

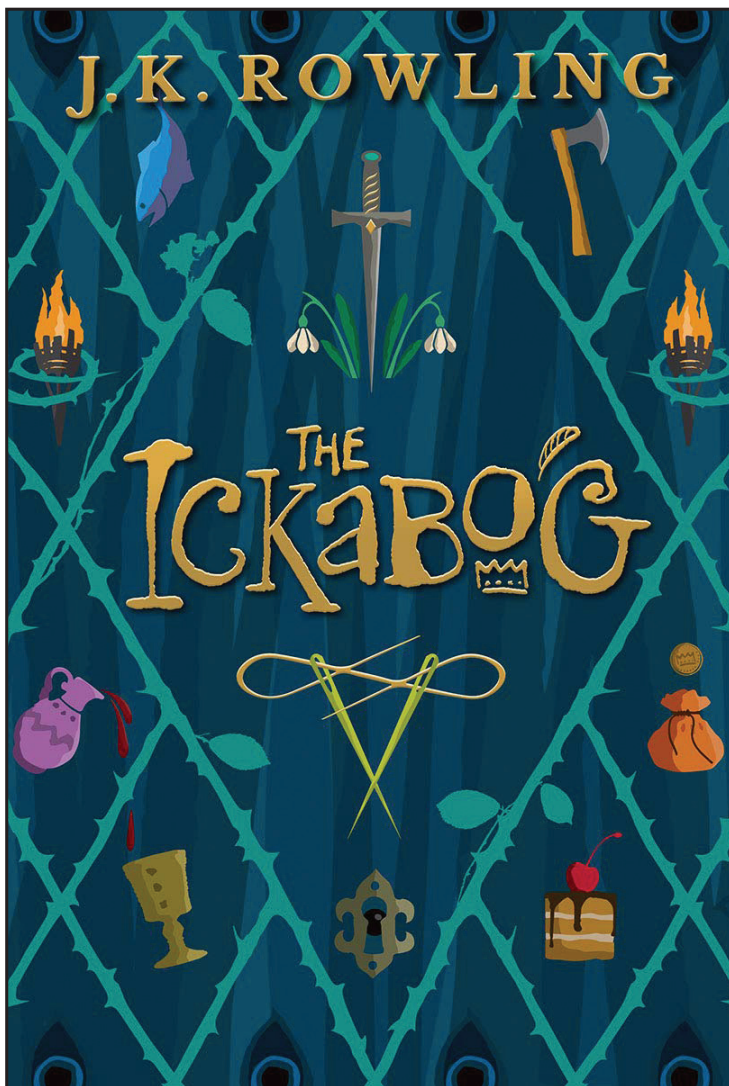


J. K. ROWLING

THE ICKABOG



Creativity Starters & Activities



The Ickabog—an original fairy tale from the author of the Harry Potter series that will captivate readers of all ages, featuring full color illustrations by children from across the United States and Canada.

ONCE UPON A TIME there was a tiny kingdom called Cornucopia, as rich in happiness as it was in gold, and famous for its food. From the delicate cream cheeses of Kurdsburg to the Hopes-of-Heaven pastries of Chouxville, each was so delicious that people wept with joy as they ate them.

But even in this happy kingdom, a monster lurks. Legend tells of a fearsome creature living far to the north in the Marshlands . . . the Ickabog. Some say it breathes fire, spits poison, and roars through the mist as it carries off wayward sheep and children alike. Some say it's just a myth . . .

And when that myth takes on a life of its own, casting a shadow over the kingdom, two children—best friends Bert and Daisy—embark on a great adventure to untangle the truth and find out where the real monster lies, bringing hope and happiness to Cornucopia once more.

ABOUT THE CREATIVITY STARTERS & ACTIVITIES

Imagination is all you need to complete the activities and reproducibles in this guide:

- Create a map of Cornucopia!
- Draw your own Ickabog!
- Design a book cover!
- Write a story!
- And more!

Get inspired by these four magical words: “Once upon a time . . .”

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A MAP OF CORNUCOPIA

The capital of Cornucopia, Chouxville, lay in the south of the country, and was surrounded by acres of orchards, fields of shimmering golden wheat, and emerald-green grass, on which pure white dairy cows grazed. . . .

To the north of Chouxville lay more green fields and clear, sparking rivers, where jet-black cows and happy pink pigs were raised. These in turn served the twin cities of Kurdsburg and Baronstown, which were separated from each other by an arching stone bridge over the main river of Cornucopia, the Fluma, where brightly colored barges bore goods from one end of the kingdom to another. . . .

A few hours north of Kurdsburg and Baronstown, you came upon acres of vineyards bearing grapes as large as eggs, each of them ripe and sweet and juicy. Journey onward for the rest of the day and you reached the granite city of Jeroboam, famous for its wines. . . .

But a little north of Jeroboam, a strange thing happened. . . . Right at the northern tip came the place known as the Marshlands, and the only thing that grew there were some tasteless, rubbery mushrooms and thin, dry grass, only good enough to feed a few mangy sheep.

