

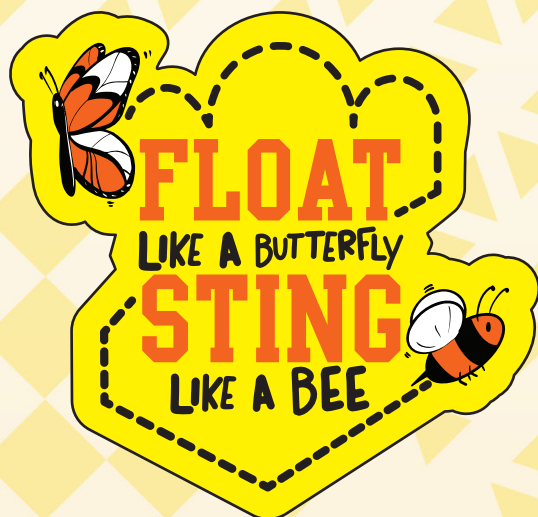
**BECAUSE
OF THEM
WE CAN**

BOX

JUST FOR KIDS

BECAUSE OF MUHAMMAD ALI

AGES 5-8



BOTWC MINI POSING AS
MUHAMMAD ALI



FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY...



Ali and brother Rudy.

Early Years

Before Muhammad Ali became one of the greatest athletes and **activists** in the world, Ali's boxing inspiration came from his bike being stolen.

12-year-old Cassius was sitting on the steps, crying and angry. Somebody had stolen his new red and white bike.

A man who saw Cassius crying told the boy that he could tell a nearby police officer. The police officer that Cassius met that day, would teach Cassius how to box. In six weeks, Cassius won his first fight.



Schwinn Bike

Cassius won many boxing matches, by the age of eighteen. After graduating from high school, he traveled to Rome and won the light heavyweight gold medal in the 1960 **Summer Olympics**.

Cassius' quick, powerful **jabs** and foot speed, and confidence **earned** him the nickname "Louisville Lip."

Before one of his most famous boxing matches against heavyweight champion Sonny Liston, a 22-year-old Cassius promised to "float like a butterfly, sting like a bee." He said that we would win the fight.

Cassius won this fight and was indeed crowned **heavyweight champion** of the world. In the ring after the fight, the new champ roared, "I am the greatest!"

On March 6, 1964, Cassius Clay changed his name to Muhammad Ali.



Muhammad Ali & Malcolm X

The Activist

Muhammad Ali was a **civil rights activist**. He had many of the same beliefs as his friends, like Malcolm X and Martin Luther King, Jr.

Ali spoke out about **injustices** occurring in Black and Brown communities. He also made **goodwill** missions to Afghanistan, North Korea, Cuba, and Iraq.

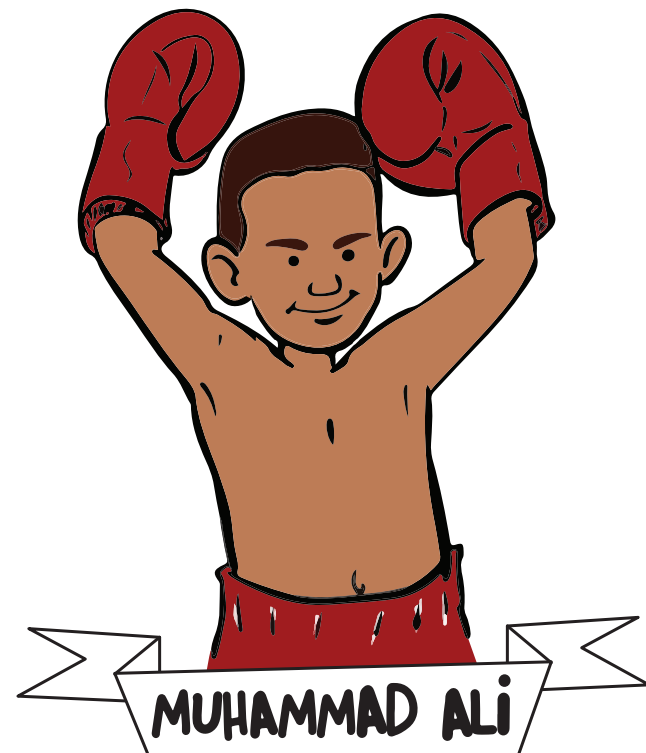
...STING LIKE A BEE

The Greatest

Muhammad Ali compiled a record of 56 wins, including 37 knockouts (KOs), and five losses. Muhammad Ali has appeared on the cover of Sports Illustrated Magazine 38 times, second only to basketball great Michael Jordan.

Ali was honored many times during his boxing career:

- At the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta.
- He was called BBC's "Sporting Personality of the Century."
- He was named "Fighter of the Year" five times by Ring Magazine.
- He was **inducted** into the International Boxing Hall of Fame.
- Sports Illustrated named him "Sportsman of the Century."
- He was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom in a 2005 White House ceremony.
- A \$60 million Muhammad Ali Center, a **nonprofit** museum and cultural center focusing on peace and social responsibility, opened in Louisville, Kentucky.



