



Something's wrong with Martha, the talking dog! She has eaten her daily bowl of alphabet soup, but when she opens her mouth to speak, strange sounds come out instead of words. Fortunately her nose still works, and she follows it to the source of the mystery. - Amazon

## Build Background

## Key Vocabulary

Quiz students on the number of letters in the alphabet and have them identify the vowels. Tell them that in this book there is a dog that is able to talk. Have them predict how this could be useful and what the problem might be in the story.

communicator	pg 3	laryngitis	pg 13
founder	pg 9	aroma	pg 19
profit	pg 10		
alphabeticians	pg 10		

## Discussion Starters



1. How could you show someone how you feel without using words? Discuss Martha's facial expressions (pg 3). Have students make their own facial expressions such as *sleepy*, *happy*, and *excited*. What happens when you add words to your expressions? Explain that people can then understand *what* makes me feel that way.
2. Go back through the story, page by page, and have students retell the story and describe how the characters are feeling based on what they say and how they look (surprise on pg 4, amazed on pg 7, etc).
3. What does it mean to "break a promise"? What promise did Granny Flo break (pg 9)? Did she do her very best?
4. What is the difference between GOOD, BETTER, and BEST? Think of a time that you did your very best? How did you feel?

## Writing Prompt



My favorite letter in alphabet soup is \_\_\_\_\_. Draw a picture of you eating a bowl of alphabet soup. **Challenge:** Draw pictures of things that begin with that letter.

## Activities



**Word Cubes** Use the printable cube set to practice word families. Put students with partners. Roll the single letter cube followed by the -og cube to make -og family words (bog, dog, fog, hog, jog, log). Put the cubes together and sound out the word. Roll again. *Note: A blank cube template if you want to expand to other words families.* **PRINTABLE**

**Learn the NED Pledge** *I promise that every day I will do my best. I will encourage others. And I will never give up. EVER! Never, ever, ever give up!* Use the printable rubric to self-evaluate every day and ask 'How am I doing in keeping my promise?' **PRINTABLE**

## More Resources

Accelerated Reading Quiz: 19229

## BIG IDEAS To Reinforce



Communication,  
Effort, Perseverance  
Overcoming Obstacles

## Student-Friendly Learning Target



I can identify how others feel based on their expressions.  
I can identify the characters, setting and events of the story.