—*The Ickabog*, Chapter 1

**Use the text above to inspire your own drawing
of a map of Cornucopia on
the scrolled map on the next page.**

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Map of Cornucopia





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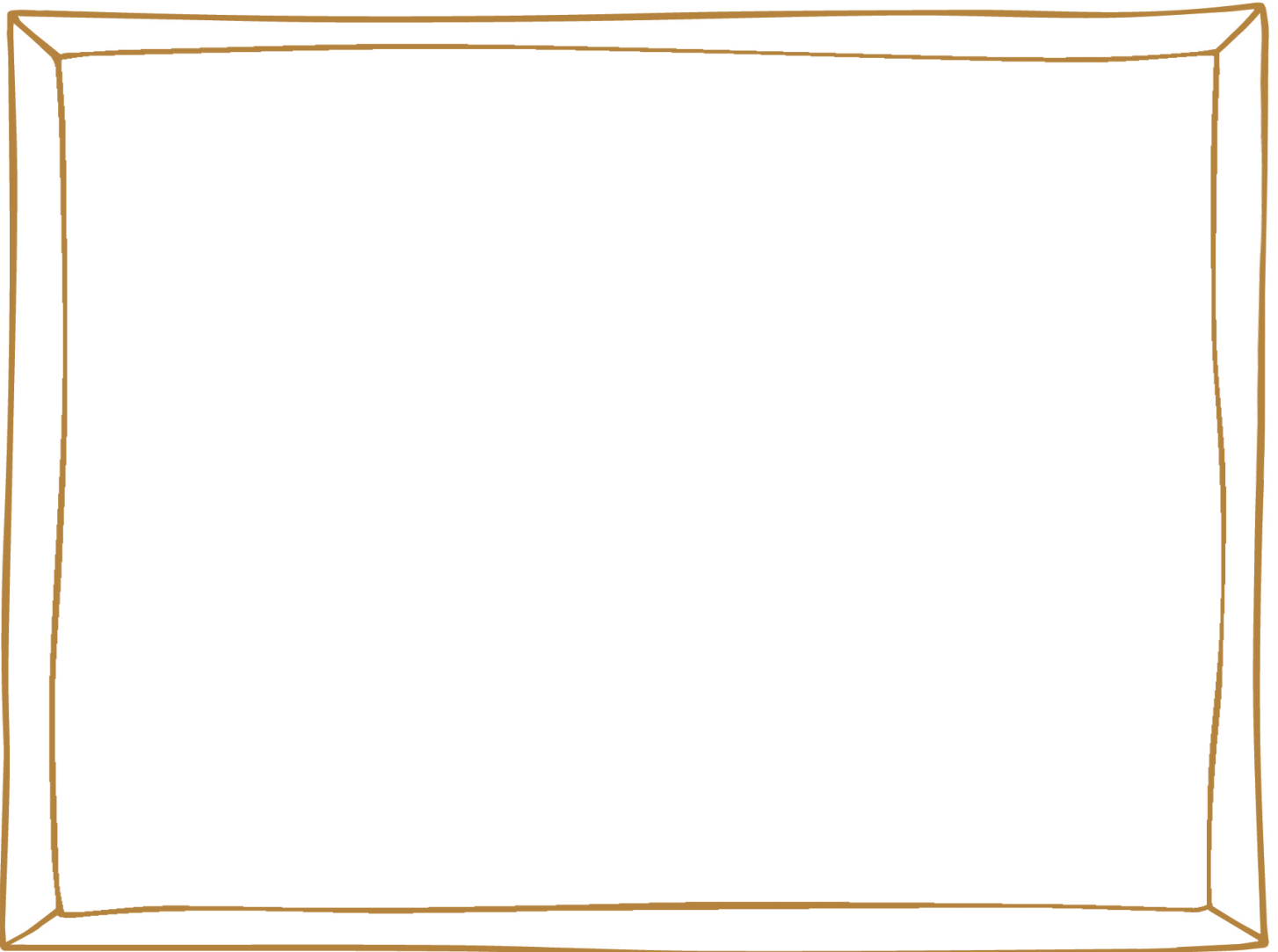


IMAGINE THE ICKABOG

The habits and appearance of the Ickabog changed depending on who was describing it. Some made it snakelike, others dragonish or wolflike. Some said it roared, others that it hissed, and still others said that it drifted silently as the mists that descended on the marsh without warning.

—*The Ickabog*, Chapter 2

How do you picture the Ickabog? Is it tall or short? Furry or scaly? Does it have paws or claws? Use your imagination and draw your Ickabog below.





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DIVE INTO THE STORY

Craft a petition! Draw a comic! Write a newspaper article! Explore *The Ickabog* with the fun activities below.



On the Day of Petition, citizens throughout Cornucopia are invited to meet King Fred the Fearless and tell him their problems. Pretend that you are a resident of Cornucopia. What will you ask for the king's help with on the Day of Petition? Write up your petition and make sure to include details about the problem and how you want the king to help you!



The heroes of *The Ickabog*—Bert, Daisy, and Mrs. Beamish—are ordinary people. Which character do you think is the most heroic and why? Find a friend who thinks someone different is the most heroic and take turns talking and listening to each other about why you think the way you do.



