

# START WITH HELLO

**SEPTEMBER 28**  
**NATIONAL**  
**GOOD**  
**NEIGHBOR**  
**DAY**



**LIBRARY RESOURCE KIT**



THE HOPEFUL  
NEIGHBORHOOD  
PROJECT®



**NATIONAL  
GOOD  
NEIGHBOR  
DAY**

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# INTRODUCTION

September 28th is National Good Neighbor Day. This national holiday was signed into law in 1978 by President Jimmy Carter. Since then, people have been celebrating this holiday in big and small ways around the country. And yet, the holiday isn't widely known. We're inviting you to help us change that!

Stuart Dybek, American author, said, "The public library is where place and possibility meet." We agree. Therefore, we are inviting libraries to join in the celebration of National Good Neighbor Day. We hope you will take this invitation to celebrate using some of the resources in this kit. We also hope you take it a step further and create your own unique celebrations where you live. We believe a hopeful neighborhood is one where possibilities are the focus, and National Good Neighborhood Day is full of possibilities.

Within this kit you will find a variety of resources that will help you publicize the topic of being a good neighbor. There are many different ideas to choose from—host a book club, put books out on end-caps, hang a promotional poster, print coloring pages for your kids' area, or host an event to bring the community together. No matter how you choose to celebrate, we encourage you to be a part of building community on September 28th.

Thank you for your interest in celebrating National Good Neighbor Day. We can't wait to see how you celebrate!

Your Neighbors,



PLACEMAKERS CO-OP



# IDEAS FOR COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES



Below are some activity ideas for libraries to celebrate National Good Neighbor Day and help their community be good neighbors—because *good neighbors make great neighborhoods.*

- Provide a reading list.
- Host a book club focused on a neighborhood topic.
- Provide packets of “Start with Hello” postcards to send to neighbors (download from the library resource page).
- Provide premade block party invitations (printed or downloadable on your library website).
- Create block party boxes that can be checked out from the library—include yard games, paper products, bubble machines, etc. Boxes can even be planned with certain themes in mind.
- Provide board games and puzzles to check out with a neighbor. Consider creating a traveling puzzle by putting it on a puzzle roll-up mat.
- Provide sidewalk chalk packs with instructions for making chalk paint and ideas for games and drawings.
- Create a recipe or book swap.

# BOOK LIST

## Neighboring and Community Development: Nonfiction

- Warnick, Melody. *This Is Where You Belong: The Art and Science of Loving the Place You Live*. Penguin Random House, 2018.
- Block, Peter and McKnight, John. *The Abundant Community: Awakening the Power of Families and Neighborhoods*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers, 2012.
- King, Maxwell. *The Good Neighbor: The Life and Work of Fred Rogers*. ABRAMS Press, 2018.
- DeTellis, Tim. *Good Neighbors Make Great Neighborhoods: May Where You Live Be Better Because Of You*. Leadership Tree, 2017.
- Speck, J. *Walkable City: How Downtown Can Save America, One Step at a Time*. New York: North Point Press, a division of Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2013.

## Neighboring: Fiction

- Applegate, Katherine. *Wish Tree*. Macmillan Publishing Group, LLL, 2017.
- Backman, Fredrik. *A Man Called Ove: A Novel*. Washington Square Press, 2015.
- Berry, Wendell. *Jayber Crow*. Counterpoint, 2001.

## Hospitality

- Sweet, Leonard. *From Tablet to Table: Where Community Is Found and Identity Is Formed*. Colorado Springs: NavPress, 2014.

- Schell, Kristin. *The Turquoise Table: Finding Community and Connection in Our Own Front Yard*. Thomas Nelson, 2017. Audible. ([theturquoisetable.com](http://theturquoisetable.com))

## Cooking

- Hatmaker, Jen. *Feed These People*. Harvest, 2022.
- *Entertaining and Hosting Recipes: A Party Cookbook with Delicious Recipes for Events*. Book Sumo Press, 2019.
- Stevens, Kimberly. *Savor: Entertaining with Charcuterie, Cheese, Spreads and More!* Cider Mill Press, 2018.
- Feldman, Natasha. *The Dinner Party Project: A No-Stress Guide to Food with Friends*. Harvest, 2023.

