

**FULL COLOR
HALF SHEET
PRINTABLE
STORY BOOK**

Bessie Cow Learns about Loss



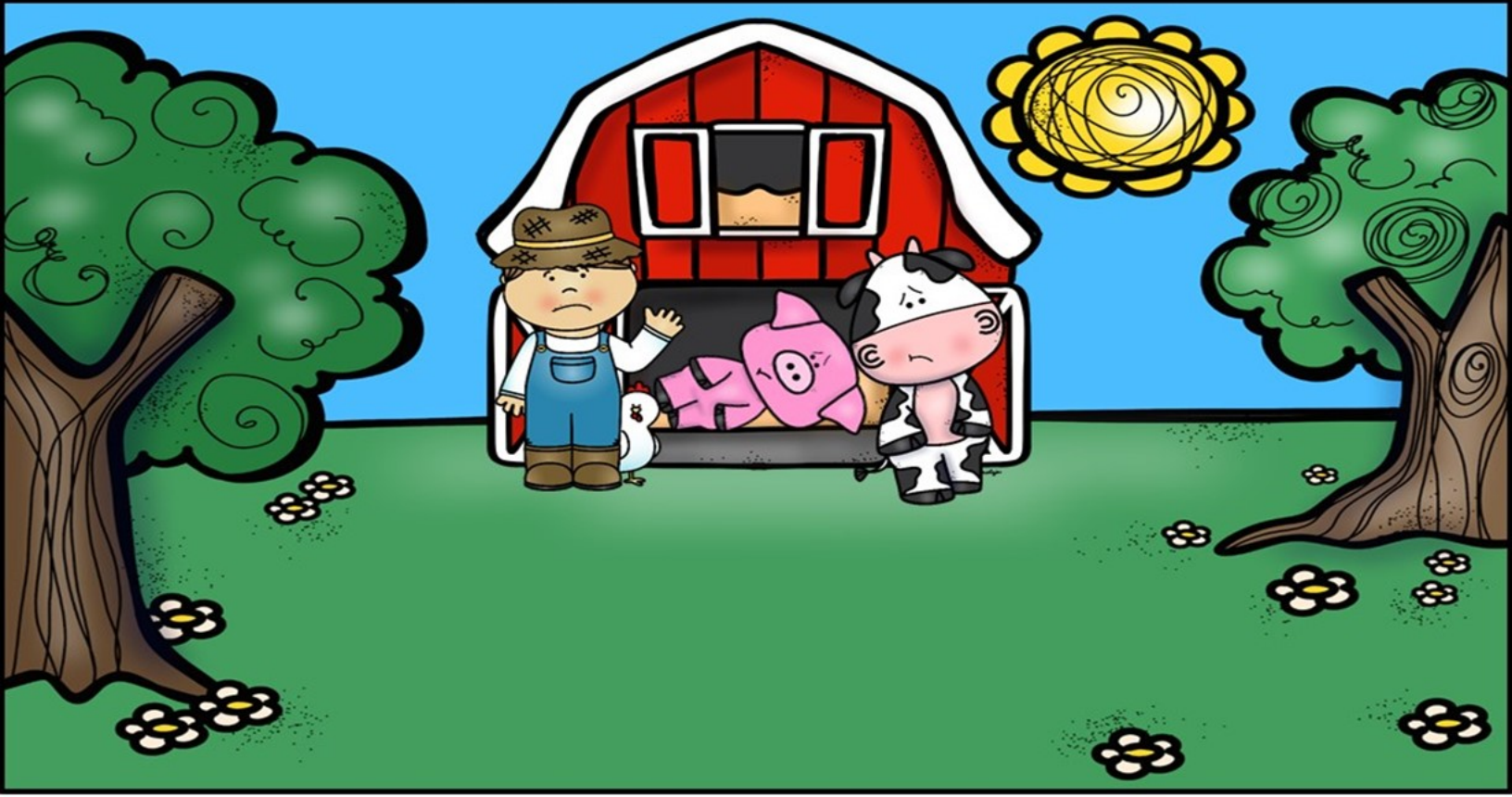
Wilbur Pig and Bessie Cow were the very best of friends. They loved to roll around in the mud, frolic through the corn fields, and jump in the piles of hay together.



One day while Wilbur and Bessie were picking flowers together. Wilbur started to feel sick. Bessie felt really scared to see her friend not feeling well.



Bessie brought Wilbur to Farmer Joe to see if he could help him feel better. Farmer Joe tried and tried, but Wilbur got sicker and sicker. Bessie stayed by Wilbur's side all day and all night.



Bessie just couldn't believe her ears when Farmer Joe told her that Wilbur had died. What would she do without her best friend? Who would she play in the mud with? Who would she jump in the hay with? Bessie knew that her life would never be the same again.



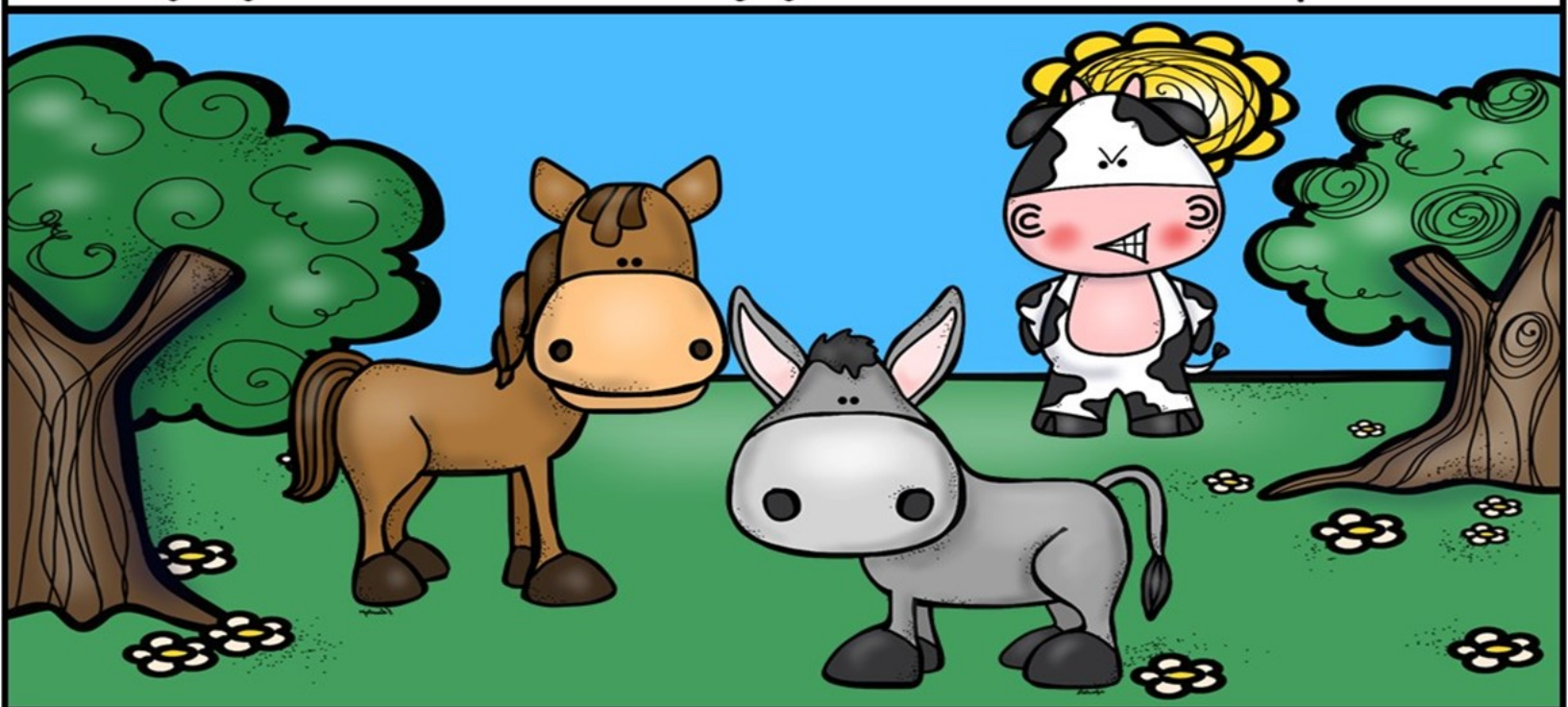
All of the farm animals came the next day to Wilbur's funeral to celebrate his life. The other animals sang songs and shared stories of their favorite memories with Wilbur. Bessie was too shocked to sing or speak. She just couldn't believe this was really happening.



