Goodness, Grady

Objective

Students will read a true story about Grady, the Silo Cow, from Yukon, Oklahoma. They will write their own endings for the story to rescue Grady. Students will compare their own weights to Grady's weight.

Background

A silo is the tall building you sometimes see on old farms. It looks something like a rocket. In the past, farmers used silos to make silage, a kind of fermented feed for farm animals. The farmer makes the silage by chopping fresh green plants (alfalfa, corn, grass) and storing it in a place where no air can get in. This allows the plants to ferment so they are easier to digest. These days most silage is made in pits dug in the ground and covered with plastic.

The story of Grady, the Silo Cow, is a true story that happened in Yukon, Oklahoma, on February 22, 1949. (See the reading page included with this lesson.) Grady weighed 1200 pounds. A typical beef cow weighs about 1,000 pounds. A calf typically weighs 100 pounds at birth. A bull weighs about 1,500 pounds.

Hereford cows have red bodies and white faces. Some have white markings on their bodies, too. This breed of cattle originally came from England and is raised for meat.

Animal instinct is fight or flight. In the story included with this lesson, Grady whirled around and started chasing her owner when he untied her because she was scared. Then she tried to get away.

Language Arts

1. Read and discuss background and "Goodness, Grady," the story of Grady, the Silo Cow, included with this lesson.
2. Provide copies of the included graphic organizer.
   —After reading the story, "Goodness, Grady," students will complete the graphic organizer, using complete sentences
3. The book *Grady's in the Silo*, by UnaBelle Townsend, is based on the story of the real Grady. Read the book as a class.
   —Students will compare the story presented in this lesson with the story in the book.
4. Read either the story,"Goodness, Grady" or the book, *Grady's in the Silo,* to the point where Bill Mach asked for help and letters started coming in. STOP reading

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Materials

lunch-size paper bags

crayons

scissors

bathroom scale

cylindrical-shaped containers (oatmeal box, potato chip can, coffee can, etc.)

Materials for decorating silo: burlap, aluminum foil, small stones and clay, tongue depressors, popsicle sticks or pretzels to represent wooden silos).

Vocabulary

silage—fodder (as hay or corn) fermented (as in a silo) to produce a rich moist feed for livestock

silo—a trench, pit, or especially a tall cylinder (as of wood or concrete) used for making and storing silage

stillborn—dead at birth

veterinarian—a person who is qualified and has been given the authority to treat diseases and injuries of animals

—Students will write their own endings by coming up with plans to get Grady out of the silo.

—Students will illustrate their stories.

—FINISH reading the original story. Did anyone come up with a suggested idea from the article or book? Did anyone come up with an idea similar to the one that they used to get Grady out?

5. Hand out copies of the play, "Goodness, Grady!" included with this lesson.

—Assign parts.

—Students will practice reading the play aloud.

—Students will create sack puppets, using the puppet patterns.

—Invite other classes in to watch the play.

—Record or video students performing the play for them to listen to/ watch.

6. Students will read another book about a cow that gets into trouble or causes trouble. (See the "Extra Reading" list.)

—Students will fold a piece of construction paper in half and write "compare" on one side and "contrast" on the other.

—Students will draw and write about ways the stories are alike and ways they are different.

7. Discuss with students how the news spread in 1949 (newspapers, letters, and telegrams) compared to how news travels today (email, social media, TV).

—Students will work in groups to create a news story reporting that Grady is in the Silo.

—Students will "tweet" the news, making sure they stay within the 140-character limit.

—Students will use real words and correct grammar and punctuation in writing their "tweets."

Math

1. Bring a bathroom scale to class.

—Remind students that Grady, the Silo Cow, weighed 1200 pounds.

—Ask how many students it would take to weigh as much as Grady.

—Weigh each student in private and record weights or let students write down their own weights. Do not record students' names with their weights.

—Add the weights together to determine if all your students together weigh more or less than Grady.

2. Hand out the student graph worksheet.

—Students will give the graph a name.

—Students will complete the graph.

3. How many 50-pound students would it take to weigh as much as a calf (100 pounds)?

—How many for a cow (1,000 pounds)?

—How many for a bull (1,500 pounds)? Do you need to include another class?

