

NILA'S PERFECT COAT

BY
NORENE PAULSON

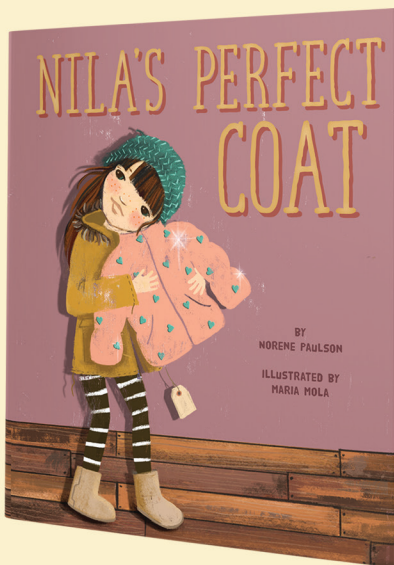
ILLUSTRATED BY
MARIA MOLA



EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

NOTE TO EDUCATORS

The activities in this classroom guide are divided into two sections, Preschool/1st Grade and 2nd/3rd Grade. Please adapt as needed to fit the unique abilities and individual needs of your students.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Nila and her mom love shopping at the thrift store. But when Nila finds the most perfect, shiny, puffy coat, Mom says no: Nila's winter coat still fits her just fine. With a lot of determination and some birthday money from Dad, Nila sets out to prove the coat really is perfect—but along the way, she learns that maybe it's perfect for someone else. Someone who needs both a coat and a friend.

Nila's Perfect Coat is the perfect book for promoting SEL (social emotional learning), empathy, and friendship in your classroom.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR AND ILLUSTRATOR

Photo credit: Sarah's Studio



NORENE PAULSON writes picture books that celebrate friendship, acceptance, and inclusion. She is the author of *Benny's True Colors* and *What's Silly Hair Day with No Hair?* A former language arts teacher, Norene is passionate about sharing her love of words with young readers. She's a member of SCBWI and lives in Iowa.



MARIA MOLA is an illustrator from Barcelona currently living in Boston with her husband and their three children. She has illustrated *Sparkle Boy*, *Maya Papaya*, *Koala Challah*, and more.



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

BEFORE READING

1. Look at the cover. The author of this story is Norene Paulson. What does an author do? The story is illustrated by Maria Mola. What does an illustrator do?
2. The title of the story is *Nila's Perfect Coat*. What do you think the story is about?
3. Nila is the main character. What does that mean? How does Nila feel about the pink coat? How do we know?
4. What does the word "perfect" mean? Name something you think is perfect.

DURING READING

5. What does it mean to be thrifty? Why is shopping in a thrift store a good idea?
6. Why won't Mom let Nila buy the puffer coat? Do you think that's a good reason? Why or why not?
7. Why do Nila and Lily have to stay inside during recess?
8. How do we know Nila wants to be friends with Lily? How does Lily react to Nila's efforts?
9. How do we know Lily is upset about something?

10. What are "hard times"? What might be some reasons Lily's family is going through hard times?
11. After using her birthday money to buy the coat, how does Nila feel? Do her feelings change when she's back at her mom's? If so, why?
12. At the dinner table, Nila tells Mom about an idea she has. What do you think is Nila's idea?
13. Which coat do you think Nila will give Lily? Which coat would you give her? How do you think Lily will feel about whichever coat Nila gives her?