After the funeral, all of the other farm animals went back to their normal lives, but Bessie couldn't. Every morning she would wake up and think about what she would play with Wilbur that day. Then she would suddenly remember that he was gone. She just couldn't understand why Wilbur wasn't on the farm with her anymore.



One day, Bessie went for a walk and saw Hannah Horse and Dennis Donkey playing together, neighing and heehawing in delight. Bessie wondered, "Why do they still have their best friends to play with but I'm all alone? This is NOT fair! Wilbur, WHY did you leave me here on the farm by myself?" Bessie felt so angry inside that she could explode!



Bessie took some deep breaths and walked to Wilbur's grave. She pondered, "What if I had taken Wilbur to Farmer Joe sooner? Or what if we hadn't played so hard together that day? Would he still be alive? Is this my fault?"



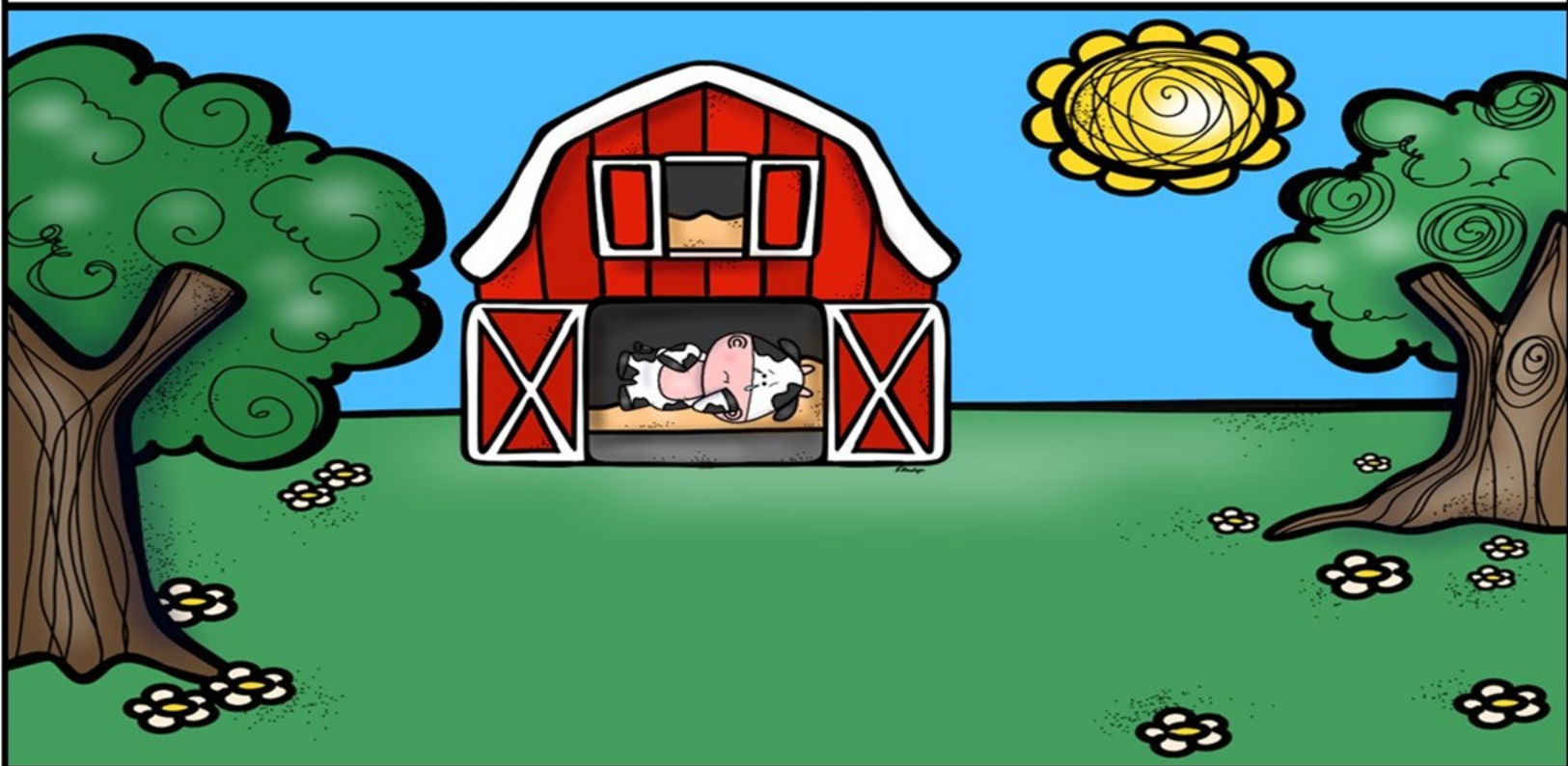
All Bessie wanted was for her best friend to come back. She went back to the farm and found Farmer Joe. She promised, "I'll never ask for anything else, ever again! Please, pretty please, just bring back my friend! I'll do anything to bring Wilbur back to the farm!"