## Children's Books

- Murray, Diana. *City Shapes*. Little, Brown Books for Young Readers, 2016.
- De la Pena, Matt. *Last Stop on Market Street*. G.P. Putnam's Sons Books for Young Readers, 2015.
- Grant, Jennifer. *Maybe I Can Love My Neighbor Too*. Beaming Books, 2019.
- *Mister Rogers Poetry Books*. Quirk Books, 2019.
- *Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood*. Simon Spotlight, 2018.
- Dubuc, Marianne. *Mr. Postmouse's Rounds*. Kids Can Press, 2015.
- Loubriel, Oscar. *In My Neighborhood*. Tilbury House Publishers, 2021.

# HOST AN EVENT

Neighboring is a broad topic that gives you an opportunity to highlight local people and bring people together in your community. You can bring in local speakers or use videos that we have available for your event.

## Ideas for local speakers:

- Local florists or gardeners
- Local chefs or bakers
- Local artists to teach lettering or watercolor designs to make note cards for neighbors
- Local experts in community development
- City government officials who work with neighborhood groups or other community programs
- Parks department officials with ideas for how to utilize available community spaces
- Public-speaking experts
- Someone who can teach a class on making friends as an adult

## Ideas for children's programming:

- Make a craft or card to be given to neighbors
- Organize a community bike ride that starts at the library
- Create a story-book walk. You can use rummage sale boards that are laminated. The boards can be placed in windows downtown, put in the ground, or placed in large flower pots.
- Make available packets of sidewalk chalk with ideas for how to make chalk paint, ideas for what to draw or games to create.

## Videos available with Resource Kit:

- Introduction to National Good Neighbor Day—Jennifer Prophete (include Start with Hello postcards/coloring pages)
- TEDx Talk: Start with Hello - TED Talk—Tim DeTillis
- This is Where You Belong—Author Discussion with Melody Warnick
- Love Your Neighborhood Workshop—Flower Arranging



# BOOK CLUB DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

## *This is Where You Belong: Finding Home Wherever You Are* by Melody Warnick

### Discussion Questions (from the book):

1. What place do you consider home? Why? Do you ever think of moving elsewhere? If so, where would you go?
2. In Chapter 1, Melody Warnick describes her belief in “the geographic cure,” the idea that a new place will change her life and make her a better, happier person. Do you think there’s any truth to the geographic cure? Why or why not?
3. Although some research shows that children who relocated a lot when young struggle with relationships and life satisfaction as adults, in other ways, highly mobile children do just fine. In what ways has your moving history as a child influenced the person you’ve become as an adult? Did moving or staying put help or hurt you?
4. What are the difference between being mobile, stuck, and rooted? What makes someone like Gertie Moore seem more rooted than stuck? In which category would you put yourself?
5. How well your town makes you happy is in part a product of person-environment fit. For instance, Warnick’s friend Amber has such a good person-environment fit with Austin, Texas, that “if Austin were a guy, you would set Amber up with him on a blind date.” Who would you set up on a date with your current town? Why?
6. One of the Love Your City Checklist suggestions in chapter 2 is to “follow the 1-Mile Solution” by replacing one car trip per week with a biking or walking errand instead. Why are walking and biking so popular right now? If you live close enough to walk or bike to the supermarket or another important local spot, how would it change your experience of your city?
7. Warnick tells the story of Jay Leeson, a transplant to Wilmore, Kentucky, who organized a campaign to keep Leonard Fitch’s grocery store from going out of business. Leeson calls this neighborly economics. Do we have a moral responsibility to support local businesses, even if they’re more expensive? Or should market forces determine which businesses survive?
8. A Pew Research Center study found that people who live within an hour’s drive of at least six family members are the least likely to move. Would living close to your extended family make you happier? Or like Warnick, do you consider distance from family a “get-out-of-jail free” card?