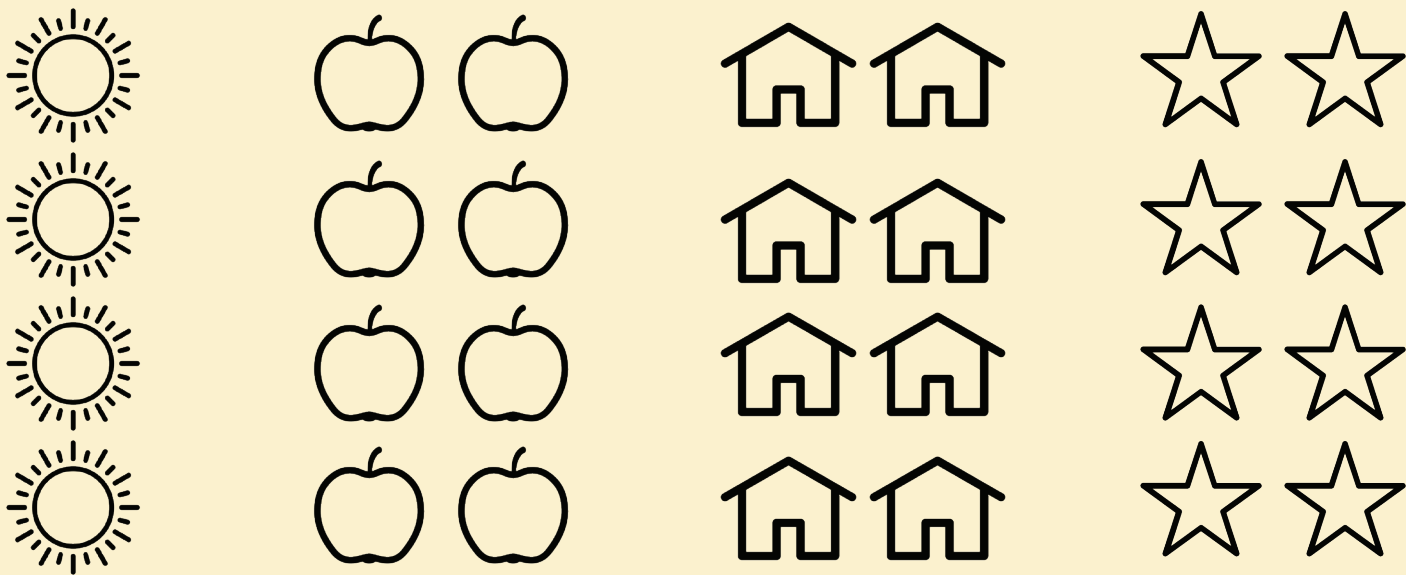
AFTER READING

14. Do you think Lily and Nila will become good friends? Why do you think that?
15. What's the difference between "needing" something and "wanting" something? What are some things a person needs? What are some things someone might want?
16. What are other ways Nila and her family could help Lily's family?

ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOL/1ST GRADE (AGES 3–5)

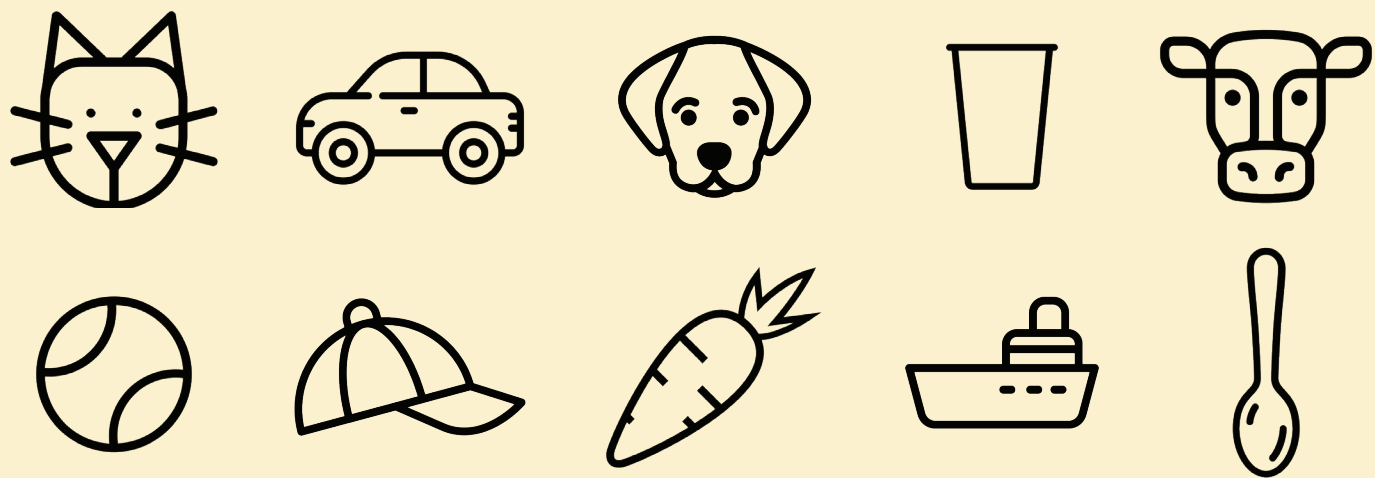
ACTIVITY #1

Nila paid \$8 for her coat. Circle the groups of eight below.