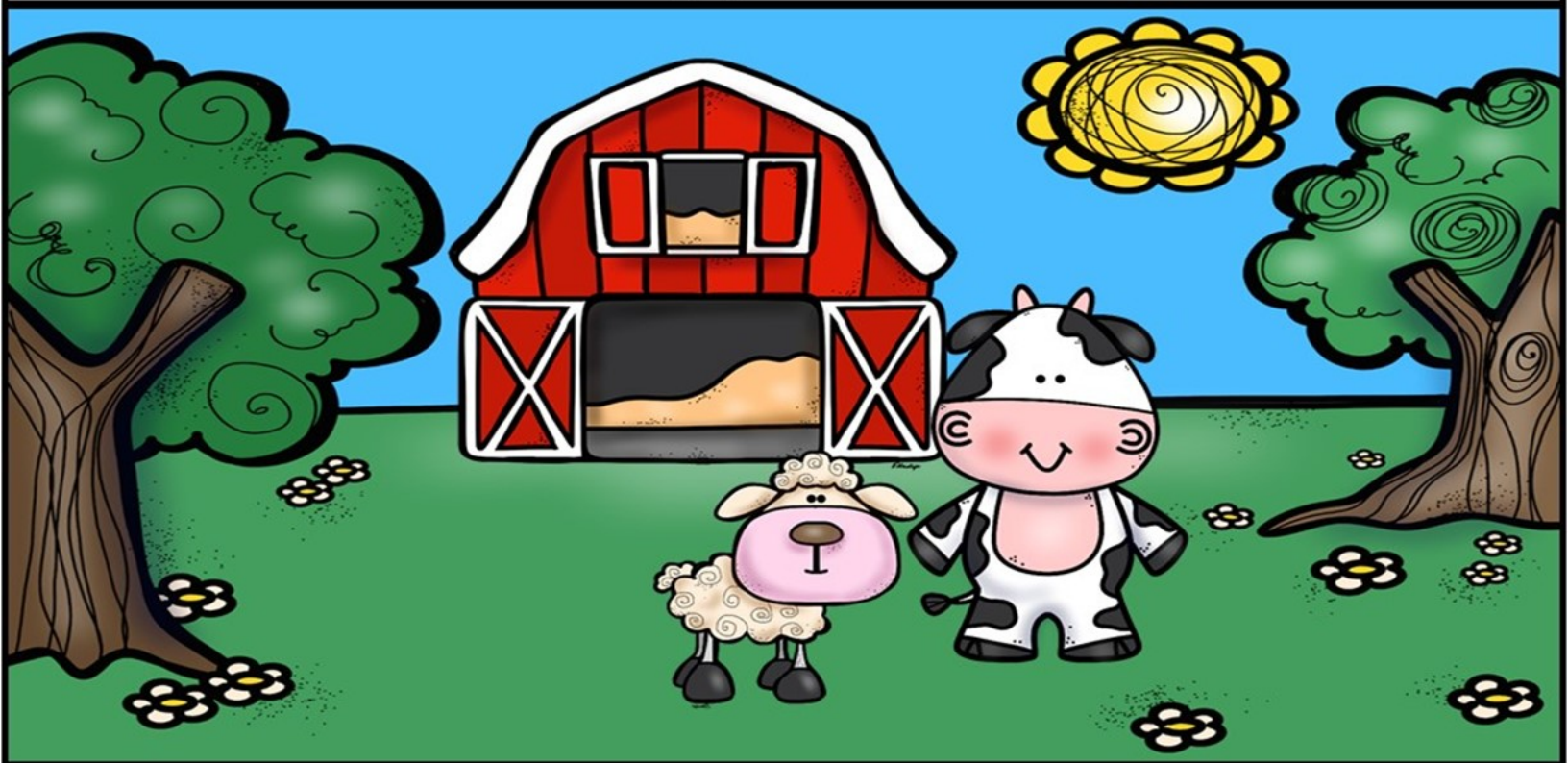
Farmer Joe replied, "Bessie, I'm so sorry you are so hurt. I miss Wilbur too. If there was something I could do to bring him back, you know I would do it. But, when someone we love dies, we have to just remember them, honor them, and be thankful for the special times we had together. And don't forget that Wilbur's death is NOT your fault. You did everything you could to help him."



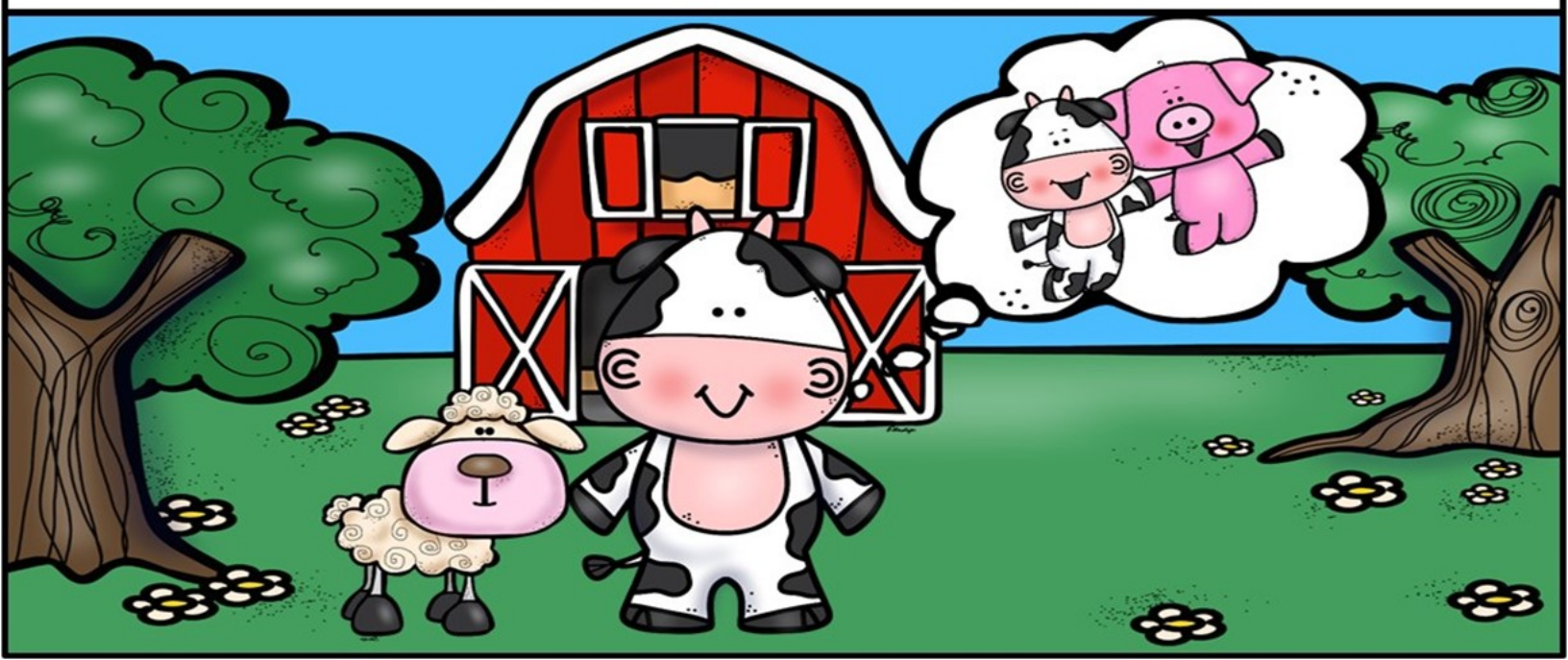
Bessie understood what Farmer Joe said. But she had never felt so sad and lonely before in her life. She just wanted to lay in the barn and cry. She didn't want to play any of her favorite games, talk to other animals, or even eat apples or corn. She just wanted to be alone.



Little by little, as the days went on, Bessie started to feel more and more like the old Bessie again. One day she decided to leave the barn, and asked Sheila Sheep to go on a walk with her. She knew that Wilbur would want her to be happy and to make new friends.



Bessie loved telling Sheila Sheep stories of her happy and silly memories with Wilbur. Sheila shared that she had never had a best friend before and that Bessie was lucky to know what it feels like to have a true best friend. Bessie knew that she would always miss Wilbur, and would never forget him for the rest of her little cow life. But it did feel really nice to have a new friend to talk to.



Each week, Bessie visited Wilbur's grave and brought flowers or his favorite treat: carrots! She told Wilbur stories from her life on the farm and remembered their funny jokes and special times together. It comforted Bessie to have this peaceful quiet time with her friend.