9. Almost a third of Americans don't know any of their neighbors by name, and yet many studies show the value of neighborhood relationships, including the fact that when you are friends with your neighbors, you're 67 percent less likely to have a heart attack and 48 percent less likely to have a stroke. Why are Americans less neighborly than they used to be? Do you wish you knew your neighbors better, or are you happier being left alone?
10. According to the Knight Soul of the Community study, the three factors that are most influential in creating place attachment are social offerings, aesthetics, and openness. Did anything about that list surprise you? Which of these three elements is most important for you? What's missing from the list that's helped you feel attached to where you live?
11. In chapter 7, Warnick introduces Brian Morgen and Don Samuels, who chose to move to troubled neighborhoods in Minneapolis. Do you think this approach can genuinely change a place? What factors do you normally consider when you're deciding where to live? Would you ever make a similar choice to move somewhere because you had hope to improve it?
12. Does being aware of your city's problems make you love it less? Would volunteering with your city's homeless community, for instance, make you feel more attached or simply more worried about the future of your city?
13. Warnick sites several reasons why people gravitate toward certain landscapes, from childhood history to evolutionary biology. What kind of landscapes draws you? Why? Can you find some element of that landscape where you live?
14. If you moved away from your town tomorrow, what restaurant meal or local food would you miss the most? Why do sense memories of the tastes, smells and sounds of places you've lived or visited seem to last longer than other kinds of memories?
15. How does personality affect our ability to become place-attached? For example, do you think it's easier for extroverts than introverts? What about people who rate highly on openness or agreeability?
16. Among the book's "Love Where You Live" principles is this: If you love your city, you should do what's good for it. Is there something you could contribute to your city to make it a better place to live? How do you think organizing a placemaking project or running for local office might change the way you feel about where you live?
17. How attached are you to the place where you live now? Which statements from the place attachment scale in chapter 1 do you agree with most strongly? Which do you disagree with?
18. What "Love Where You Live" experiment would you be willing to try where you live now?

# START WITH HELLO

Celebrate  
**NATIONAL GOOD  
NEIGHBOR DAY**  
**on September 28th!**

Don't know your neighbors?

**Start with Hello!**

Love being a good neighbor?

**Do something special to celebrate.**

**Learn more and get ideas today!**

[hopefulneighborhood.org/good-neighbor-day](http://hopefulneighborhood.org/good-neighbor-day)