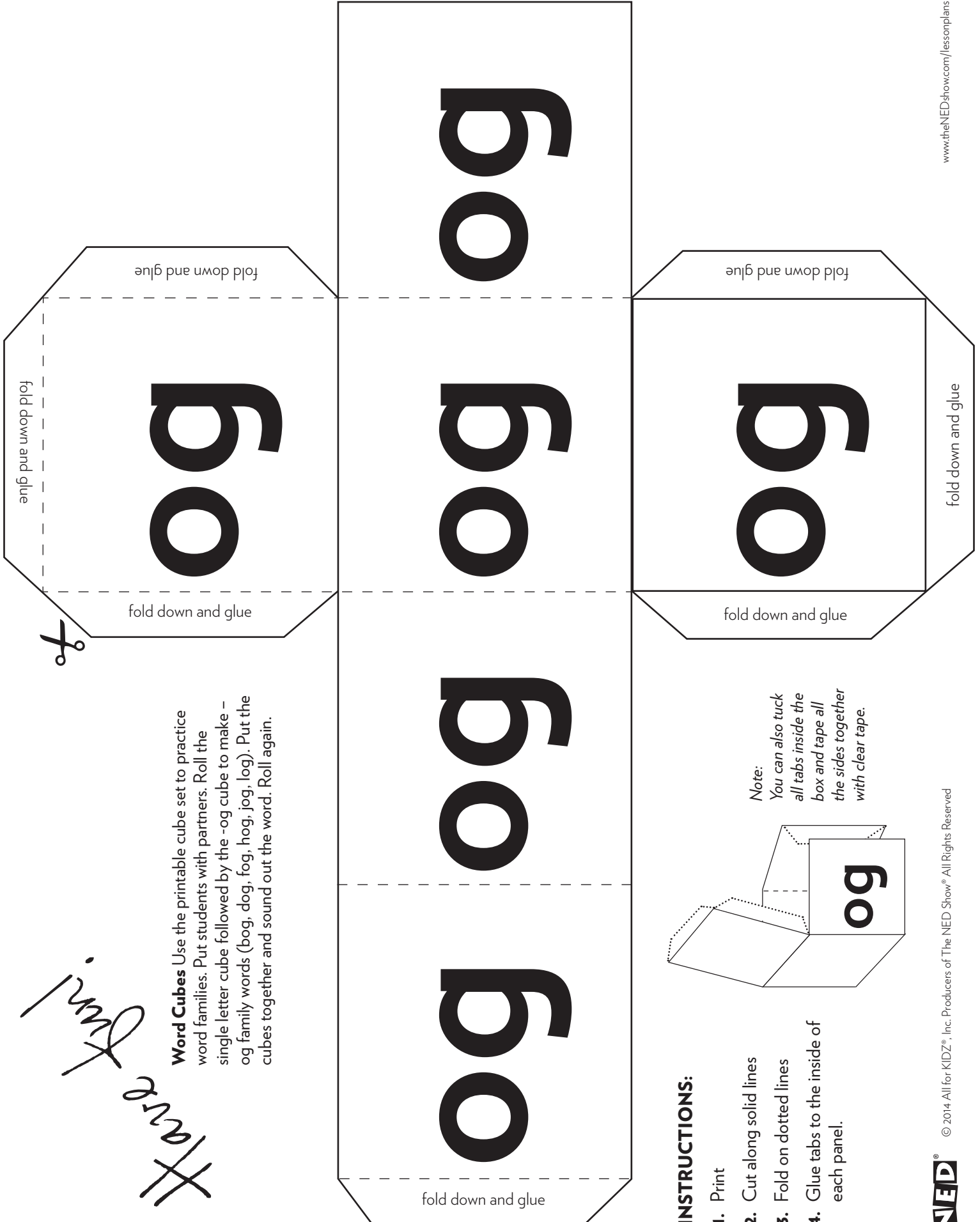
## Aligned to Common Standards

Every lesson plan aligns with grade-level standards in **Reading, Writing, Speaking & Listening and Literacy.**

