OLTD 511 – eWarrior Blended Component

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About eWarrior

eWarrior is a website that started out as a project for OLTD 506. It teaches children about online safety in a fun way and presents teachers with resources to be used during the learning process as well as visuals for the classroom.

The site divides topics regarding online safety into two groups: Sword and Shield. The topics overlap in a way that one topic ends up reinforcing the concepts taught on the other. It is designed to help children in Elementary school to learn proper rules of behaviour and online safety, and to make better choices online in general. As it currently stands, it is by no means complete, but the blended component has been developed and the materials are enough at this point to give the reader an idea of what will happen once it is all done. A previous version of this site was tested with success in a grade 5 setting.

Online safety and rules of conduct are extremely important, and many teachers don't know how to talk about this because it is a strange and scary subject, and it is also often something they feel they are not an expert on themselves. Hopefully this website will help teachers feel confident they are able to present this topic in a way that is fun, clear and approachable to their students.

Materials needed

- Computers

- Empty "Sword" and "Shield" posters (Appendix A)

- One printed passport per student (Appendix B)

- Art materials (colorful paper, feathers, pompoms, string, glue, coloured pencils)

- Strips for summarized phrases

- Sharpies

- Printed review worksheets for assessment of knowledge (Appendix C)

- One printed sir Catsalot for each student (Appendix D)

- One printed Certificate of Achievement per student (Appendix E)

- Split pin paper fasteners

The Blended Component

The website was designed to be used as a workshop in a blended setting under a flex model approach as described by Horn and Staker (2015).

It is divided into two different groups of tasks: “Sword” and “Shield”. This workshop may take more than one day to complete, depending on the age of the students.

After the teacher goes over the opening page together with all the students, the students are divided into groups of four or five. They are allowed to explore the website on their own accord. The teacher walks around and answers questions. This assumes a computer lab or Chromebook access.

Each student is given a passport, and as they complete each task, the teacher gives them a stamp (or sticker) on the correct letter. Some tasks are individual, and some are for the whole group.

After the students are finished with all the tasks, the teacher starts a discussion with the class about all the key points they have learned from the website. The teacher records the main takeaway points on the board. The teacher also guides the students through the online quiz, which was originally intended to be done individually, but as it turns out, it was much more fun to do as a group. This helps with formative assessment and to clarify any questions students still have.

The teacher places the posters with all the phrases created during the group tasks by the groups on the wall, to serve as reference during the year. Any highlights or ideas that

came up during the discussion can also be added to the posters. Each student receives their certificate of completion as well as the “Make-your-own Sir Catsalot paper doll.

Assessment

Besides the online quiz done as a group, which will provide some fun and laughter as well as an opportunity to see what students have learned from the topics, at the end of the workshop, students also have a written exam. They are asked to fill the Shield and Sword: Show what you Know sheet individually. This will help assess student knowledge and ensure everyone retained the necessary information.

Conclusion

Working through the website with a blended learning mindset was extremely helpful in organizing the tasks and the flow of the workshop. The teacher page is now much richer, and includes a step-by-step how-to, so anyone can read and follow along. The blended way of thinking transformed the website from a static information website into an interactive workshop. The flow of the workshop became much clearer, and I am very excited to complete this project. Many visuals still need to be developed in order to make the website more attractive for students, as well as a better teacher’s resource page. The idea is for any teacher to arrive at the website and be able to print things out and use it right away. I will work on these as a priority, since I want to use this website with my grade 2-3 students.

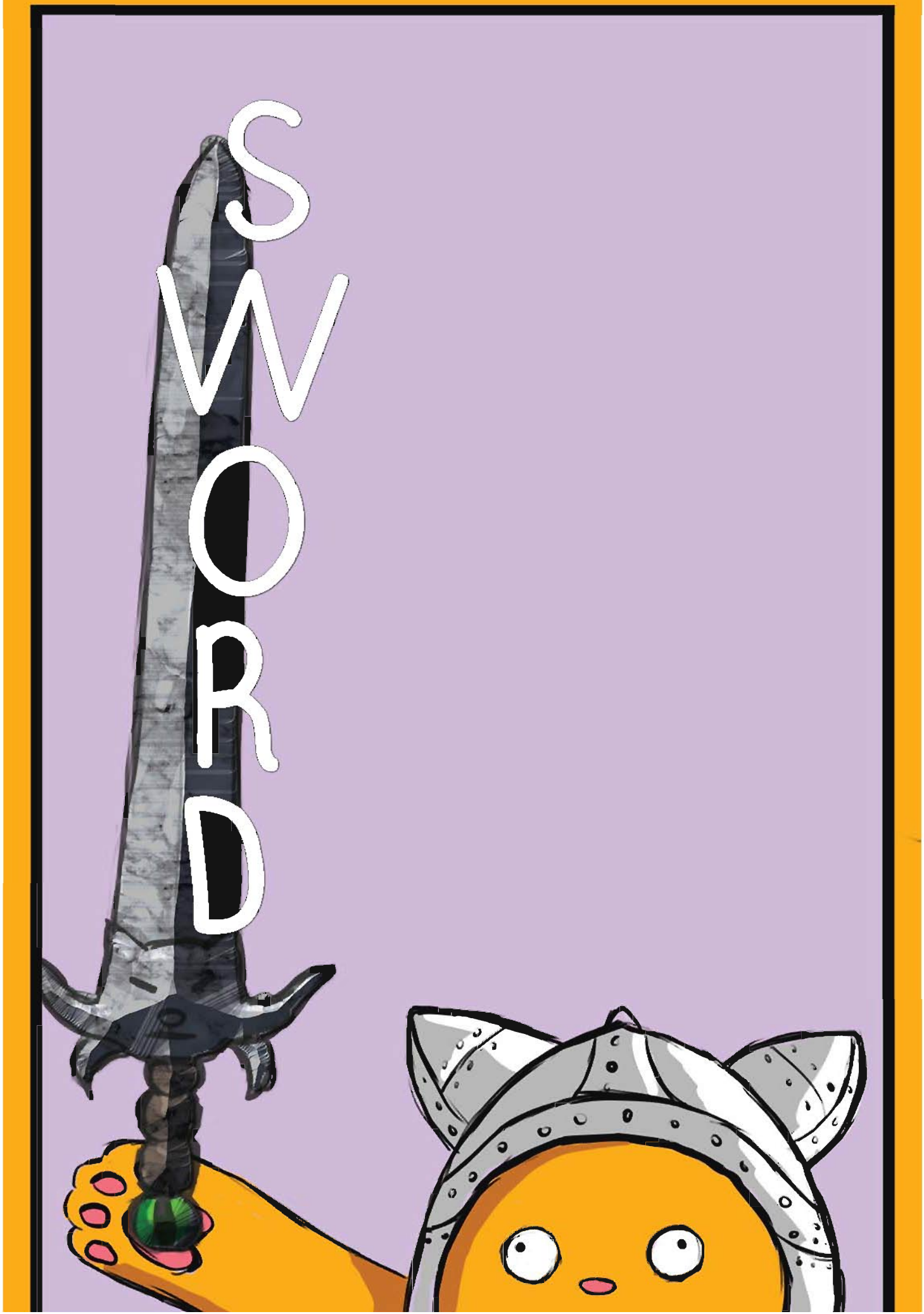
Appendix A: Empty Sword and Shield posters

Appendix B: Printed Passports

Appendix C: Printed Review Sheets

Appendix D: Sir Catsalot

Appendix E: Certificate of Completion


SWORD

SHIELD

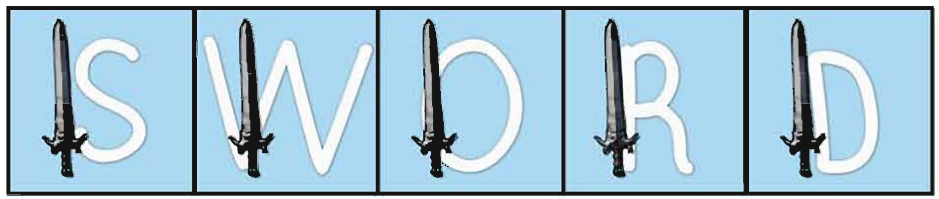
eWarrior Passport

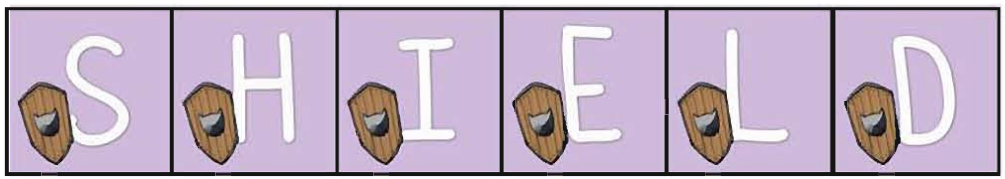
eWarrior Passport

I pledge to be an awesome eWarrior!

Signed: _____

My Badges:

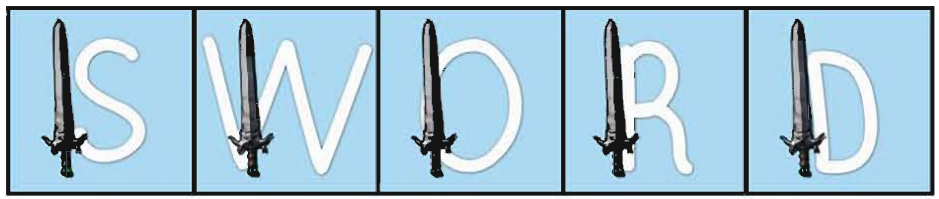


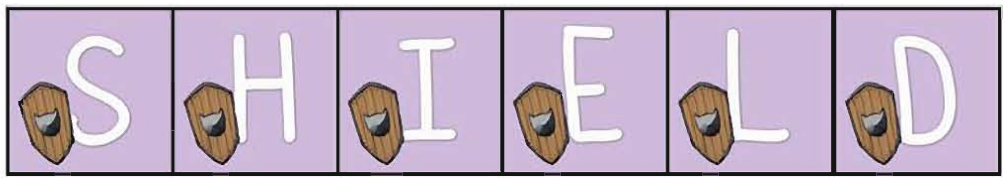


I pledge to be an awesome eWarrior!

Signed: _____

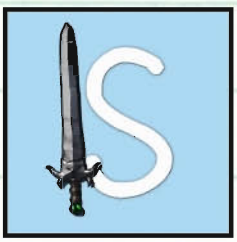
My Badges:

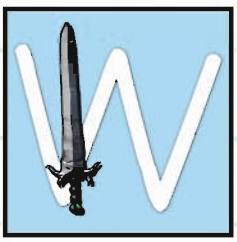


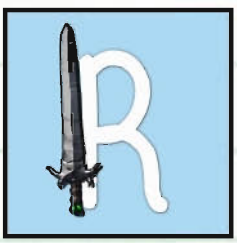


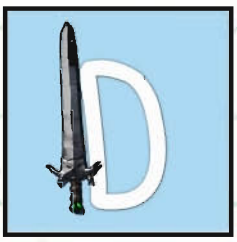
Shield and Sword: Show what you Know!

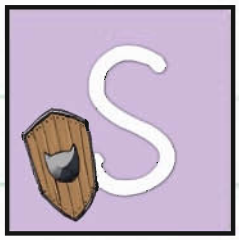
Write down what each letter stands for, and give an example of how you would follow each rule.

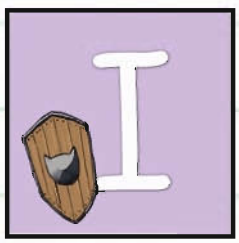


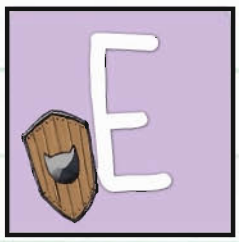


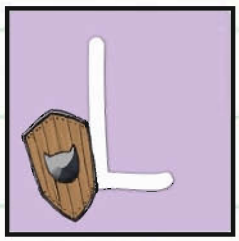


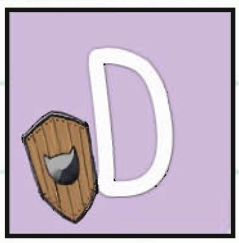








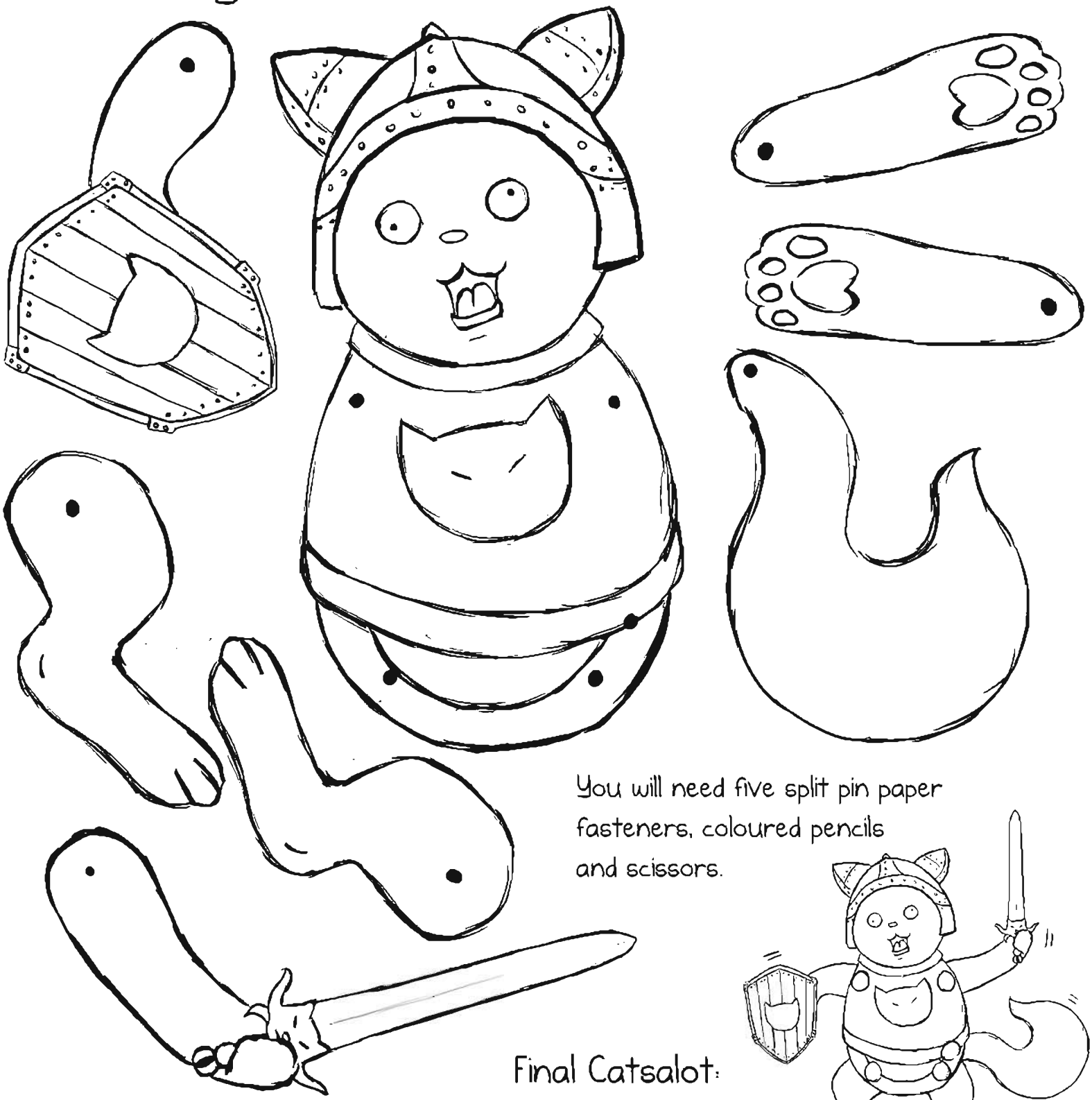




Good Job, eWarrior!

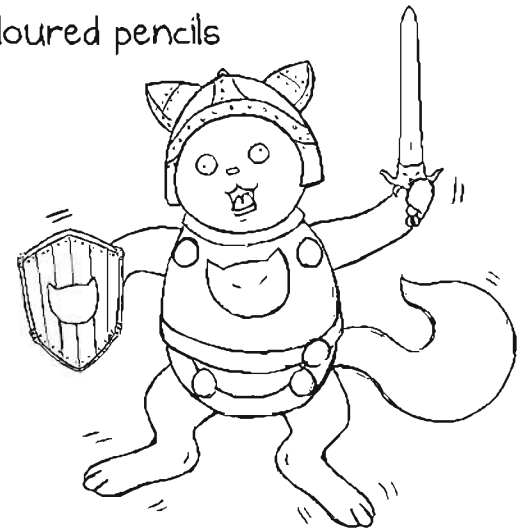
SIR CATSALOT

Make your own Cat Warrior Protector!



You will need five split pin paper fasteners, coloured pencils and scissors.

Final Catsalot:



Sir Catsalot comes with two extra arms, for non-fighting days!

CERTIFICATE OF ACHIEVEMENT

eWARRIOR

This certificate is awarded to the humankit

_____

for successful completion of eWarrior training and demonstrating an understanding of proper Internet Safety and Privacy procedures.

The Teacher: _____

Sir Catsalot: _____

References

Horn, M. B., & Staker, H. (2015). Blended: Using disruptive innovation to improve schools. San Francisco: Jossey-Bass