

TEACHER BACKGROUND INFORMATION THE CRUSHER

This is a fun way to demonstrate what gossip and labels can do to a person's self esteem and how it can destroy lives. NOTE: The teacher must maintain a very serious attitude during the story for it to be effective.

Story: There is a very serious virus that has invaded the country--it does not respect race, religion, sex or financial stature. It is devastating and destroys lives. It has hit our community very hard and it is running out of control in our school. I have a slide (or picture) of this terrible virus that has been enlarged 1000 times so you will be able to see it. We have nicknamed this virus CRUSHER because of its power. (SHOW SLIDE OR PICTURE OF THE CRUSHER--Be very serious.)

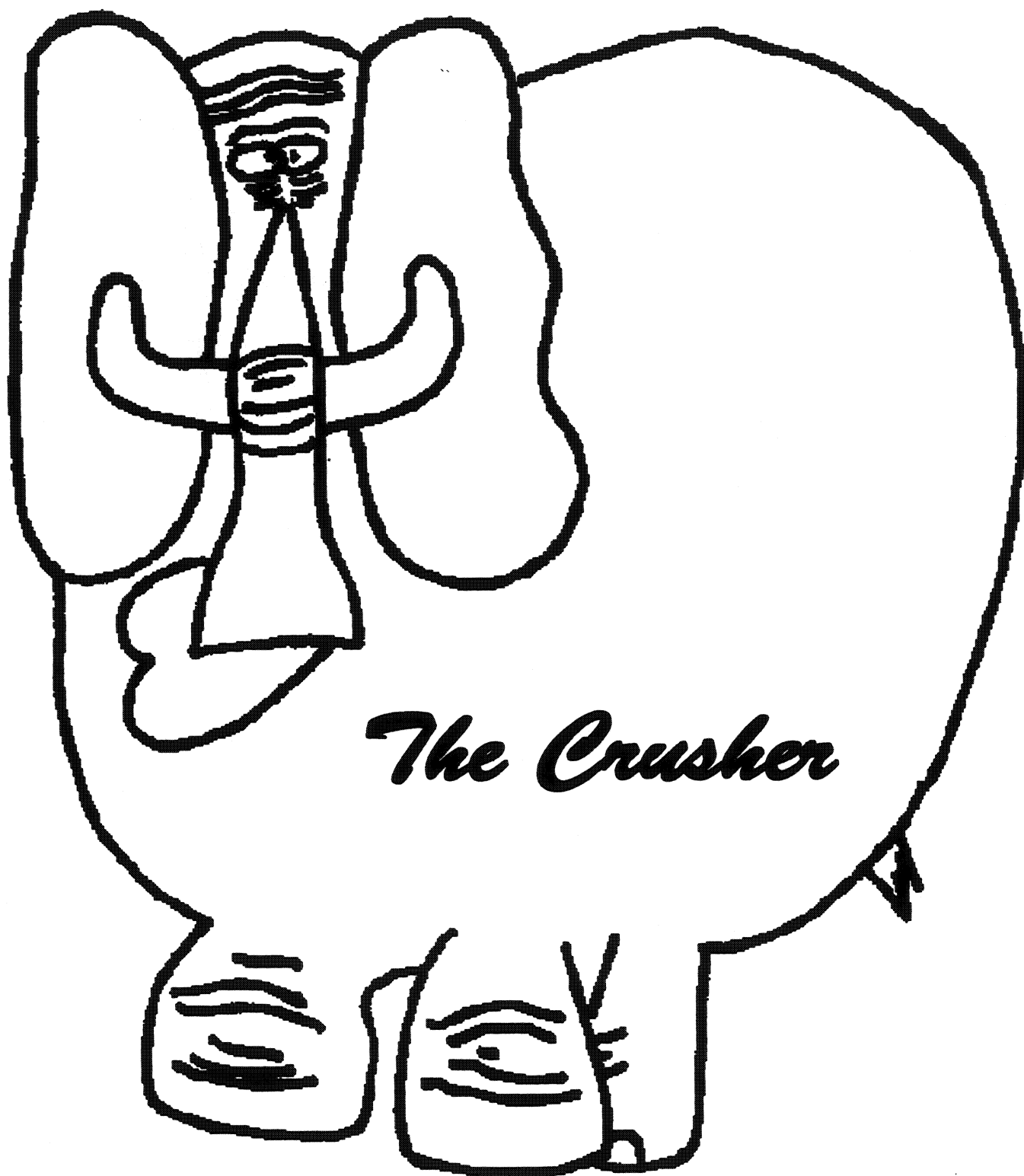
Point out the object in the trunk of the Crusher--a heart. Tell how the Crusher concentrates on the heart, actually tearing it apart, little by little, very painfully. Although the Crusher is dangerous, there is a way to help stop it. I am going to give you something that should help protect you and those around you. This is a "Kill the Crusher Kit" and it should be kept with you at all times. (Pass out the kits and explain each of the items and their use.)

