

Rufus Talks and Talks



Story by Nina Reardon

Illustrated by Brit Kohls • www.art4kids.org

Brought to you by the National Stuttering Association

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

IF YOU ARE A SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGIST

The National Stuttering Association (NSA) brings "Angel Loves to Talk" to publication in hopes that, when used appropriately, it will highlight the message of acceptance for whatever kinds of speaking experiences a young child is having at any given moment in time.

Angel likes to do a lot of things and her parents love to hear her stories no matter how she speaks ("smooth" or "bumpy"). Isn't this a wonderful message to bring to a family who is dealing with the concerns and fears surrounding the early developmental stages of stuttering?

We know that most children between the ages of 2 ½ and 5 years old experience some form of normal disfluencies in their speech. This book is not written for the vast majority of these children.

It is important that you read through the pages of "Angel Likes to Talk" and understand that, even though it is mostly about what Angel loves to do, it also touches on the concepts of "smooth" and "bumpy" talking.

Each child who stutters is different, so you must make an informed and educated decision about the appropriate use of this marvelous resource with your young students. Some guidelines are listed below, but remember that you and the child's parents, together with your knowledge of the child and his or her stuttering, are the best judges regarding if and when to introduce this material.

This book is written for and can be used with young children who:
are experiencing difficulties with stuttering in their speech,
are demonstrating or expressing an awareness of those difficulties,
are "ready" for this type of more direct discussion as determined by the parents and a qualified speech-language pathologist.

We hope that you enjoy the story of Angel and find it a useful resource as you navigate the stages of early developmental stuttering with the children and families that you serve.

Another NSA publication you may wish to consider recommending for parents of preschool children who stutter is a booklet entitled "The Preschool Child Who Stutters: 5 Steps to Help Your Child." This booklet discusses information about stuttering, when to seek help, how to find experienced professionals and what parents can do at home to help their child. This booklet can be found on our website at www.westutter.org or ordered through the NSA toll-free number at 1-800-WeStutter.

IF YOU ARE A PARENT...

As the parent of a young child who is showing some early signs of stuttering, you may have many questions and concerns about what to do or say to help your child. You are not alone.

The National Stuttering Association (NSA) is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing hope, dignity, support, education and empowerment to children and adults who stutter, and their families.

The NSA brings to the parents of preschool children connections with other parents, referral lists of speech-language pathologists and two specific publications targeted for this age group.

One NSA publication you may wish to consider reading is a booklet entitled "The Preschool Child Who Stutters: 5 Steps to Help Your Child." This booklet discusses information about stuttering, when to seek help, how to find experienced professionals and what you can do at home to help your child. This booklet can be found on our website at www.westutter.org or ordered through the NSA toll-free number at 1-800-WeStutter.

The second and newest resource is this coloring book. "Angel Loves to Talk" is a story brought to life in hopes of carrying the message that all types of talking are OK, and that no matter what, your child's love of communication is most important.

Because this coloring book is not designed for all children who are experiencing speech difficulties, it is always best to consult a qualified speech-language pathologist who specializes in the diagnosis and treatment of children who stutter as to the appropriate use of this resource for you and your child.

