

# The Electric Company



[pbskidsgo.org/electriccompany](http://pbskidsgo.org/electriccompany)

ISSUE 1  
2009

**Open Up,  
Turn It On!**

- Take the Pledge
  - Do the Slide and Drop
  - Trade Electric Cards
- and much more



# HEY YOU GUYS!

Here's what you'll  
find in these  
pages.

- 1 Word Power!
- 2 Take the Pledge
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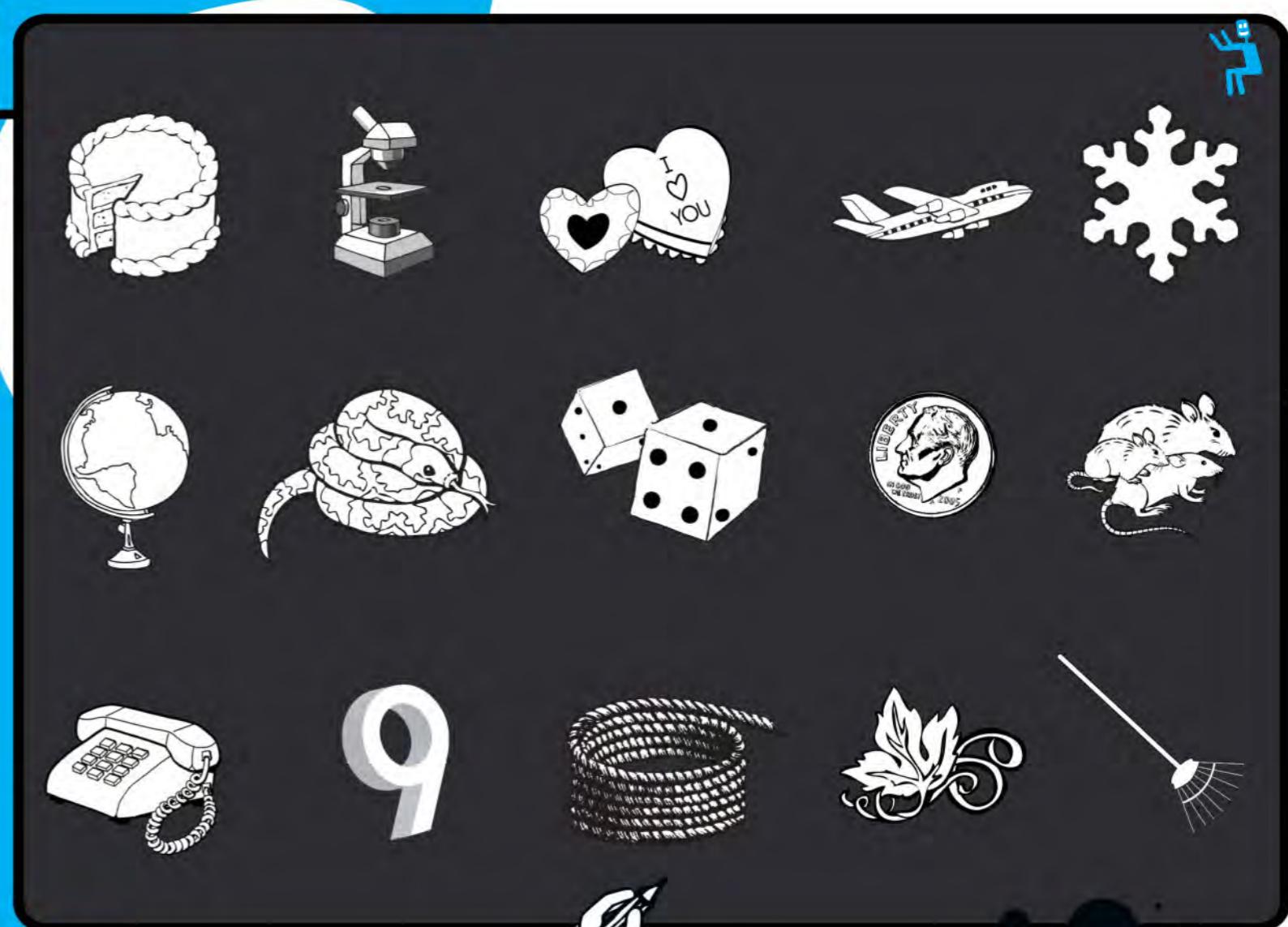
Answers

# WORD POWER!



## P Is for PICTURE POWER

Each picture here is  
somewhere in this magazine.  
Can you find them all?



The Electric Company—Hector, Jessica, Keith, and Lisa—have the power. And when you read and use words, you've got the power, too. Find the pictures that match the words in red.

You've got the power. Haven't you heard?  
Find the picture that goes with each word.  
A spinning **globe**, a leaf on a **vine**,  
A **cake**, a **rake**, a **valentine**.  
A **microscope**, a pair of **dice**.  
A hunk of **rope**, three little **mice**.

## YOUR TURN

Find two things on this page whose names rhyme with each other. Write them here. Then challenge a friend to find your rhyme!

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# Take the PLEDGE

Do you believe in the awesome power of words? Yes?  
 Oh, good. Then you are ready to become the newest member of  
 The Electric Company. Raise your right hand and take the pledge.

I'VE GOT MY  
**friends**

all around me, and my hand in the air.  
 I've got a brand-new

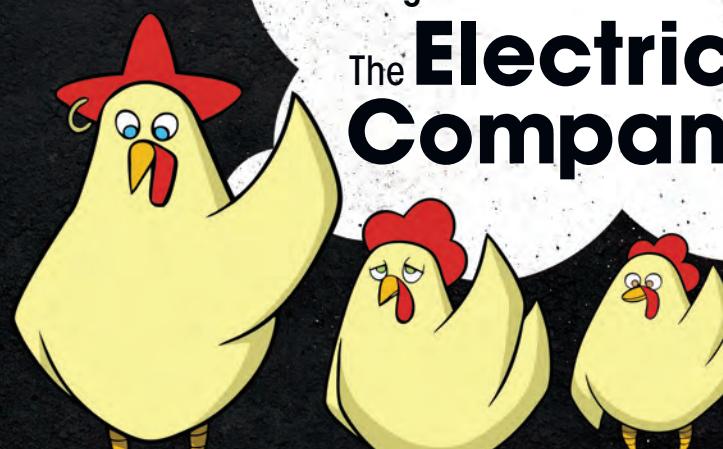
# POWER

and I solemnly do **swear** to use *my power*  
 ONLY for the GOOD of **all** the people  
 in the neighborhood.

**I KNOW** what I've seen.  
 I know what I've heard.  
 There's a *whole lotta*  
**power**  
 in **every** little word.

As we use our **POWER**,  
 we **guarantee** to honor the name of

The **Electric**  
**Company**.



# My BIG Face

My Big Face | Homepage

The Electric Company

My Big Face Home Profile The Team Messages

Add yourself here!

Send a message

Join the team

Friends

See all your friends

Francine	Keith	Hector
Manny	Jessica	Lisa

25 Friends Online 1 Online Chat

Check one:

- I like chickens.
- I do not like chickens.
- I have no opinion about chickens.

Congratulations!

You are the newest member of  
 The Electric Company. Now that you are  
 one of the crew, tell them about yourself.