Take out the Q-tips and tell the students that over the years they have accumulated much of the virus (dirt and gossip about people) in their ears. Have them carefully clean their ears. Now that their ears are clean have them take out the cotton balls. Tell students if they hear someone spreading gossip or cutting another person down, they should take out the cotton balls and quickly put them in their ears, stopping the return or build up of the virus. Now have the students take out the tape and tell them that if they are ever tempted to say something bad or untrue about another person, they can tape their mouths. When the impulse to spread a rumor leaves them, then the tape can be removed. The tape can also be used for friends--they may be mad at first but they will thank you later! Last but not least, if and when their self-concept is at an all time low, take out the emergency "Self-Concept" pills--they are labeled "S" for self-concept. Have the students take one of the pills and as they eat it, think of all the things they do well, or the things they like to do. Before long they will start to feel better, and be ready to go out and do battle with the Crusher.

Advise the students to carry extra kits to give their friends who have already been infected by the Crusher. Warn the students to not be victims of the Crusher or allow the Crusher to pass on this deadly virus.

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR ACTIVITY:

- ☐ small plastic zip@lock bags ☐ cotton balls ☐ Q-tips
- ☐ masking tape (rolled onto popsicle sticks) ☐ self-esteem pills (Skittles work best)



**EVERY
CREATURE
COMMUNICATES**

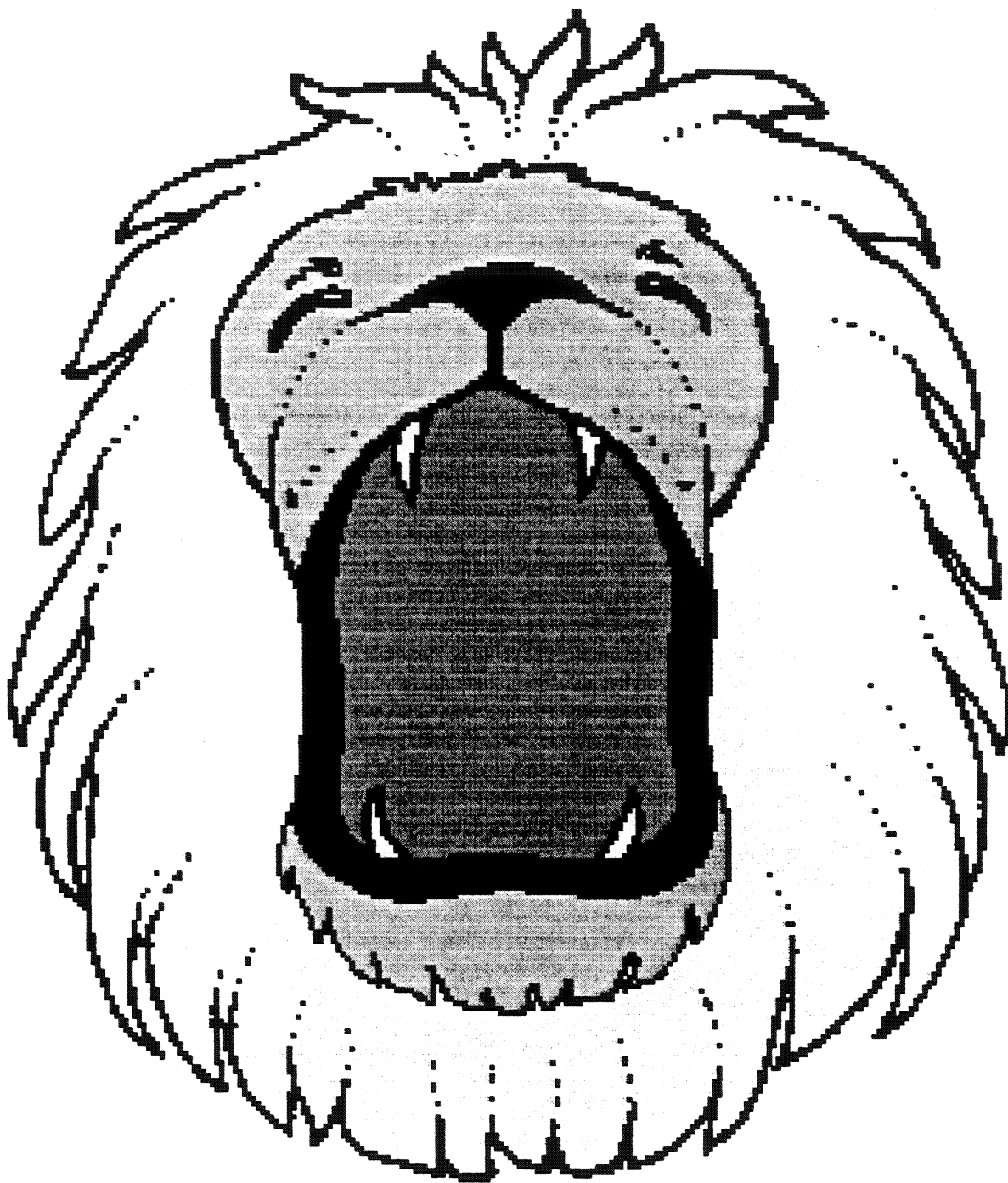
WHAT IS YOUR STYLE?



