

# You're Invited to Ezra's Birthday Party!

## Birthday Party Activities

Ezra's birthday is on March 11th and here are a few ways for you to celebrate the event with your students. We'd love to see photographs, tweets and/or videos of the children wishing Ezra a happy birthday, and we'll feature as many as we can.



**Email to:** [foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org](mailto:foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org)

**Photos:** Email in .jpg format, DO NOT EMBED PHOTOS.

**Students' work:** If sending images, make sure the work is in focus and legible.

**Include:** Your name, the grade you teach, and a return email address.

# Space Odyssey

The students make model rockets, then let their imaginations go out of this world.

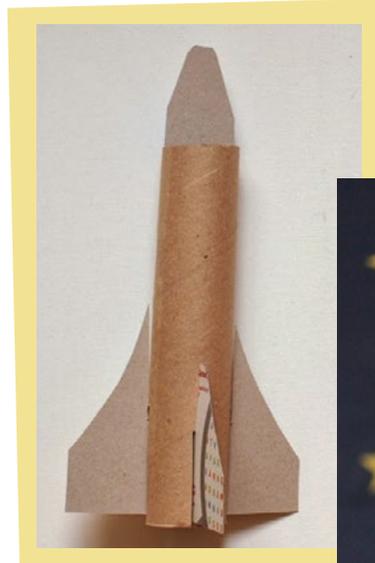
## You will need:

- cardboard, paper plates, paper or plastic cups, straws and other recycled materials
- construction paper
- glue, tape, string
- craft paint and brushes
- art paper

## Instructions:

1. Working by themselves or in pairs, the students select their materials and build a model rocket ship.
2. When the models are done, each student describes going on an imaginary space voyage.
3. The students plan a space voyage: They decide what they will need, pack imaginary bags and gather at the launch site assembled in the classroom.
4. Narrate the flight by reading aloud *Regards to the Man in the Moon* and encourage the students to respond with their own observations.
5. The students hold their rockets while holding up a big sign that says HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EZRA!

Don't forget to email photos of the students with their rockets to:  
[foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org](mailto:foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org)



*Inspired by *Regards to the Man in the Moon*. Adapted from the Department of Education website for Newfoundland and Labrador, Canada*

# Let's Put On a Show

If you ever wanted to be in show business, here's your chance! There's plenty of room to be creative with a mix of rhymes, counting, singing and dancing.

## Instructions:

1. Read *Over in the Meadow* to the class, making sure to emphasize the rhythm.

2. The students discuss the animals in the book: what they look like, how they move, how they sound. Ask volunteers to imitate the animals.



3. Have the students decide whether they want to recite the poem, sing the lines in a solo-and-chorus arrangement, or perform a rap.

4. The students learn movements that will go with the poem. Depending on grade level, the movements can be based on:

- the prompts in the book: "Dig!" "Swim!" "Sing!" etc.
- the students' demonstrations of how the animals move and sound.

5. The poem can be performed straight through, or with a dance/movement interval between verses.

6. Make a video of the class performing, whether in the classroom or for a live audience, ending with a rousing HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EZRA!

Don't forget to email your class video to: [foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org](mailto:foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org)

*Inspired by *Over in the Meadow*. For movement suggestions, see [scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/over-meadow-lesson-plan](http://scholastic.com/teachers/lesson-plan/over-meadow-lesson-plan)*

## Write Stuff

We'd love to get a group email from your class. Your students should know they are writing to the Ezra Jack Keats Foundation not to Ezra himself. Ezra died in 1983, and we don't want the kids to get excited about hearing back directly from him.

## Make a Birthday Card

Decorate as desired—or follow our suggestions at #2.

### You will need:

- construction paper or cardstock
- scrapbooking, wrapping or tissue paper in different colors and patterns
- glue sticks
- glitter, ribbon, pipe cleaners, straws, etc., for decorations
- coloring supplies



### Instructions:

For each card:

1. Fold the paper or cardstock in half along the shorter edge.
2. Ideas for decorations to glue on the cover and inside of the card:
  - Make a collage of different color papers to look like buildings, as in *The Snowy Day*, and draw or glue ribbon bows on top
  - Make candles out of ribbons, strips of paper or cut pieces of straws, and color a wick and flame on top
  - Cut out paper figures of Peter and Willie
  - Be creative and design something completely different!
3. Don't forget to print HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EZRA!