Your Info Photos

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

My top three snacks:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

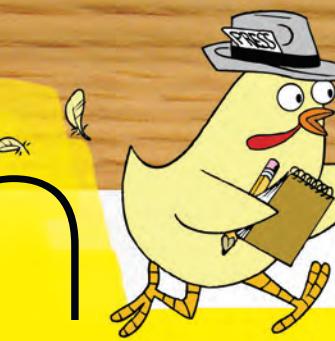
My favorite game is:

\_\_\_\_\_

If I had wings I would fly to:

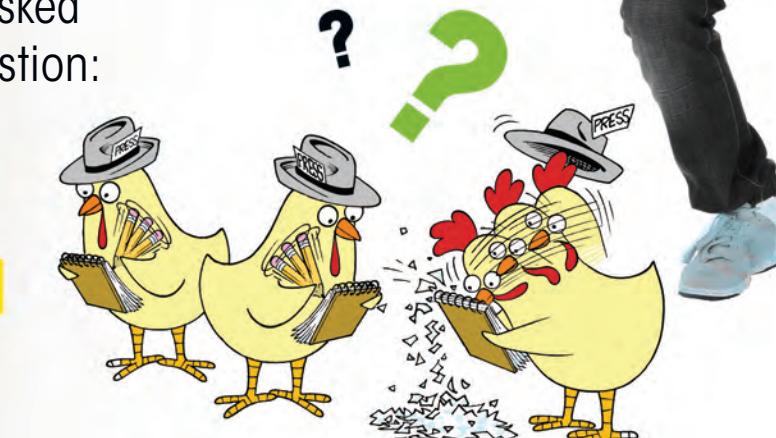
\_\_\_\_\_

# Bird on the STREET



The reporters of *NewsBeak* are always on the job. They hunt and peck until they get their story, and they never get their feathers ruffled! This week, the poultry pollsters visited **The Electric Company** neighborhood. Wherever they went, they asked everybody one simple question:

**"What was the most embarrassing thing that ever happened to you?"**



 "Me? I am one dude who never gets rattled. Well, almost never. There was that one time Manny Spamboni pulled off a sneak attack on my sneakers. It was like my left foot and right foot were enemies. I was stumbling and fumbling like, well, kind of like Lisa. No offense Lisa, okay?"

-Hector, problem solver

 "That would have to be the day I was frozen solid by one of Manny's crazy gadgets. One second I was dribbling a basketball and the next I was as still as a statue. Suddenly my head was a landing pad for every pigeon in the neighborhood. Now that was definitely awkward!"

-Keith, word whiz



 "I guess I'm a bit of a klutz. So there are some things I would like to forget. Like that time at The Electric Diner. I slipped on a menu. I landed face first in an ice cream sundae. It was very embarrassing, but kind of tasty, too!"

-Lisa, puzzle master

 "My worst moment? How about when I was turned into a lizard? Well, I was only half a lizard, but what a mess. Those scales were so dry and itchy. Take it from me. It is definitely not easy being green!"

-Jessica, sentence sleuth

# Bird on the STREET

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anksters:



*Protecting  
Nest*

NewsBeak Magazine 2009

"Embarrassed? Don't make me laugh! I am always in control, no matter what. There was that time Danny Rebus dressed up as a big scary bug. Yes, it's true I screamed and my heart was pounding a mile a minute. And, yes, I ran away as fast as I could. But I was just acting for my movie. You do believe me, don't you?"

-Francine Carruthers, busybody

"Half a lizard? Is that the best Jessica can come up with? I was turned into a whole turtle, so that has to be twice as bad! Man, it was hot stuck inside that shell. I don't know how turtles and snails and clams do it."

-Danny Rebus, wiseguy

"Do not remind me about that report card, okay? An F in Wood Shop! Can you believe it? I blame the alphabet. I have never liked the letter F since then. Or the letter A. Or B or C or ..."

-Manny Spamboni, smart alec

**YOUR TURN**

My most embarrassing moment:

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# SLIDE DROP and

Ready to get moving with  
The Electric Company?  
Good. 'Cause it's time to  
Slide and Drop!

Pick up a letter  
and let it **SLIDE**.  
Pick up another one and  
**drop it on the side.**  
**SLIDE AND DROP.**  
Do the Slide and Drop.

**Pick up a letter**  
and let it *slide*.  
Pick up **another** one and drop it inside.  
That's the way you do the  
**SLIDE and DROP.**  
**SLIDE and DROP.**  
**DO THE Slide and Drop.**

CHILLING with your  
**FRIENDS.**  
Play a little ball.  
Shopping with your folks  
over at the mall

**SLIDE and DROP.**  
**Slide and Drop.**  
**DO THE**  
**Slide and**  
**DROP.**

Photos by Anthony Causi

# Get MOVING

Do the Slide and Drop to go from SLOW to FAST.



**SLOW**  
**BLOW**

Slide out the S and drop in a B

Slide out the W and drop in a T

Slide out the L and drop in an O

Switching B to L is the way to go

Slide out both O's and drop in an AS

Slide out the L and drop in an F

Take a break. It's time to stop.  
You just did the Slide and Drop!

Answers on page 32.



## YOUR TURN

To see how the Slide and Drop is done, check out the video at

[pbskidsgo.org/electriccompany](http://pbskidsgo.org/electriccompany)

# Chocolate "KLIM" SHAKE?

Trouble at  
The Electric Diner!

Someone left the  
menus on the counter.

Annie Scrambler  
messed them all up.  
She jumbled the names  
of today's specials.  
It's up to you to fix  
the menus.

Read each food name.  
To fix it, unscramble  
the words in  
CAPITAL letters.



## MENU

### BREAKFAST

Toasted English NUFFIM **M\_U\_F\_F\_I\_N**

Cereal with Sliced **NNAAB** \_\_\_\_\_

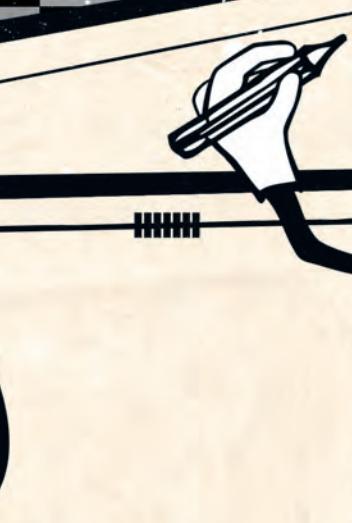
French **AOSTT** \_\_\_\_\_

Blueberry **NACKAPES** \_\_\_\_\_

### LUNCH

Chicken Noodle **PUSO** \_\_\_\_\_

Cheese **ZIPZA** \_\_\_\_\_



## YOUR TURN

If you were at The Electric Diner, what would you order?  
Scramble your order and ask a friend to unscramble it.

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### DINNER

Spaghetti and **TAMSLABEL** \_\_\_\_\_

Roast **KUERTY** \_\_\_\_\_ with Gravy

**COMARANI** \_\_\_\_\_ and Cheese

Baked **APOTTO** \_\_\_\_\_

### AND FOR DESSERT...

**ECI MEARC** \_\_\_\_\_ Cone

Chocolate **DUGNDIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**PLEPA** \_\_\_\_\_ Pie

Cherry **HEEEECKASC** \_\_\_\_\_



Answers on page 32.