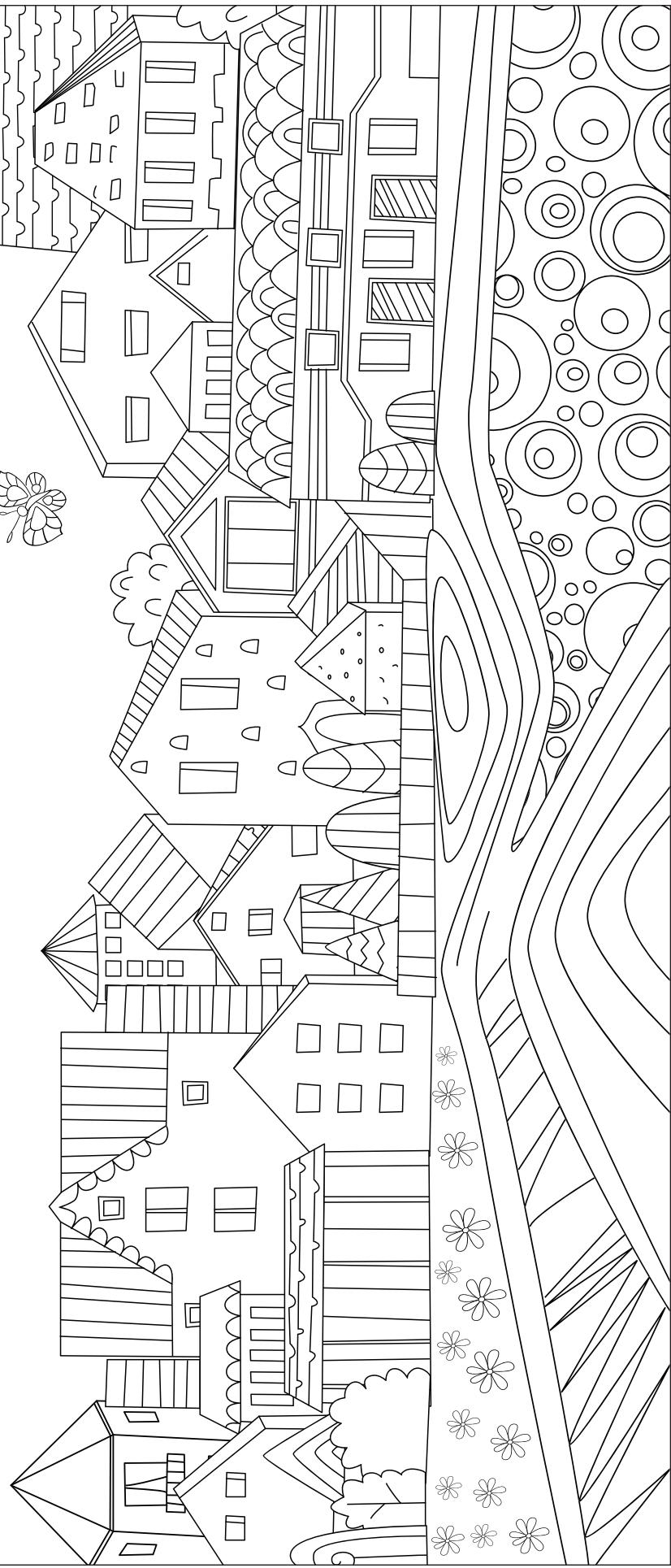
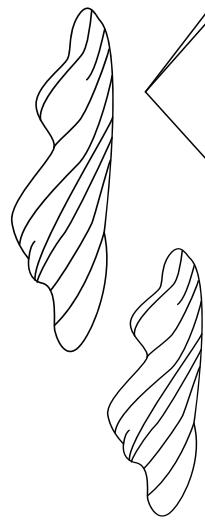
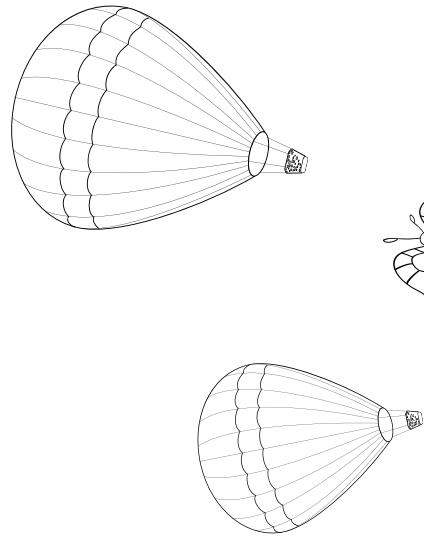


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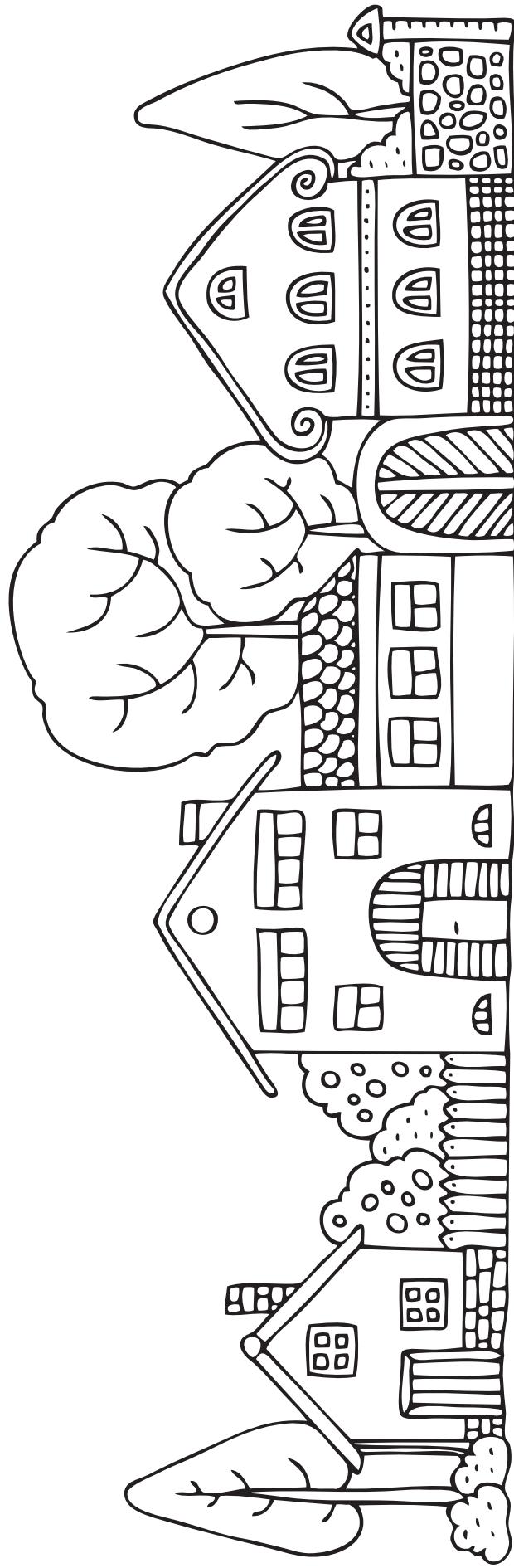