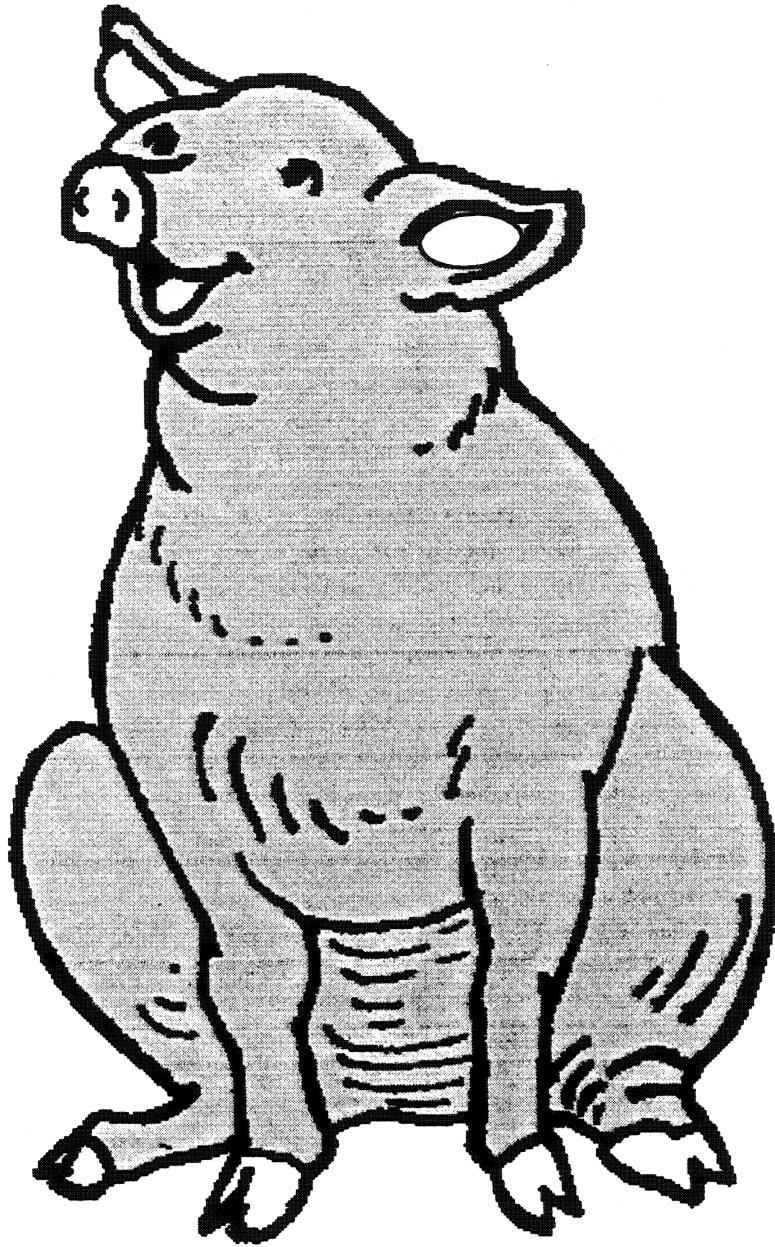
PURR-FECTLY CLEAR?