4. Make a life-size picture graph to hang in the hallway showing how many students it would take to equal the weight of a cow.
   — Trace several students' bodies, and have each student figure equal 50 pounds.
   — Trace the body of a male teacher or administrator, and have that figure equal 200 pounds.
   — Make a large cutout of a cow.
   — Place an equal sign between the appropriate number of human figures and the cow.
   — Choose students to explain the display to other classes and school personnel.
5. Students will use rulers to find the size of the silo opening that Grady jumped through.
   — Students will find objects that can easily fit through the opening.
   — Students will find objects that cannot fit through the opening.
6. Using the dates found in the "Goodness, Grady" reading page, students will write math problems to answer these questions:
   A. What year was Grady born?
   B. How old was Grady when she died?
   C. How many years passed from the time Grady was stuck in the silo until she died?
   ANSWERS:
   A. 1949-6= 1943 is when Grady was born
   B. 1961-1943= 18 years old when she died
   C. 1961-1949= 12 years passed from when she was stuck until she died
7. Discuss the shape of a silo: Ask "What is a cylinder?"
   — Students will find cylinders in the classroom.
   — Students will use clay to create cylinder-shaped silos'.

Visual Art
1. Students will create their own silos.
   — Collect cylindrical-shaped containers (potato chip cans, oatmeal boxes, coffee cans, etc.)
   — Provide a variety of materials for students to use in designing their silos (burlap, aluminum foil, small stones and clay, tongue depressors, popsicle sticks or pretzels to represent wooden silos).
2. Students will draw pictures to illustrate the Grady story and make individual books or a classroom big book.

Extra Reading
Cronin, Doreen, *Click, Clack, Moo, Cows That Type*, Simon and Schuster, 2000.
Hoberman, Mary Ann, *Mrs. O'Leary's Cow*, Little, Brown, 2007.
Kaizuki, Kiyonori, *A Calf is Born*, Orchard, 1990.
Townsend, UnaBelle, *Grady's in the Silo*, Pelican, 2003. (Classroom Activity Guide is available here: http://www.clover.okstate.edu/fourh/aitc/lessons/extras/gradybook.pdf)

Goodness, Grady!

The story of Grady, the Silo Cow, is a true story that happened in Yukon, Oklahoma, on February 22, 1949.

On February 22, 1949, Bill Mach's cow, Grady, gave birth to a stillborn calf. Grady was six years old. Since she was having trouble with the birth, Mach called a veterinarian, D. L. Crumb, to help.

Dr. Crumb tied Grady to a post so she would hold still. When he was finished taking care of her, he told Bill Mach to untie her.

Grady was very upset. When Bill Mach untied her, she whirled around and started chasing him. He jumped on a pile of cottonseed sacks to get away from her.

They were in a small shed next to a silo. The only light was from the small opening to the silo.

Grady dove for the light in the opening.

"Where'd she go?" Dr. Crumb asked Mach.

Mach and Crumb looked toward the silo opening and saw a few red hairs clinging to the edge of the heavy steel silo door. Grady was in the silo. Grady weighed 1200 pounds. The silo door was only 17 inches wide and 25 inches high. How did she get through there? How would they ever get her out?

They couldn't tear down the silo. It was too valuable. They couldn't make the opening wider because it was encased in steel.

Bill Mach asked for help through his local newspaper. The response was overwhelming. People all over the country started calling and sending telegrams and letters with suggestions. Curious people started showing up in cars and even planes.

All over the United States people were trying to find a solution to the problem. Grady was even featured in *Life* magazine, and newspapers all over the country carried the story.

One person suggested tunneling under the silo. Another suggested bringing an attractive bull to the opening to lure her out. An Air Force officer said he knew of a helicopter that would lift 1,200 pounds, but it was in San Marcos, Texas.

Three days after Grady's leap, Bill Mach got a call from Ralph Partridge, the farm editor of *The Denver Post*. He told Mach he was coming to Yukon to get Grady out of the silo.

Partridge supervised while a ramp was built from the floor of the silo to the door. The door edges were coated with axle grease. Grady was then outfitted with two heavy halters coated with axle grease. Dr. Crumb gave her two shots to make her relax. While men outside the silo pulled on ropes attached to her halters, Partridge and J.O. Dicky Jr., a Yukon vocational agriculture teacher, pushed.

She slid right through the door with only a couple of scratches along her back. Once she was out, Mach shut the silo door.