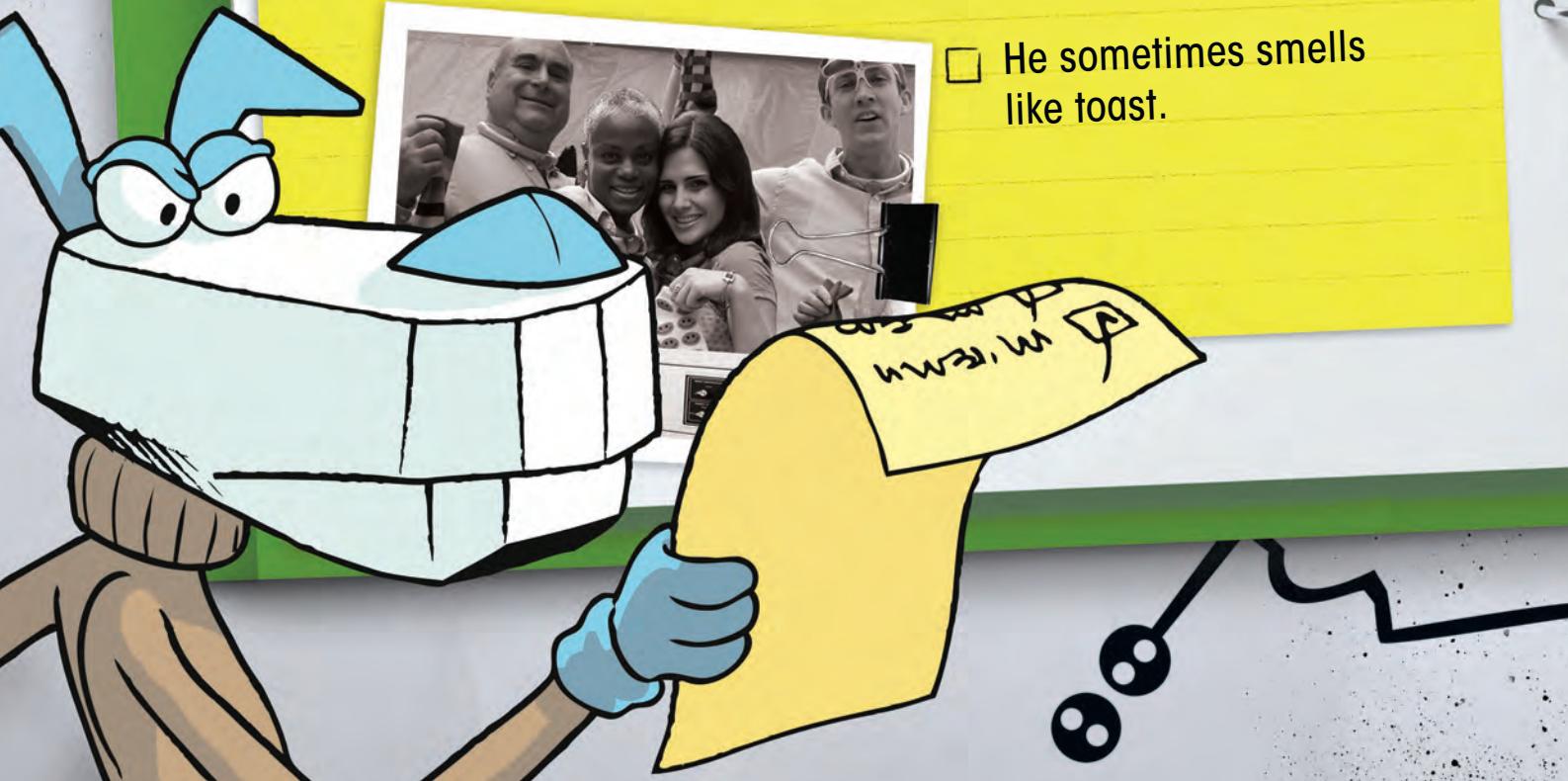
# Skelecki Detective

Detective Jack Bowser is visiting The Electric Company. He's looking for clues, as usual. He's trying to figure out who's from Planet Skelecki. Read each clue. Does this sound like anyone you know?



Your friend may be from Skelecki if...

- He is afraid of pickles.
- He is extremely good at finding meteors.
- He knows all about a holiday called Sockfest.
- He loves all kinds of noodles.
- He wears a funny necklace.
- His feet smell like fresh chocolate chip cookies.
- He sometimes smells like toast.



**YOUR TURN**

Look at the pictures on the page for one minute. Then close your eyes. Can you name the four different foods?

The Electric Company

PBS KIDS GO!

# Lights, Camera, **BEETLES**

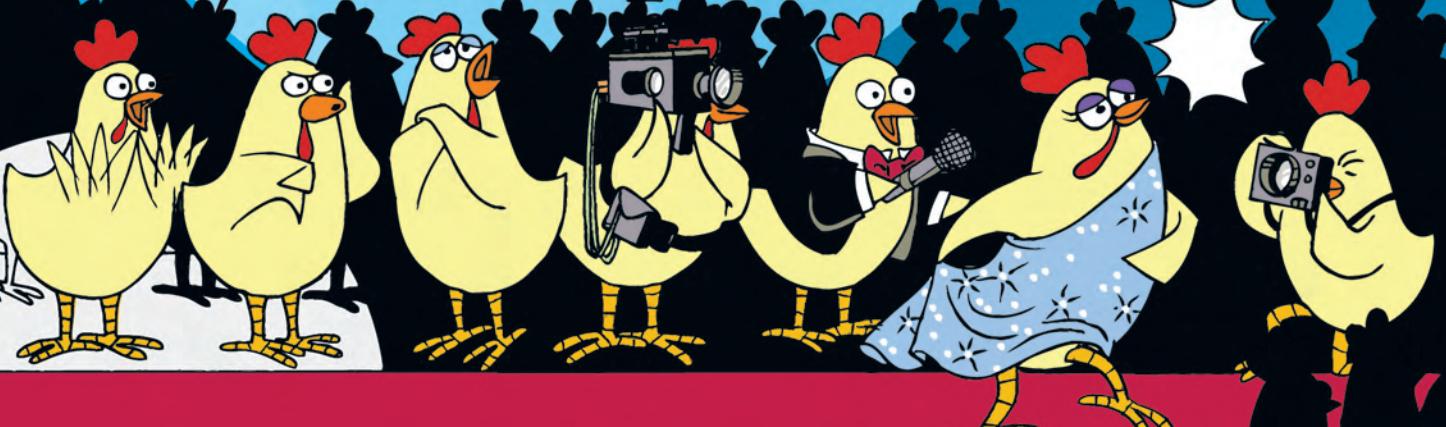
It's time for Top Bug, where thousands of six-legged contestants audition to be elected America's favorite insect. Read about these three contestants and decide which one you are buggy about. Then cast your vote.



## JAWS

Our first contestant is already a star. **Jaws** appears in this episode of *The Electric Company*. This **stag beetle** looks like he has **two large horns**. But those are his **jaw**. Those choppers are nearly as long as his whole body.

Now that's truly  
*stag-gering!*



## TWIGGY

Where is our second contestant? Right in front of you! **Twiggy** is famous for her **impression** of an ordinary stick. Those six smaller "twigs" are her legs. Stick insects live on bushes where they stand as still as...well, as a stick. Other animals leave Twiggy alone, because they don't see her. Wow!



## ANTZ and FRANTZ

Our final pair of contestants are **Antz** and **Frantz**. These leafcutter ants are super **strong**. They cut chunks of leaves and carry them back to the nest. Leafcutter ants can carry things that weigh 10 times more than they do. That is like a person carrying a horse!

Way to go, boys!