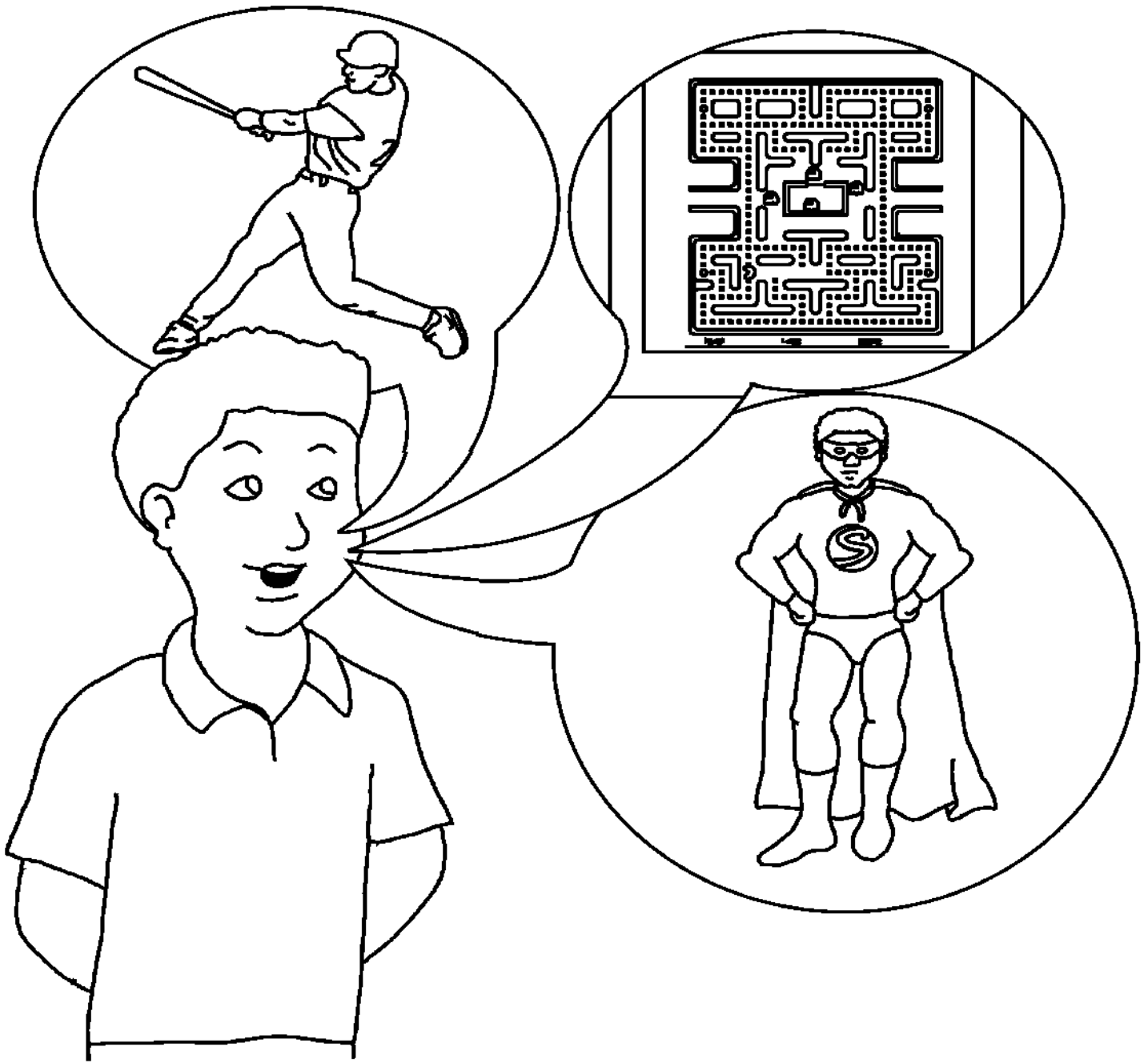
Whether or not your child is ready to discuss the ideas presented in "Angel Loves to Talk," we hope that you now realize you are not alone and that there are organizations such as the NSA who are here to help and support you in many ways.