Grady went on to become a mother several times, and she was such a tourist attraction that Mach put up a small sign on Route 66 noting her home. He kept Grady in a special pen by the road.
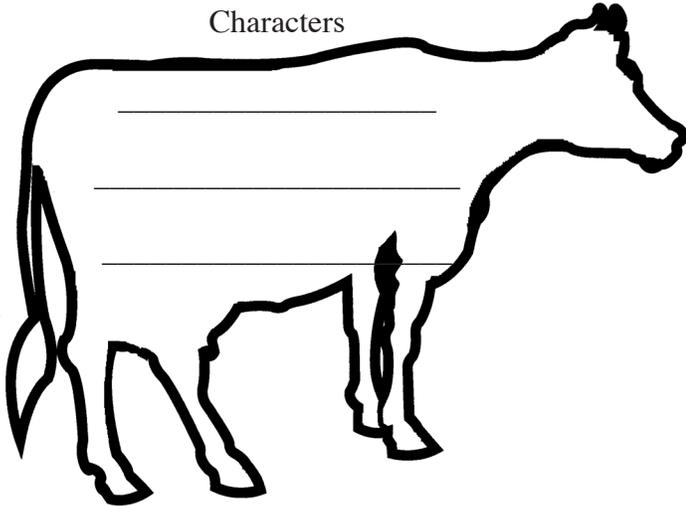
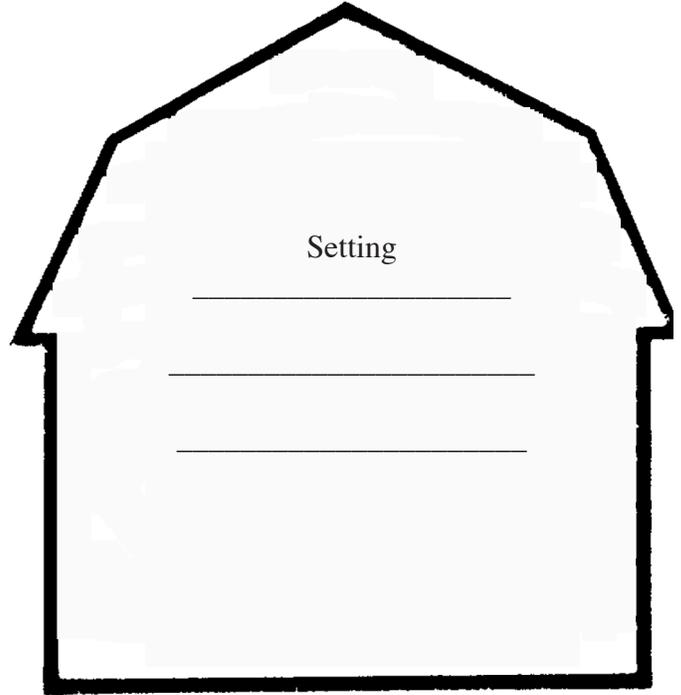Grady, the cow, died in July, 1961.

Name_____

Goodness, Grady!

Read the story of Grady. Use the spaces below to list the characters and describe the setting and plot. Remember the plot involves a problem and its solution.
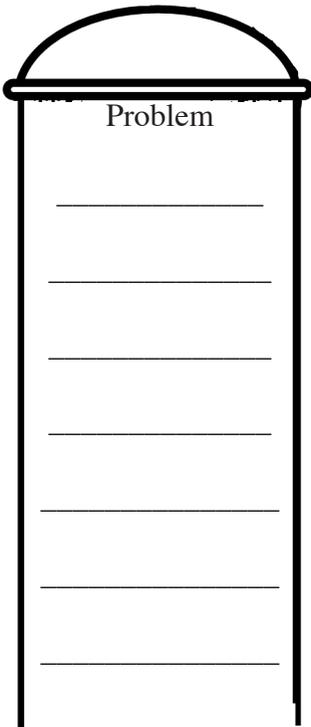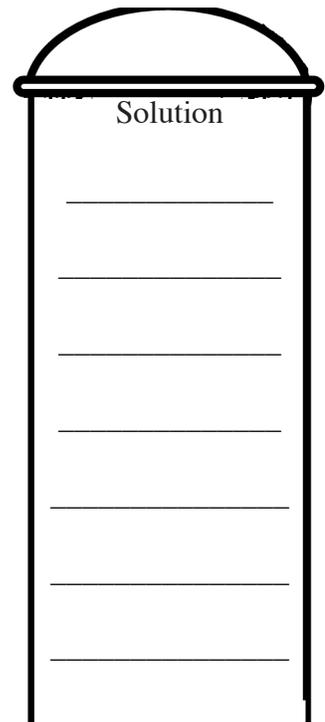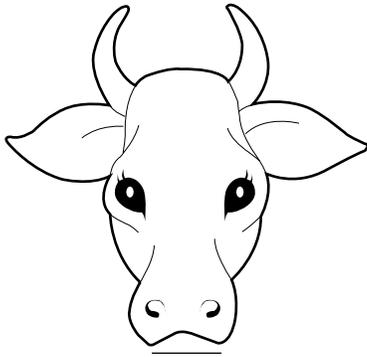
Characters

