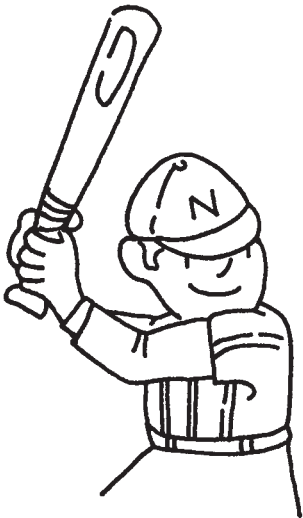


# Happy Bats

Sandy stood on the dusty ground near second base. "Please don't hit the ball to me," she thought. \_\_\_ 8  
 "I'm so clumsy that I'll drop it." \_\_\_ 17  
 \_\_\_ 24

Willy drew back his skinny arm and threw the ball. \_\_\_ 34  
 The batter took a mighty swing. "Strike one!" the \_\_\_ 43  
 umpire called in his husky voice. \_\_\_ 49

Sandy tugged at her baggy pants. "Good," she \_\_\_ 57  
 thought. "Only two more pitches and the Happy Bats \_\_\_ 66  
 will win a game." \_\_\_ 70



Willy threw an easy pitch. "Strike two!" \_\_\_ 77

"Only one more to go," thought Sandy. \_\_\_ 84

Willy threw a fastball. "CRACK," went \_\_\_ 90  
 the bat. The ball sailed through the \_\_\_ 97  
 summery air. \_\_\_ 99

Sandy stuck out her glove. "Pop" went the ball inside \_\_\_ 109  
 the glove. The umpire yelled, "You're out!" It was \_\_\_ 118  
 Sandy's lucky day! \_\_\_ 121

## The Chatty Parrot



All of the animals in the steamy jungle were getting ready for bed.

But, one chatty parrot was not sleepy.

She wanted to stay awake to see the shiny moon.

The parrot asked all her weary friends to stay awake to see the shiny moon. First, she asked the perky monkey.

“Don’t be silly,” said the monkey. “There’s no shiny moon. That’s just a pretty story.” The monkey gave a big yawn and snuggled into his leafy bed.



Then the parrot asked the clingy tree frog. The tree frog only made a noisy croak and closed its bulgy eyes.

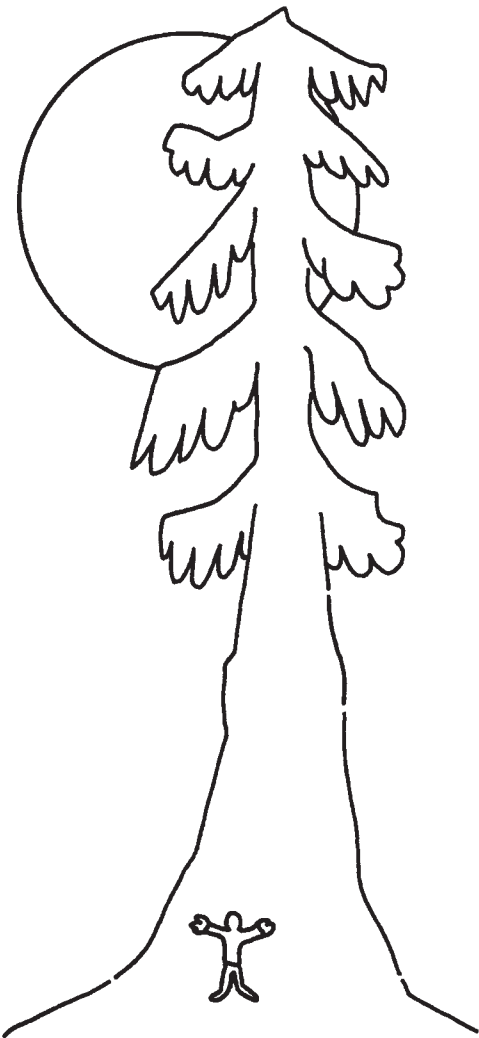
The sneaky python wanted a tasty parrot for supper. He said, “I’ll greet the moon with you.”

The parrot was too brainy for that. She flew to the treetops and met the shiny moon alone.

# Giant Redwoods



If you are lucky, you can visit the misty redwood forest and can see giant redwood trees. Redwoods lift their heavy limbs high up into the sky. From the mossy ground you can look up and up. You still may not see to the very top of this giant tree.



Some of these hardy trees grow so huge that cars can drive through holes in their woody trunks.

Redwoods grow to a lofty 360 feet high. The tallest man standing beside a giant redwood looks tiny.

Foggy air helps the thirsty redwoods grow. Their stringy bark drinks in the fog. Their growth is speedy. They can grow as much as 130 feet in 30 years. Some redwood trees are more than 2,000 years old.

We are lucky to have these elegant, old giants.