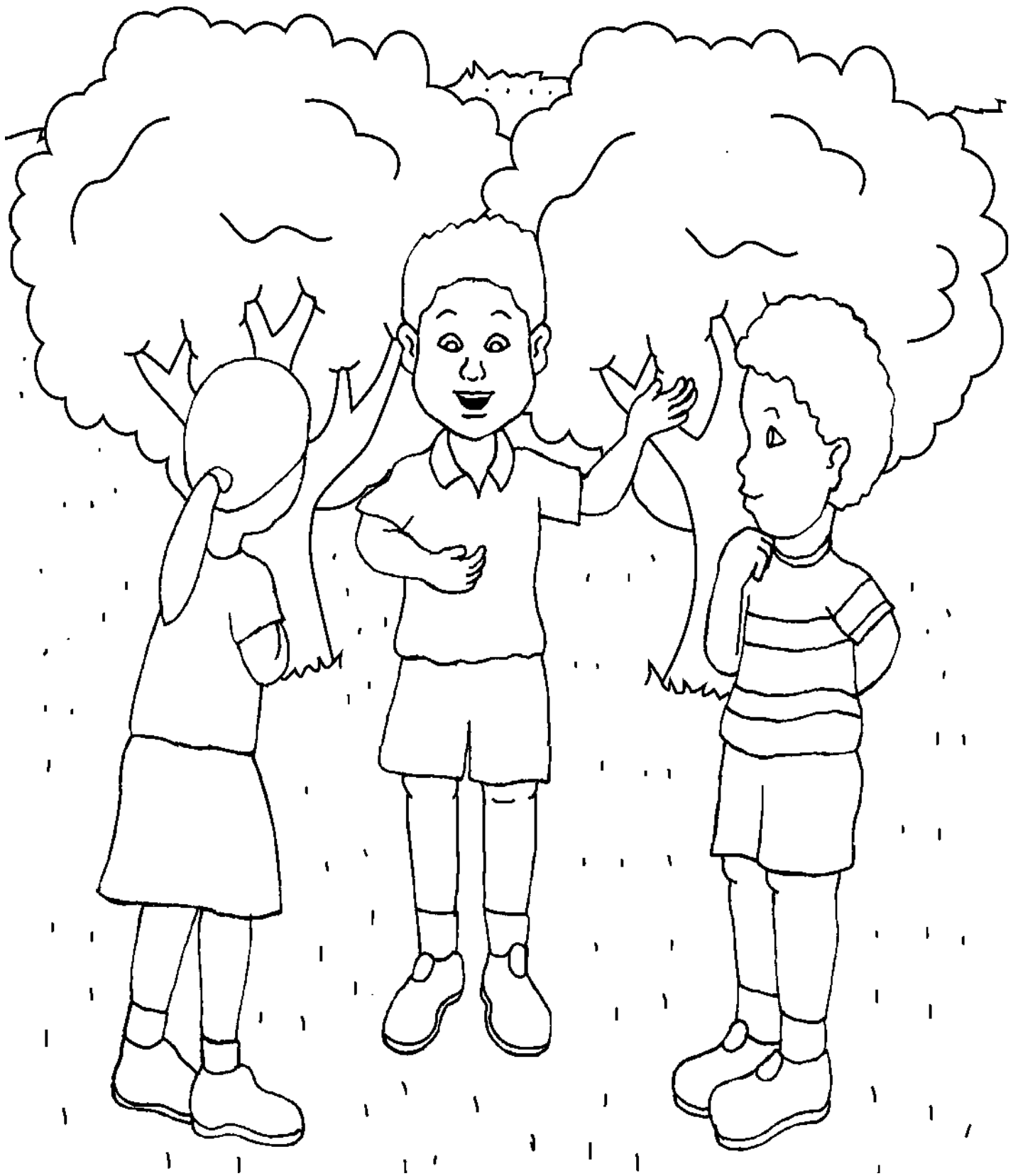
Rufus lives in the city near a big building.