Setting

Plot

Problem

Solution

Goodness, Grady!

Cast of Characters
Narrator
Grady, the Cow (puppet)
Grady, the Cow (voice)
Henry, the Horse (puppet)
Henry, the Horse (voice)
Percy, the Pig (puppet)
Percy, the Pig (voice)
Lacey, the Lamb (puppet)
Lacey, the Lamb (voice)

Setting: The grain silo on the Bill Mach Farm in Yukon, Oklahoma.

Narrator..................................Grady, the Cow, has just given birth to a calf. The calf is dead. Grady is confused and very upset. While Bill Mach, her owner, has his back turned, Grady jumps into Bill's silo. Bill is amazed when he realizes what she has done. Grady is a very large cow, and the silo opening is very small. In fact, it is only 17 1/2 inches wide and 25 1/2 inches tall.

Narrator holds up a 17 1/2- by 25 1/2-inch window made of construction paper .

Narrator..................................Now Grady, the Cow, cannot get out. But, wait. Here comes Henry, the Horse. Maybe he can help. Let's listen.

Grady, the Cow......................Moo (in much pain) ! Help! Henry, the Horse, I need some help!

Henry trots toward the silo.
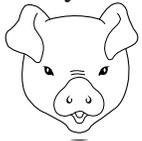
Henry, the Horse...................My Goodness, Grady (imitating a horse sound)! How did you get in such a mess?

Grady, the Cow......................I was so unhappy that my baby died, I accidentally jumped through the opening in the silo. Moo-hoo! Moo-hoo!

Henry, the Horse...................Well, turn around, and I'll pull you out by your tail.

Grady turns around. Henry pulls, but nothing happens.

Grady, the Cow.......... ....Moo-hoo! This will never do!

Percy, the Pig, comes along , on the way to his mud hole.

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Henry, the Horse, and
Grady, the Cow.......................Percy Pig ! Come quickly! We need your help!

Henry, the Horse....................Grady is stuck. She can't get out of the silo!

Percy lumbers over.

Percy, the Pig..........................(snorts) Let me see. I'll crawl in the silo with Grady. I could get a better look at
                      the problem.

Oink! Oink (speaks with a labored sound, as though trying to squeeze through the silo opening)!

Grady, the Cow........................Percy, it's no use. You are too fat to even get through the opening. Moo-hoo
                      (crying). I'll be stuck here forever.

Narrator...................................It seems like the farm animals have a real problem on their hands. This might be
                      their last chance. Here comes Lacey Lamb. Maybe she can solve this problem.

 Lacey Lamb prances through the barnyard.

Lacey, the Lamb ....(speaking in a sweet tone) Why is Grady stuck in Farmer Bill's silo? Can she
                      not get out?

Percy, the Pig
Henry, the Horse
and Grady, the Cow..................NO! And we need your help!

Percy, the Pig ....We've tried everything.

