

Groupworld: A group imagination activity to promote group cooperation and compromise

Here is a fun, challenging activity to promote group cooperation skills. It is derived from an idea I found in a book years ago (see next page). I have provided you with print-outs to help structure the activity. This activity works well for ages 7 and up.

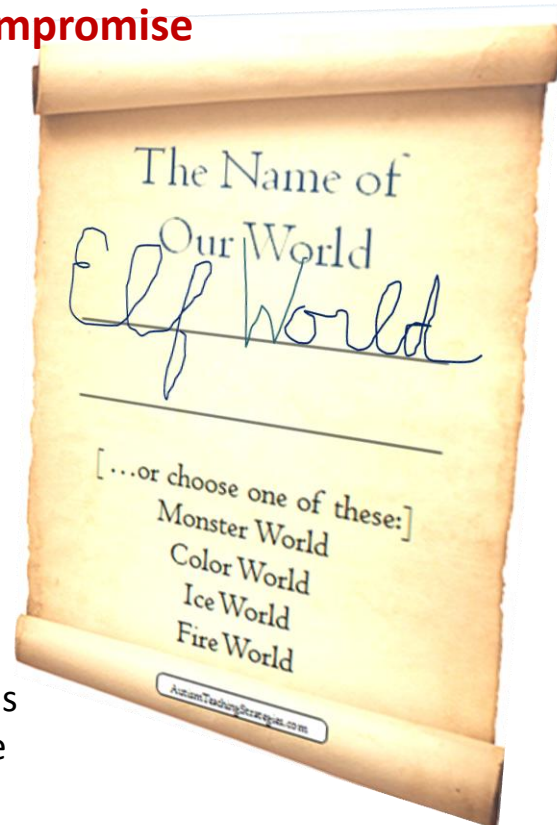
Many children have very rich lives of imagination. Children with ASD's often have involved fantasy worlds – worlds they mainly keep to themselves. The Groupworld activity is designed to make imagination more interactive by having children work together to invent a world of their own together.

Here is some language you may consider using to introduce the activity:

"We are doing The Groupworld activity. You all have great imaginations, but you are used to using your imagination all by yourself. In the Groupworld activity, you will have to combine your ideas with the other people here to make a world that has not just your own ideas in it, but everybody else's ideas as well.

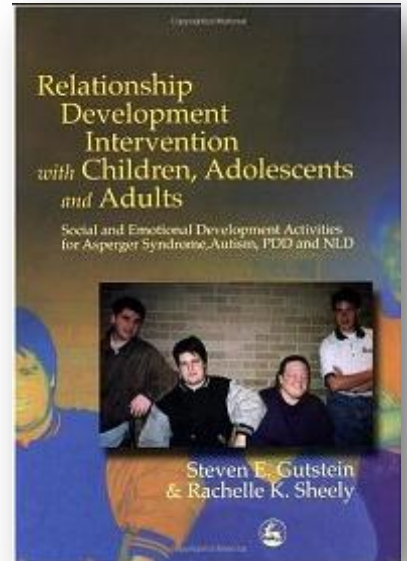
This will be fun, but it will also be hard. People naturally like their own ideas. It takes effort, and practice, to mix your ideas with other people's ideas and not get into arguments."

[Here you might want to demonstrate, using another adult in the room perhaps, what cooperative language and behavior looks like. Go over the pages *Talk Like This* and *Don't Talk Like This*. Keep these pages nearby to use as written prompts as you proceed.]



Suggestions:

- You, the adult, can act as the “scribe” and record keeper.
- Group participants, depending on age and temperament, may require a little help or quite a lot.
- If group members have intractable arguments, you can allow them to create separate “continents” on the world. Then you can introduce collaborative content later by having the group members “visit” each others’ continents.



This group activity, and many other good ones, can be found in this book.

Extension Activities involving drawing

Three pages are included at the end for drawing pictures.

To create a collaborative drawing, get a very large sheet of paper and tape it down to a large table. Have the group members draw their world together. Work with them carefully to negotiate space, working area and content.

~ Joel Shaul, LCSW

Joel Shaul provides workshops nationwide.

To learn more, click [HERE](#)

Groupworld

A Shared Imagination Activity

Names of World Inventors:

Rules:

1. All the Groupworld Inventors are equal.
2. Groupworld ideas must be *original*. That means you cannot borrow the ideas from TV, movies, books, video games, etc.
3. Groupworld Inventors must listen, cooperate and collaborate. The adult with you will explain.
4. Groupworld Inventors must use the Suggestion Language shown on the next two pages.