Every lesson plan supports **ASCA Mindsets & Behaviors.**

*Have Fun!*

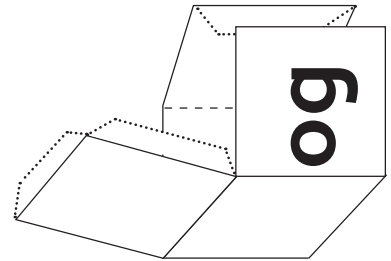
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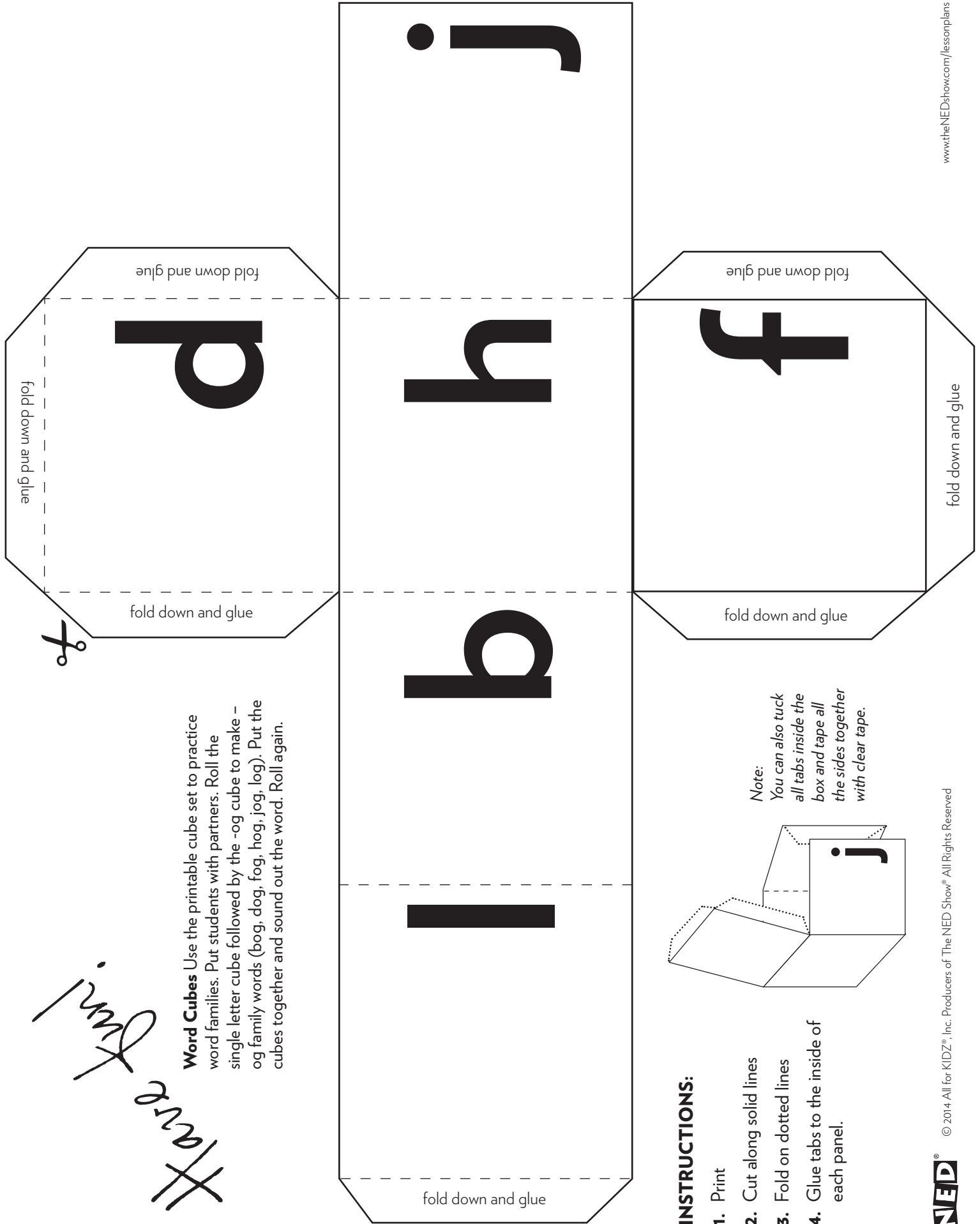
1. Print
2. Cut along solid lines
3. Fold on dotted lines
4. Glue tabs to the inside of each panel.

