

# a TALE by FIRE



Classroom Worksheets

To Parents and Teachers:

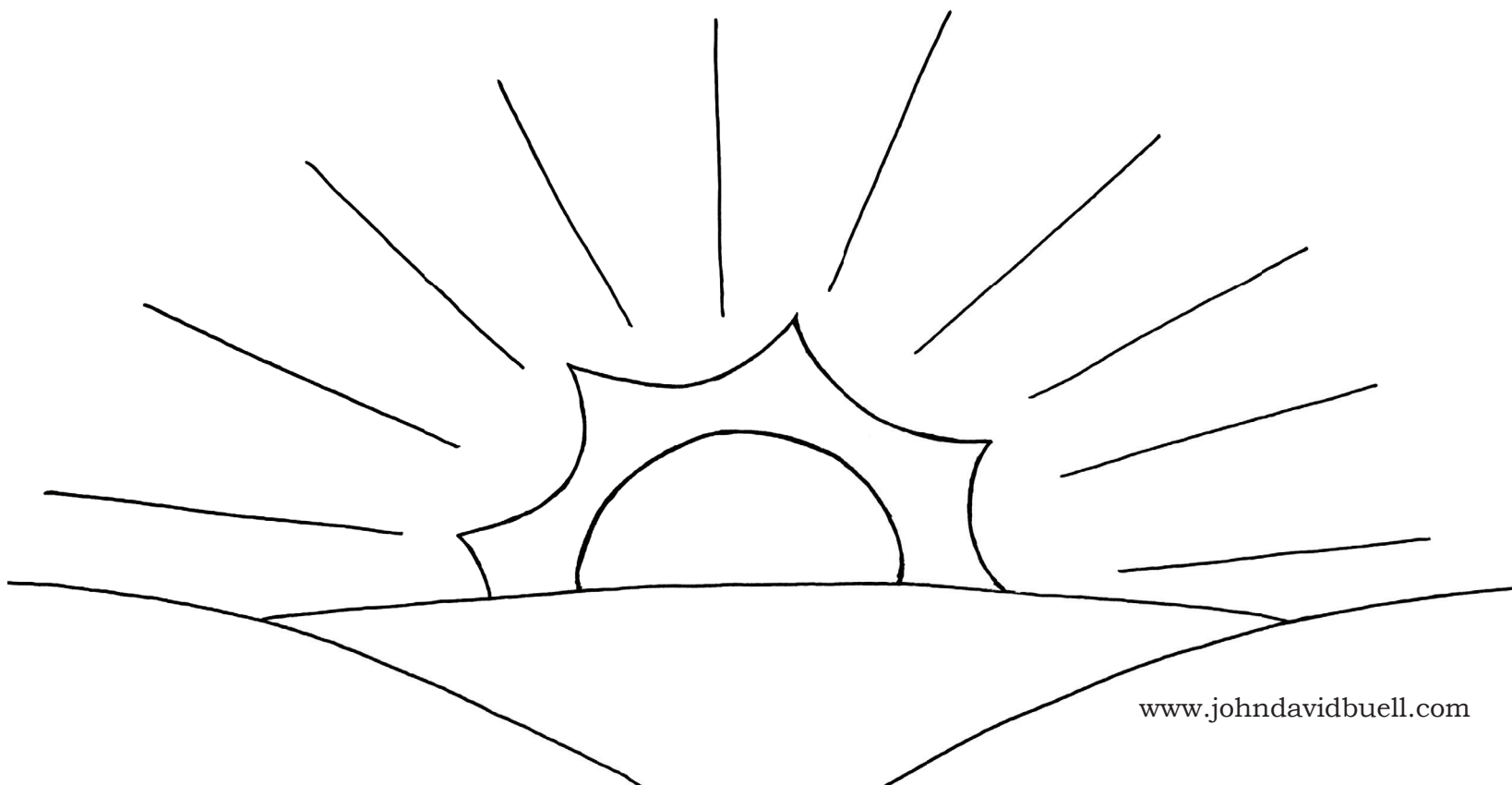
Thank you for downloading this activity book. The worksheets provided here are meant to work together with my picture book, *A Tale by Fire*.

As we follow fire and light across the ages, my hope is that readers begin to connect the grand story of history to their own journeys of personal growth, and that they begin to contemplate fire as a metaphor for their own immense power.

The goal of these pages is to invite deeper reflection, and to get us thinking about ourselves and about the wider world in fresh and innovative ways.

Have a blast - and thank you again!

