



Activity One

Protective Coloration Fact Card

In Chapter 1 of the novel, Coraline watches a TV show about animals and “protective coloration” as a means to stave off boredom. Animals, birds and insects disguise themselves as leaves or twigs or other animals. These are animal adaptations. They are meant to help the animal species survive by camouflaging their appearance to hide from predators. A perfect example is the chameleon. The chameleon changes its color to blend into its environment. Your task will be to pick an animal adaptation and complete the fact card below.

Name: _____ [Animal Name]	Draw a picture of the animal.
Where does this animal live? _____	
What are this animal's main predators? _____	
What is this animal's adaptation? _____ _____	
What are the benefits of this adaptation? _____ _____	



Activity Two

Your Fortune at the Bottom of a Cup

Throughout the novel, Miss Spink and Miss Forcible read Coraline's tea leaves and accurately predict her future. Reading tea leaves is an old custom. The act of reading tea leaves is called Tasseography. To read tea leaves, you'll need a teacup, some loose-leaf tea, and boiling water.

- Put a bit of tea leaves at the bottom of the teacup.
- Pour boiling water into the cup.
- Let stand 3 minutes.
- Drink the tea, leaving the leaves and a tiny bit of liquid at the bottom.
- Pick up the cup by its handle in your left hand.
- Swirl the cup counterclockwise quickly 3 times. The tea leaves will stick to different parts inside the cup.
- Flip the cup upside down and set it on top of the saucer or plate. Let the liquid drain from the cup.

In terms of reading your fortune, the cup has 3 parts. The rim is your present. The side of the cup is your near future. The bottom of the cup is your distant future. Look at what symbols the tea leaves look like, and where they are in the cup. For instance, if you see a heart near the rim, that means you are currently in love. If you see a pair of palm trees along the side, that means you'll be taking a vacation soon. If you see an anchor at the bottom of your cup, that means good fortune is coming.

Try this yourself! Follow the steps above. You can do this in pairs or alone. You may have to look up the meaning of symbols online.



Activity Three

Research Report: Rituals and Traditions

She flipped through a book her mother was reading about native people in a distant country; how every day they would take pieces of white silk and draw on them in wax, then dip the silks in dye, then draw on them more in wax and dye them some more, then boil the wax out in hot water, and then finally, throw the now-beautiful cloths on a fire and burn them to ashes. – Coraline, Chapter 3

This passage from the novel describes some kind of ritual. Research native cultures from around the globe. Below is a list of examples. Choose one and do some additional research into their rituals and traditions. Write a report detailing their practices and the significance behind them.

Native Tribe	Location
Maasai	Africa
Cuiva	Colombia and Venezuela
Hadza	Tanzania
Orang Rimba	Indonesia
Baiga	India
Chambri	Papua, New Guinea
Navajo	United States
Innu	Canada
Wodaabe	Niger
Penan	Sarawak
Dogon	Mali
Himba	Namibia and Angola
Guugu Ymithirr	Australia
Jumma	Bangladesh
Bajau	Malaysia
Aymara	Andes
Rarámuri	Mexico
Bodi	Ethiopia
Enawene Nawe	Brazil

As an additional activity, look inward into your own rituals and traditions. How do they compare to those practiced by native peoples? How would someone from another part of the world view your own practices?



Activity Four

Time Capsule

In Chapter 7 of the novel, Coraline discovers several other children like her trapped in a closet. These children prove to be past victims of the 'other' mother. All of these children are from different time periods. We know this based on clues from the novel, such as the description of what they're wearing, what they remember from their real world, and how they speak. In a way, the closet behind the mirror is a time capsule.

You will create your own time capsule of things that represent your current time that will be opened sometime in the future. What items will you include? What things of this time period do you think would be important for those in the future to know about? How do you think people in the future will react to the things included in the time capsule?

Alternatively, you can choose an era from the past and create a time capsule using things from that era. This can include photographic representations of things. What items will you include? You have the added benefit of knowing which items were important that led to things we use today. Write a report describing the importance of these things, what they were used for, and how they impacted the future.





