her name for his, and hands the project in. *Answer: PLAGIARISM*

Aria really wants to see a new film, but it's not out in the cinema in this country yet. She downloads it from the internet to watch it. *Answer: PIRACY*



Word search

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

Can you find these words? They might be horizontal, vertical, diagonal, forwards or backwards.

Plagiarism

Copyright

Copying

Stealing

Theft

Ownership

Creativity

Idea

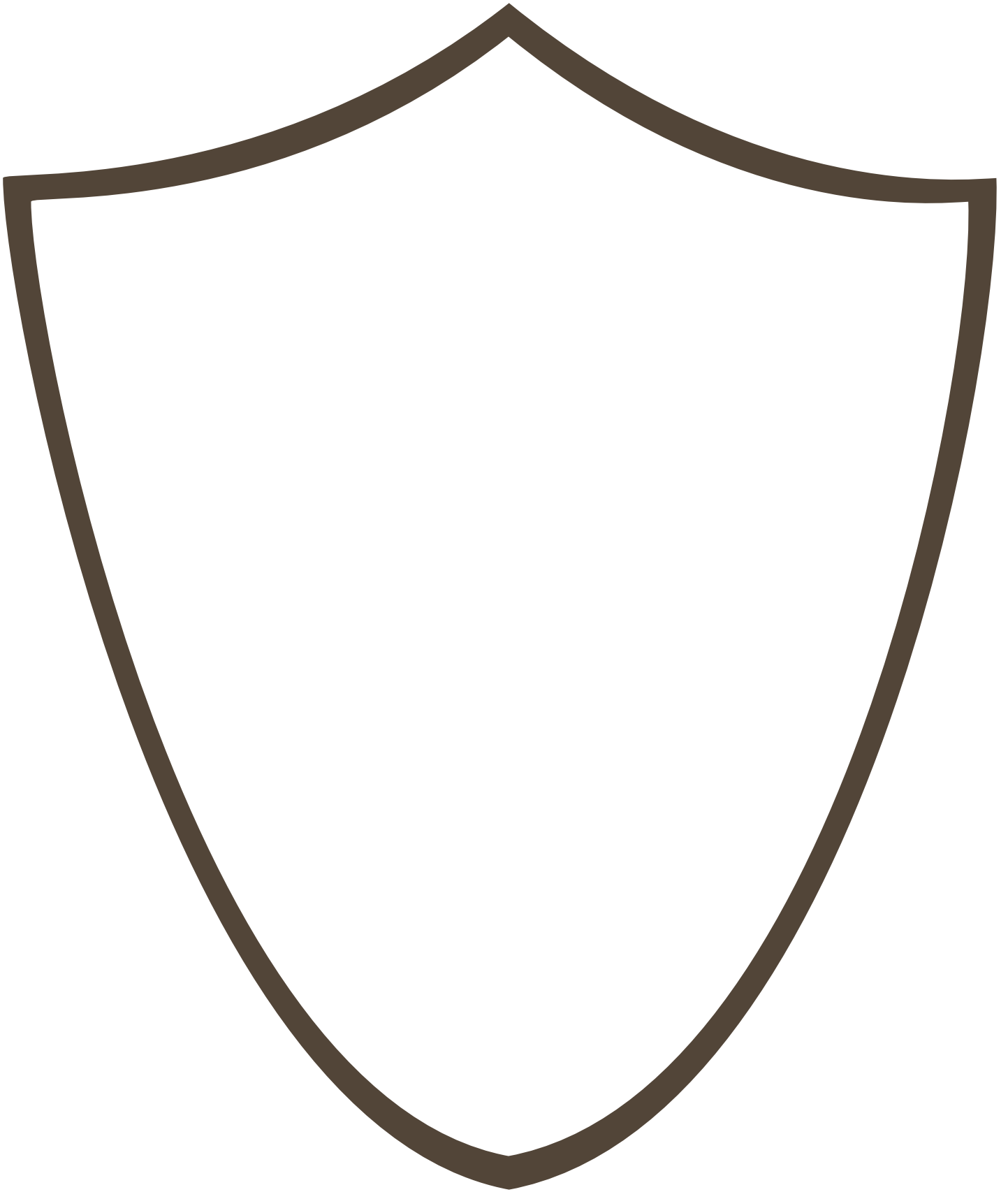
Piracy

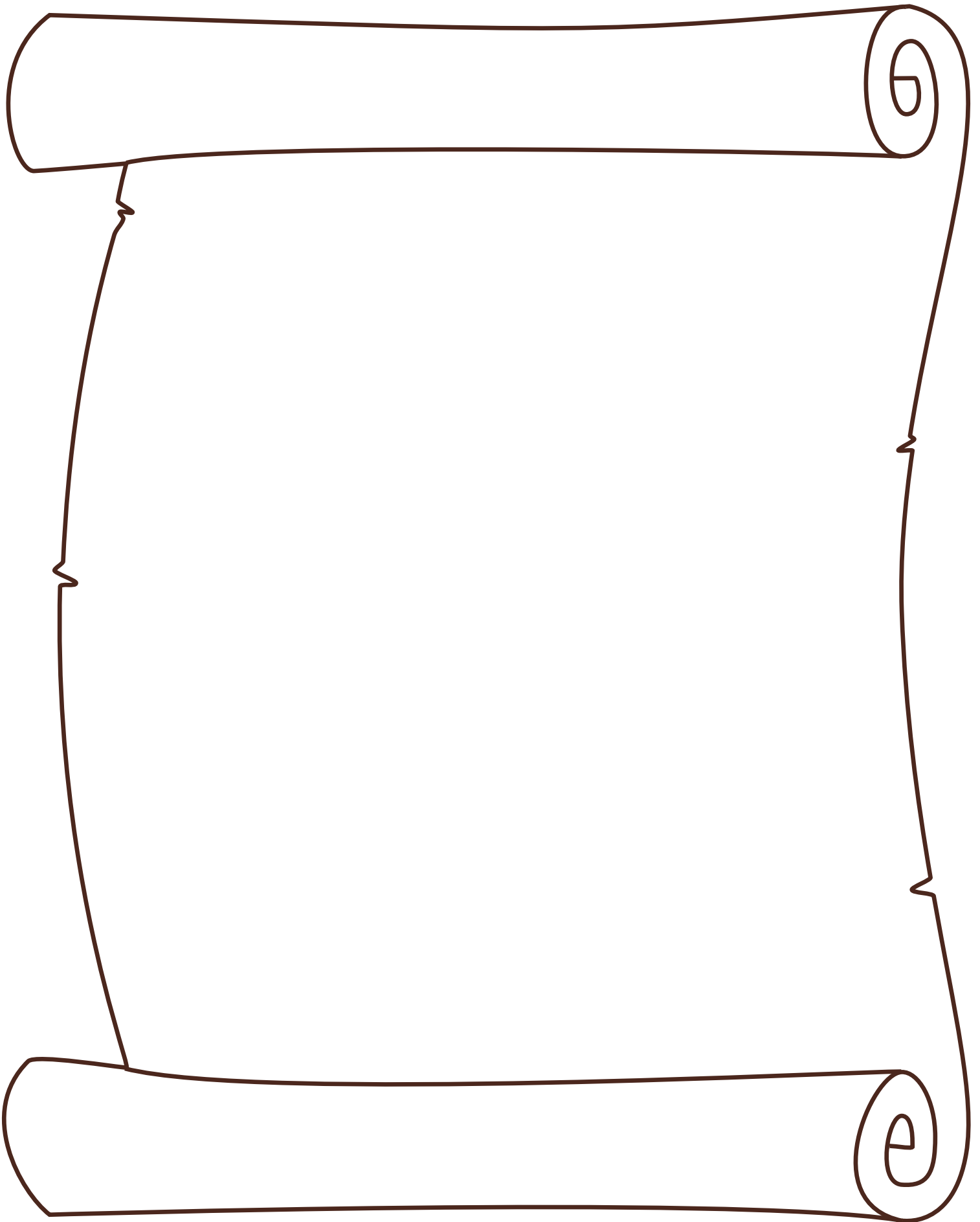
Cheating

Protection

Reward

7





ABOUT THE NATIONAL LITERACY TRUST

The National Literacy Trust is an independent charity dedicated to raising literacy levels in the UK. We run literacy projects in deprived communities, help schools to transform teaching and campaign to make literacy a priority for politicians and parents.

National Literacy Trust membership offers inspiring teaching resources, school improvement tools and accredited training and CPD to support literacy throughout your school or setting.

Full members can access online training and CPD at preferential rates, exclusive resources and generous partner discounts.

Find out more at literacytrust.org.uk/join



T: 020 7587 1842

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Registered address: 68 South Lambeth Road, London SW8 1RL.