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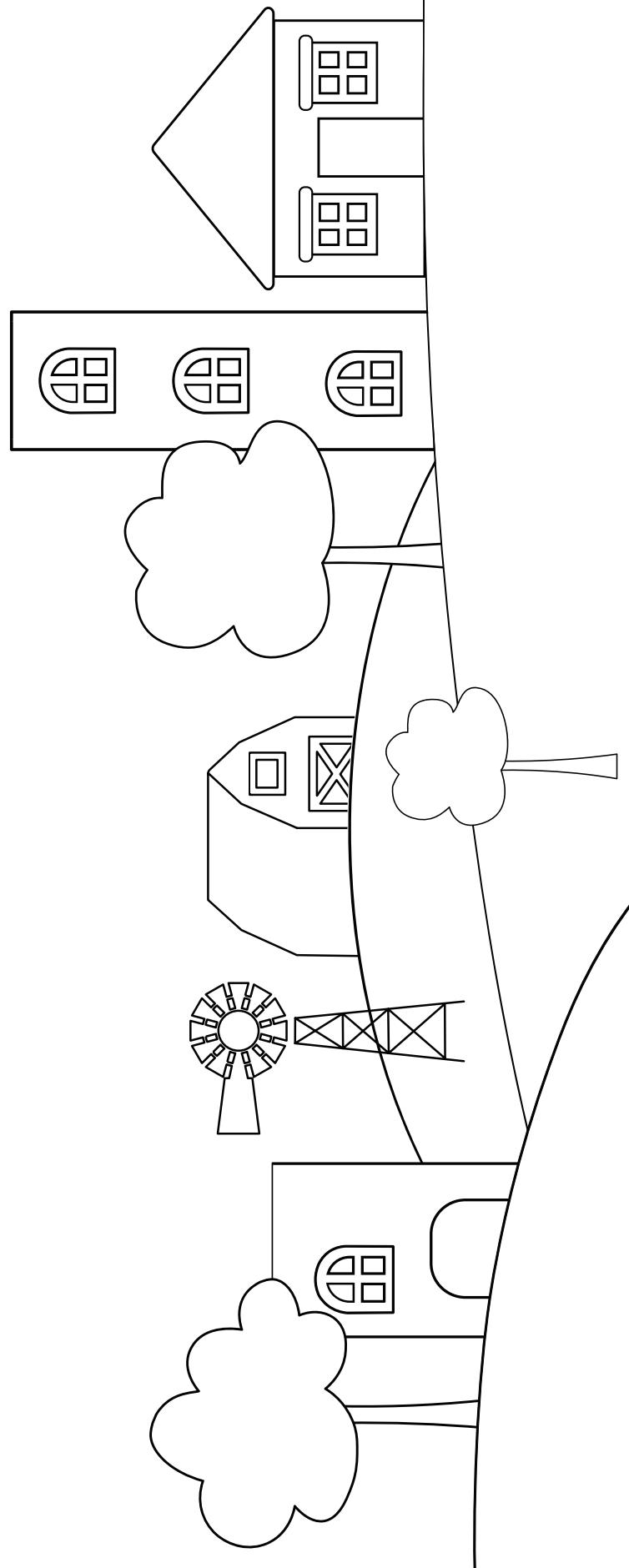
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START WITH  
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HOPEFUL  
NEIGHBORHOOD