**VOTE**  
for **TOP BUG:**

JAWS

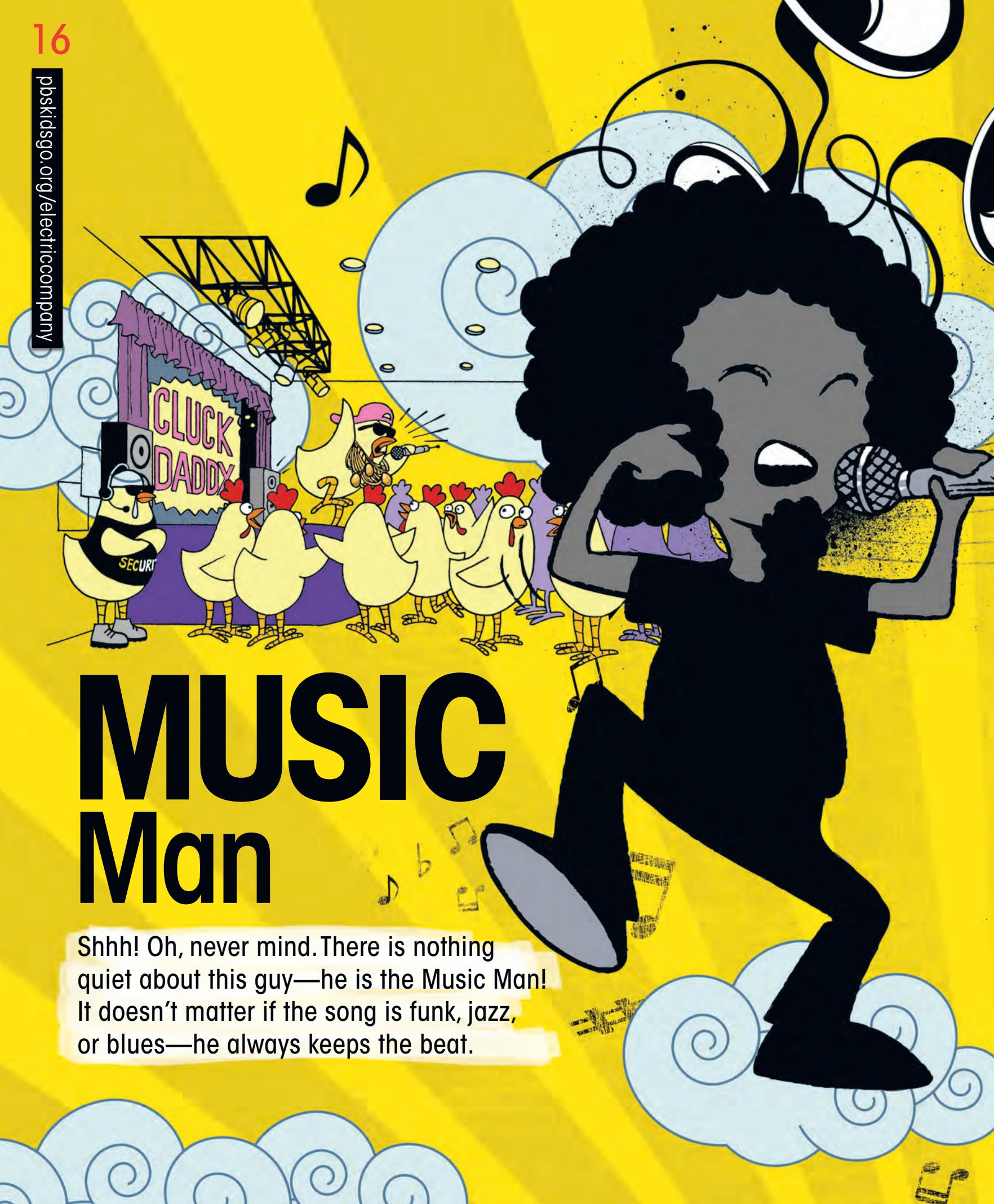
TWIGGY

ANTZ and FRANTZ

FIND OUT MORE  
of the **STORY** at  
[pbskidsgo.org/electriccompany](http://pbskidsgo.org/electriccompany)

# MUSIC Man

Shhh! Oh, never mind. There is nothing quiet about this guy—he is the Music Man! It doesn't matter if the song is funk, jazz, or blues—he always keeps the beat.



**TRADE** **CARDS**

Here's the pocket-sized scoop on each member of The Electric Company, plus one that you can make all about you. When you're finished, add yourself to the pile!

Punch out each card below!

Tear off this page for Electric Trading Cards!

JESSICA  
BOLD

HECTOR  
CONFIDENT

KEITH  
CURIOS

LISA  
OPTIMISTIC

SHOCK  
MUSICAL

Draw yourself or paste your photo here.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
One word to describe me: \_\_\_\_\_

The Electric Company

# Ways to Play

Here are some ways kids play in The Electric Company neighborhood. The next time you go outside, try some of these rhyming games with your friends. Oh, and watch out for the laughing orangutans.



## JUMP ROPE Rhymes

Jumping rope is great exercise. And it's fun to say a rhyme while you jump. Try these rhymes while you skip rope to the beat.

The Electric Company went to lunch.  
Hector made some celery crunch.  
Jessica ordered rice and beans.  
Keith went for some salad greens.  
Lisa had a plate of fries.  
How high did their lunch bill rise?  
10, 20, 30, 40  
(Keep jumping until you miss to see how much the bill was.)

Jack Bowser is in lots of trouble.  
He must read words on the double.  
Don't get angry.  
Don't get sore.  
Try to count to twenty-four.  
1, 2, 3, 4...  
(Keep jumping until you reach the number 24.)

## BALL BOUNCING Rhymes

Here are some more rhymes to test your ball bouncing skills. Use a plain rubber ball. Or try dribbling a basketball.

You can act out each sentence in the orange box as you go.

Those Pranksters think they'll never miss.  
Always up to some old tricks!  
Grab your ball and start to count,  
before those rascals get you out.  
Don't be nervous. Persevere.  
Count out twenty bounces here.  
1, 2, 3, 4...

Hector says to turn around.  
Lisa says to touch the ground.  
Jessica says to squeeze your nose.  
Keith says try to tap your toes.  
Shock? He says no words at all.  
He's just glad I bounced this ball!

# BODY FACTS

Odd Man and Old Man have a whole body of knowledge to share with you.



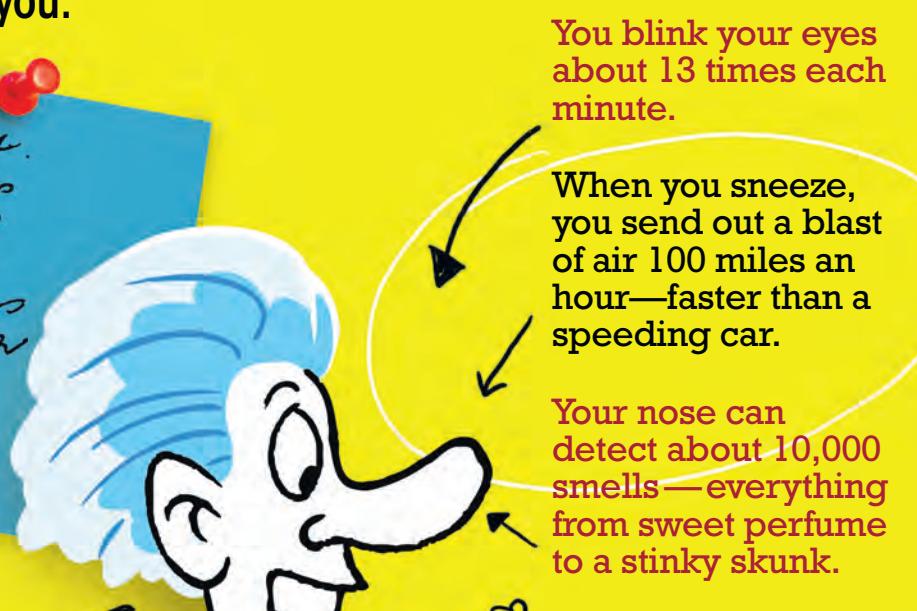
## Keep Your Body Working for You

- Eat fruits and vegetables every day.
- Walk, run, play, dance, or exercise every day.
- Try to get about 10 hours of sleep a night.

The hairs on your head grow about six inches every year.

You need only 26 muscles to make your biggest smile, but you use 43 to frown.

The hardest thing in your body is the outside coating on your teeth. It is harder than your bones.



You blink your eyes about 13 times each minute.

When you sneeze, you send out a blast of air 100 miles an hour—faster than a speeding car.

Your nose can detect about 10,000 smells—everything from sweet perfume to a stinky skunk.

Your heart pumps all the blood through your body about 1,000 times a day.

You have 206 bones in your body. The largest are in your legs, the smallest are in your ears.

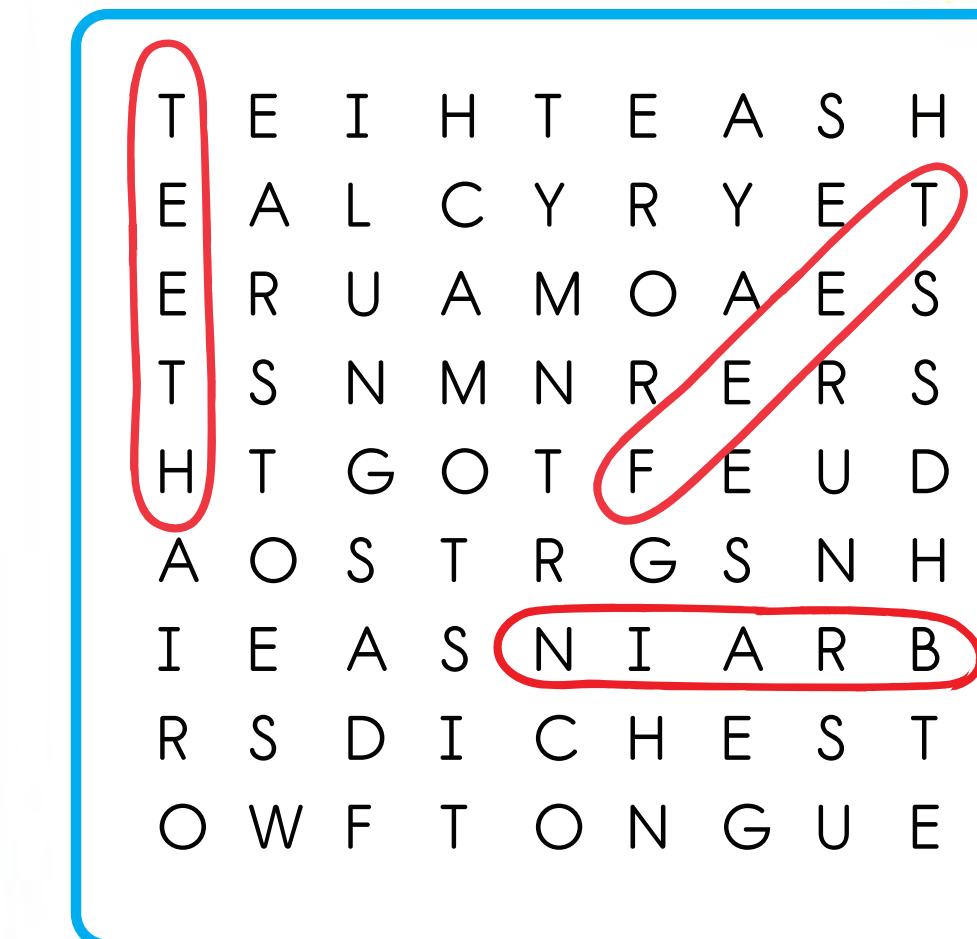
Your skin is thickest on the bottom of your feet and thinnest on your eyelids.