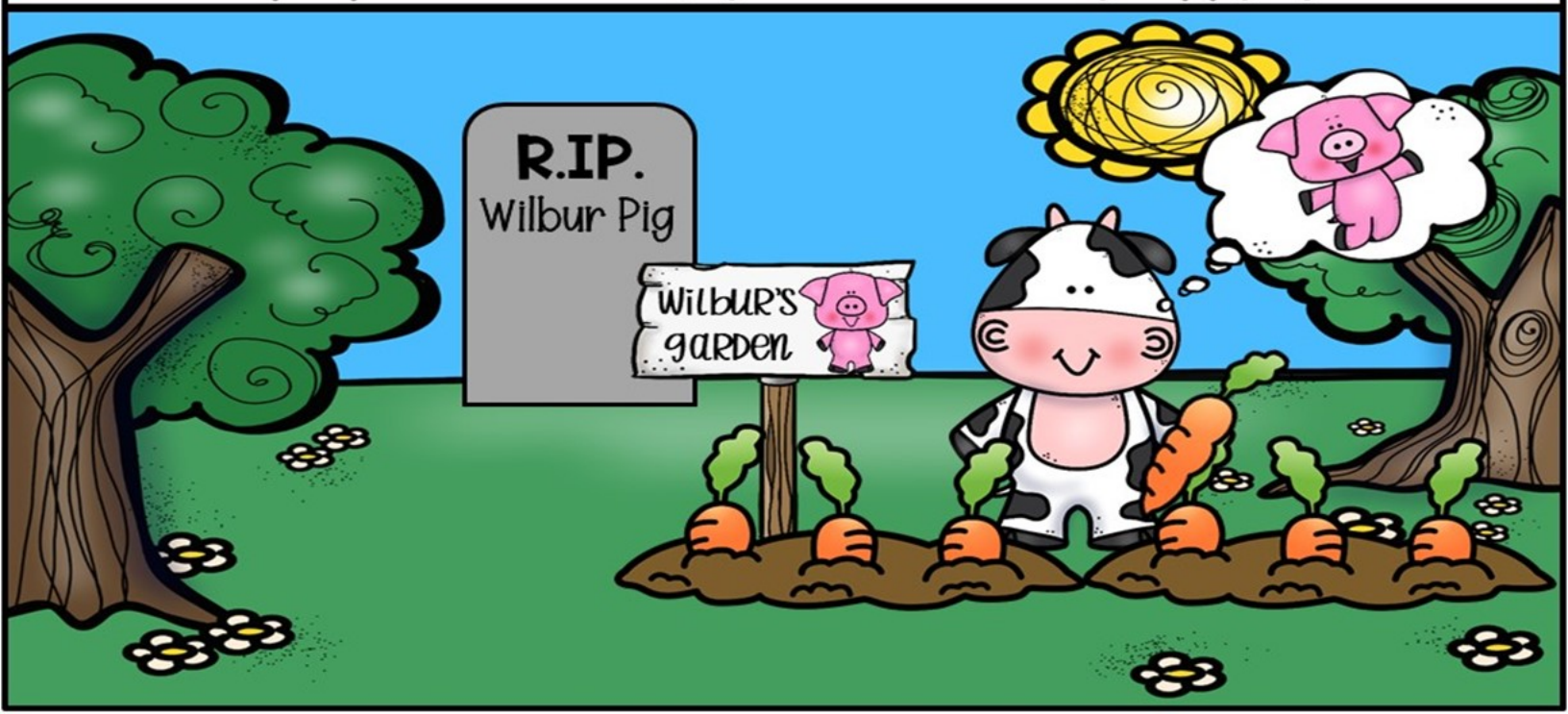
One day, while visiting Wilbur's grave, Bessie had a great idea. She would create a carrot garden in Wilbur's honor for all of the farm animals to enjoy! She got to work planting the carrot seeds and even made a special sign to honor Wilbur.



As soon as the carrots grew, Bessie invited Farmer Joe and all of the farm animals to visit Wilbur's Garden. Bessie gave carrots to everyone and they shared special stories and memories about Wilbur as they ate. Farmer Joe was so proud of Bessie. Bessie knew she had really created something special to honor her best friend!



Bessie still missed Wilbur and still wished they could play together. She would give anything for just one more day with him at the farm! But, as she took care of Wilbur's Garden, she laughed to herself thinking of their funny memories together and truly felt at peace. The garden gave her a new purpose and a new joy. Bessie was finally happy again.