Don't forget to email images of the cards to: [foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org](mailto:foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org)

# Write a Letter

Revive this lost art!

## You will need:

- lined paper
- pens, colored pencils and crayons

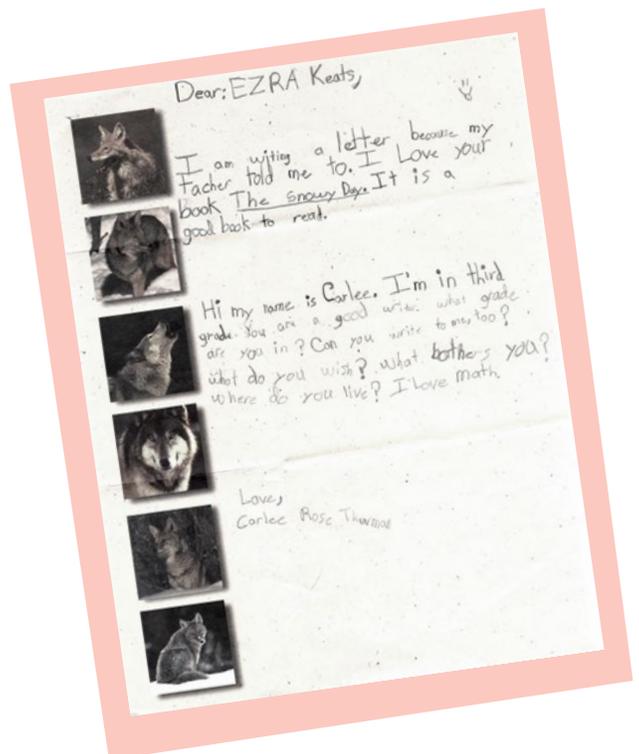
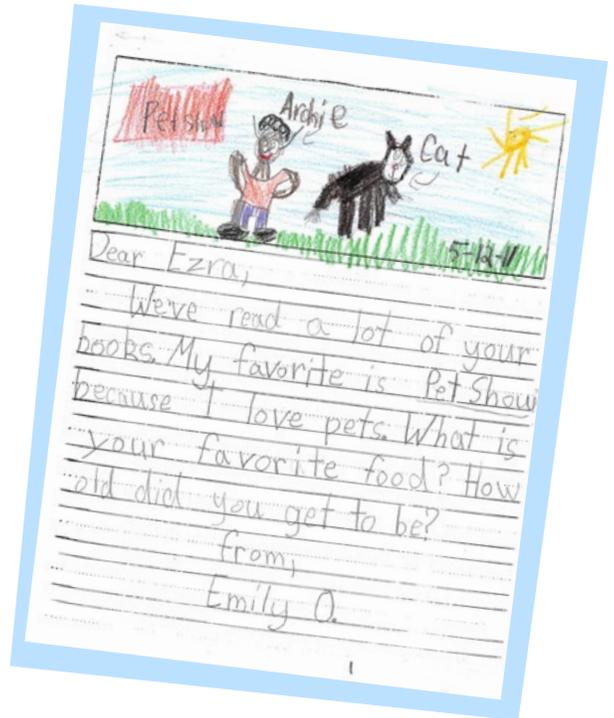
## Instructions:

1. The prompt is: HAPPY BIRTHDAY, EZRA! The students can discuss in class what they would like to write. Then each student should write about and draw whatever interests them and ask whatever questions they have about Mr. Keats.

2. Please scan the letters and send in one file, making sure the students' first names are legible, and include your name with your preferred return email address.

3. The class will receive a response within a few weeks.

Don't forget to email the file of scanned letters to: [foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org](mailto:foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org)



# Peter's Hood

Inspired by Keats, the children use a cutout of Peter's red hood to frame their faces and their artwork.