# BODY RIDDLE

What has two arms, two legs, a head, and a body, but does not weigh an ounce?

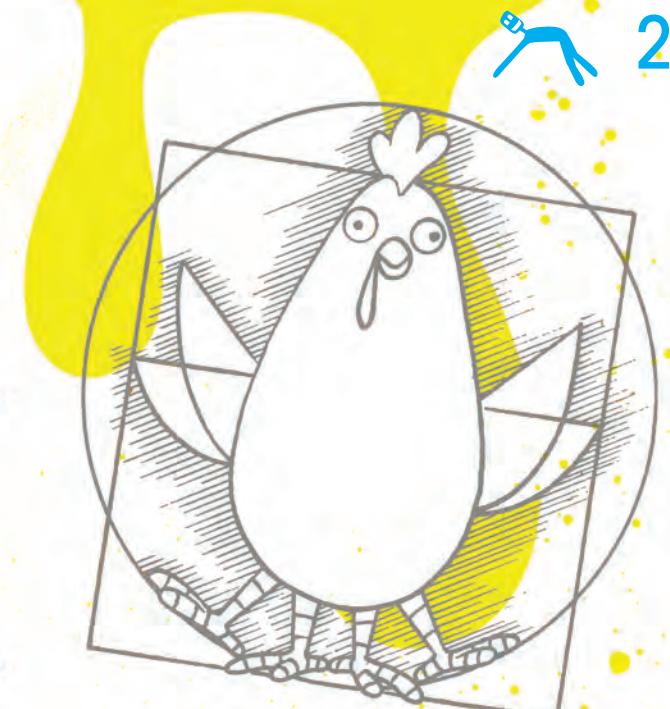
To find the answer, circle the body words. They are hidden **up**, **down**, **across**, **diagonally**, and **backward**. Write the **13** letters you did not circle in order in the spaces below to solve the riddle.



ARM	HAND
BRAIN	HEART
CHEST	LUNGS
EARS	NOSE
EYES	STOMACH
FEET	TEETH
FINGERS	TOES
HAIR	TONGUE

Answer:

Answer on page 32.



# FRUITS and Vege+ + S

Josephine is going to the farmer's market. Help her get everything on her list. Read her list and figure out what it says. Then find the picture of the fruit or vegetable and write its name on its sign. Check it off on her list.

- |                                     |   |              |   |                          |   |                |   |     |
|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|---|--------------------------|---|----------------|---|-----|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | + |              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | + |                | + | S   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | + | <b>ROTS</b>  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | + | <b>BAGES</b>   |   |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | + |              | + | <input type="checkbox"/> | + | S              |   |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | + |              |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | + | <b>BERRIES</b> |   |     |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | + | <b>BEANS</b> |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | + |                | - | H   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>            | + | <b>MELON</b> |   | <input type="checkbox"/> | + | <b>MAT</b>     | + | OES |

Answers on page 32.



# COSMIC CODE

Jack Bowser is trying to solve a **space mystery**:

**What kind of music do creatures from outer space listen to?**

Zip around the solar system, reading each fun fact. Grab the red letter in the name of each planet you visit. Then write it above the matching number at the end to answer the riddle.

**1** A year on **Mercury** is 88 days long. So if you are seven years old, you would have already had 29 birthdays on Mercury!

**2** **Venus** is the hottest planet in the solar system. Temperatures on the surface reach 900 degrees!

**4** A kid who weighs 60 pounds on Earth would weigh 23 pounds on **Mars**.

**6** You don't want to miss **Saturn**. Its rings are made up of ice, dust, and rock. Some pieces are as tiny as a grain of sand. Others are larger than a skyscraper.

**5** Days fly by on **Jupiter**. The biggest planet in the solar system has the shortest day. The Sun rises every 10 hours.

**7** If you like long summer days, go to **Uranus**. Because the planet is tilted at an angle different from Earth, the Sun does not set for 20 years in summer.

**3** On the **moon** you can jump six times higher than you can on Earth. So you could dunk a basketball like an NBA star.

**8** **Neptune** is the planet farthest from the Sun. So it takes 165 Earth years to go once around the Sun. That would be a long, long time between birthdays!

6 2 8 - 5 7 3 1 4

Answer on page 32.

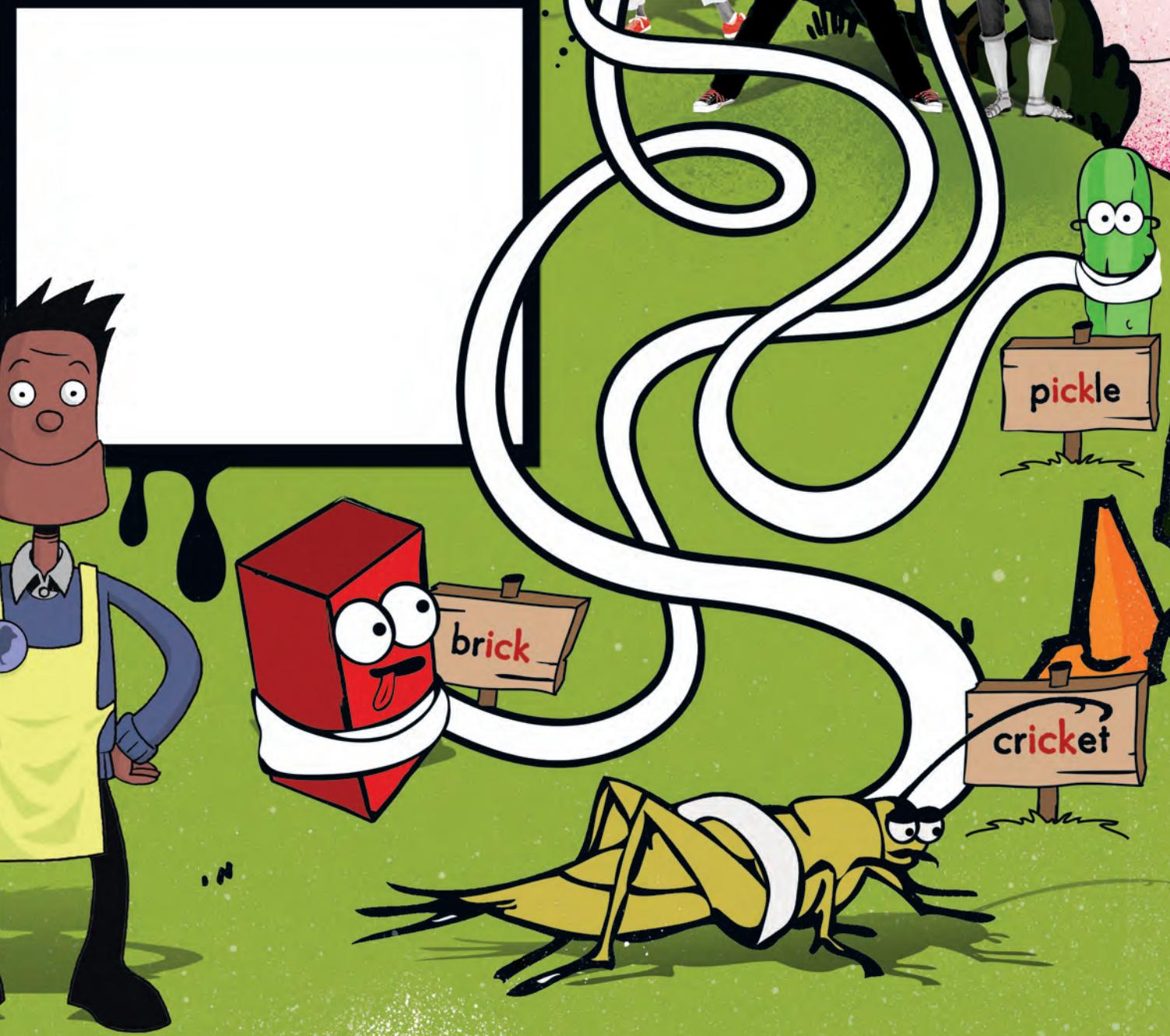


# TRICKY CRITTERS

A pet pickle? A cricket on a leash? A brick that does tricks? You never know who might be your next best friend. Follow each leash to see who might adopt each of these three pets.