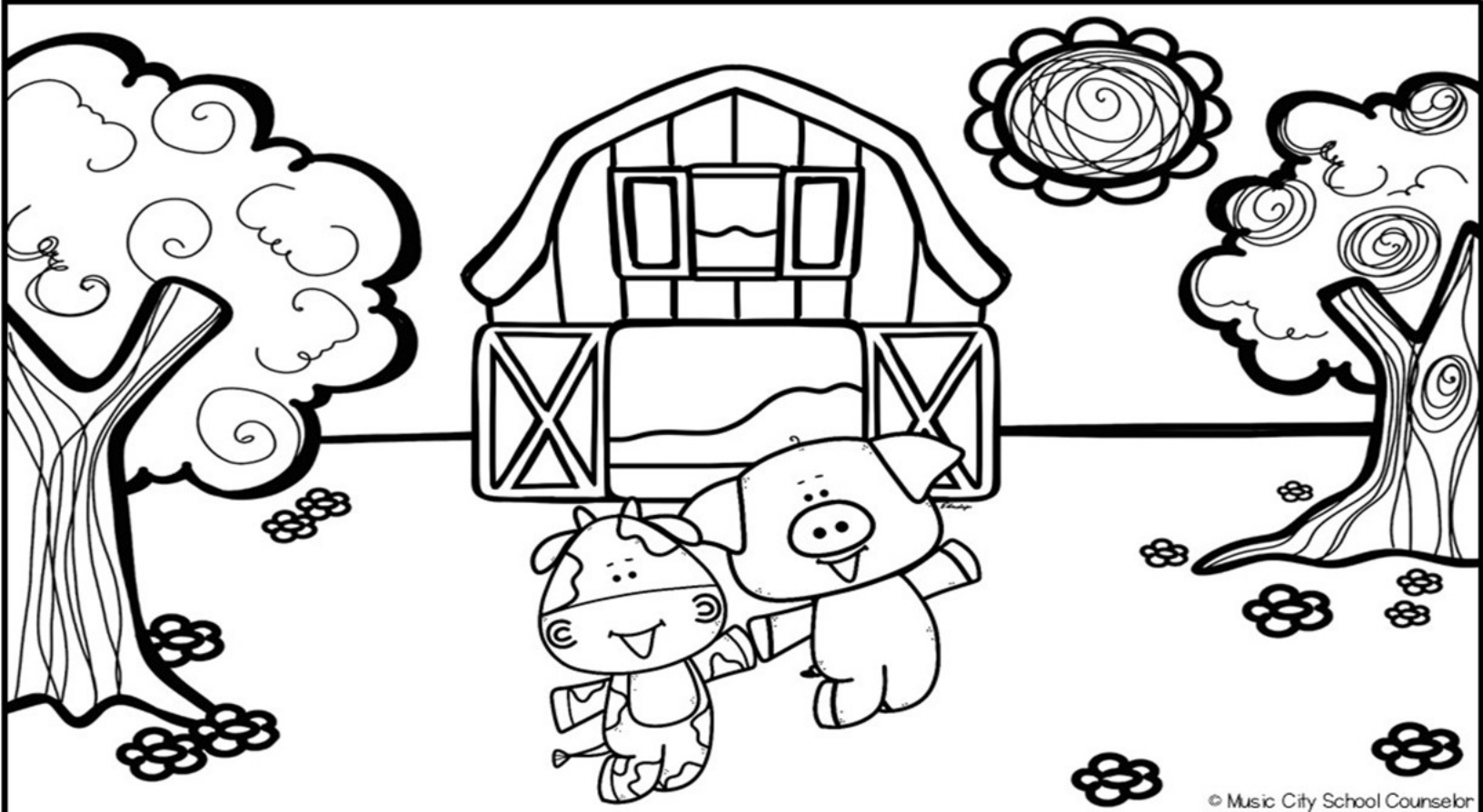
BLACK & WHITE

HALF SHEET

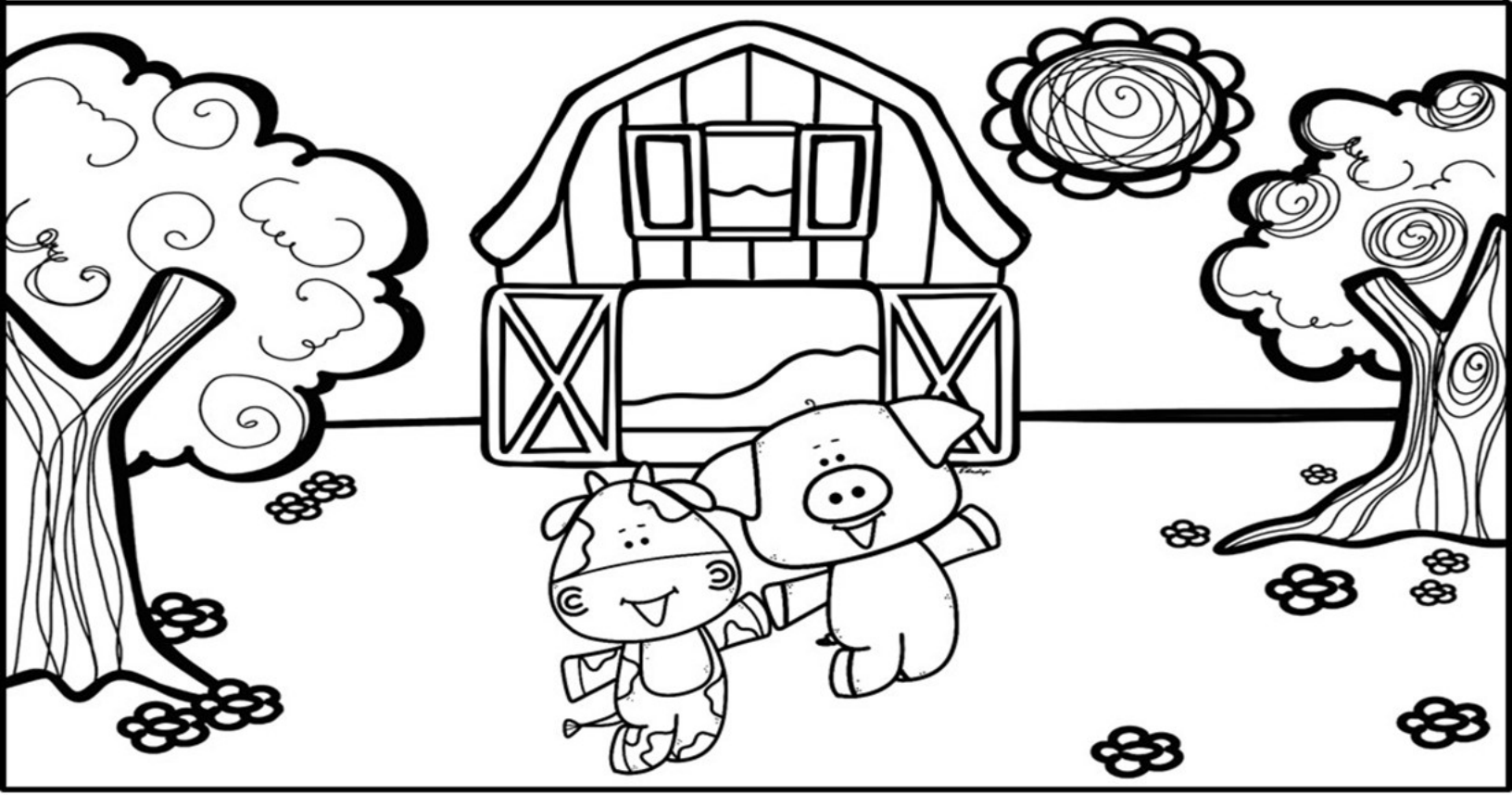
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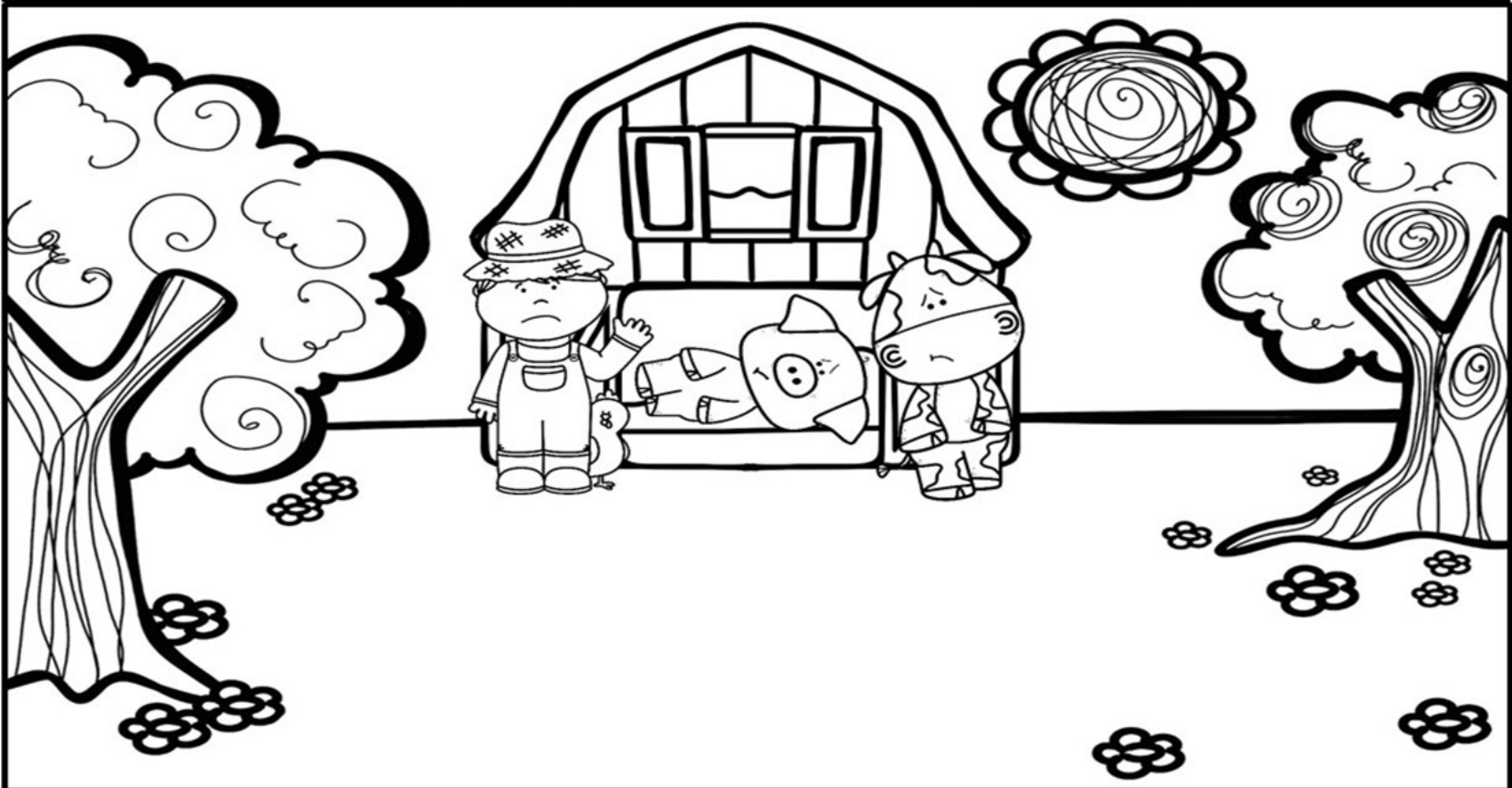