Talk Like This:

- ★ “I have an idea.”
- ★ “Can I make a suggestion?”
- ★ “What would you think if we...”
- ★ “How about if...”
- ★ “What do you think?”
- ★ “That’s an interesting idea.”
- ★ “Let me think about that.”
- ★ “I like your idea.”

Don't Talk Like This!!!

- ☆ “No, not that!”
- ☆ “We’re doing it this way.”
- ☆ “Listen to me!!!”
- ☆ “That’s a bad idea.”
- ☆ “Forget about it!”
- ☆ “I quit!”
- ☆ “No way!”

The Name of Our World

[...or choose one of these:]

Monster World

Color World

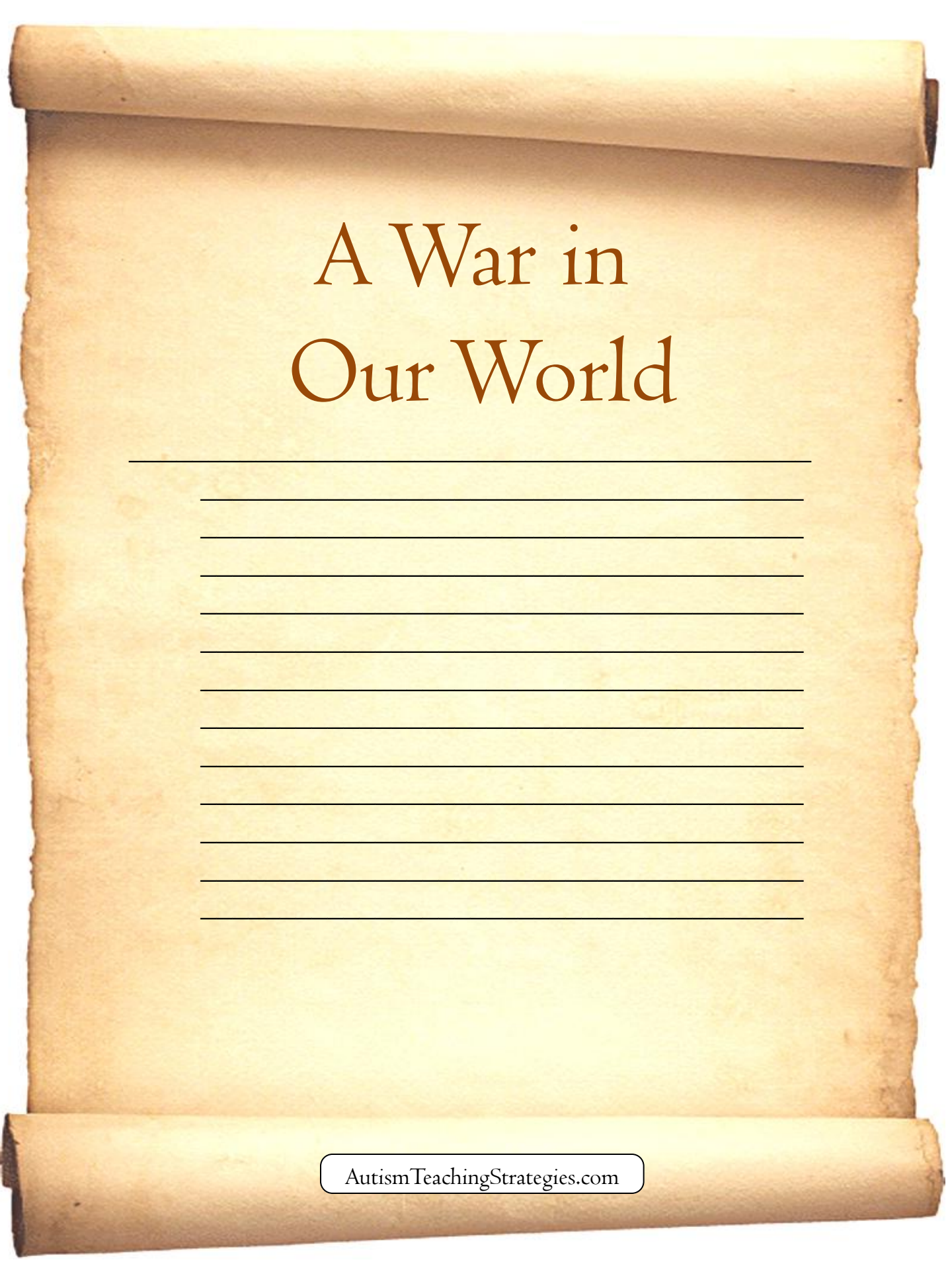
Ice World

Fire World

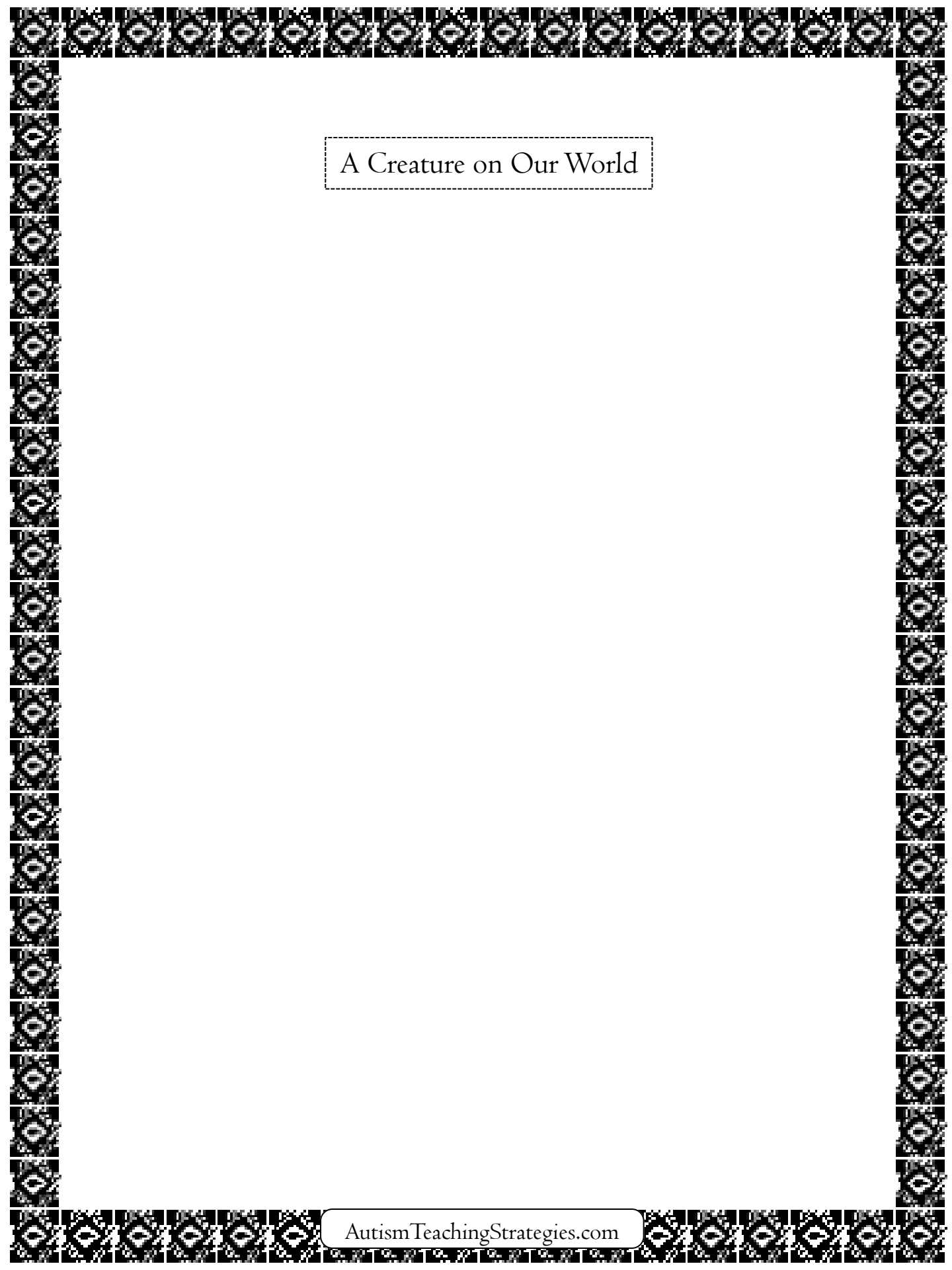
Creatures Living In Our World

Plants Living In Our World

Heroes and Villains in Our World

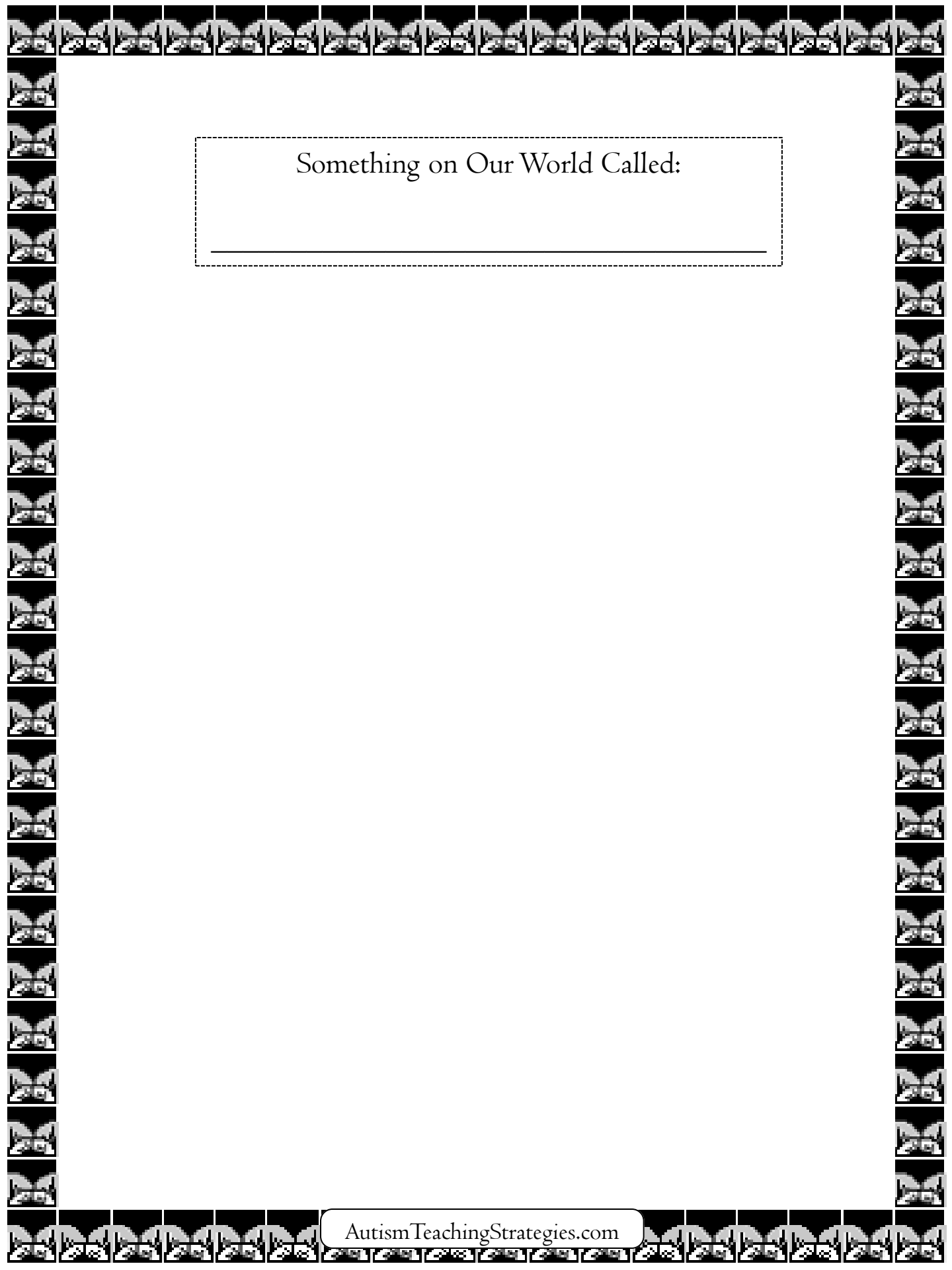
The image depicts a scroll of aged parchment paper. The top edge is rolled up, and the bottom edge is also rolled up. The paper has a yellowish-tan hue with some texture and slight discoloration. In the center, the title "A War in Our World" is written in a large, brown, serif font. Below the title, there are thirteen horizontal ruled lines for writing, starting with a line that is slightly longer than the others and extending across the width of the page.

A War in Our World



A Creature on Our World

Plants on Our World



Something on Our World Called:
