

KAREN KINGSBURY

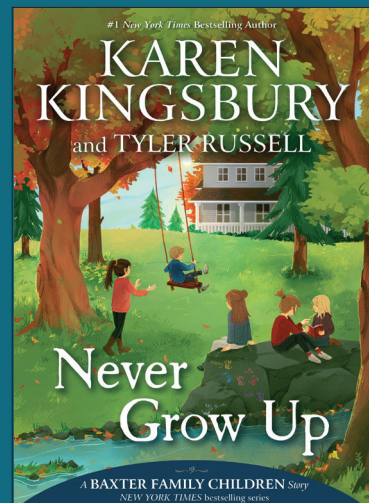
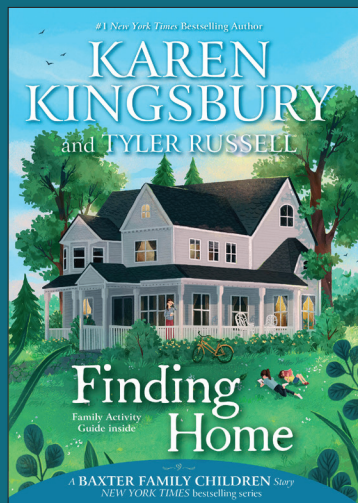
and TYLER RUSSELL



The **BAXTER FAMILY CHILDREN**



Activity Kit



Best Family Ever

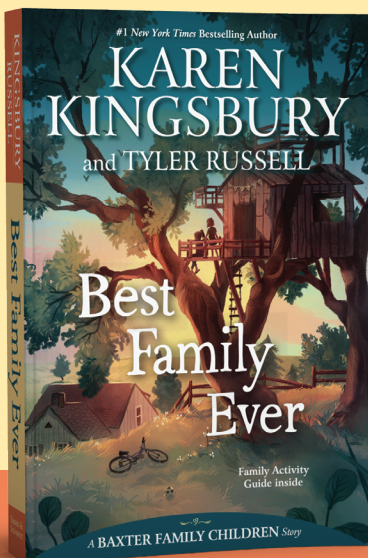
A FAMILY READING GUIDE

Questions for Around the Dinner Table

1. Did you or do you have a tree house? What was it like?
2. Who is/was your best friend in school? What's your favorite thing about that friend?
3. God makes each person special. Tell three things special about you.
4. Have you ever moved? What did you like about moving? What was the hardest part?
5. Where would you like to go for vacation? Why? What would you like to do on that vacation?
6. What does it mean that your best friends are the ones sitting around the dinner table? Can you give an example of this in your life? If not, what could you do to make best friends out of your family members?
7. Which do you like more—drawing or writing?
8. If you were going to draw a picture of your week, what would it look like?
9. If you were going to write a story about your family, what would you call it?
10. If you could ask God one question, what would you ask Him?



Meet THE BAXTERS



The Baxter Family is #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Karen Kingsbury's long-running series centered on family, love, and faith. This award-winning series consists of six separate series and over 25 books. Now, children can meet the Baxter family through the new Baxter Family Children series Karen Kingsbury writes with her son, Tyler Russell.

Best Family Ever | PB: 9781534412163

PAULA WISEMAN BOOKS

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Best Family Ever

A FAMILY READING GUIDE

Activities with Your Family and Friends

1. Make cookies with your family. Decorate them and share a plate with a neighbor.
2. Draw something that represents your day, and do this every day for a week.
3. Write a paragraph about your day, and do this every day for a week.
4. Leave your electronics at home and explore your neighborhood. Then draw a picture of what you like most.
5. Write a short story about something imaginary that could happen on your street.
6. Offer to help someone at home with schoolwork or a chore. How did that feel?
7. Plan a breakfast party for your family and help cook.

Did You Know?

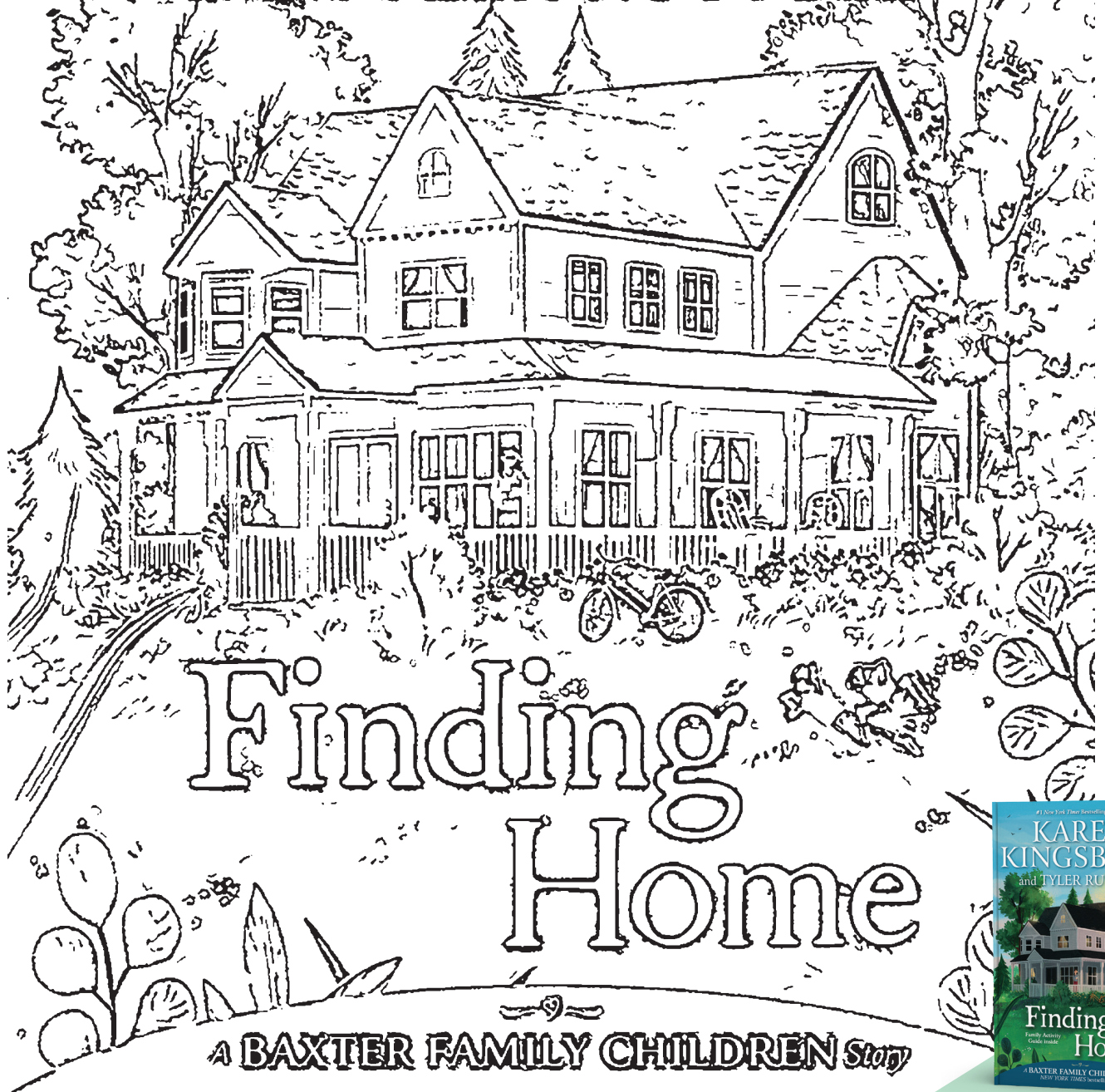
- Ann Arbor is so cold in the wintertime that the parks department sprays water on open fields to create neighborhood ice rinks.
- On average, families move every 1.5 years.
- It takes eight years of college education to become a doctor.
- The Eiffel Tower in Paris is 1,063 feet tall.
- A butterfly spends up to twenty-one days in a cocoon.



Coloring Page

#1 *New York Times* Bestselling Author

KAREN KINGSBURY and TYLER RUSSELL



Finding Home

A BAXTER FAMILY CHILDREN *Story*



PB: 9781534412194

Paula Wiseman Books
Simon & Schuster Children's Publishing

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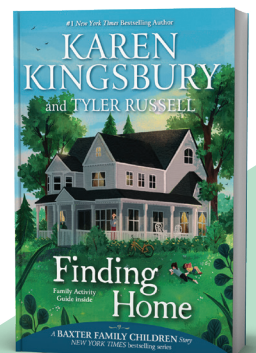
Finding Home Wordsearch

I U G Z R J X F I S D Z H N P
R R C A T I E Y C M O V I N G
L B A C E S X I A W W Y E S K
K L R K T R T H E S M U D U S
K W A I B S A N E Q H W S I W
J X V B A J O U R N A L I N G
Z A S N K H N E K A L S E T V
L Z M K O C F Z S J V D C Y D
K Y O M E F I Q W E B N M O L
G U E O A T D K I N A E U B Q
U I S R W U C L M C X I G K G
E X I K M D M H M Q T R Z G H
Z G Y A D H T R I B E F V C Z
M Z F G B F V R N N R E B X T
F D F M L P V V G X G X Y S Z

ASHLEY
BAXTER
BIRTHDAY
FESTIVAL
FRIENDS
GIRAFFE
HOME

JOURNALING
LAKE
KICKBALL
NEW
SWIMMING
GUM

KARI
MOVING
MUD
SKETCHING
ZOO
GYMNASTICS

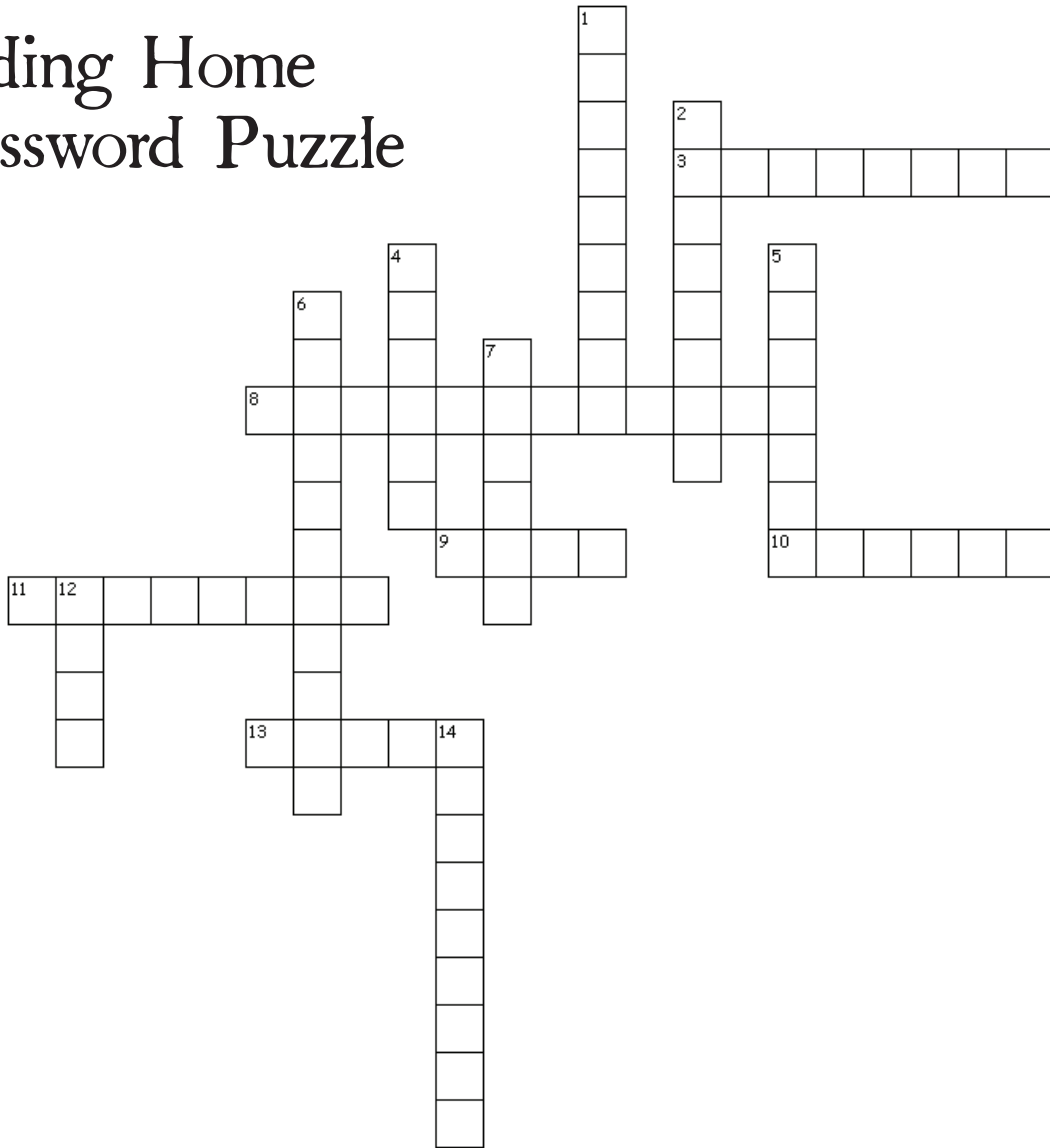


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Finding Home Crossword Puzzle

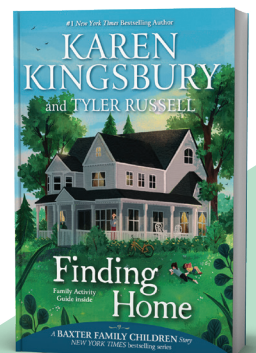


Across

3. What did the kids buy Mom for her birthday?
8. What high school sporting event do the Baxter's go to toward the end of Finding Home?
9. Kari had an idea for all her siblings to paint this.
10. Who is one of Ashley's new friends who likes aliens?
11. What new sport does Kari try?
13. What did the kids help Dad paint on one of the first days in their new home?

Down

1. What gymnastics move did Ashley do on Lake Monroe?
2. What did Ashley accidentally drop on her teachers' head at the back-to-school night?
4. What is one of Ashley's favorite candies?
5. What subject is Brooke's Volcano project for?
6. What city in Indiana did the Baxter family move to?
7. Who gets lost with Ashley at the Zoo?
12. What does Ashley think she hears outside her window on the first night in the new house?
14. What did Kari borrow of Mom's that messed up her hair?



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Did You Know?

- Bloomington, Indiana has been ranked as the 7th smartest city in America.
- Most floor routines in Gymnastics are done on a springy floor to help the athlete complete their tricks.
- The average high school swimmer swims 1 million strokes per season. Talk about a good workout!
- The best time to paint your home is when it's around 65 degrees outside.
- The San Diego Zoo in California is one of the largest zoos in the world. There are around 3,700 animals at this particular zoo. That's a lot of animal food!

Questions for Around the Dinner Table

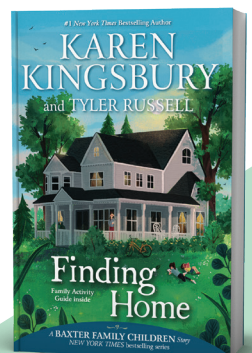
1. Have you ever had a hard time meeting a new friend? What did you do?
2. What is your favorite animal at the zoo?
3. Ashley got embarrassed at the Back to School night when she accidentally spilled ice cream on her teacher. Have you ever been embarrassed? How did you respond? What is the best thing to do when we get embarrassed?
4. In the story, Mom and Dad talk about having an attitude of gratitude. What are you grateful for?
5. If you could do swimming or gymnastics, which would you choose? Why?
6. In one chapter, Ashley and Kari's mom helped someone who was in need. How can you help people who need it?
7. If your class took a field trip, where would you want to go?
8. God is always listening. Do you ever talk to Him? What do you say?
9. What is your favorite thing about your school?
10. Ashley likes to draw and Kari likes to journal. This is how they relax. What is your way to relax at the end of the day?
11. How would you describe your classmates and teacher?

Activities With Your Family and Friends

1. Look for a special place in your home, or neighborhood, that is your "special rock" – a place to dream and pray and explore.
2. Get some friends together, either in your neighborhood or at recess, and play a game of kickball.
3. Draw a picture of doing something you love, like a sport, hobby, or after school activity.
4. Make an unlikely friend at school and invite them to sit with you at lunch. Write about that experience.
5. Find a way to plan a birthday surprise for someone in your life. Make them a card, have an adult help you purchase a gift, or cook a treat for them. Be sure not to burn it!
6. Ask an adult to help you find directions on how to make a friendship bracelet. Complete the bracelet design. Then, think of an unlikely friend to give it to.

Cross Word Puzzle Answer Key

Across: 3. Cat Clock 8. Football Game 9. Rock 10. Elliot 11. Swimming 13. Porch
Down: 1. Cartwheel 2. Ice Cream 4. Mentos 5. Science 6. Bloomington 7. Landon 12. Wolf 14. Hairspray



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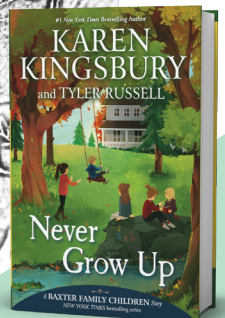
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#1 *New York Times* Bestselling Author

KAREN KINGSBURY and TYLER RUSSELL

Never Grow Up

A BAXTER FAMILY CHILDREN *Story*
NEW YORK TIMES bestselling series



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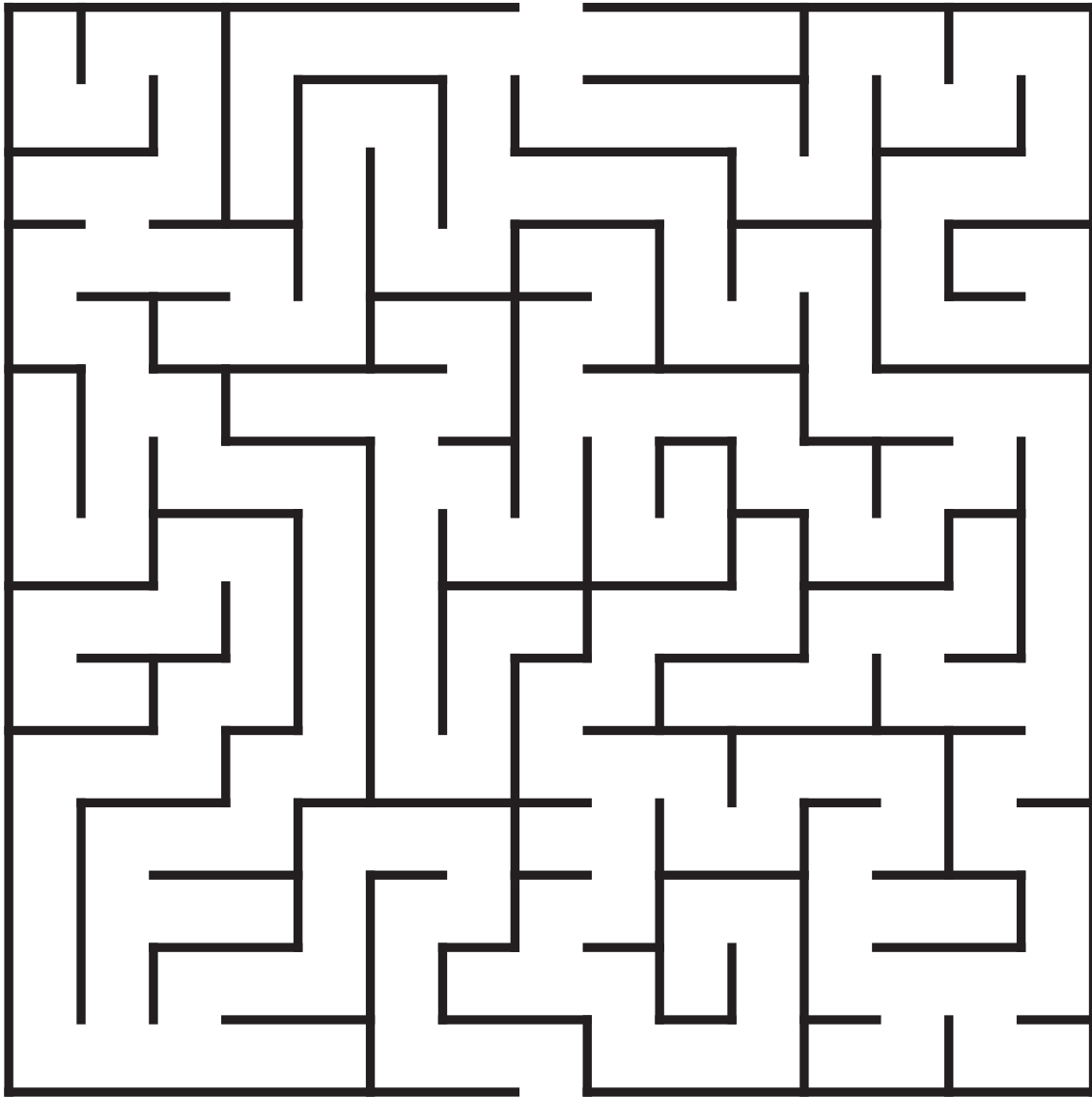
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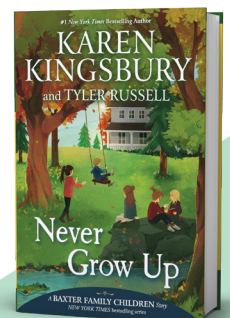
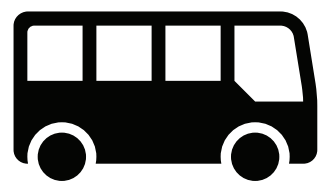
Bloomington's Blossom Corn Maze



Help Ashley and her friends get through the corn maze so they can catch the bus before it leaves!



FINISH



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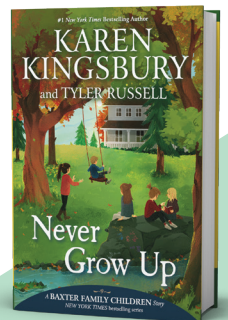
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Never Grow Up Wordsearch

E	E	O	T	S	Y	E	L	H	S	A	T	T	R
R	E	E	R	A	C	S	U	E	R	T	N	A	B
T	H	E	I	R	A	K	K	C	O	T	E	R	C
B	A	X	T	E	R	S	E	C	A	C	L	E	R
M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	O	K	T	A	A	V	I
L	L	A	B	T	E	K	S	A	B	R	T	O	P
L	N	I	R	E	B	M	K	L	X	T	P	P	I
A	E	S	T	D	R	R	A	D	A	N	C	E	R
T	E	W	N	V	O	R	C	Z	M	O	A	E	A
I	P	I	E	E	O	E	P	D	E	C	A	L	T
P	Z	M	T	S	K	T	O	O	L	O	D	S	E
S	E	E	T	C	E	P	S	G	A	R	I	L	R
O	M	U	I	A	E	N	I	P	U	C	R	O	P
H	N	E	V	E	R	L	A	N	D	T	O	D	R

Erin	Talent	Baxters	Basketball
Luke	Gymnastics	Maze	Dot
Ashley	Swim	Mystery	Dance
Brooke	Neverland	Contract	Hospital
Kari	Meteor	Pirate	Sleepover
Career	Dog	Porcupine	

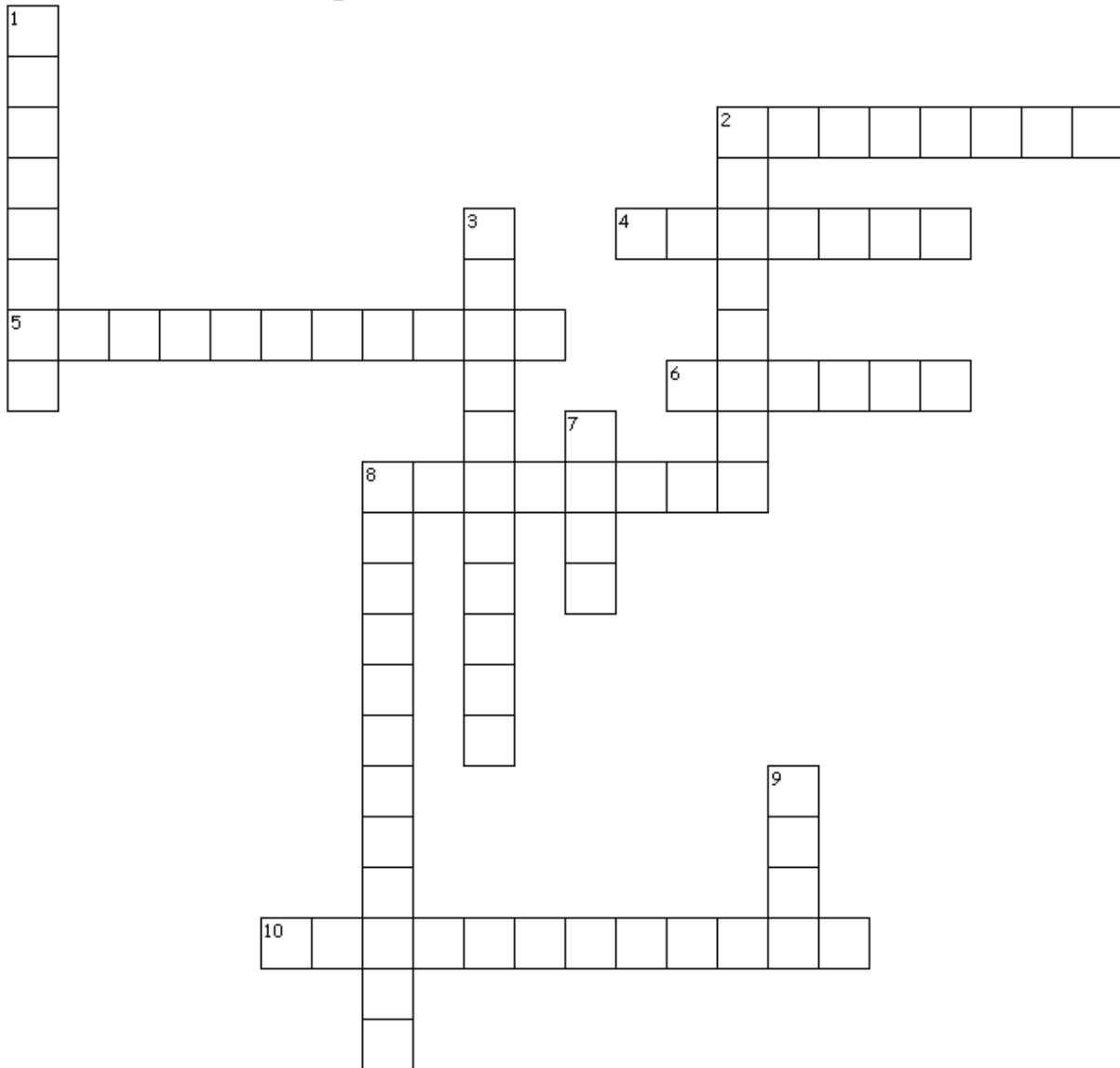


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Never Grow Up Crossword Puzzle