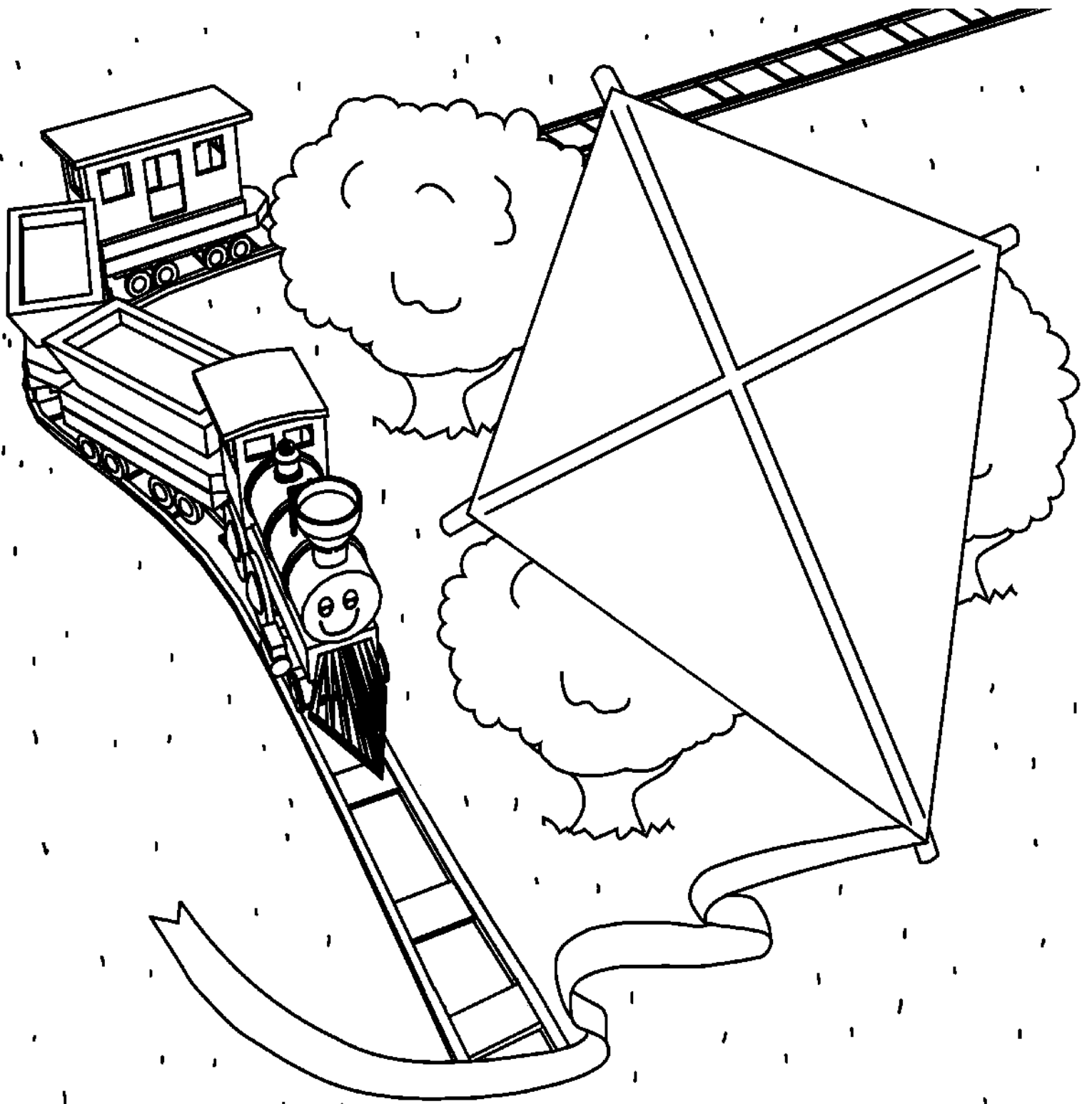
Rufus likes to ride his bike and play with trucks in the sand pile.