Muhammad Ali had many other talents, too. He was a singer and actor, appearing in a Broadway musical.

During Muhammad Ali's career, he changed the lives of many people. He also leaves behind a legacy through his nine children, who are authors, musicians, entrepreneurs and **undefeated** professional boxer Laila Ali.

GLOSSARY

Activist: a person who uses or supports strong actions in support of or opposition to one side of an issue.

Civil Rights Activist: known for their fight against social injustice and their lasting impact on the lives of all oppressed people.

Heavyweight Champion: a professional boxer weighing more than 175 pounds (79 kg).

The Summer Olympic Games: first held in 1896, is a major international multi-sport event normally held once every four years.

Jab: a quick, sharp blow, especially with the fist.

Earned: gain deservedly in return for one's behaviour or achievements.

Injustices: lack of fairness or justice.

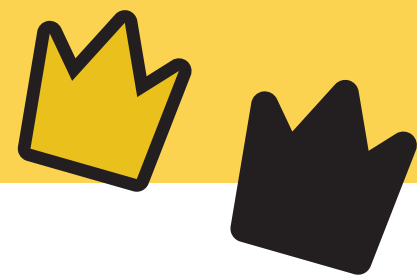
Goodwill: friendly, helpful, or cooperative feelings or attitude.

Inducted: admit (someone) formally to a position or organization.

NonProfit: not making or conducted primarily to make a profit.

Undefeated: not defeated, especially in a battle or other contest.

READ & RESPOND



1. Why did Cassius Clay become a boxer?

Handwriting practice lines for the first question, consisting of multiple sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.

2. Who were some of Muhammad Ali’s friends?

Handwriting practice lines for the second question, consisting of multiple sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.

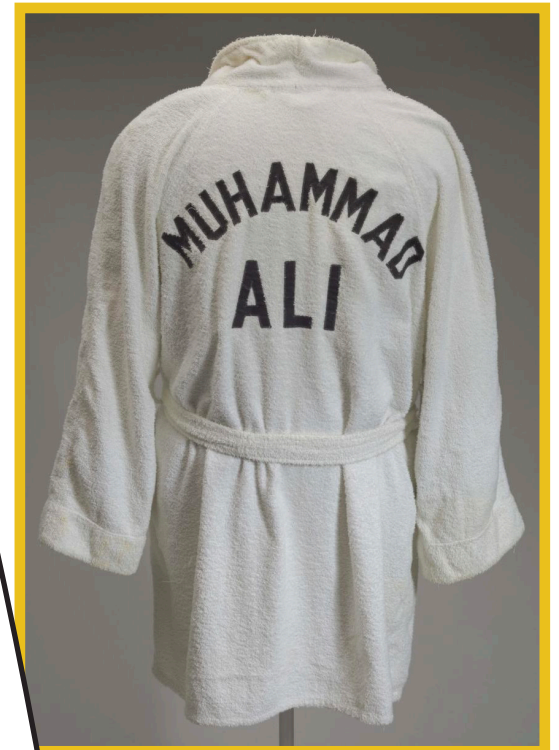
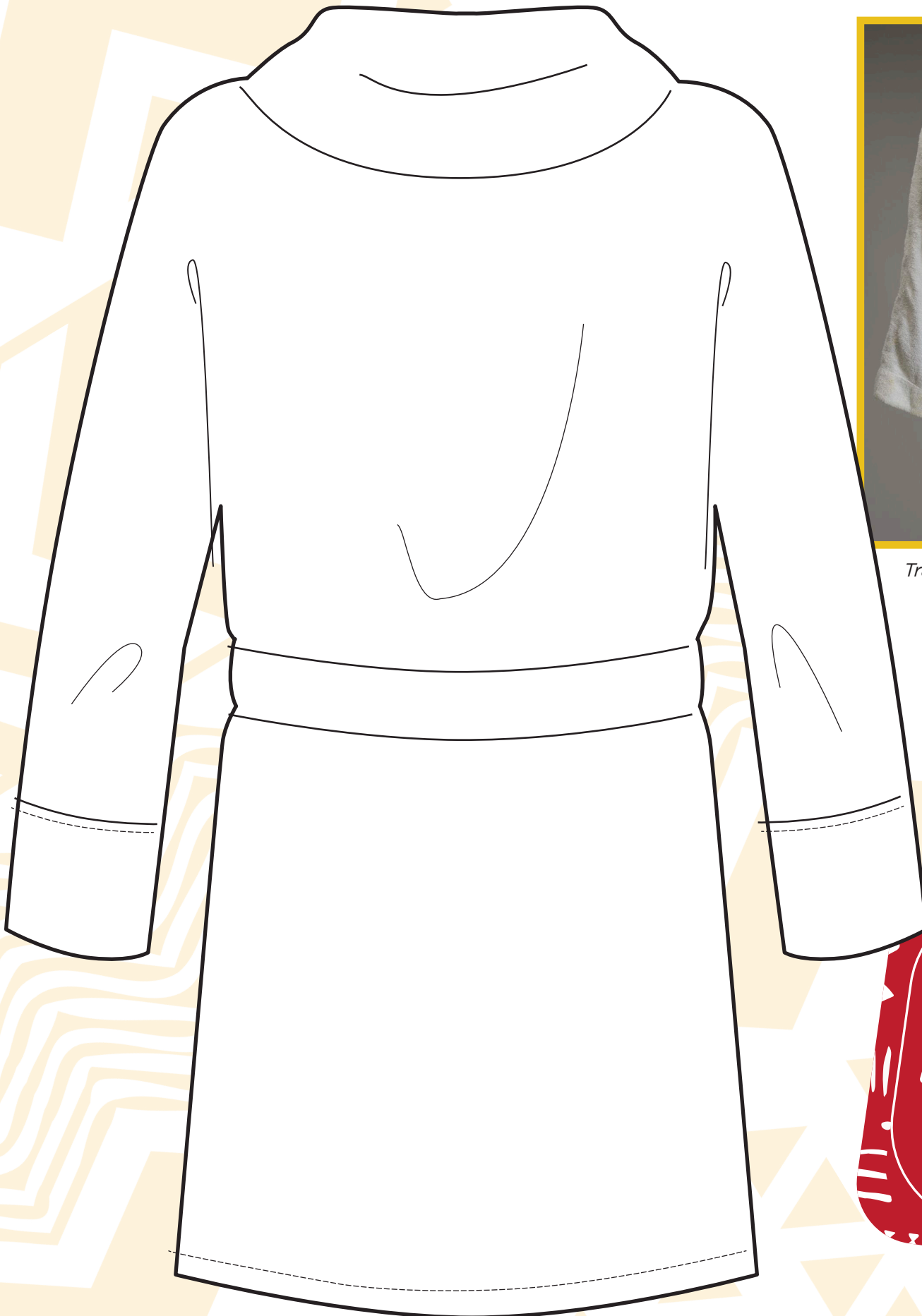
3. Finish the sentence: Muhammad Ali is ‘The Greatest’ because...

