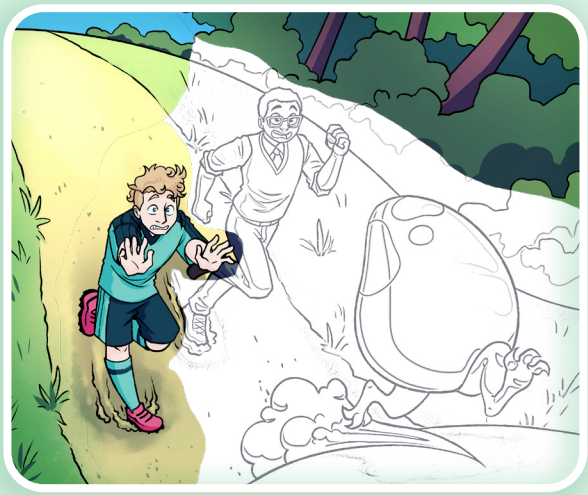
RUNAWAY EGG

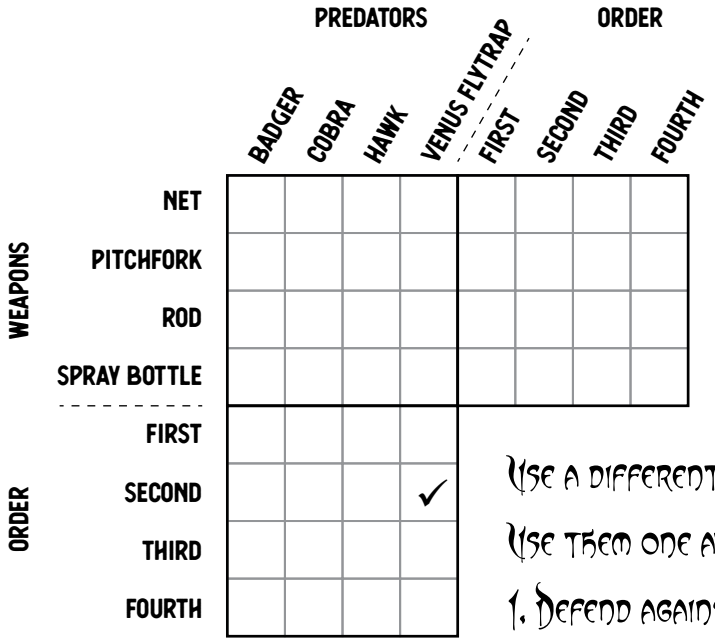


Jojo and Connor were so winded, they weren't trying to speak anymore as they crashed through the undergrowth, racing between the trees after the golden egg. The egg ran quickly and sometimes disappeared for seconds, but the boys always managed to catch another glimpse of its shiny metallic shell.

"Close... the... gap!" panted Jojo. Connor nodded, and the boys gave it their all. "Almost... there!" said Connor. The egg was just ahead. Then it darted out into a clearing and seemed to vanish in the bright sun. There was a shriek and a hiss and the sound of snapping jaws.

Blinking, Connor and Jojo emerged from the woods. The egg had stopped cold. Around it were four predators. Not thinking, Connor jumped in front of the egg, waving his hands. Then he said, "Uh, Jojo, a little help?" The other boy seemed to be talking to the trees.

Right in front of Jojo, the grass peeled back like a carpet, revealing four weapons lying in the earth: a Pitchfork, a Spray bottle, a Rod, and a Net on a pole. "You're the best," Connor hollered, still waving his hands. "Toss me one of those!" Jojo leaned over the dirt and murmured, "Which weapon do we use against what? And when? There's a Cobra, a Hawk, a Venus flytrap, and a Badger." The dirt trembled as earthworms emerged, arranging themselves into wriggling letters.



IN THE GRID ABOVE, USE CHECKMARKS TO SHOW WHAT GOES WITH WHAT. CROSS OUT POSSIBILITIES USING X'S.

HINT: CLUE #1 TELLS YOU TO DEFEND AGAINST THE VENUS FLYTRAP SECOND. THAT'S WHY THE CHECKMARK IS THERE. ALSO NOTICE THAT YOU NOW KNOW A LOT MORE: NO *OTHER* PREDATOR GOES SECOND, AND THE VENUS FLYTRAP IS *NOT* FIRST, THIRD, OR FOURTH! SHOW ALL THIS WITH X'S.

The Words of the Earthworms:

Use a different weapon against each predator.

Use them one at a time, in a particular order.

1. Defend against the Venus flytrap second.
2. Don't use the Rod fourth.
3. Defend against the Badger third.
4. Use the Spray bottle against the Hawk.
5. Don't use the Pitchfork third.
6. Use the Net first.
7. Don't use the Pitchfork against the Cobra.