The Ickabog is real! Write a news article about the Ickabog. Remember, journalists focus on facts and answer the Five Ws: who, what, when, where, and why.



Daisy gets to know the Ickabog when she and her friends stay in the Ickabog's cave in the Marshlands. Create a three-panel comic strip about Daisy and the Ickabog.



Chouxville, Kurdsburg, Baronstown, and Jeroboam are places with happy people, amazing food and drink, and beautiful sights. Pick one of the towns and write a poem or song about it.



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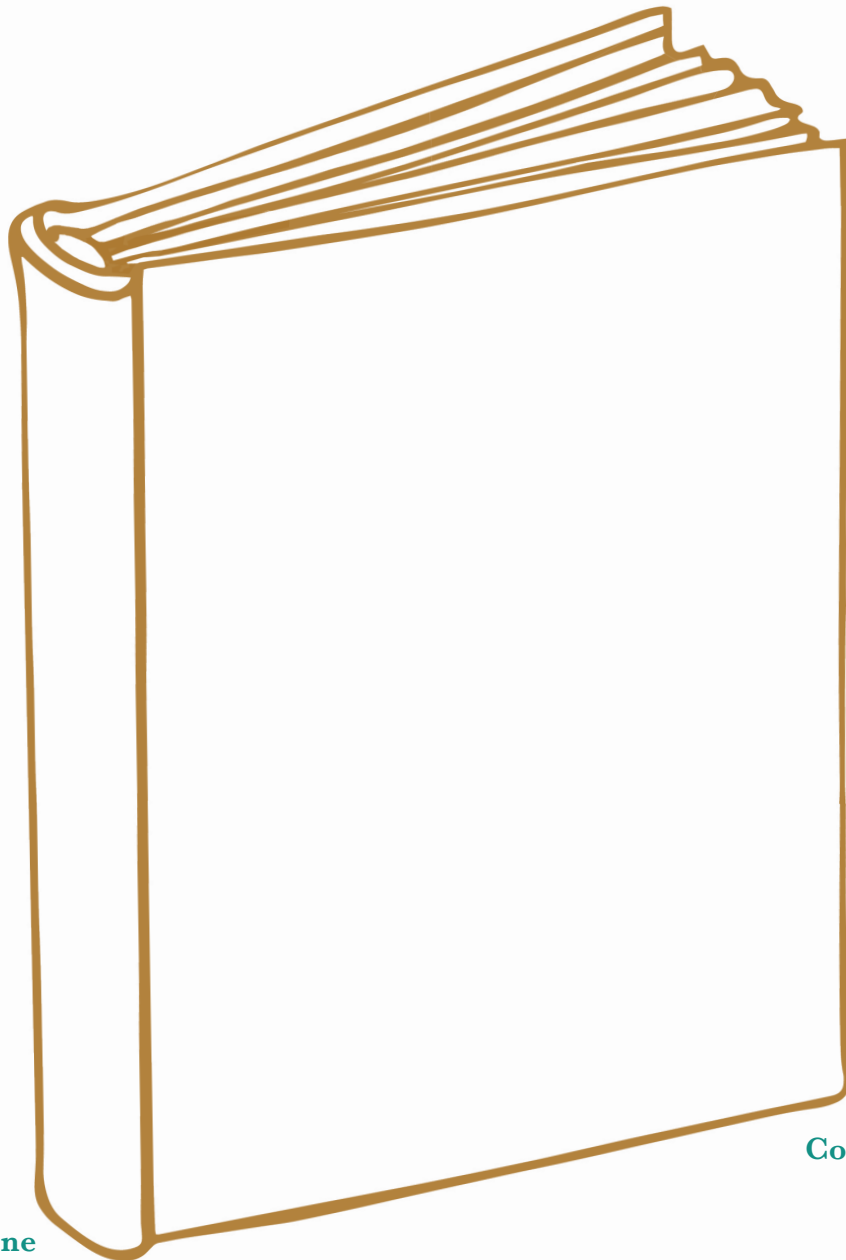


THE ICKABOG



DESIGN YOUR COVER

All of the illustrations in *The Ickabog* were created by kids like you. Create your own version of the book cover! Pick a favorite character or scene to draw. Include the book title and the author's name. Design the spine of the book, too!



Spine

Cover



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WRITE YOUR OWN FAIRY TALE

Fairy tales almost always:

- ∞ Take place in an imaginary past.
- ∞ Begin with “Once upon a time . . .”
- ∞ Have an enchanted setting—like a forest or a kingdom or a castle.
- ∞ Feature villains and heroes and an unusual character—like a talking animal, a giant, or a witch!
- ∞ Include a challenge or task to complete.
- ∞ End happily ever after!

Dream up your own fairy tale!

SETTING: _____

VILLAIN: _____

HERO: _____

UNUSUAL CHARACTER: _____

BEGINNING LINE: _____

CHALLENGE/TASK: _____

ENDING: _____

Now that you have these ideas ready, write your fairy tale!