Lacey, the Lamb ....That's too bad! But I have an idea. My coat of wool produces a kind of oil called
                      lanolin. We can use my lanolin to grease up Grady. Then maybe she will slip
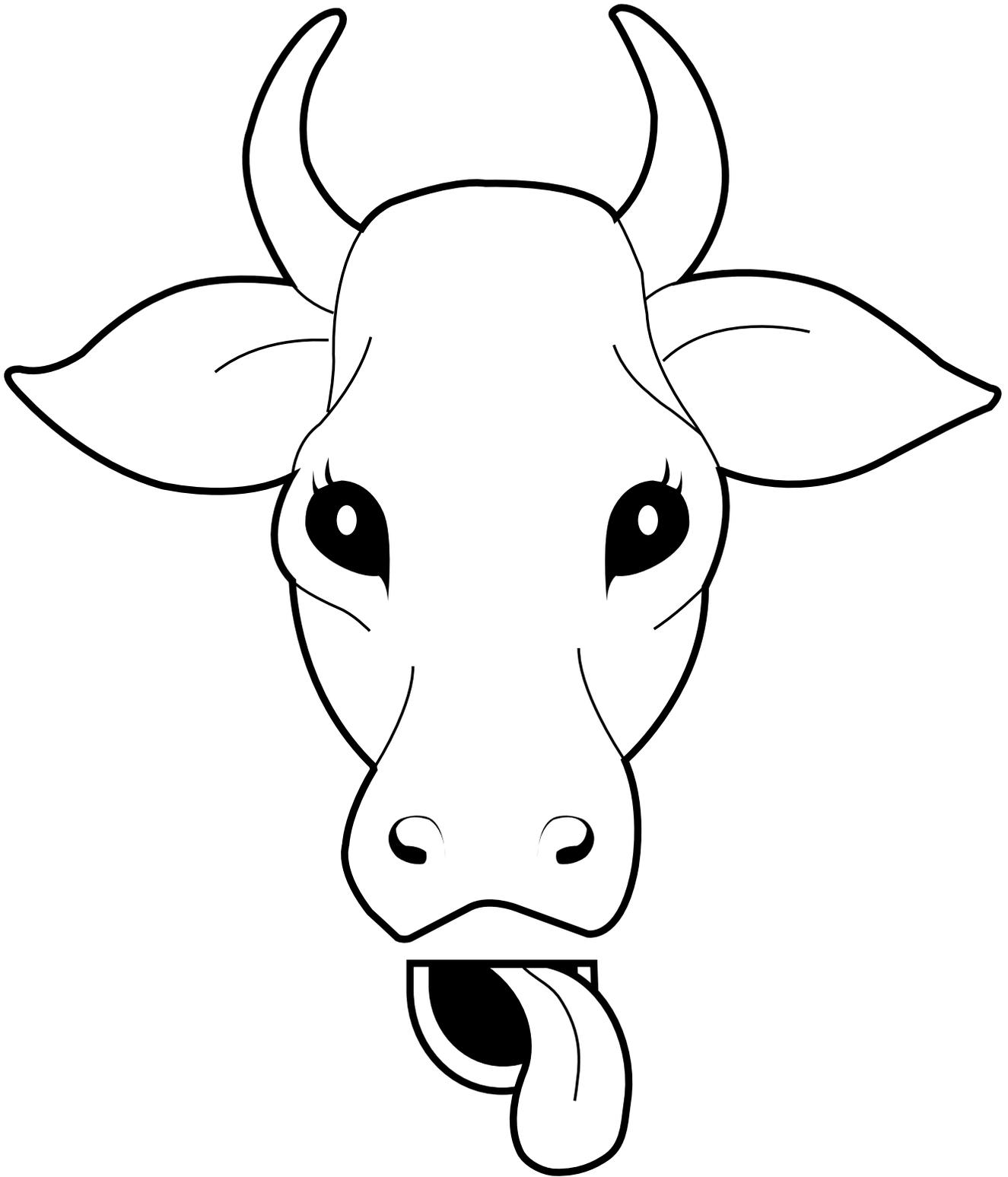   through the opening.

The animals gather around Grady.

Lacey, the Lamb
Henry, the Horse and
Percy, the Pig.........................One, two, three . . . PULL!

Grady pops out, tired and very hungry, but unharmed. A cheer goes up from the animals.

Narrator.................................The moral of the story is: Look before you leap!