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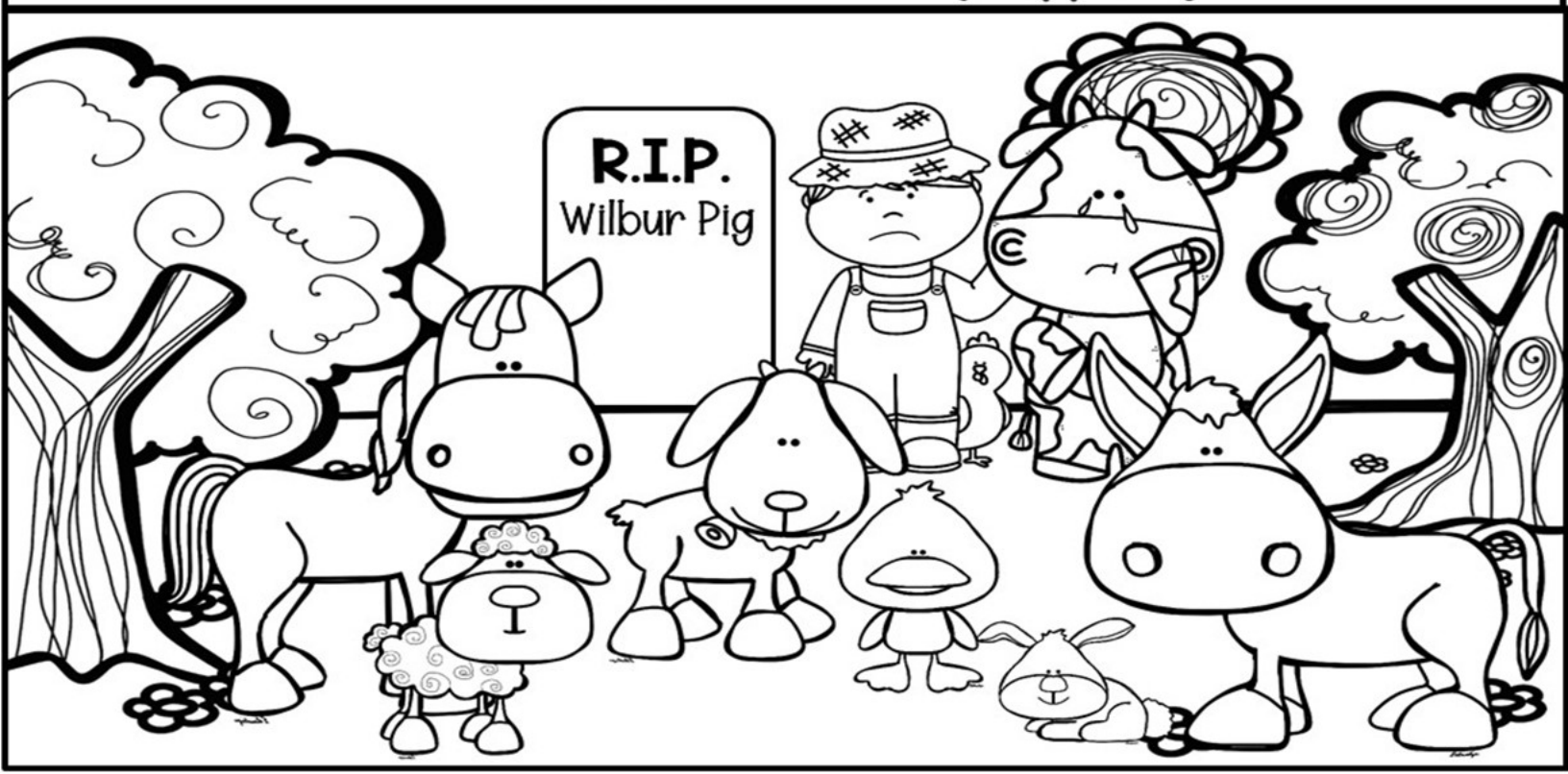
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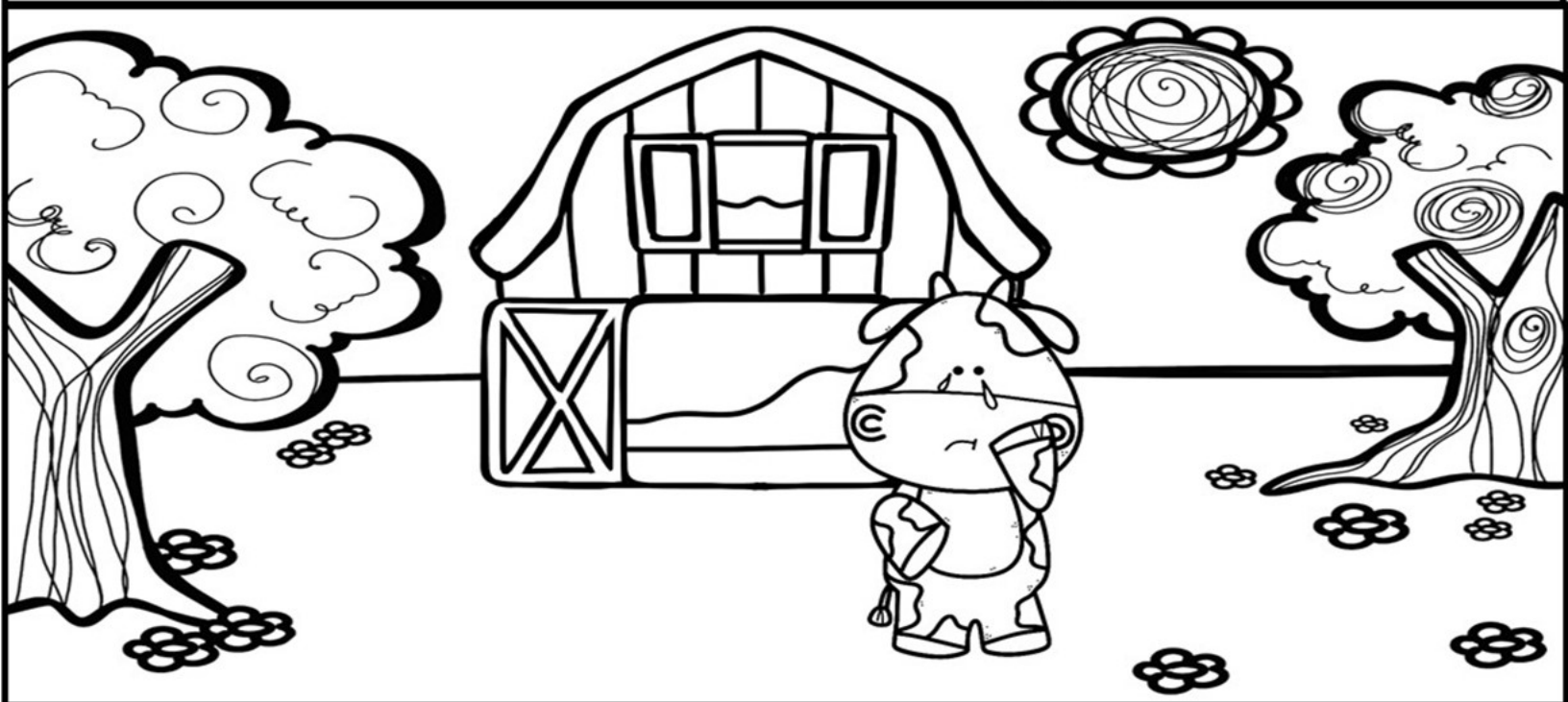
