



# Clifford's BIGGEST Birthday Party Ever!

## Webcast Event Kit



Dear Teacher,

Thank you for choosing to participate in 'Clifford's BIGGEST Birthday Party Ever' live webcast event on September 24th in celebration of Clifford's 50th Anniversary.

This event is a great way to kick off the school year and to engage your students in some BIG birthday fun! During the 30-minute live webcast, beloved Clifford creator Norman Bridwell will be on hand to answer student questions, discuss Clifford's BIG Ideas (*Share, Help Others, Be Kind, Be Responsible, Play Fair, Be a Good Friend, Believe in Yourself, Have Respect, Work Together and Be Truthful*) and explain how Clifford was his BIG idea so many years ago. And after a memorable BIG 'reveal,' your students will participate in the BIGGEST birthday party ever as they join thousands of other students nationwide in singing HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Clifford.

To help get your students excited for this BIG day, we've created a set of birthday-themed activities for use in your classroom in the weeks leading up to the webcast. The attached activities and reproducibles will:

- Help create a festive environment for the Clifford celebration
- Emphasize positive behaviors taught in school and supported by Clifford's BIG Ideas
- Reinforce the social-emotional, literacy, and language skills that Clifford espouses in both his books and the PBS KIDS broadcast

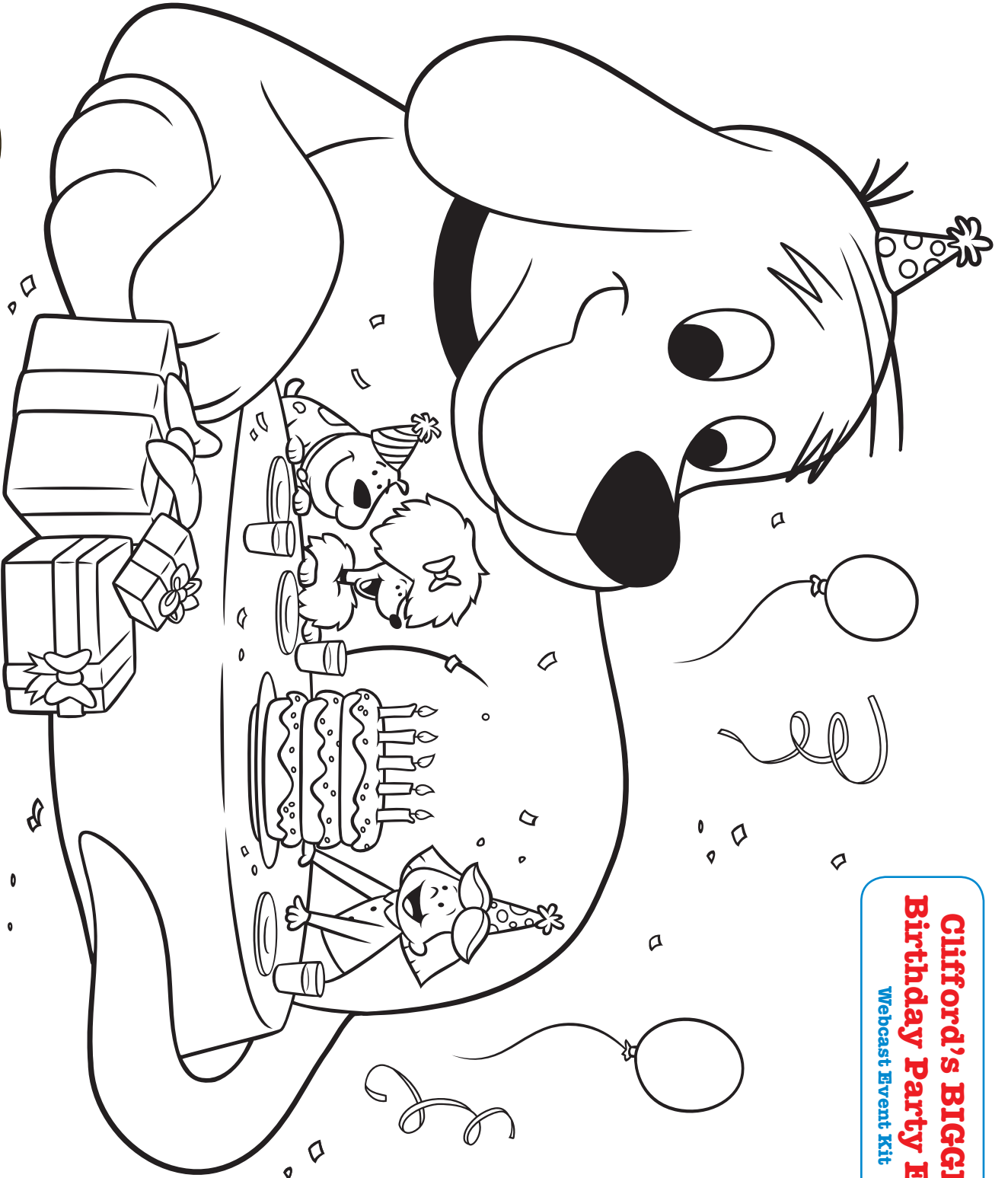
Please join the webcast at <http://www.scholastic.com/cliffordwebcast> a few minutes before the start time as it will begin promptly on September 24, 2012 at 10:00 AM ET.