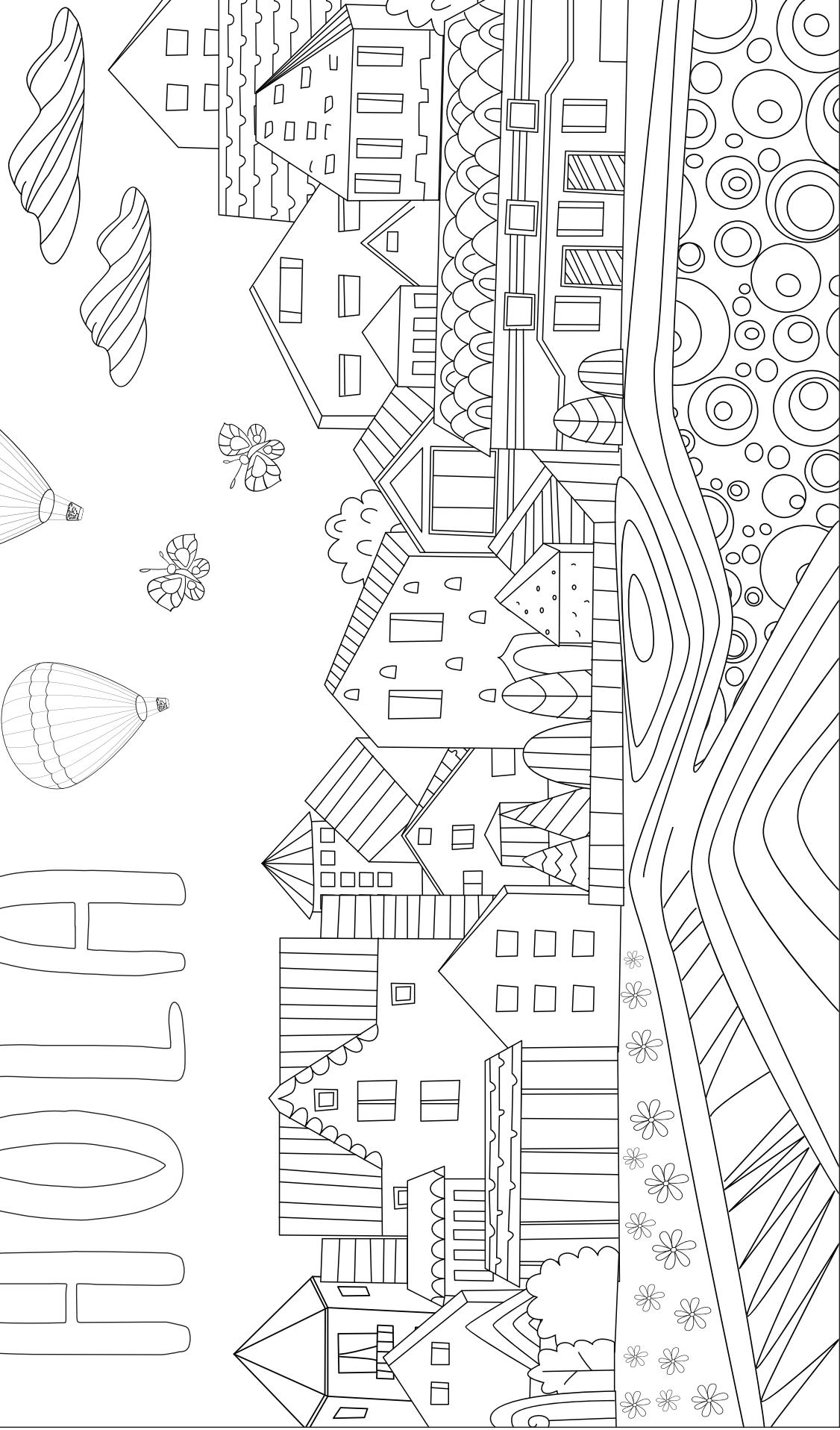
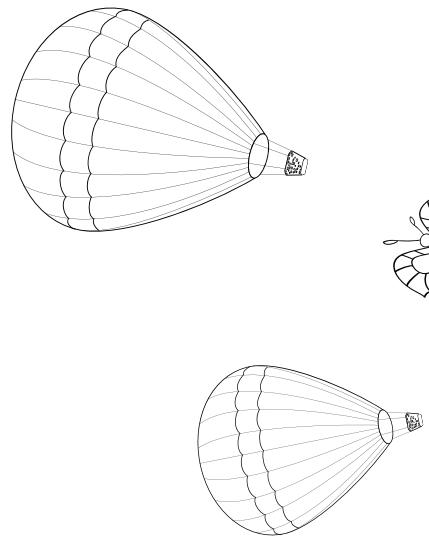