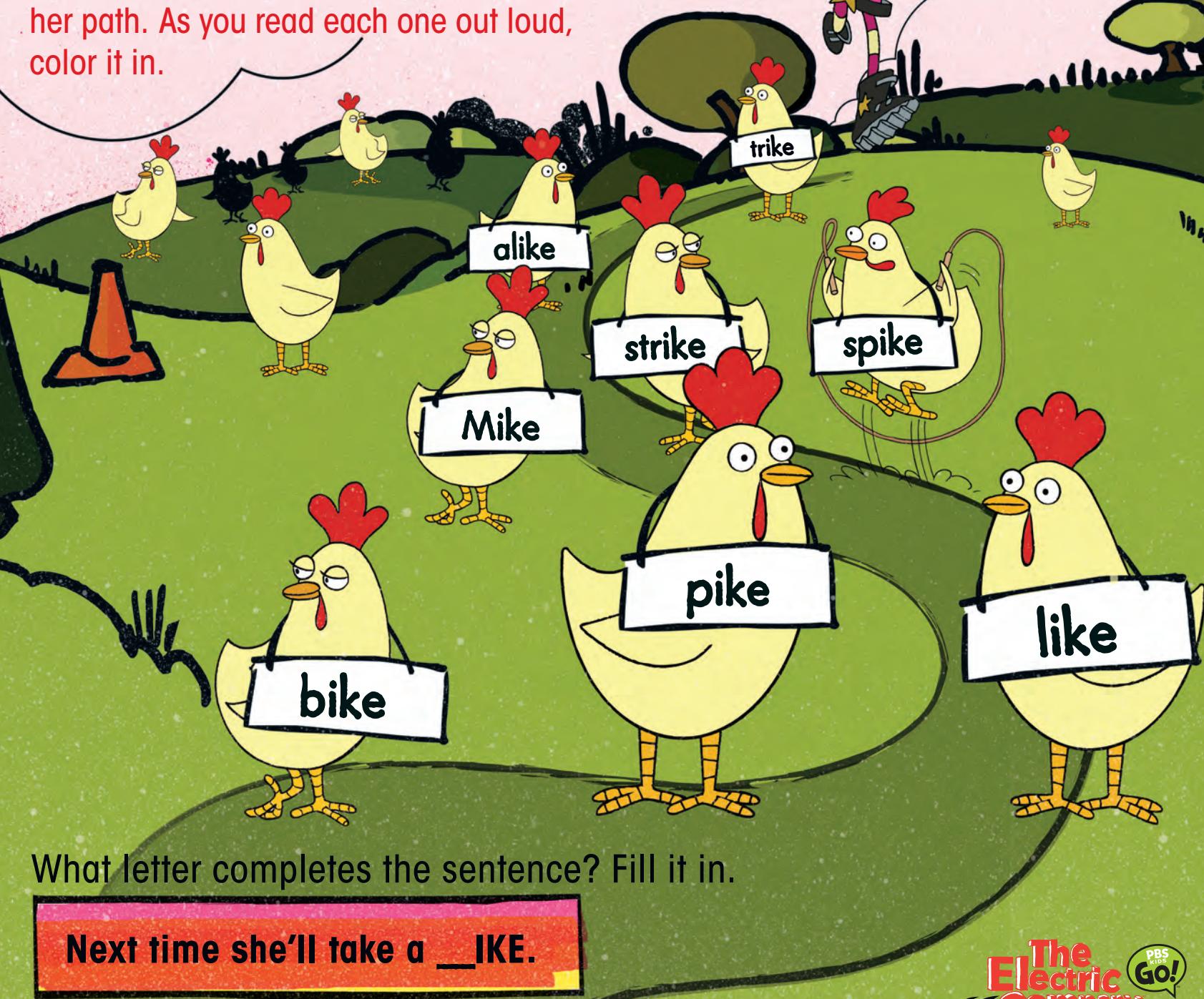
## YOUR TURN

Draw a picture of a pet stick doing a trick.



# Captain Cluck's Annoying Race

Captain Cluck ran in a race. But there were lots of obstacles in her way. Read the signs on the chickens along her path. As you read each one out loud, color it in.



What letter completes the sentence? Fill it in.

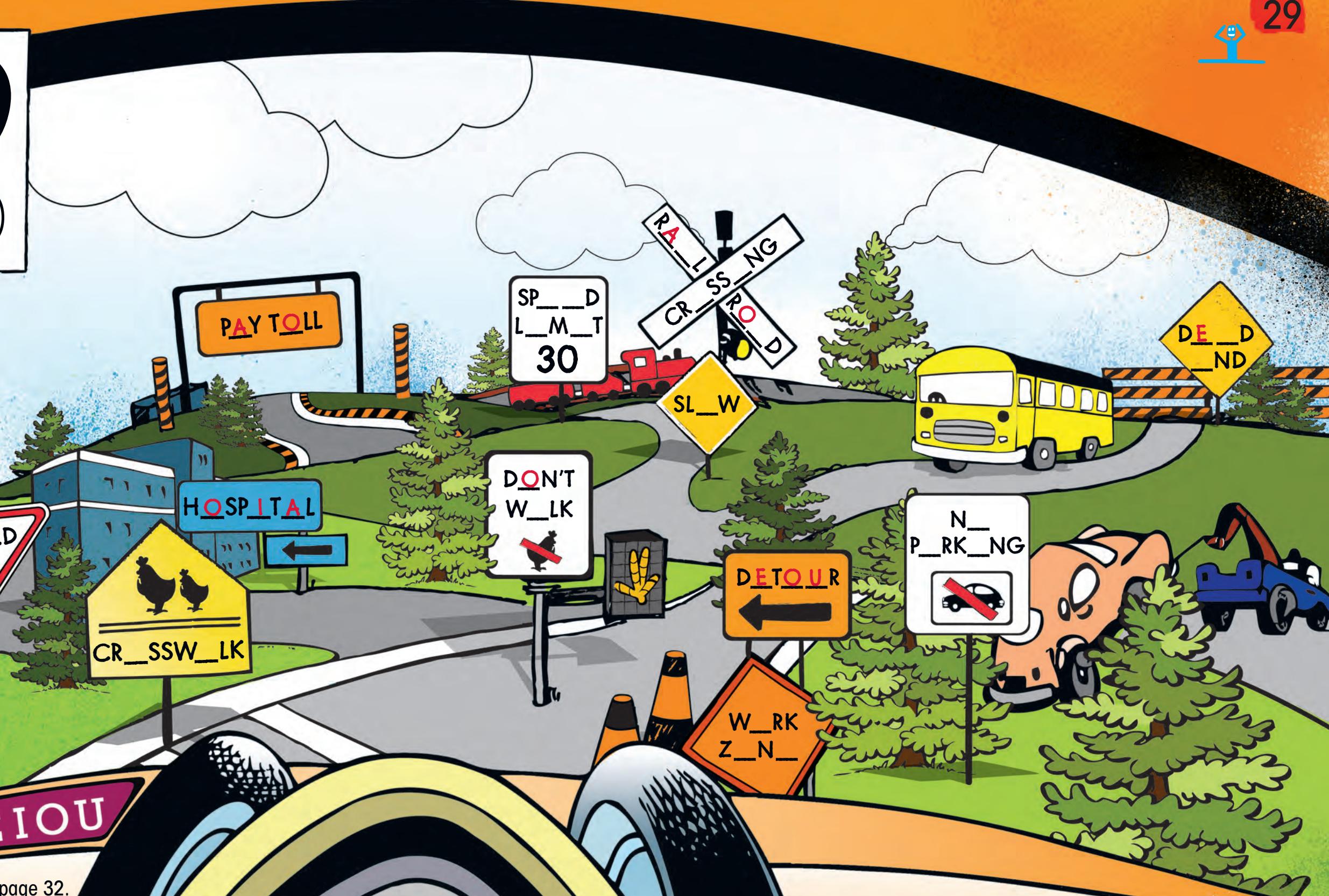
Next time she'll take a \_\_\_IKE.