## You will need:

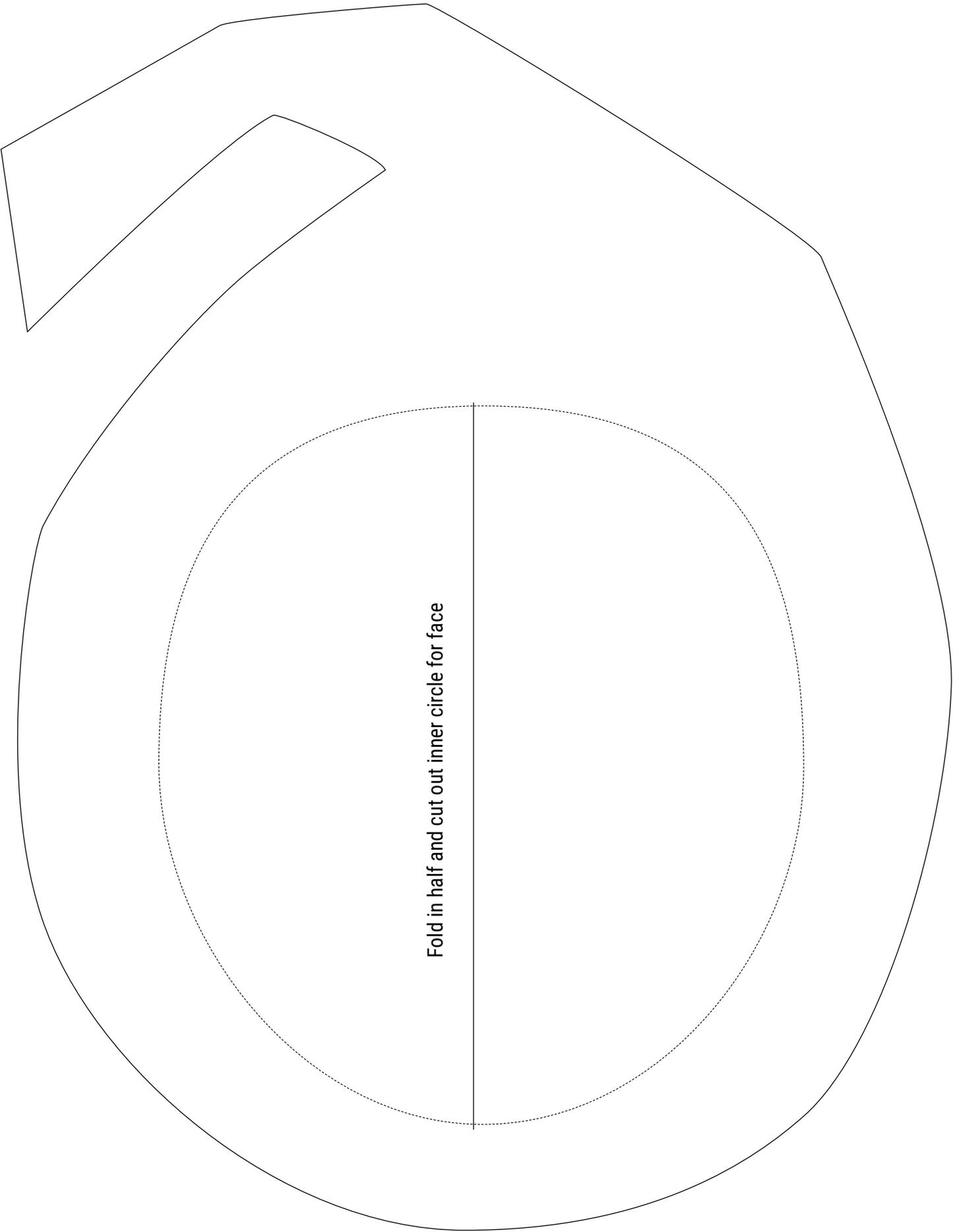
- hood pattern on the following page
- white paper or red construction paper
- scissors
- art paper
- glue
- craft paint and brushes
- coloring supplies



## Instructions:

1. Make copies of the hood pattern for all the students. Have the students color the area between the outline and the inner circle red. Have them cut out the hood, then fold in half and cut out the inner circle. Or, use the illustration as a pattern on red construction paper.
2. Gather the whole class together for a group photograph in which all the children are holding their red hood around their faces.
3. Each student glues the hood to a sheet of art paper and cuts the paper around the outer edge of the hood.
4. With the hood as a frame, the students paint or color a portrait of Peter's face or another student's.

Don't forget to email photos of the children in their hoods and of the portraits they painted to: [foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org](mailto:foundation@ezra-jack-keats.org)



Fold in half and cut out inner circle for face

# Pin the Tail on Willie