BARK FREQUENTLY?



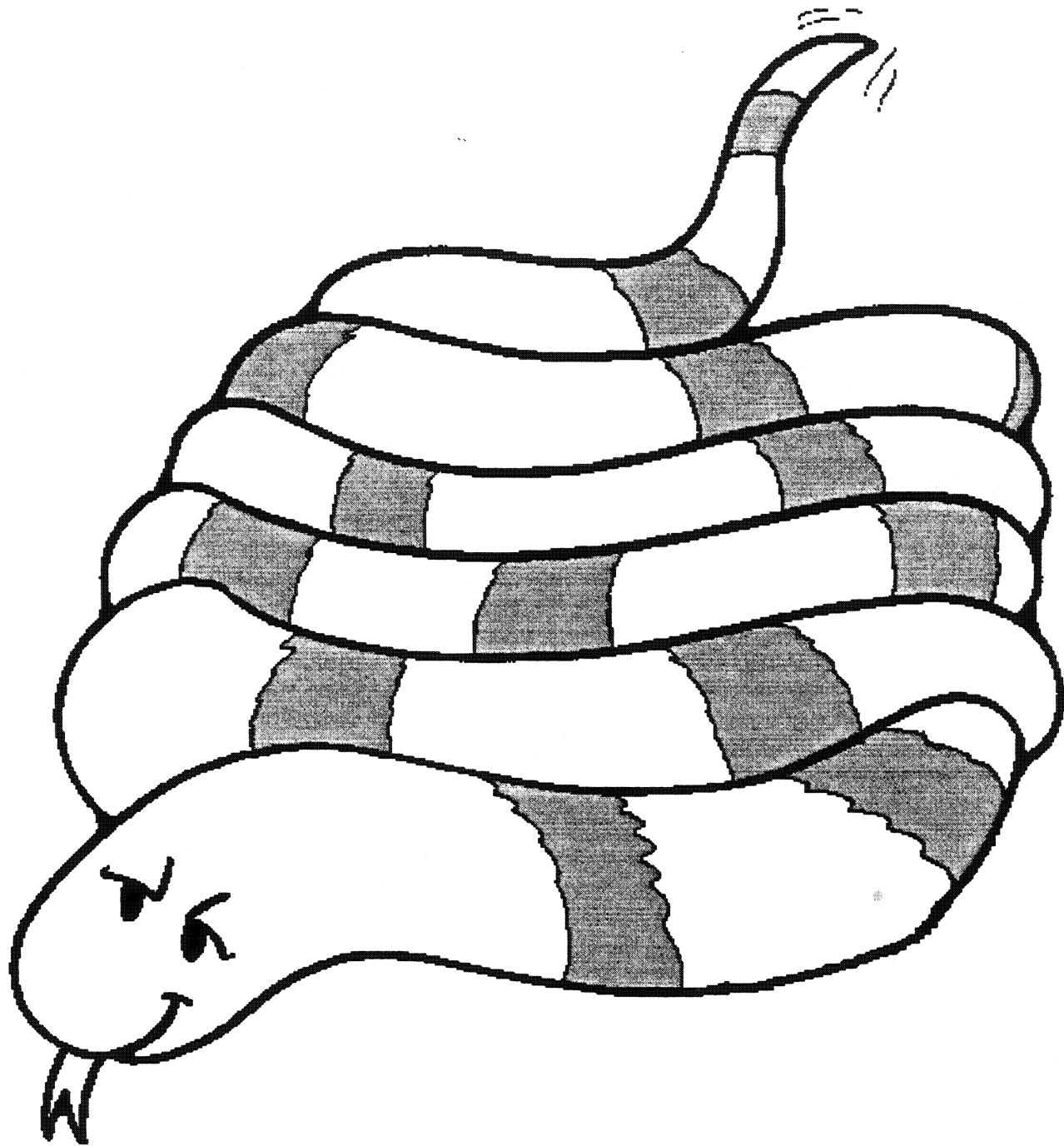
ROAR AT EVERYBODY?



HOG THE CONVERSATION?



**KEEP EVERYONE
AT A DISTANCE?**



HISS AND ATTACK?

