



OSKAR & THE LAST STRAW
Oskar's Backpack

Grade Levels: K-2, with adjustment 3-5

"To cope, or not to cope: that is the question.
Whether 'tis better to suffer and ignore
That straw and other assorted, sundry items
Or to deal with my backpack full of troubles,
And make it all disappear?"

-Oskar

OBJECTIVE

- Students will exercise their visual learning and sequencing skills by depicting an important lesson from the play.
- Students will learn to think through their to-do lists and work to prioritize their tasks.

MATERIALS

- Black or white board; chalk or dry erase markers
- Paper, erasers, markers, crayons, colored pencils, pens, etc.
- "Backpack" templates (attached)

PROCEDURE

1. After watching *Oskar and the Last Straw*, see if your students can remember the many things on Oskar's to-do list.
 - School
 - Soccer practice
 - Music lessons
 - An art project
 - Math homework
 - Bucket o' Monkey's Club
 - Big Bag of Popcorn Club
 - Buy a present for Molly's birthday party
 - Learn all the songs for Mikey's rock-n-roll concert
 - Deal with the pressures of the mass media
 - Hold some lady's straw?!?

List each item they remember on the board, or pull up the list from the "Key Moments" page of the Re-Sourced guide for *The Last Straw*.

2. After students have generated Oskar's to-do list, hand out the attached "Backpack" templates, and have them draw Oskar's backpack at the beginning and end of the play.
3. Ask students if they can remember why Oskar's backpack was so big at the beginning of the play. See if they can remember why it changed in size.

Oskar's backpack was big at the beginning of the play because Oskar felt overwhelmed. His backpack shrank in size because he learned to take care of his to-do list one thing at a time.

4. Have students fill out the second page of the "Backpack" template. This time, they will draw everything on their to-do lists in the backpack template.
5. After students have drawn out their to-do lists, ask them to think about what they have to do in order of importance. Have students establish an order for taking care of everything in their backpacks one thing at a time, just like Oskar. Students should number each item consecutively based on what needs to be taken care of first, second, third, etc.

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

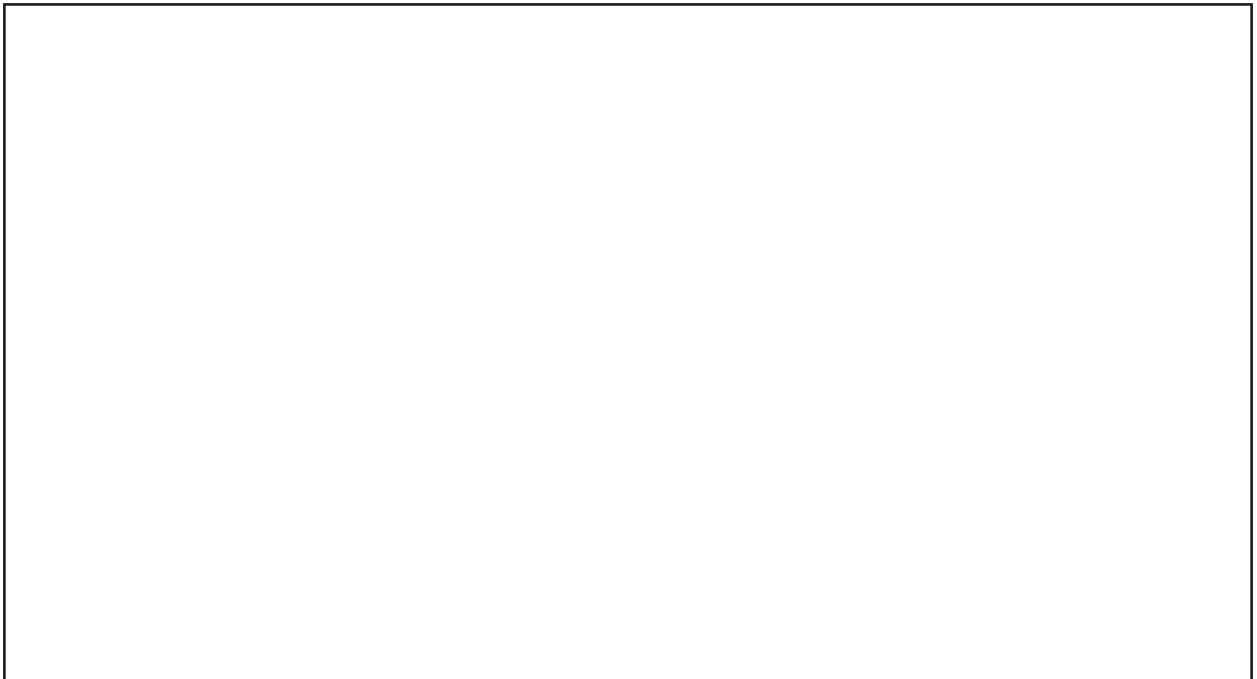
OSKAR & THE LAST STRAW

Oskar's Backpack

Draw Oskar's backpack at the beginning of the play.



Draw Oskar's backpack at the end of the play.



NAME: _____

DATE: _____

OSKAR & THE LAST STRAW

Your Backpack

Draw what's in your backpack.