# SPEED INDEED

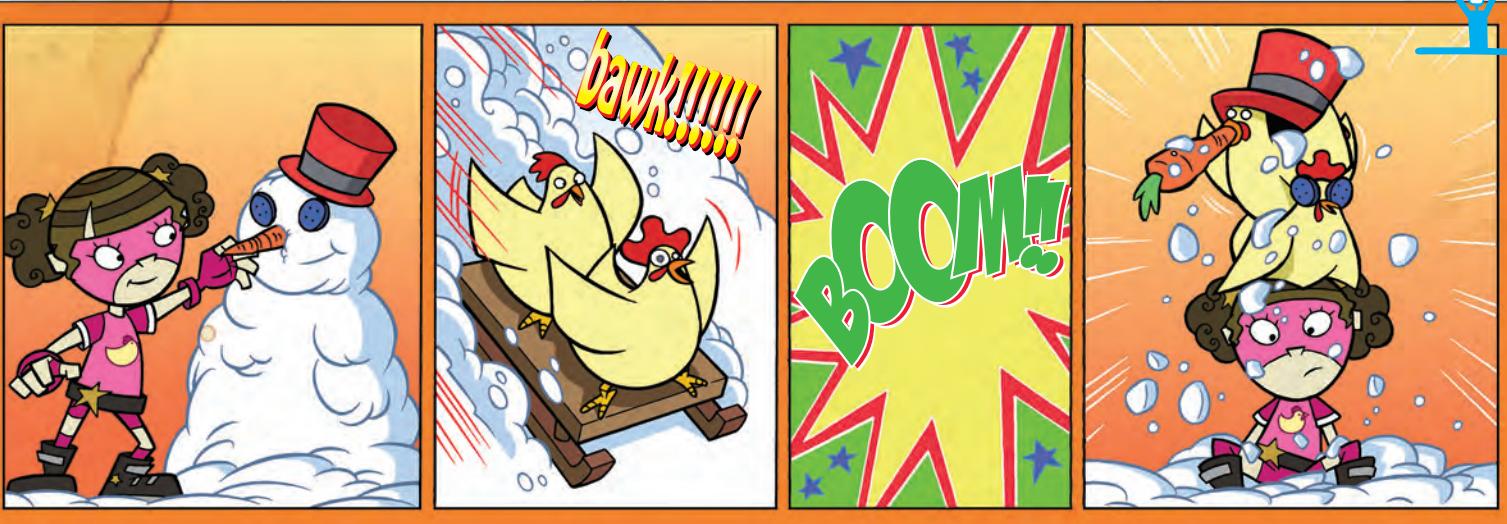
This racer is in a hurry to get home, but he will need your help. All of the vowels are missing from the signs all over town. Can you help him out? Drive along and look at each sign he passes. Add the right vowels to each sign. For help, look at the vowels on his dashboard.

VOWELS: AEIOU

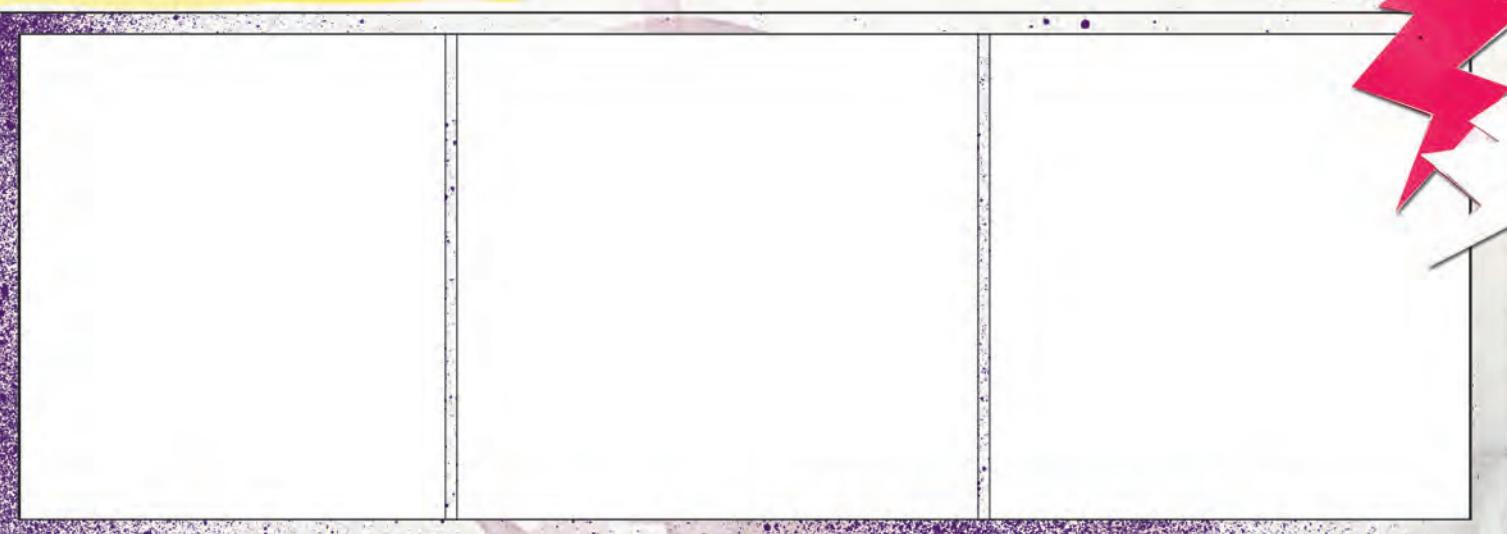
Answers on page 32.



# Captain Cluck's Funny Pages



Make Your Own Comic:





# ELECTRIC BOOKMARK

**meteor:** A piece of rock or metal from space that enters the Earth's atmosphere at high speed, burns, and forms a streak of light as it falls to the Earth.

**obstacle:** Something that gets in your way or keeps you from doing something.

**persevere:** To keep on trying and not give up, even when things get hard.

**pledge:** An honest and serious promise.

**rascal:** A mischievous person.

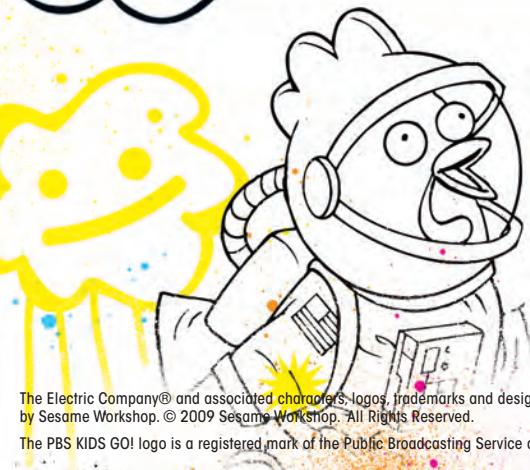
**solar system:** The Sun together with the Earth and all the other nine planets, many moons, comets, asteroids, and other bodies that orbit around it.

**solemnly:** Acting in a very serious, honest way.

**statue:** A model or image of a person or an animal.



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Punch out along the dotted lines to make a door hanger.

**The Electric Company** PBS KIDS GO!

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**POWER DOWN**

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Tear off this page for an Electric Door hanger and Bookmark!

You can help Music Man **shake** if you wish. Add **sh** in the blanks below to finish his song. After you do, read the song aloud. Ask a friend to join in with a beatbox background.