ACTIVITY #2

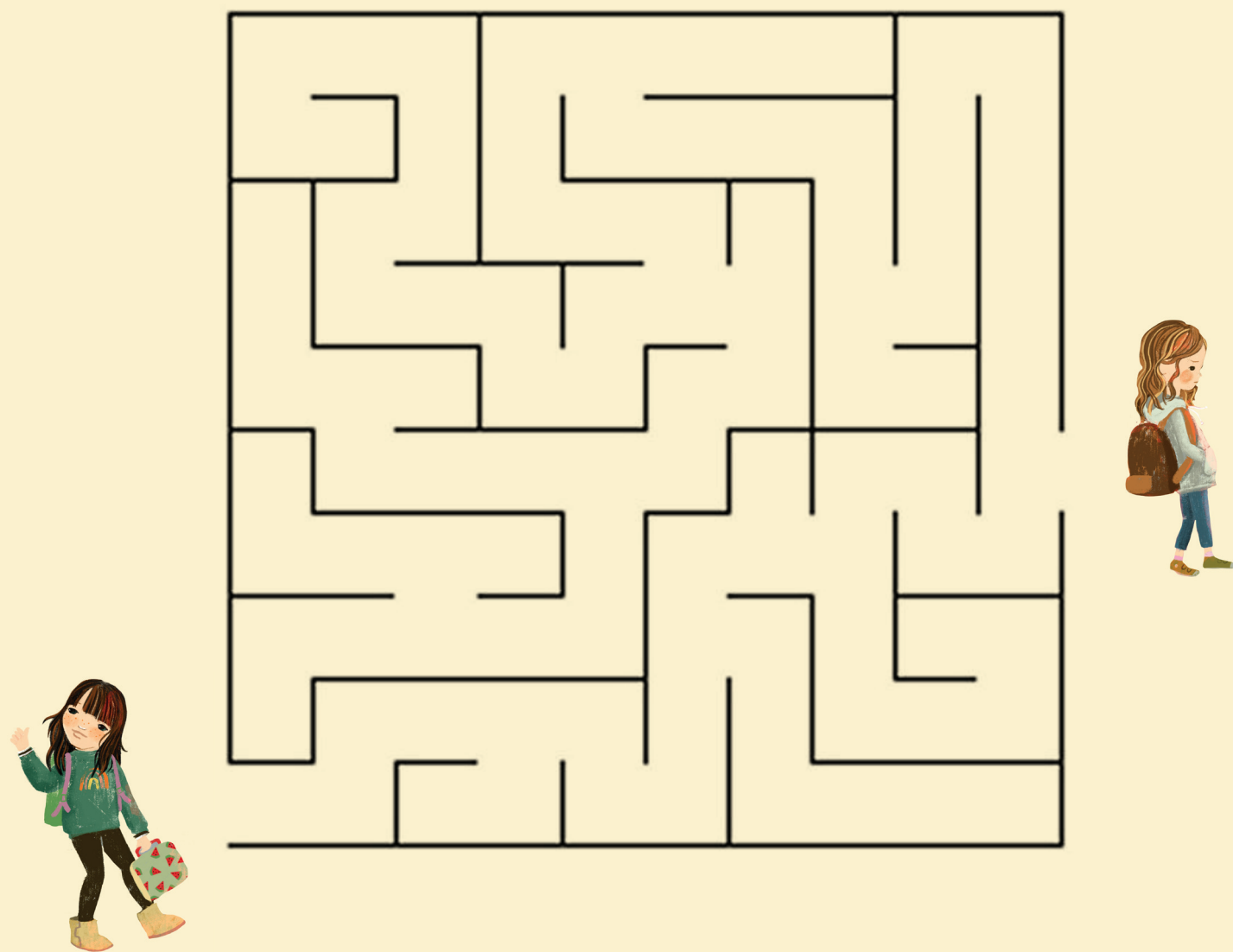
"Coat" begins with the letter "C." Circle the words below that also begin with the letter "C."



ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOL/1ST GRADE (AGES 3–5)

ACTIVITY #3

Help Nila find Lily's house.