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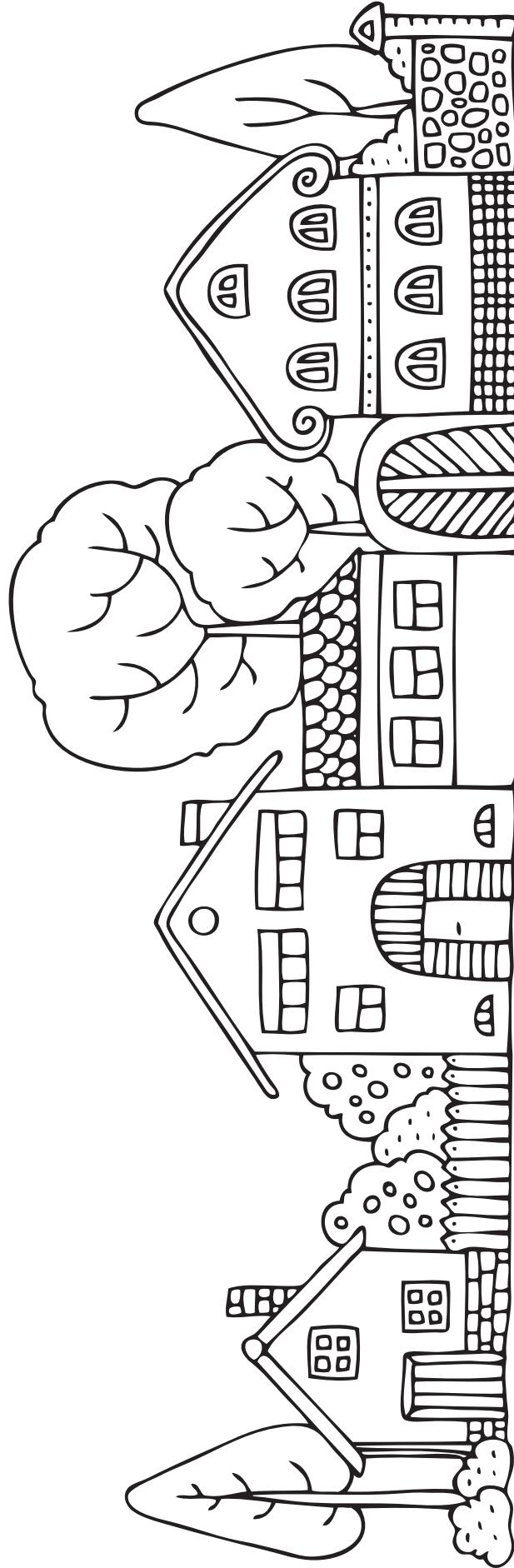
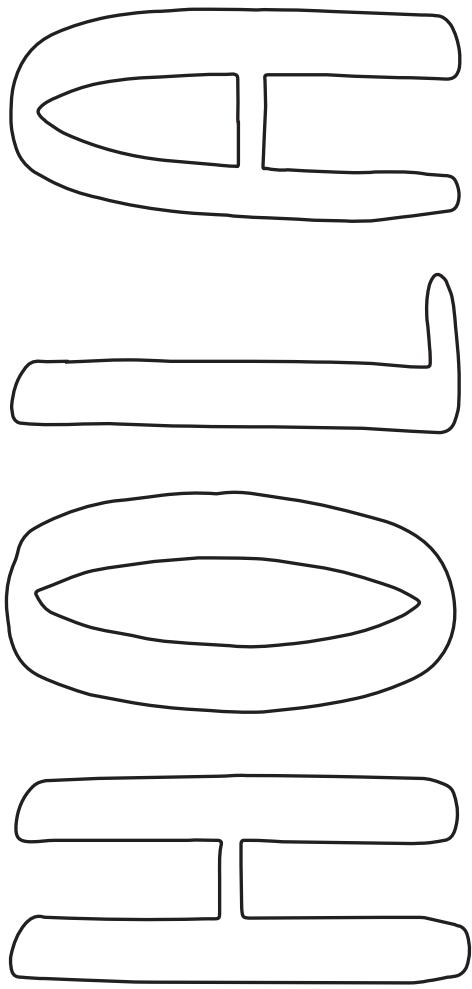
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COMIENZA CON

