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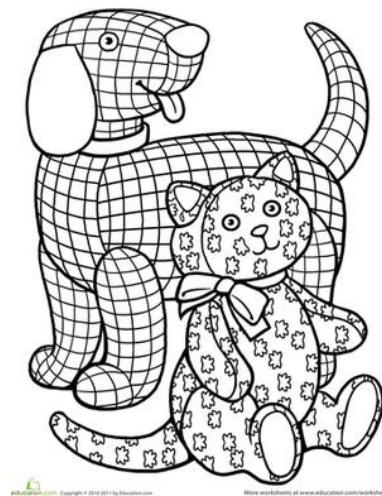
The Duel by Eugene Field

The gingham dog and the calico cat
Side by side on the table sat;
'Twas half-past twelve, and (what do you think!)
Nor one nor t'other had slept a wink!
The old Dutch clock and the Chinese plate
Appeared to know as sure as fate
There was going to be a terrible spat.
(I wasn't there; I simply state
What was told to me by the Chinese plate!)

The gingham dog went "bow-wow-wow!"
And the calico cat replied "mee-ow!"
The air was littered, an hour or so,
With bits of gingham and calico,
While the old Dutch clock in the chimney-place
Up with its hands before its face,
For it always dreaded a family row!
(Now mind: I'm only telling you
What the old Dutch clock declares is true!)

The Chinese plate looked very blue,
And wailed, "Oh, dear! what shall we do!"
But the gingham dog and the calico cat
Wallowed this way and tumbled that,
Employing every tooth and claw
In the awfulest way you ever saw—
And, oh! how the gingham and calico flew!
(Don't fancy I exaggerate—
I got my news from the Chinese plate!)

Next morning, where the two had sat
They found no trace of dog or cat;
And some folks think unto this day
That burglars stole that pair away!
But the truth about the cat and pup
Is this: they ate each other up!
Now what do you really think of that!
(The old Dutch clock it told me so,
And that is how I came to know.)



Activity:

Now that you have read Eugene Field's "The Duel" complete the word search below that has related words and themes from the poem.

The Duel Word Search

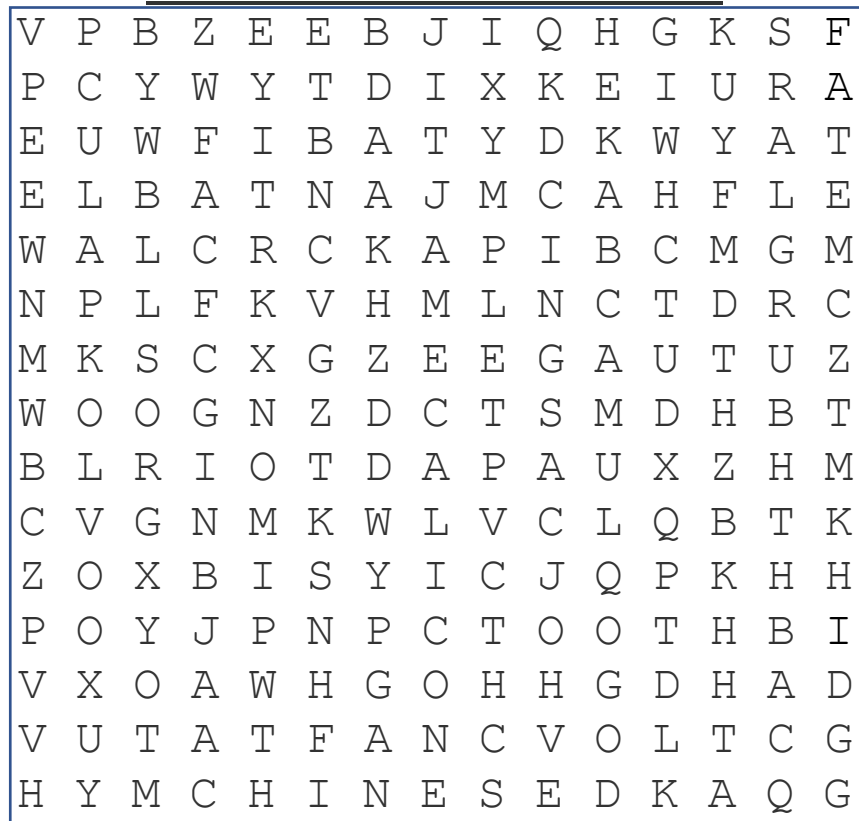
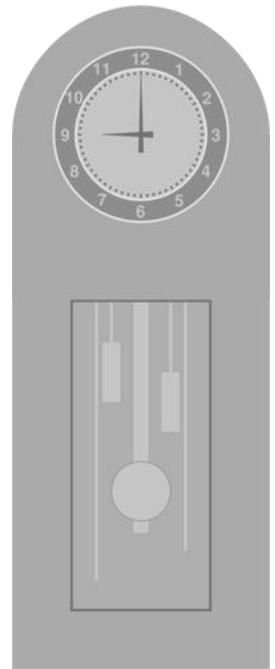


PLATE
SPAT
TABLE
TOOTH

DUTCH
FATE
GINGHAM
MORNING

CHINESE
CLAW
CLOCK
DOG

WINK
BURGLARS
CALICO
CAT



If you want to continue to challenge yourself try writing sentences. On a separate sheet of paper use a word, or words, found in the above activity to create your own sentences or poem! This poem and many others by Eugene Field can be found and read at the Field House Museum in St. Louis, MO.