

# RULERS OF THE PLAYGROUND

BY JOSEPH KUEFLER

## ABOUT THE BOOK

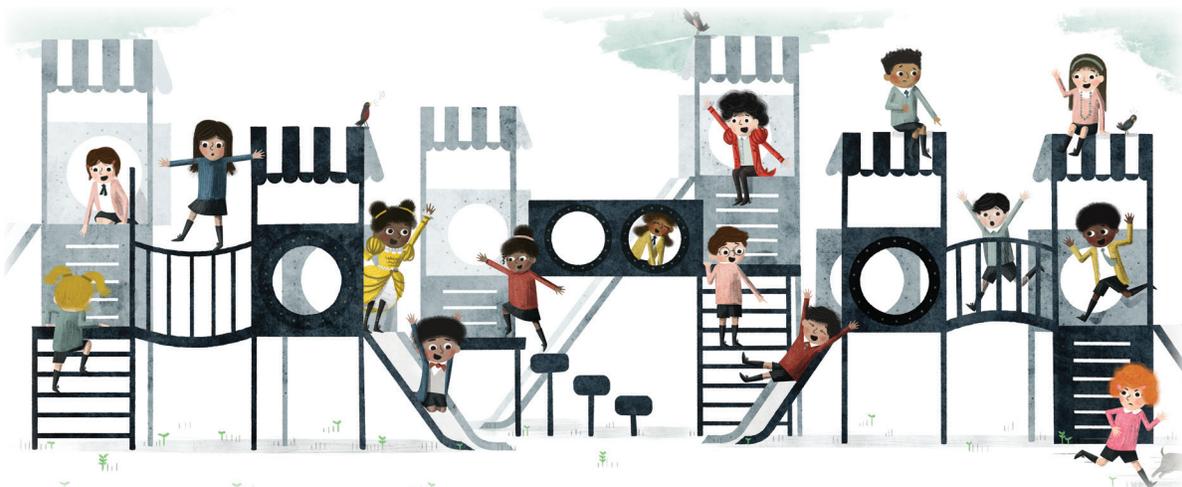
One morning, Jonah decided to become ruler of the playground.

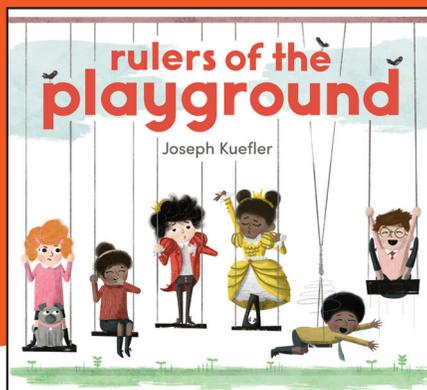
Everyone agreed to obey his rules . . .

Everyone except for Lennox . . . because she wanted to rule the playground, too.