**Note:**  
You can also tuck all tabs inside the box and tape all the sides together with clear tape.



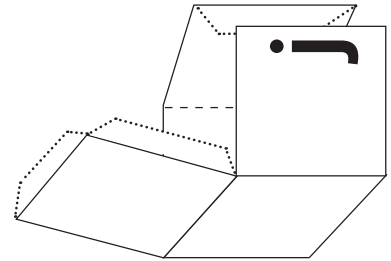
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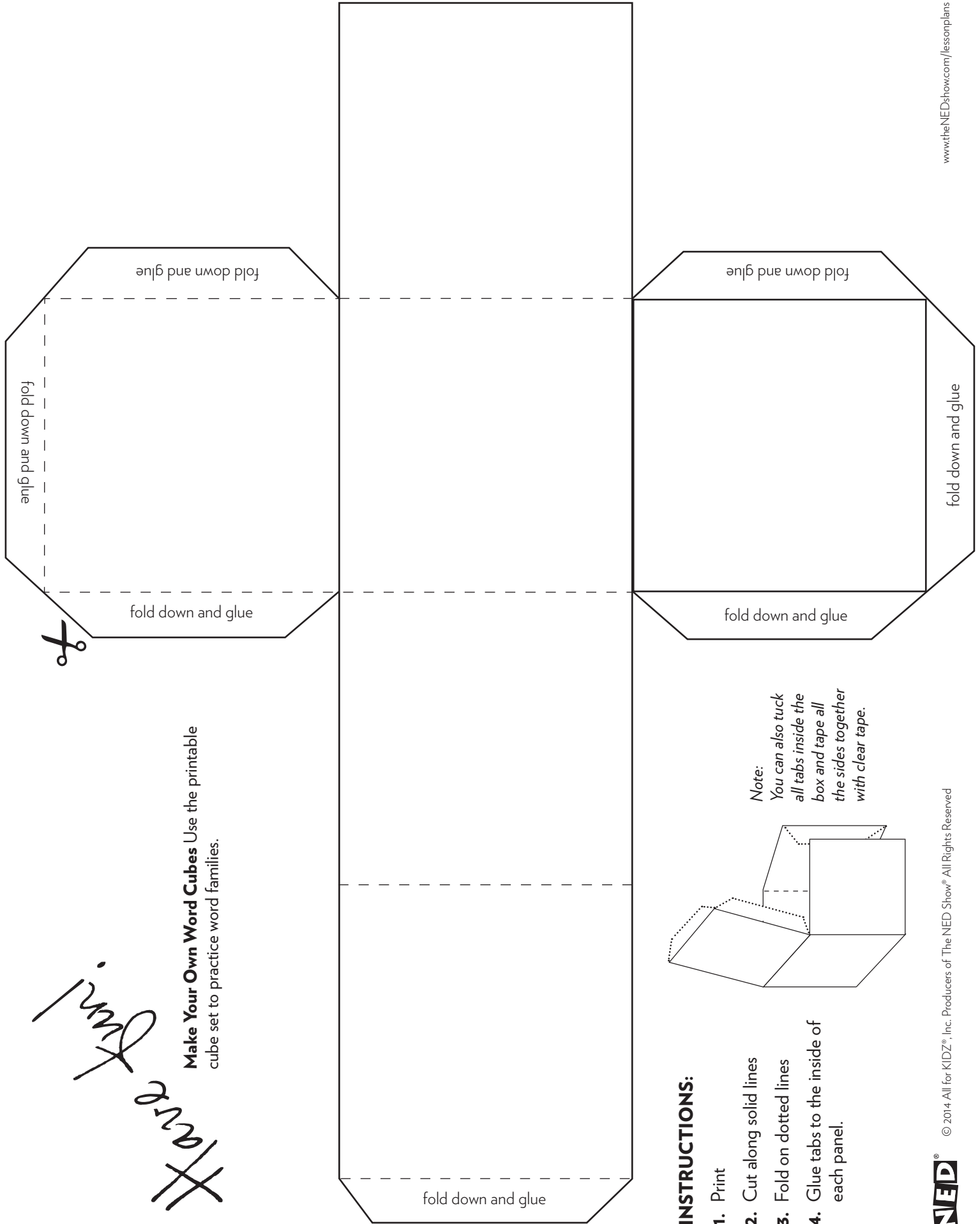
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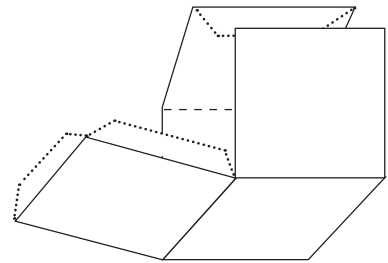
*Make Your Own Word Cubes!*

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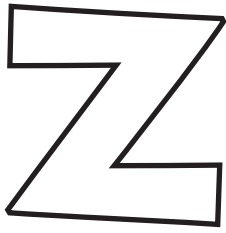
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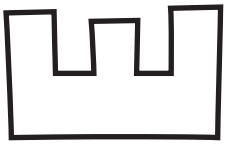


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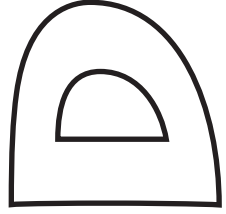
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Week of: \_\_\_\_\_



Never give up

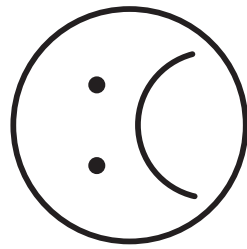
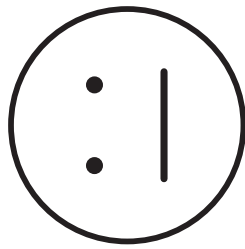
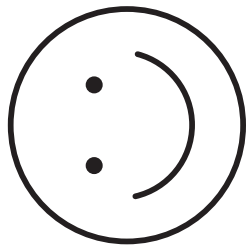
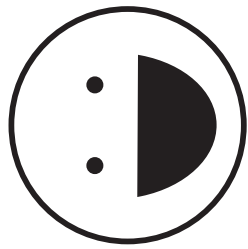


Encourage others



Do your best

How did I do this week?



M

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W

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F