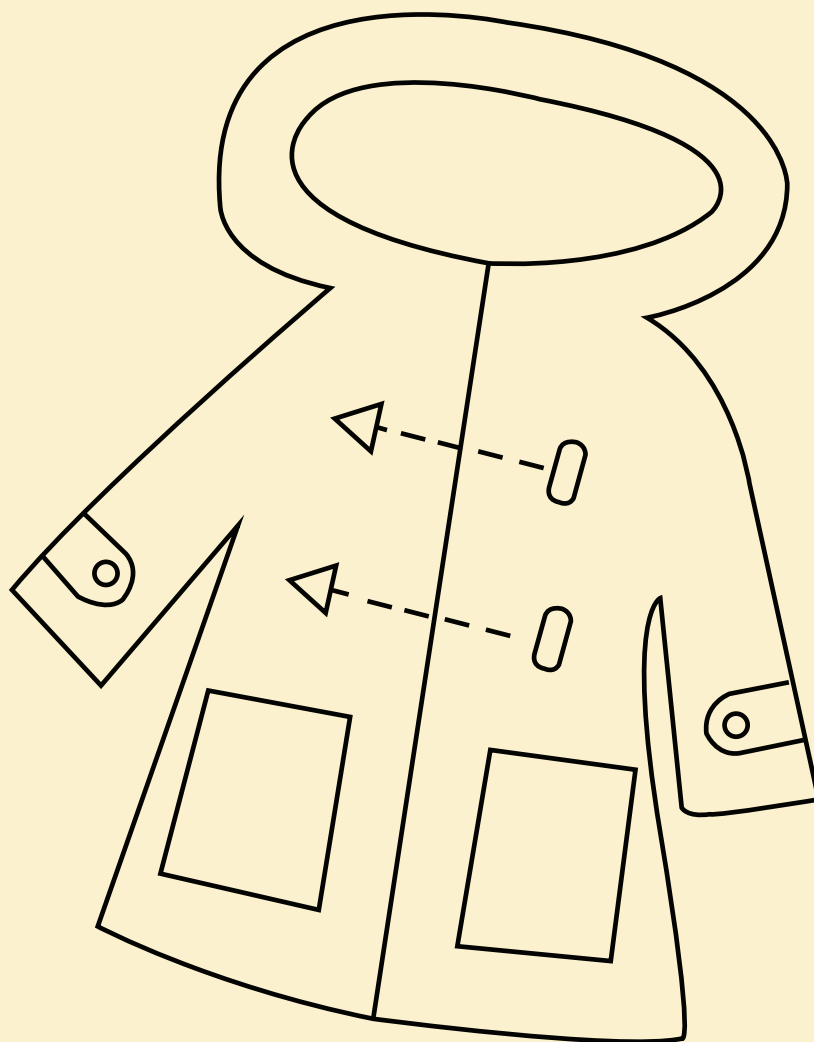


ACTIVITIES FOR PRESCHOOL/1ST GRADE (AGES 3–5)

ACTIVITY #4

Read and share the back matter from Nila's Perfect Coat. Discuss ways kids can be like Nila and #sharewarmth. Visit www.onewarmcoat.org and share with students One Warm Coat's 30th Anniversary video.

Then, using the coat template below, have students design and color their own perfect coat. Cut out the coats and display on a bulletin board titled "OneWarmCoat.org #sharewarmth." You could also add "How to Make a Difference" information from the back matter.



ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 2-3 (AGES 6-7)

ACTIVITY #1

Nila's coat cost \$8. Circle below the correct combinations of money Nila could give the clerk to pay for her coat.

\$5

\$1

\$1

\$1

\$5

\$1

\$1

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ACTIVITY #2

Circle the correctly spelled word in each line.

