



# Wordless Treasures

Grade 3



Distribute two wordless picture books to groups of three students. Ask groups to read both books and choose the most treasured of the two. Dig a little deeper to identify the “golden message” the author/illustrator wants the reader to understand at the end.

Copy the doubloons below on yellow paper and give one to each group. Each group writes the book’s “golden message” on the coin and tapes the coin to the book cover. Display these books for primary students to use as guides in selecting books.

**Golden Message**  
Read to find out:

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**Golden Message**  
Read to find out:

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**Golden Message**  
Read to find out:

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**Golden Message**  
Read to find out:

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# Treasure Maps

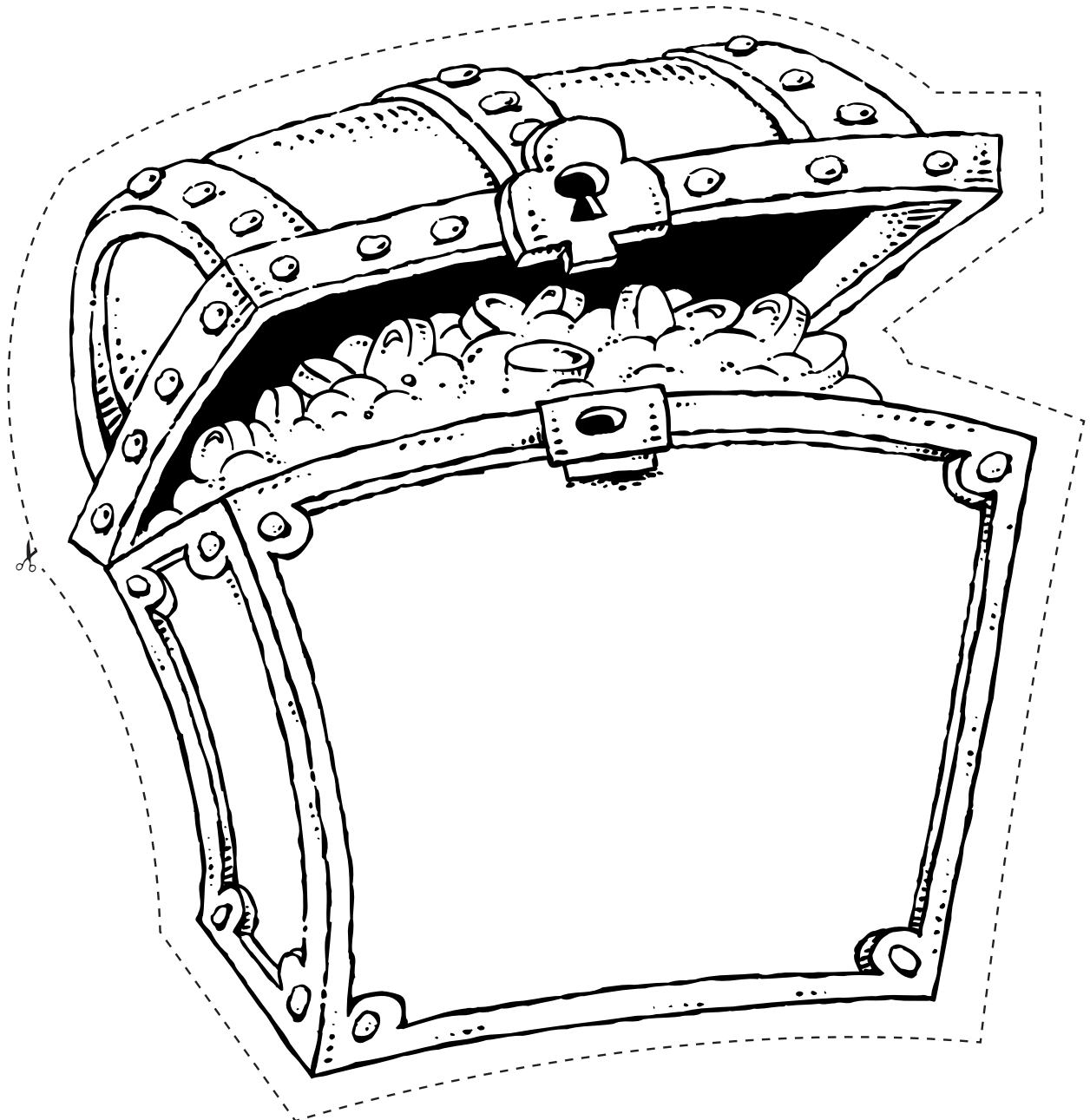
Grades 3-4



Book characters search for their own “treasures” during the course of a story. Identifying and mapping the character’s struggles will help students understand the structure of the story and begin recognizing theme.

Let students work in groups of three to create a picture book’s treasure map. After reading a picture book together, the group decides what “treasure” the character is searching for by identifying either the author’s message or what the character learned at the end. Write this on the treasure chest (reproducible below). Then the group identifies at least three steps (or difficulties) the character had in the journey to discover the treasure.

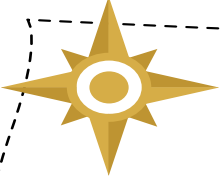
Give each group a large piece of butcher paper for creating a treasure map. Draw a map that includes three stops along the way toward the end of the story. Illustrate and label the stops (the character’s attempts and failures at solving the problem). Add a legend if desired. Glue the treasure chest on the map at the end. Decorate the map with drawings about the story. Use the treasure maps as visuals as groups retell the stories to the class.



# Treasure Troves: Understanding Theme

Grades 4-5

Ask students to identify a favorite childhood book. Using the form below, have students write about what connected them to the book. Let students share in small groups. Ask them to compare the themes they've identified in their books and reflect on why books may affect people differently.



## My Favorite Picture Book

**Book title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Book summary:**

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**The universal truth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**What makes this book a treasure for you?**

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