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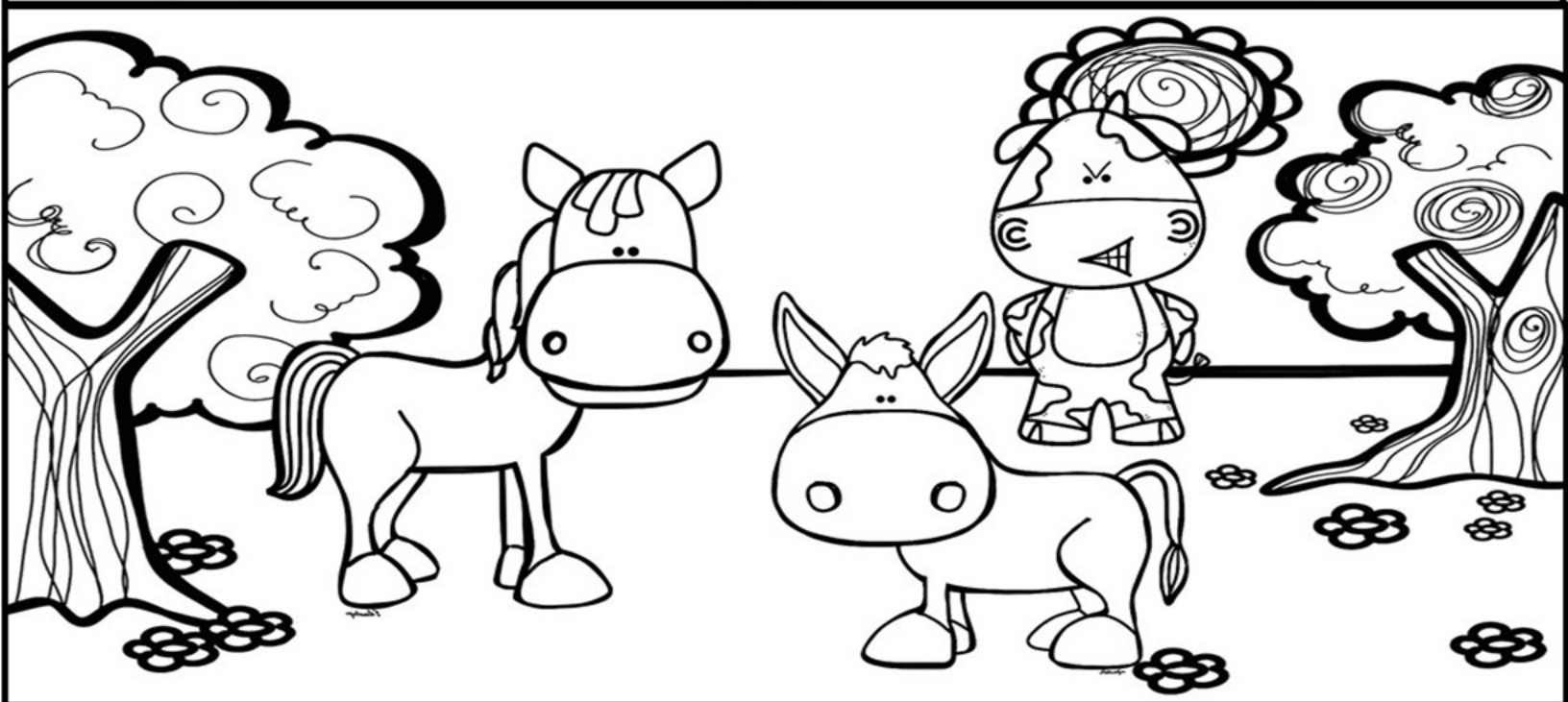
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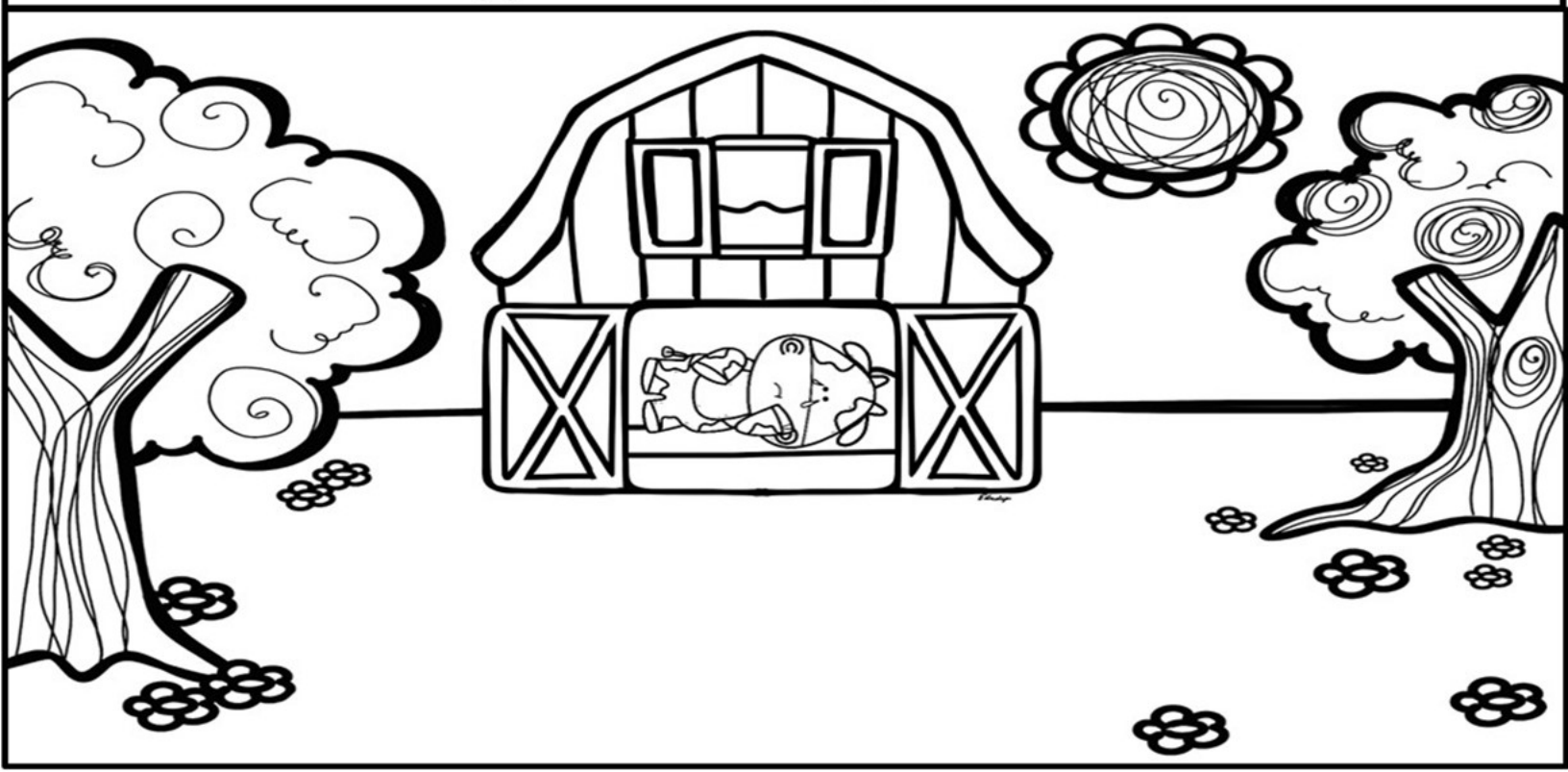
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