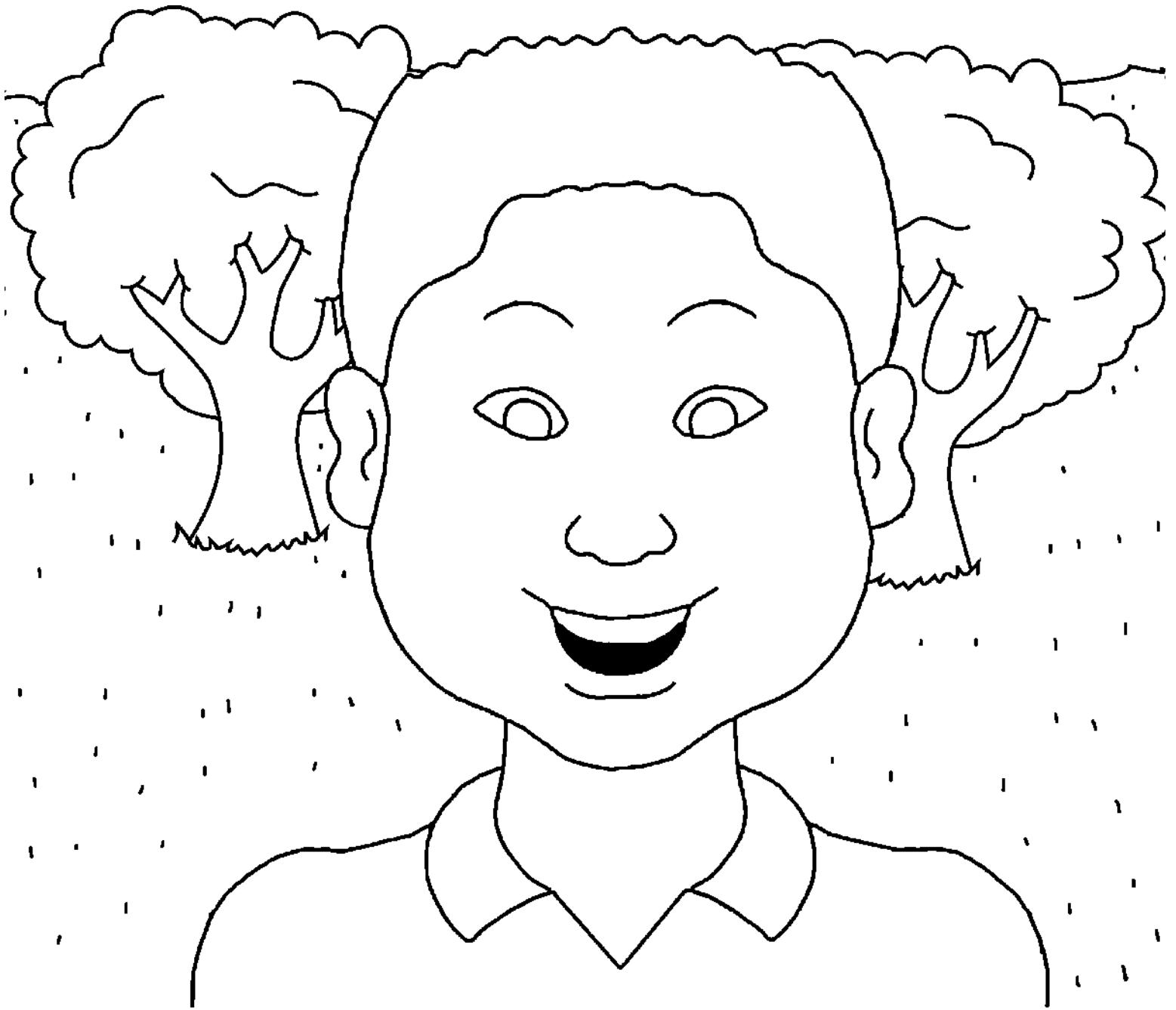
And Rufus likes to talk! He talks about baseball and video games and super heroes.