1. purfect prefect perfect perfict

2. thirft threft trift thrift

3. doller dollar dallor dollor

4. recess reces resuss resess

5. birthdey berthday birthday bertday

6. treasur tresure treaser treasure

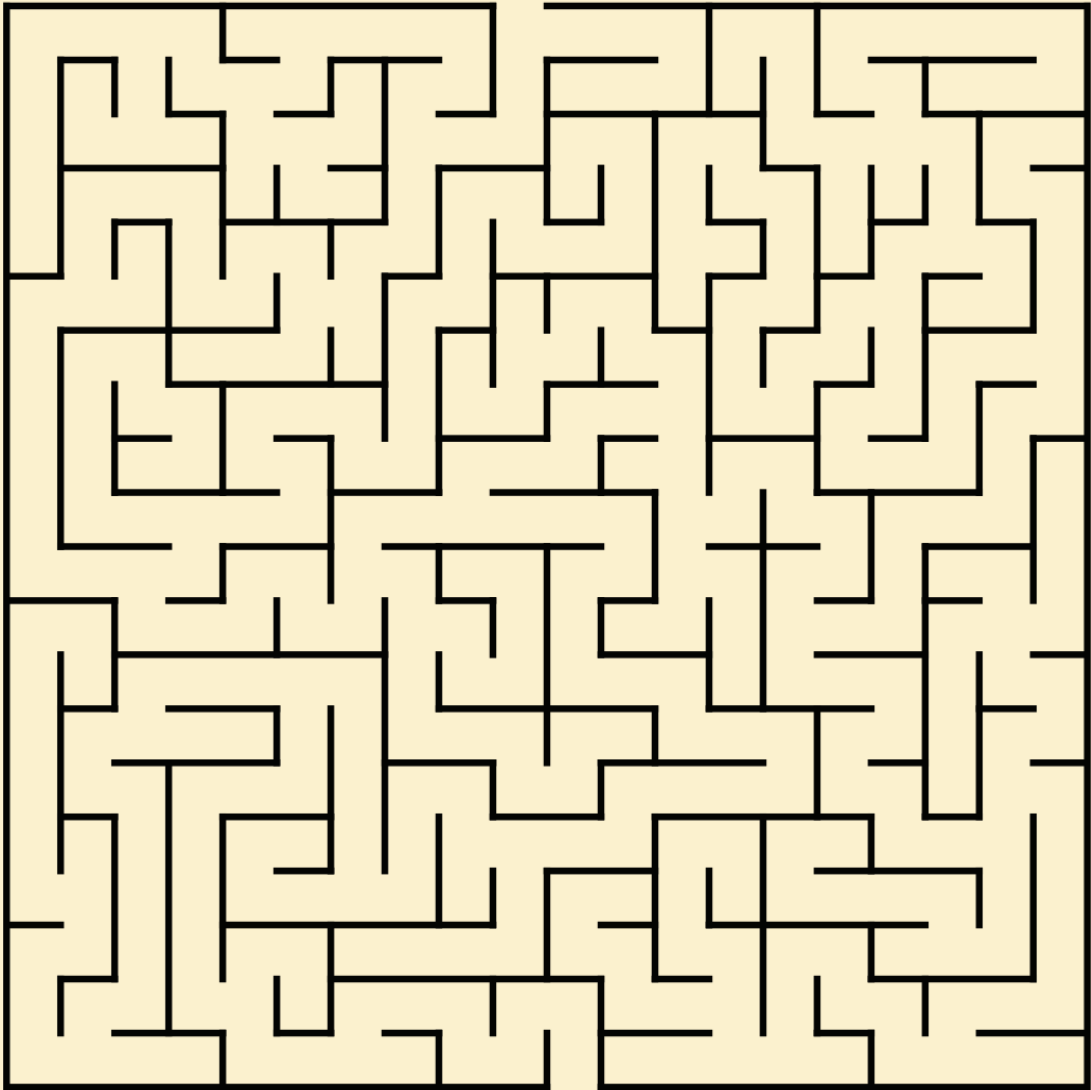
7. maney money monay munny

8. eigth ait eight eitgh

ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 2-3 (AGES 6-7)

ACTIVITY #3

Help Nila find Lily's house.



ACTIVITIES FOR GRADES 2-3 (AGES 6-7)

ACTIVITY #4

Pretend you are Lily. Write the first draft of a thank-you note to Nila, using at least five of the words found in the Word Box below. Have a classmate or your teacher proofread your note. Make corrections and then, using paper provided by your teacher, design an illustrated thank-you card complete with your text and pictures.

WORD BOX

thank you | friend | coat | perfect | Dear
happy | friends | warm | lucky | recess | best

CALL TO ACTION/COMMUNITY SERVICE ACTIVITY

WWW.ONEWARMCOAT.ORG

Every year when the temperature drops, thousands of kids living in colder climates don't have winter coats, hats, or mittens to keep them warm. How can we be like Nila and help? Brainstorm student ideas in a large group, or break students into small groups, assign a recorder for each, and give them 10 minutes to come up with ideas. Regroup and share out, listing ideas from each group on the board. Which group ideas overlap? Share the back matter from *Nila's Perfect Coat*. Visit www.onewarmcoat.org and show students the 30th Anniversary video. Help students plan, organize, and implement their idea(s).