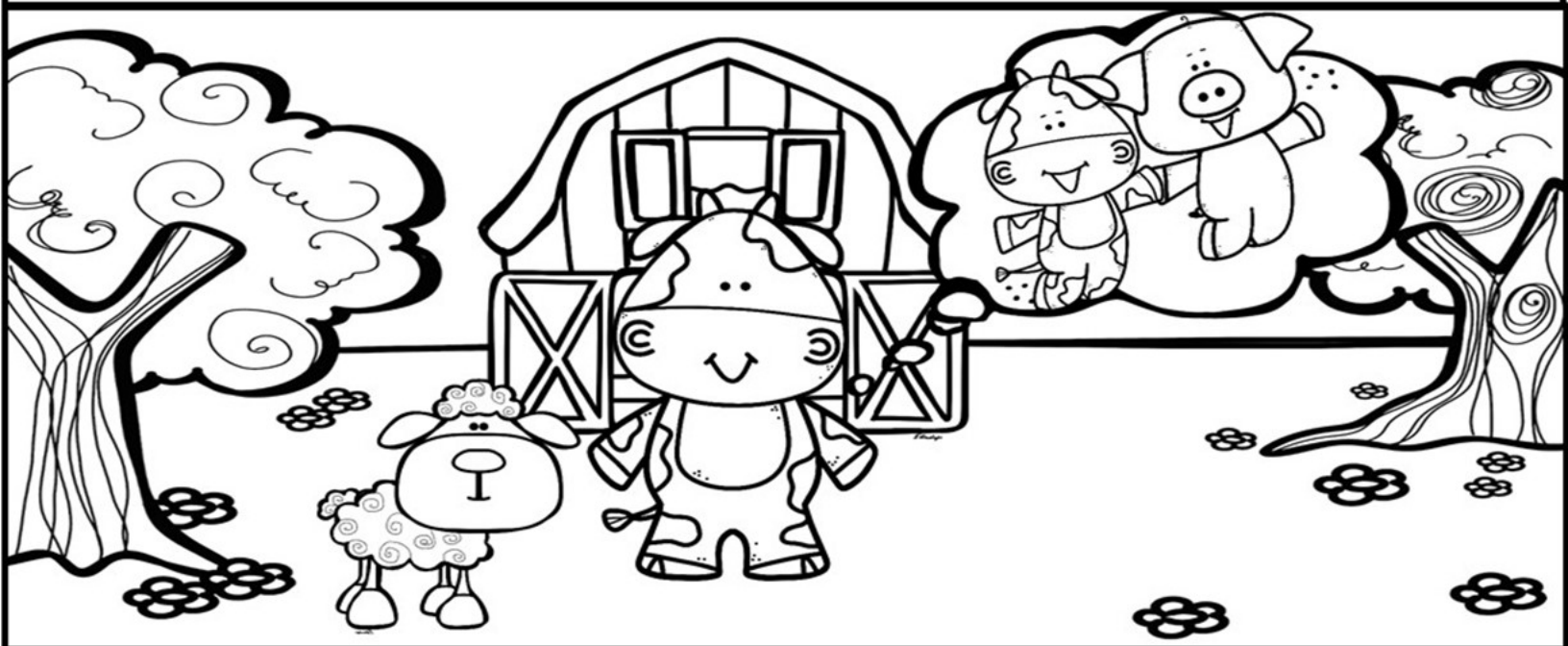
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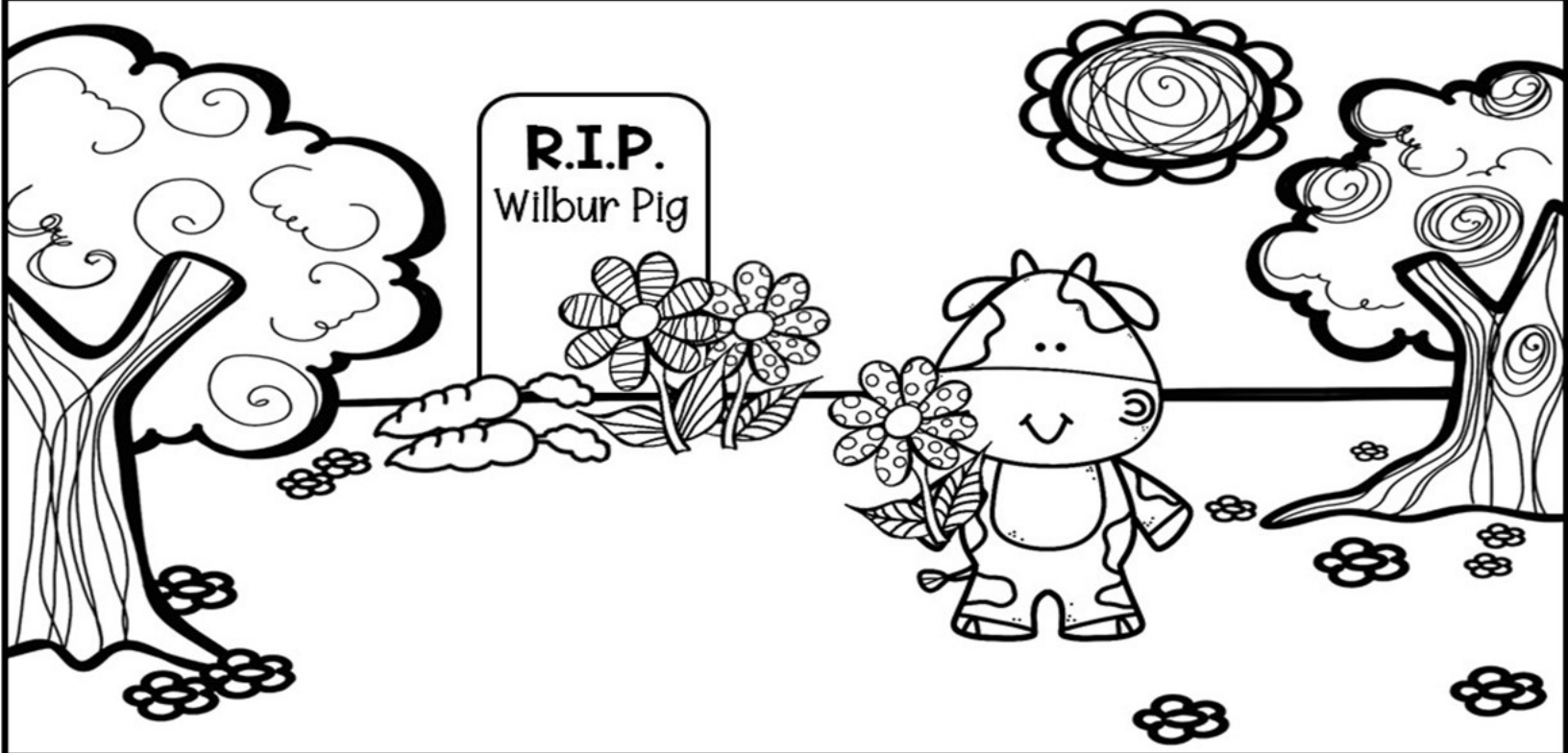
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