COOL

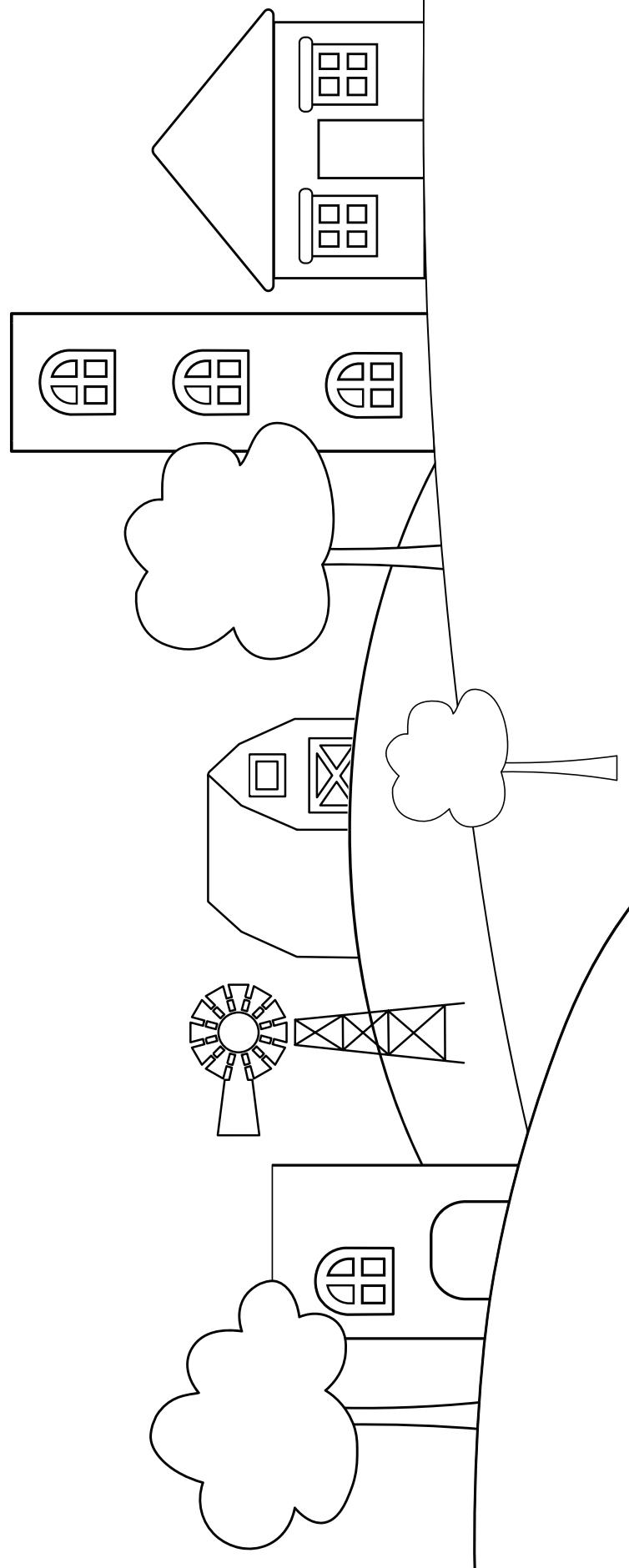


COMIENZA CON



AMIGO

VEGUNDO



A vertical column of 12 line drawings of various geometric shapes, including rectangles, ovals, and a crescent, used for a matching exercise.

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