*J. Buell III*



# DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

What do you think *A Tale by Fire* is really about?



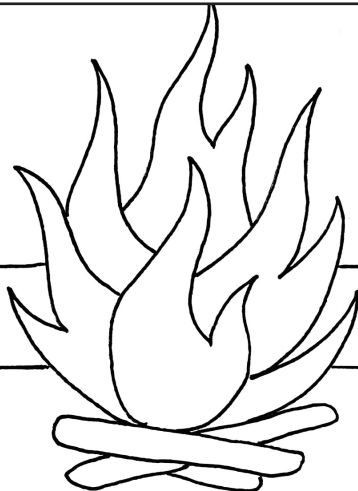
How does “fire” change over the course of the story?



Describe three examples of fire or light from the story. Was the fire/light helping or hurting, and in what way?



What could fire and light represent?



# Discussion Questions

Where does *A Tale by Fire* begin? Where does it end?



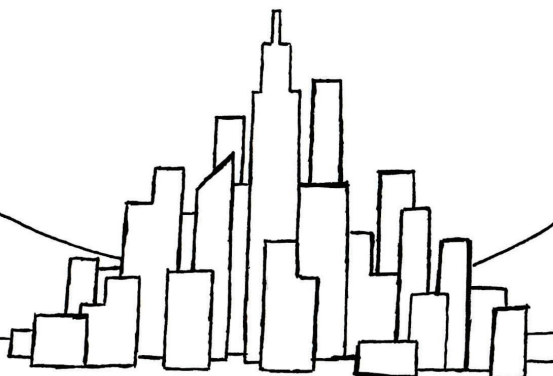
Beginning with the spark, what happens to the story's scale?



Who (or what) is narrating the story?



How can we compare humanity's story to our own personal journey?



# Fire as Power

In *A Tale by Fire*, “fire” is defined loosely: a prehistoric spark, a cityscape’s glow, a rocket’s exhaust, a star’s light.

Across the ages, “fire” has been our tool, our weapon, and our beacon.

**We can choose to see “fire” as a representation of our power.**

It can be gentle, like a candlelight...

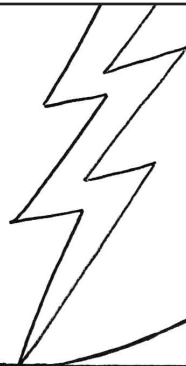
nourishing, like a fireplace...

illuminating, like a lightbulb...

or even dangerous, like a lightning bolt.

**Our power can be used constructively or destructively, carefully or thoughtlessly, to help or to hurt.**

We can be a lighthouse, guiding ships to shore – or we can be a raging wildfire, burning everything in our path.



# Fire as Power

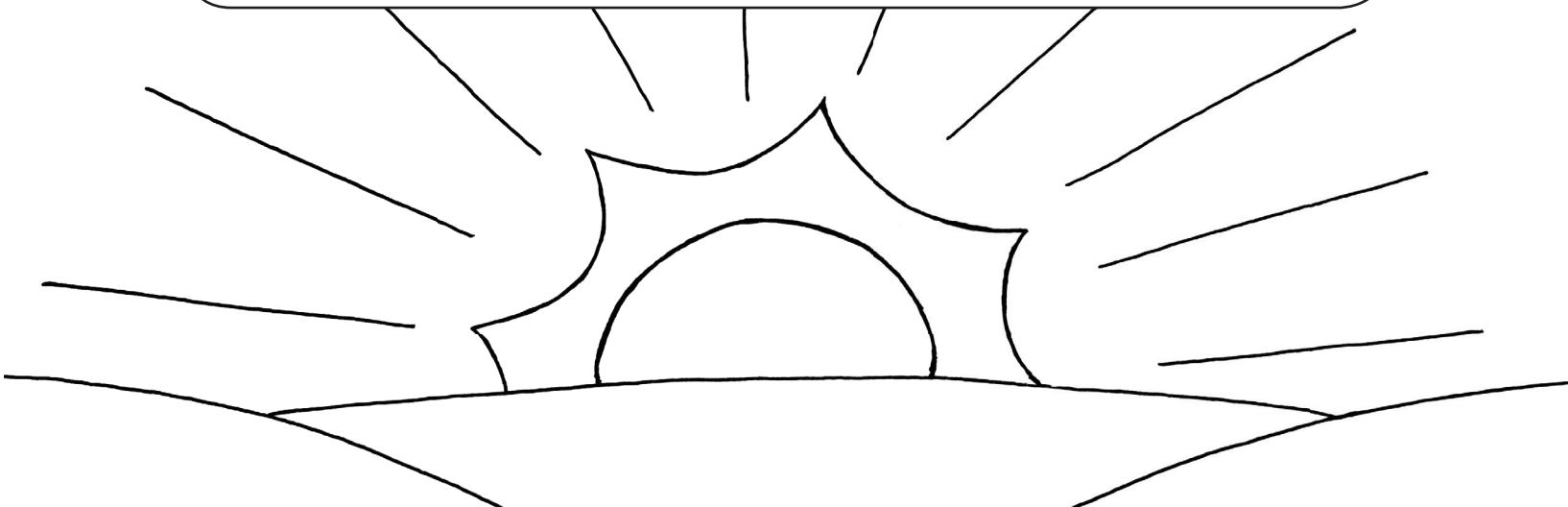
Where in my life have I been a **wildfire**?  
Who or what have I hurt?