Handwriting practice lines for the third question, consisting of multiple sets of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline.



(DIS)ROBE AND DISPEL

DIRECTIONS: Below is an image of a robe that Muhammad Ali wore during his training. This terry cloth robe, with Muhammad Ali's name on the back in large black letters, says something that the world knew: He was simply Muhammad Ali, "The Greatest." Based on what you know about Muhammad Ali, using the things he stood for and his accomplishments, design a robe that would honor Muhammad Ali.


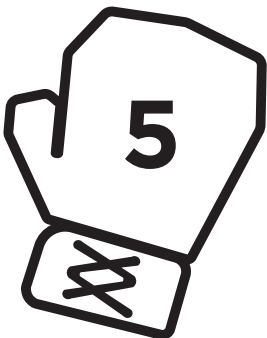




Training robe worn by Muhammad Ali at the 5th Street Gym, 1964







GLOVES ON!



DIRECTIONS: Solve the following math problems.

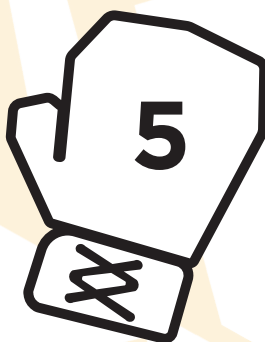
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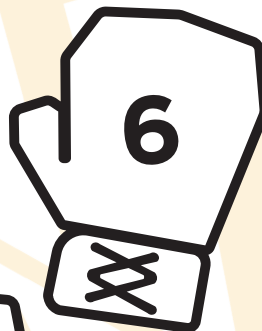
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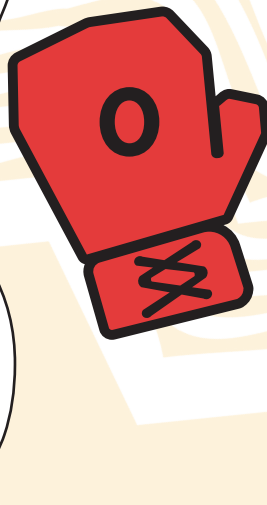

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ANSWERS: 3+5=8 | 1+4=5 | 7+7=14 | 8+3=11 | 4+2=6
7+5=12 | 0+6=6 | 3+6=9

TAKE THE PLEDGE

I WILL HONOR
THE SACRIFICES OF
MY ANCESTORS.

I WILL BELIEVE
IN ME.

I WILL PURSUE
MY DREAMS.

I WILL HELP
OTHERS ALONG
THE WAY.