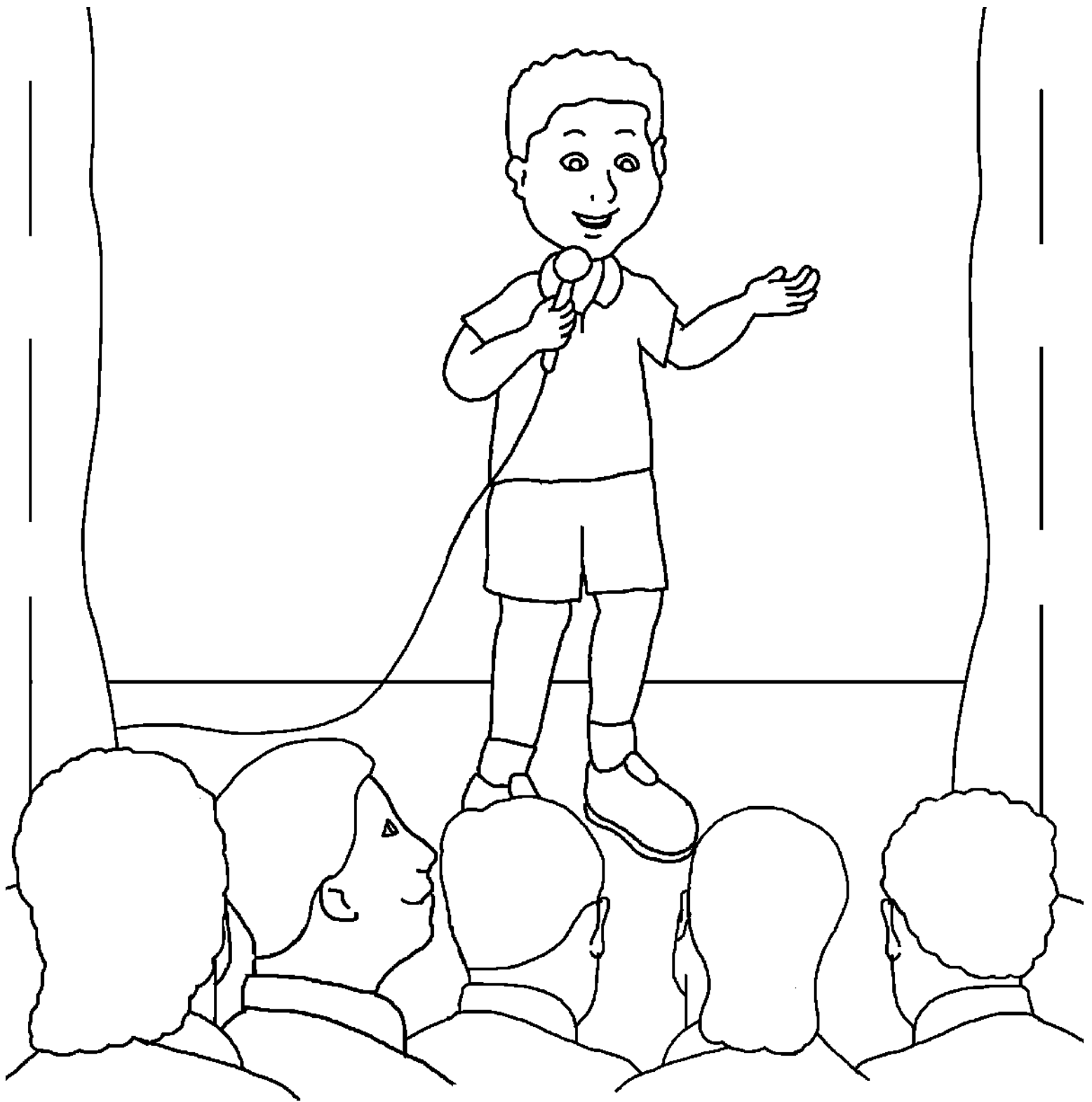
Rufus likes to talk to his family and his friends that come over to play. He talks and talks and talks. His friends like to hear his stories about super heroes.



Sometimes when Rufus talks, his speech is bumpy like an old train and sometimes it is smooth like a kite flying easy in the wind.



Nobody cares about how Rufus talks, as long as he keeps telling stories. Rufus likes to hear his voice.



He just talks and talks. And, that's a good thing!