Where in my life can I be a **lighthouse**?  
Who or what can I help?

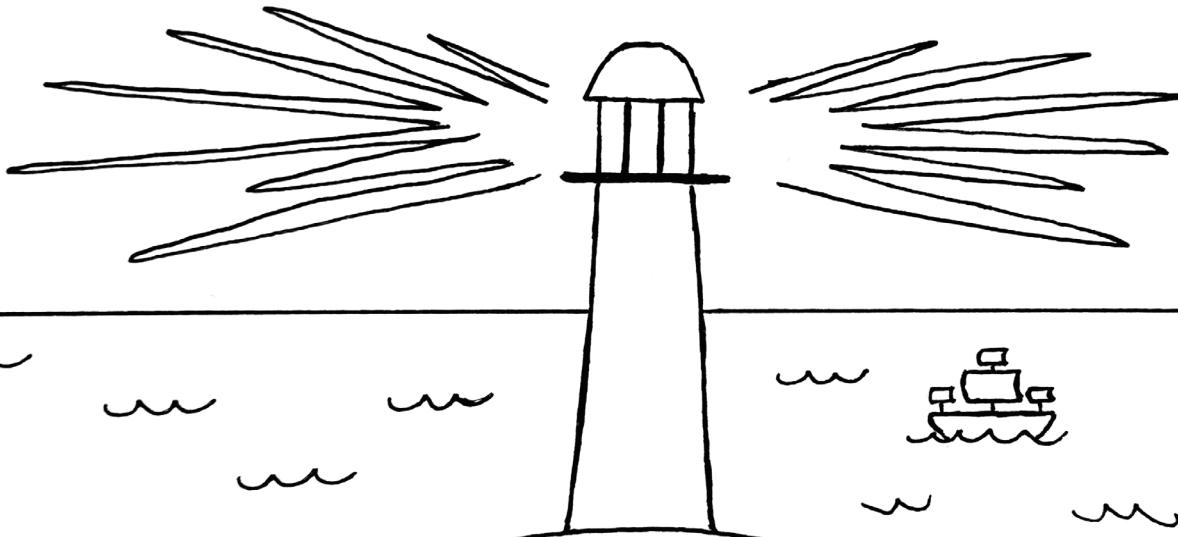
Our power is internal and external, conscious  
and unconscious, individual and collective.

**Moment by moment, it is up to us how we  
choose to use our power.**

How has humanity used its power across history?  
How should it use its power in the ages to come?



# vocabulary



**Match the words on the left  
with their definitions on the right.**

- \_\_\_ 1. reign
- \_\_\_ 2. nurture
- \_\_\_ 3. roam
- \_\_\_ 4. wound
- \_\_\_ 5. beacon
- \_\_\_ 6. limit
- \_\_\_ 7. soar
- \_\_\_ 8. ignite
- \_\_\_ 9. evolve
- \_\_\_ 10. ponder
- \_\_\_ 11. figment
- \_\_\_ 12. gleaming

- a. to fly
- b. a bright signal
- c. boundary or restriction
- d. an imagined thing
- e. to travel aimlessly
- f. shining brightly
- g. to rule
- h. to think about something carefully
- i. to care for
- j. to gradually change and develop
- k. an injury
- l. to catch fire



# Drawing Exercise

Draw an example of fire or light that represents **you** and the impact you wish to have on the world.

A large, empty rectangular area with rounded corners, outlined in black, intended for drawing. It occupies the majority of the page below the instructions.





*“There is a fire in each of us, just waiting to be ignited...  
and when we choose to shine, we can illuminate the world.”*

-John David Buell