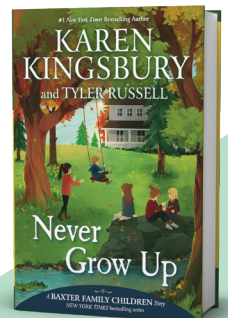


Down

1. At her old school, what was Ashley the queen of?
2. What song did Ashley and Dot sing at the sunset hills home?
3. What song did Kari and her friends do for the talent show?
7. What does Ashley like to do for fun?
8. Where did Ashley's class go on the field trip?
9. Who is the youngest Baxter child?

Across

2. What item of Mom's went missing?
4. What does Kari do in her free time?
5. What did Mom say "hard to catch thoughts" were like?
6. What does Dad do for work?
8. Ashley's class performed what story at the talent show?
10. What was Kari counting down the days to see?



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Did You Know?

- Peter Pan is based off the book Peter & Wendy, which was written in 1911
- On average, it takes someone 45 minutes to an hour to run a 5k (which is 3.1 Miles, or about 12 times around your school's track!)
- According to NASA, about 30 meteor showers occur each year that are visible to observers on Earth.
- About 3.2 Million shelter animals are adopted each year. Roughly 1.6 million of those are dogs, like Bo!

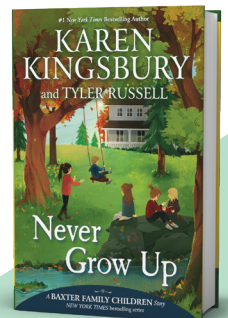
Questions Around the Dinner Table

1. Does your school have field day? What is your favorite activity? If your school doesn't have this, what would you want to do at field day?
2. If you could have an animal visit your class, like Pork the Porcupine, what animal would you choose to see? Why?
3. What would be your act at the talent show?
4. If you could go anywhere on a field trip, where would you want to go?
5. Have you ever done something to support someone else, like the Baxter Family supported Alex in the 5K?
6. What do you want to be when you grow up?
7. Have you ever had "autumn toad" thoughts? Thoughts that are hard to catch, the ones that make you sad, mad, or disappointed? What do you do when you feel that way?
8. What's one way that you can encourage a sibling or a friend this week?
9. Ask a parent or guardian what they like most about their job.
10. Who do you relate most to in Never Grow Up? Why?

Activities With Your Family and Friends

1. Put on a living room talent show! Think of a song to sing, a dance to perform, a special act or skill you have. Practice, practice, practice. Perform it for your parents or guardians. Invite your siblings or neighbors to join in for extra fun!
2. Plan a stargazing night with your family. Even if a meteor shower isn't happening soon near you, you can still enjoy a fun night of stargazing. Grab a blanket and your favorite snacks and spend some time under the stars. Look for shooting stars!
3. Ask a parent or guardian if you can go to work with them! Take notes during the day and see if this would be a fun job for you to do in the future!
4. Gather up your family or friends and play "Add-a-Sketch". The game Ashley and her friends played in class. Have someone start with a picture of something, and pass it to the next person. Each person will add to it until it comes back to the first person. See what silly picture you can come up with! Don't do it during school though, or you may get in trouble like Ashley did!
5. Have your very own field day! Think of fun outdoor activities (or use some from the book) that you can do as a team or in partners. Get your family and friends to compete!
6. Create a list of your own "NEVER GROW UP" rules. Think about what it means to be young and adventurous and what's important to you. Write a list. And leave a space for your signature and the signatures of those in your house. Promise to stay young forever! Or at least young at heart!

Answers for Crossword Puzzle: **Across:** 2. Field Day 4. Journal 5. Autumn Toads 6. Doctor 8. Peter Pan 10. Meteor Shower **Down:** 1. Field Day 2. Blue Moon 3. Under the Sea 7. Draw 8. Pumpkin Patch 9. Luke



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