Thank you for helping Clifford reach this extraordinary milestone; we look forward to celebrating with you!

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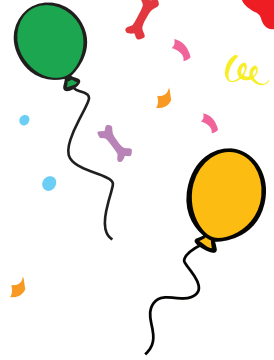
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### A BIG Lesson on Sharing

#### LESSON FOCUS:

The focus of this lesson is to encourage the concept of sharing through literacy and math learning experiences.

#### LESSON PLAN:

Talk about how much fun it is to share books, stories, toys and experiences with friends. Explain how the children will be sharing Clifford's BIG birthday celebration with him on September 24th.

Encourage children to bring their favorite Clifford book and a pillow to circle time. Ask children to turn to a friend and share their book and why they like it.

After five to ten minutes of sharing, ask children to look at your Clifford book. Show them how Clifford's name appears in print. Name the letters and say the sounds.

Have children return to their work stations. Ask children to open up their book and search for Clifford's name. Have them count and record how many times Clifford's name is used in the text of their book.

#### EXTEND THE LEARNING:

- Reinforce math and literacy skills by creating a classroom bar graph and having children color in the word count data they recorded.
- Have children identify the first letter sounds in the word "SHARE" and then color in the enclosed "share" reproducible



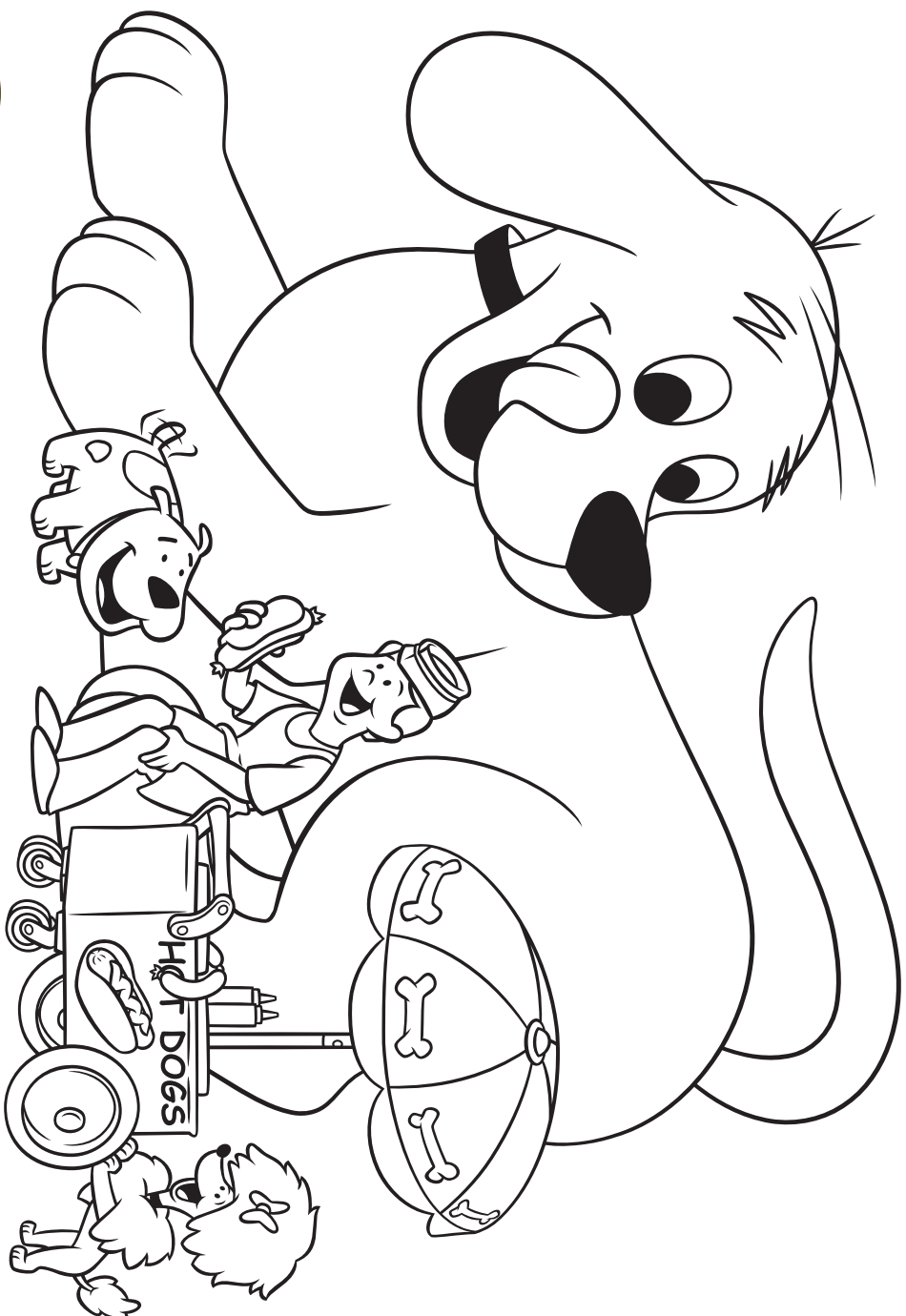
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# ST is for Share