FIND OUT MORE of the **STORY** at [pbskidsgo.org/electriccompany](http://pbskidsgo.org/electriccompany)

Shake, shame, shake, share  
S-H  
Shave, shelf, shell, ship, shock, shook, shot  
Shy, rush, ruuush

Ca \_\_\_\_\_, cru \_\_\_\_\_, ma \_\_\_\_\_, mu \_\_\_\_\_ room  
S-H, S-H, S-H, S-H,  
ish, ish, ish like fish, fashion, push, rash, rush, trash

Wa \_\_\_\_\_, wi \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ aking about  
S-H, S-H, S-H, makes the "sh" sound  
S-H, S-H, S-H, makes the "sh" sound

\_\_\_\_\_ ape, \_\_\_\_\_ are, \_\_\_\_\_ ave  
S-H, S-H.

**The Electric Company** PBS KIDS GO!

Here are some games  
to play with these cards:

### Who's on First?

Watch The Electric Company on TV. Put the cards in order according to when you see each character in the show. At the end of the show, point to each card and say who did what in the episode.

### Keith Watson

→ Keith is the newest member of The Electric Company. But don't let that fool you! Keith is a natural leader with a lot of confidence. He discovered his word-making power while playing a game of H-O-R-S-E with Hector. Keith puts a charge into everything The Electric Company does.

**Mad, mad, super-bad, special skill:** Keith makes words come alive. He can take words and turn them into pictures right in front of your eyes!

**Keith said it!** "I'm getting kind of hungry. I am ready for some fluffy cheese from outer space."

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### Mind Reading Magic Trick

→ You'll need a friend to help you and someone to watch. Place these cards in a row, face up. Turn around and close your eyes. Your assistant has an "audience member" choose a card by pointing to it.

**The Trick:** Turn around and open your eyes. Your assistant points to each card one by one. Each time she points, she says "Is it this one?" After she has finished pointing to all six, you "read her mind" and choose the right card!

**The Secret:** As your assistant points, she touches each card. On the card just before the right one, she touches the person's nose. That is a signal that the next card is the answer. (If she touches the nose of the last card, choose the very first card.)

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### Someone Else's Shoes

You and a friend each choose one card. Read about the character and then pretend you are that person. Act out one of these skits together:  
1) You're stuck in a gumball factory that's going to explode in 24 seconds.  
2) You're rocketing to Planet Skelecki.  
3) Your basketball net is suddenly much higher than usual.

### Five Questions

Play with a friend. Spread out these cards and choose one, without letting your friend know who it is. Your friend asks yes/no questions to figure out who you're thinking of, trying to guess the card in fewer than five questions (such as "Is it a boy?").

### Hector Ruiz

→ Hector is Jessica's big brother. He is also an excellent basketball player, singer, and dancer. He is busy going to community college, but he always has time for his friends. The Pranksters have played a lot of tricks on him, but Hector and his Electric Company friends always come out on top.

**Mad, mad, super-bad, special skill:** Hector can make pictures in the air. He uses these pictures to find clues the rest of The Electric Company might miss.

**Hector said it!** "Fortunately, I found some goats. Lucky, huh? Unfortunately, I couldn't get them to dance!"

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### Shock

→ Shock provides a steady beat in the neighborhood. He helps out Leo in the Electric Diner and he often shows up when The Electric Company needs help. He may not say much, but The Electric Company has learned to watch and listen whenever Shock is around.

**Did you know?** Shock makes the beat for everything that happens on the show. The Electric Company feeds off his energy.

**Shock said it!** "B-T-B-Psh! B-T-B-Psh! Ts-Ts-Pf-Pf! B-T-B-Psh!"

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### Jessica Ruiz

→ Jessica has a lot of energy. Like her older brother Hector, Jessica is always ready to face a challenge head-on. Whether playing chess against Danny Rebus or battling Manny Spamboni for the last "Mighty Bright Knight" comic, Jessica stands up to the Pranksters.

**Mad, mad, super-bad, special skill:** Jessica remembers everything people say. She can replay and display what she has heard (word for word) to help The Electric Company out of a jam.

**Jessica said it!** "I love to win, especially against Danny. And for the record, Danny, that was a real hiccup!"

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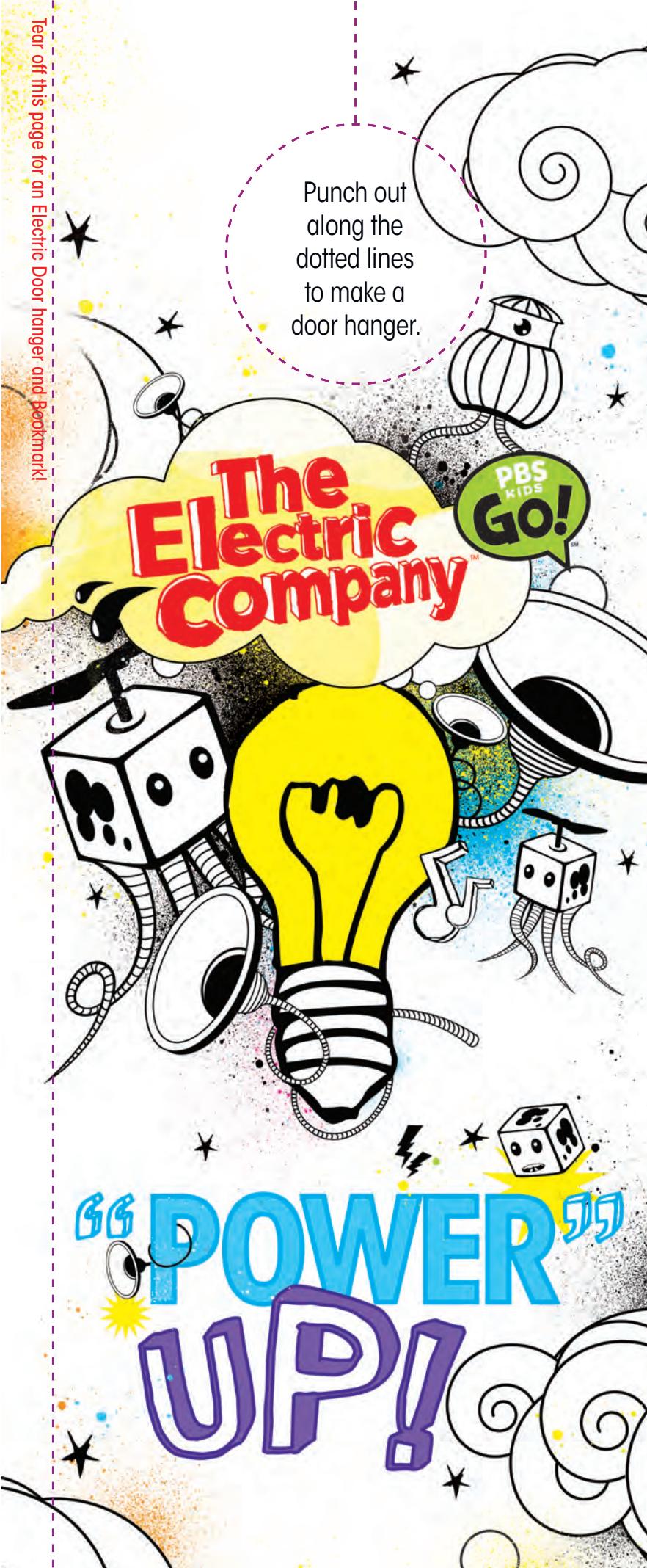
### Lisa Heffenbacher

→ Lisa may be a bit clumsy, but she is also a great problem solver. Sometimes she finds herself in sticky situations, but her enthusiasm and optimism always help The Electric Company succeed.

**Mad, mad, super-bad, special skill:** Lisa is a puzzle master. She can unscramble words with amazing speed.

**Lisa said it!** "Of course it's me. Except, why am I wearing these strange clothes? And why do I smell like scrambled eggs?"

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# ELECTRIC BOOKMARK

When you come to a **word** you don't know in this magazine, look in this teeny-tiny dictionary for **word power**.

**audition:** A performance by an actor, singer, dancer, or musician as a test to show their skills; to see if he or she is right for a part in a play, concert, etc.

**awkward:** Clumsy, not graceful.

**challenge:** Something hard that takes extra work or effort to do.

**contestant:** Someone who takes part in a contest or competition.

**detect:** To notice or discover something.

**elected:** Picked for a position by voting.

**gadget:** A small tool or device that does a certain job.

**guarantee:** To make a promise that something will definitely happen.

**impression:** An imitation of someone or something.

**jaw:** The bones near the mouth between the nose and the chin that hold teeth and can clamp down on things.





# The Electric Company

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