Goodness, Grady!
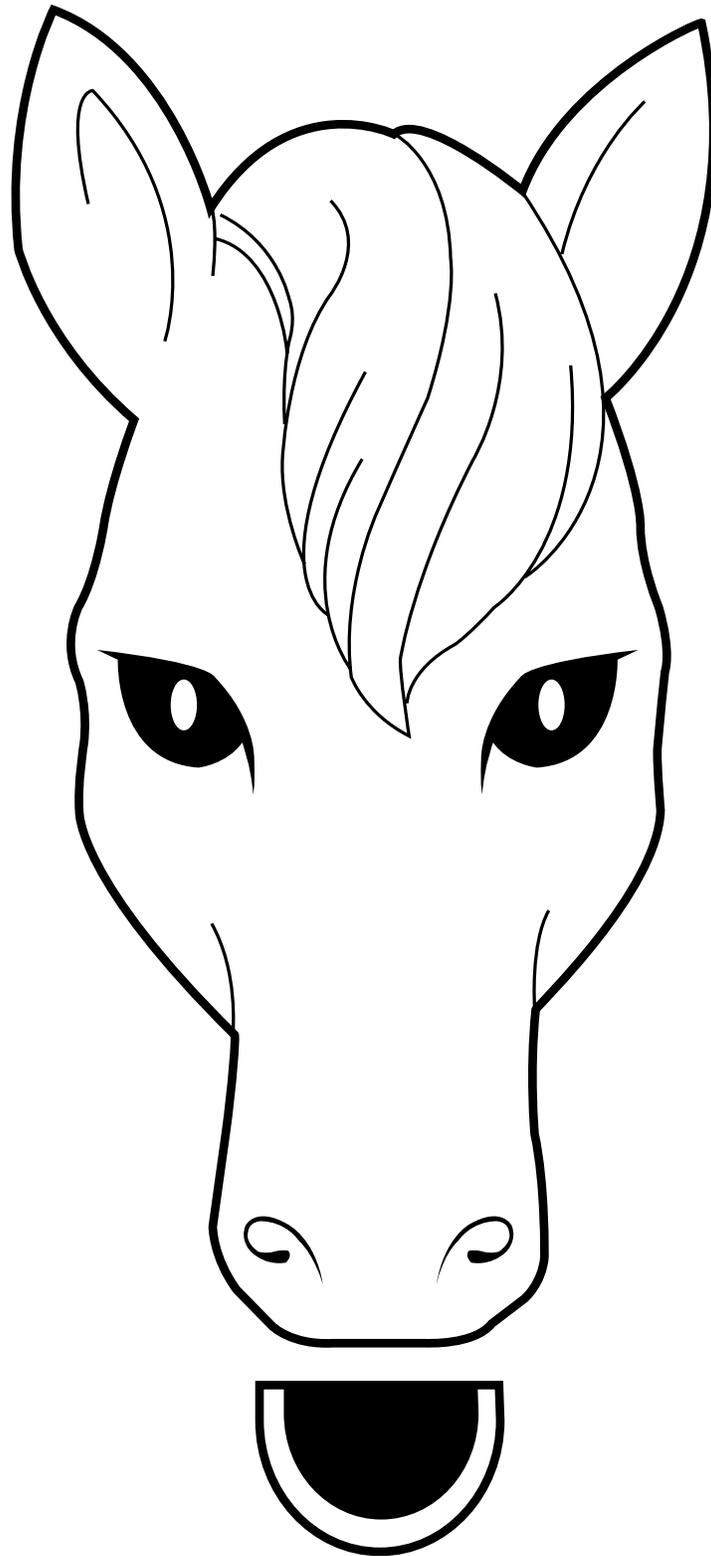
Percy, the Pig
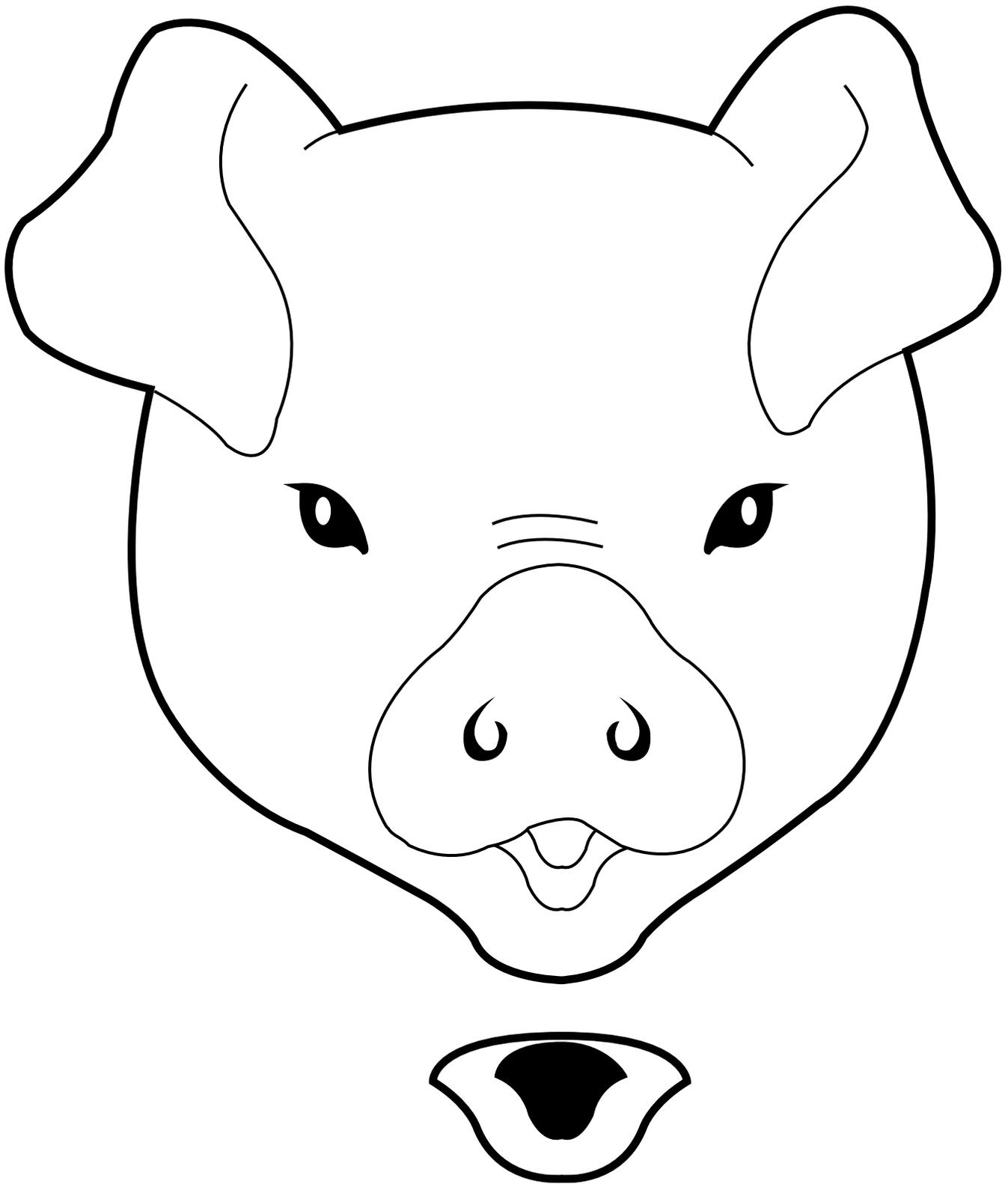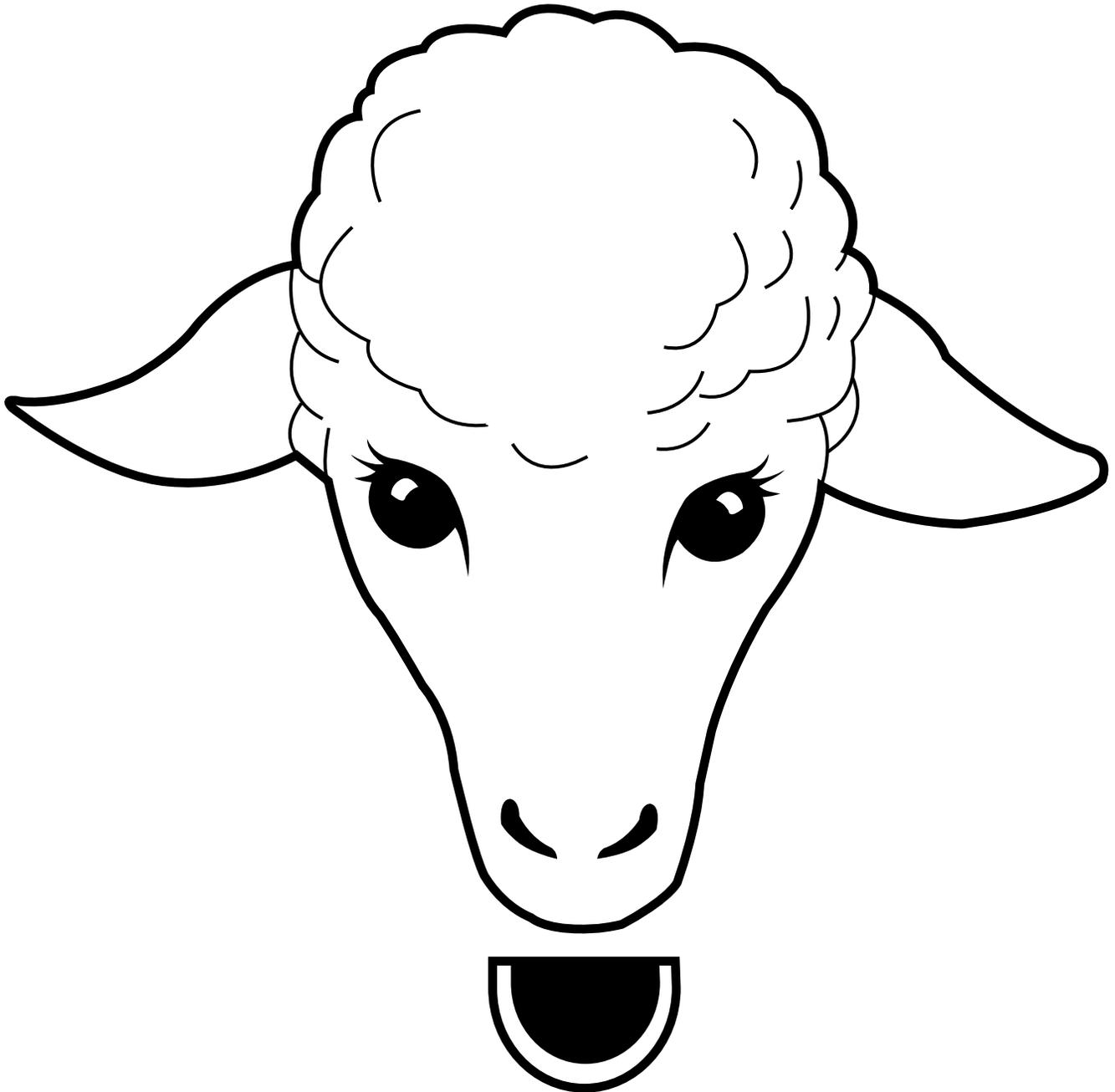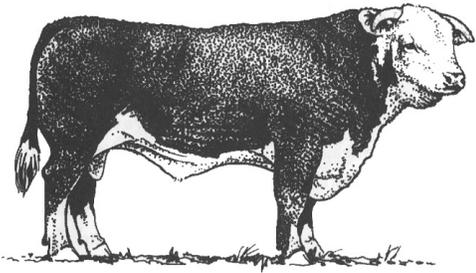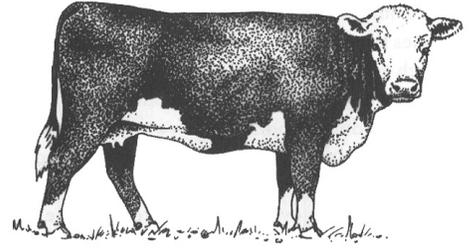
Henry, the Horse

Lacey, the Lamb
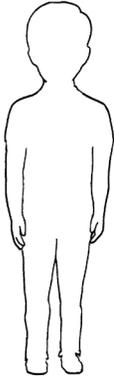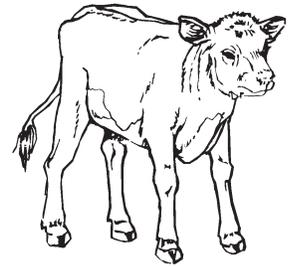
Name_____

Goodness, Grady!

This bull weighs 1,500 pounds.

This cow weighs 1,000 pounds.

This child weighs 50 pounds.

This calf weighs 100 pounds.

List the animals, from the lightest to the heaviest.

1._____   2._____

3._____   4._____

Fill in the graph to show each animal's weight. Use a crayon and color.

child																
calf																
cow																
bull																
	50	100	200	300	400	500	600	700	800	900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600

Name_____

Goodness, Grady!

Cut out the pictures. Glue the pictures to a sheet of construction paper to create a farm scene.