## STORYTIME ACTIVITIES

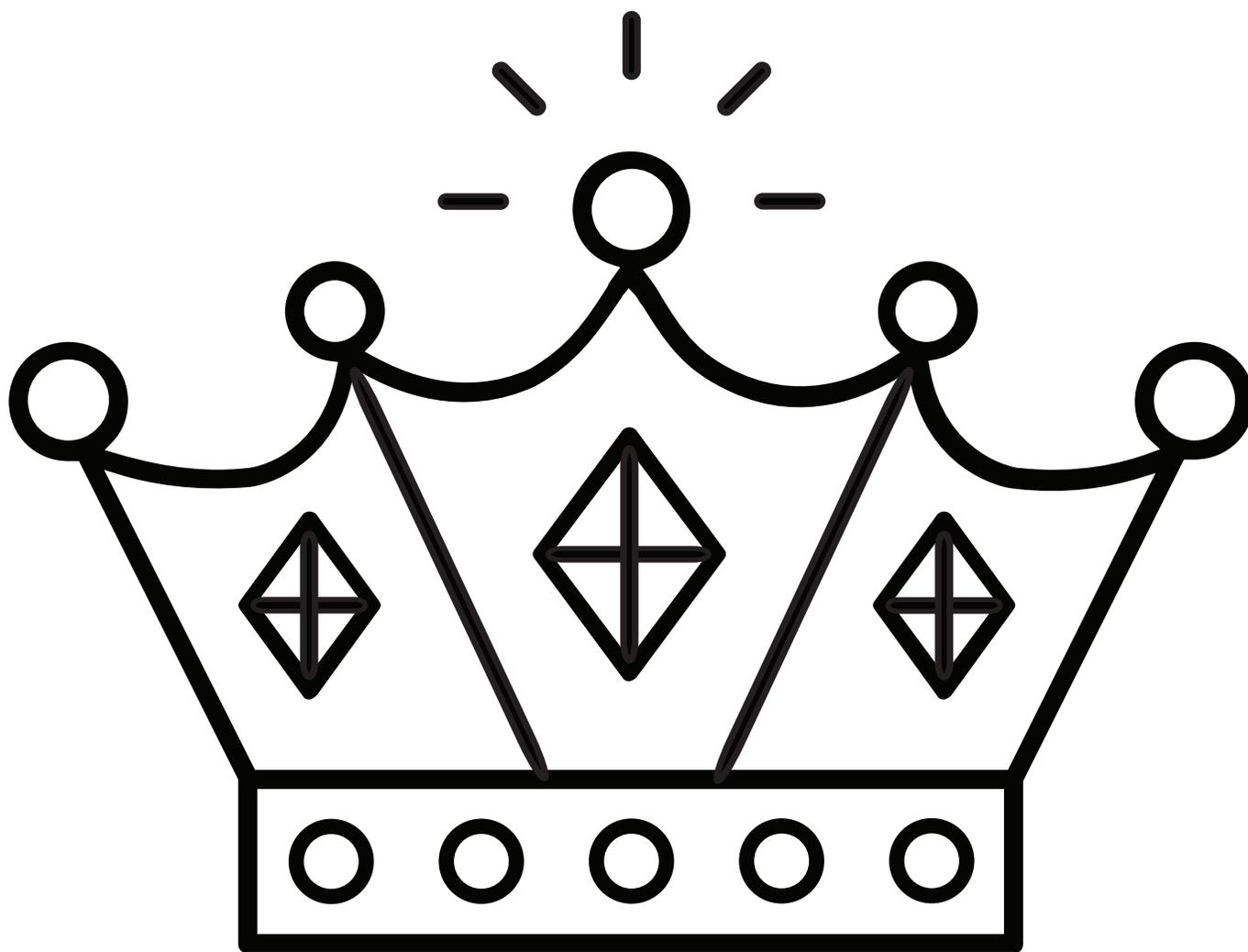
- **MAPMAKER, MAPMAKER:** Show the children Jonah’s and Lennox’s playground maps on the endpapers of the book. Then have the children make their own map of the school playground, a local park, or their own backyard. Younger children can make drawings, while older children can label their maps or use a map key.
- **WHAT IF?:** Have the children retell the story, and discuss why problems arose on the playground. What would have happened if Jonah and Lennox had not decided to be king and queen of the playground? How would things have turned out differently? Why did Jonah and Lennox make a new plan? What happened when they did? What happens at the end of the story? What will happen if Augustine decides to rule the playground?
- **KINGS AND QUEENS:** Give each child a blank cardboard crown. Provide materials for them to decorate it, such as plastic adhesive gems, metallic paper, shape stickers, and sequins. Hold a royal banquet party and let the children wear their crowns while having “tea and crumpets” (or juice and muffins).
- **YOU RULE!:** Ask the children to share their favorite playground games and activities with the rest of the class. Then organize a “Playground Party” outside. Each child should have a chance to “rule the playground” by leading their favorite activity, and everyone should rotate through the playground to enjoy each other’s games. (The “rulers” can wear the crowns they designed in the previous activity!)
- **INSIDE AND OUT:** Discuss Jonah’s and Lennox’s character traits. The author says Jonah was skilled and *mostly* generous, while Lennox was wise and *mostly* patient. Ask the children to suggest other character traits to describe Jonah and Lennox. List these traits on a chart. Then ask the children to choose the traits from the list that best describe themselves.

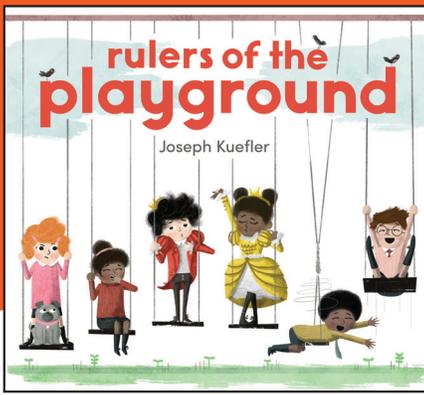




# KINGS AND QUEENS

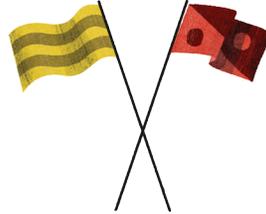
In *Rulers of the Playground*, Jonah and Lennox decide they want to become king and queen. You and your friends can become (kindhearted!) rulers of your own playground! Use crayons, colored pencils, or markers to decorate and color in the crown below.





# ROYAL CHARACTER

In *Rulers of the Playground*, the author says Jonah was skilled and mostly generous, while Lennox was wise, and mostly patient. Which character traits best describe you? Make a list and write them on the lines below.



1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