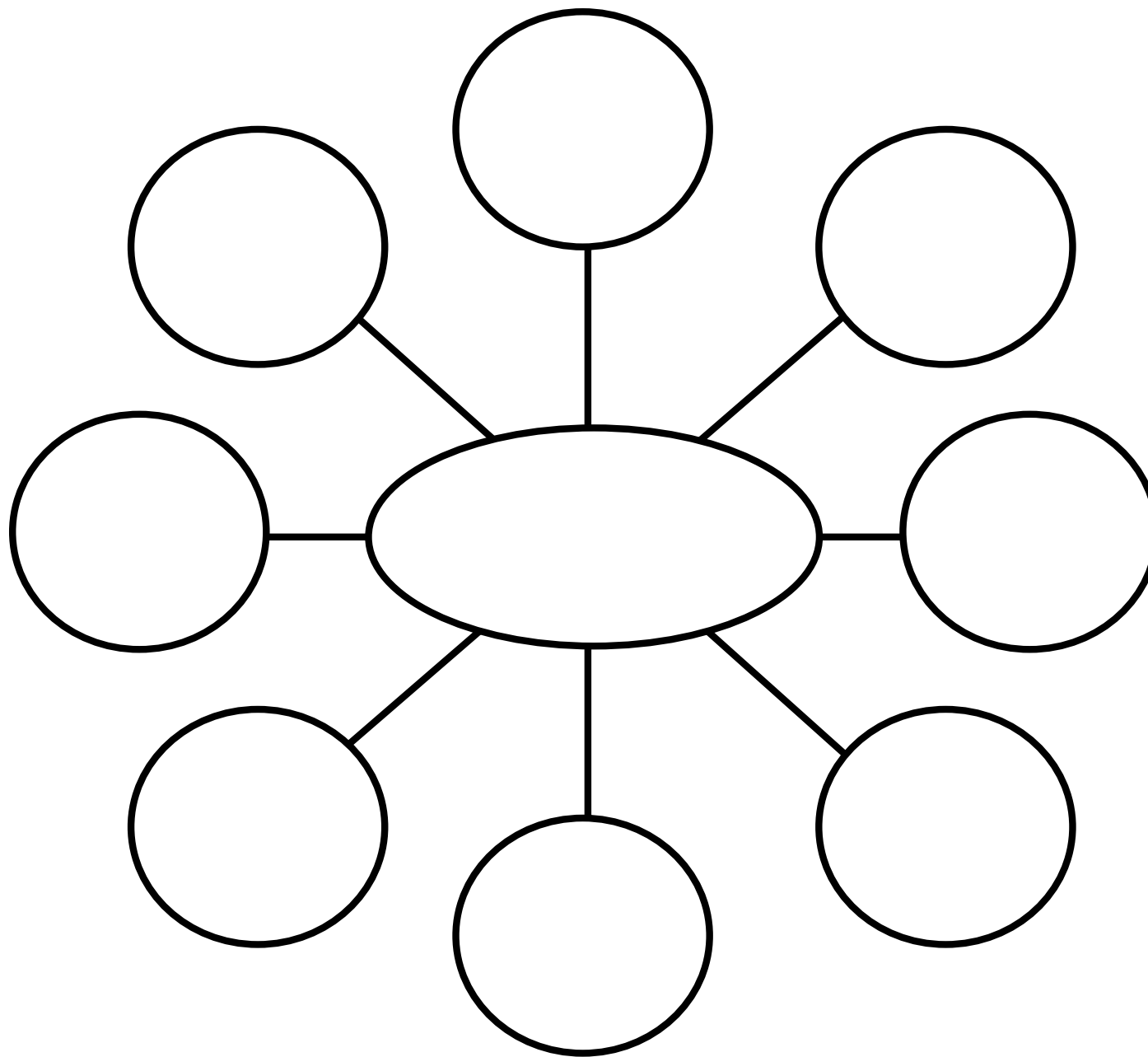
Activity Five

Challenging Your Strengths



The cat advises Coraline to challenge the 'other' mother to a game for her freedom. Coraline decides to choose something she is good at. She settles on a game of exploration. If she can find the souls of the other children as well as her real parents, she can go free.

Invent your own game to challenge the 'other' mother. Pick something that benefits your strengths and interests. Avoid things that highlight your weaknesses. First, brainstorm ideas of things you're good at. Write them into the brainstorm web below.



Next, use the ideas above to come up with a game to play against the 'other' mother. Explain the game and how you plan to win. Some ideas to get you started could be:

- A riddle game.
- A trivia game.
- A test of skill.



Activity Six

Movie Comparison



In 2009, *Coraline* was made into a movie. It starred Dakota Fanning as Coraline, Teri Hatcher as the mother, John Hodgman as the father, Jennifer Saunders as Miss Spink, Dawn French as Miss Forcible, Keith David as the cat, and Ian McShane as Mr. Bobo. The creators of the film decided to use the medium of stop-motion animation. How do you think this medium relates to the theme of the story? In several instances, Coraline describes creations as “clay-like”.

“Up through the hole came the smell of damp clay, and something else, an acrid tang like sour vinegar.” – Chapter 9

“The creature’s twiglike hands moved to its face and pushed the pale clay about, making something like a nose.” – Chapter 9

Do you think this played a role in the creators’ decision to choose stop-motion animation as the best way to present this story on film? Explain in a three-page essay. After you’ve watched the film, describe how it compares to the novel. Does the film stay true to the story? Is there some embellishment? Are things left out? Explain and include whether you liked the movie in another three-page essay. Finally, what if this story was made into a live-action movie today? Who do you think would star in each role? Write your suggestions in the chart below.

Character	Actor/Actress
Coraline	
Mother	
Father	
Miss Spink	
Miss Forcible	
The Cat	
Mr. Bobo	