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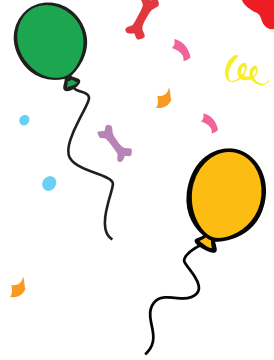
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### City, Town, or Country?

#### LESSON FOCUS:

The focus of this lesson is to nurture essential language, literacy, creative expression and social-emotional skills.

#### LESSON PLAN:

Explain to children that Clifford's BIG birthday celebration will be taking place in New York City. Ask them to imagine what types of objects they might find in a city like New York. Read *Clifford's Family* by Norman Bridwell. Ask children to tell about the different kinds of communities illustrated throughout the story. What details in the story text and illustrations describe a city, town, or country setting? Divide children into three groups: city, town, and country dwellers. Have groups take turns making sounds from objects (cars, trains, sirens, etc.) and animals most commonly found in each community for a fun guessing game.

#### EXTEND THE LEARNING:

- Encourage students to cooperatively share about themselves, family and friends, home, pets, favorite foods, toys, pets, etc.
- Help students express their own uniqueness through illustration by using these page headings to create an "All About Me!" book:

##### **This is Me!** (self-portrait)

✂ My Family

✂ Home, Sweet Home

✂ Read, Watch, Enjoy! (favorite books, movies, and cartoons)

✂ Playtime is Fun! (special toys, activities)

✂ Best Friends

✂ Favorite Pets

✂ Eats and Treats That Make Me Smile

- Wrap pages in 11x17 construction paper. Staple on fold. Glue photo of child facing the camera on front cover. Have child color or trace the book title. On back cover, glue another photo of the child facing away from the camera for a fun "Good-bye for Now" or "The End" to this special book! Sign and date books. Create a special time for each child to share their work with their classmates.



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# Decorate

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### What you'll need:

Red streamers

Red flowers (Carnations, Roses, Tulips)

Red toys

Go crazy with Clifford's favorite color! String red streamers all around the party space - in doorways, around tables, on windowsills, etc. Make a pretty centerpiece on a table with a vase of red flowers.

All around the classroom make "play spaces" with red toys. Some ideas include: red fire engines and red toy cars; red building blocks and/or Legos; and a "Let's Play Dress Up" area with lots of old funny clothes in shades of red.



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# Make Clifford Ears

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## What you'll need:

Red construction paper

Tape

Scissors

1. Using the ear shapes below as a template, cut ears out of red construction paper.
2. Then, cut long strips of other pieces of red construction paper, approximately 2 inches wide and the length of the paper. These strips will be used for the headband the ears will hang from. You will need two strips taped together from end-to-end for each child.
3. Have the set of ears ready for each child to wear during the webcast!

**Tip: Prepare headband strips in advance by measuring one child's head and using it as a guide!**



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