

# Little Night Flyers



**WHERE TINY WINGS**

**SPARK BIG IMAGINATIONS**



Petals & Play Thursday  
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# Dear Families & Friends,

Thank you for joining our **Little Night Flyers** adventure! We're thrilled to share this special collection of bat-themed crafts and activities crafted just for young children (ages 2–6). Through creative projects like marble-paint bats, build-a-bat collages, tracing templates, movement games, and sensory storytelling, we invite curious little minds to explore the world of bats through playful discovery.

But these aren't just fun crafts—there's purpose behind the play:

## Why Bats Matter

- Natural pest controllers: Bats eat countless insects nightly, including crop pests. This reduces the need for pesticides and supports our food systems.
- Pollinators and seed dispersers: Many plants—from bananas and avocados to agave (think tequila and mezcal)—depend on bats to pollinate flowers and spread seeds.
- Ecosystem health indicators: Bats often thrive only in balanced, healthy ecosystems, making them valuable signs of environmental well-being.
- Supporting biodiversity: Some cave ecosystems rely on bat guano (droppings) to sustain entire communities of cave-dwelling creatures.

## Our Goals with This Activity Pack

- Inspire wonder—let kids discover bats as fascinating, gentle creatures rather than spooky stereotypes.
- Nurture environmental care—by engaging in bat-themed play, children begin to learn that every creature has a role in keeping our world balanced.
- Support bat conservation—activities like building (even pretend) bat houses and sharing facts can spark real action in protecting bats.

We hope these activities spark giggles, creativity, and maybe even the first seeds of conservation in your little explorers. Enjoy crafting, imagining, and celebrating these incredible nighttime friends!

**Craft, flutter, and discover the magic of bats!**

with fluttering wonder,  
the gro 🍌 academy  
team

# LITTLE NIGHT FLYERS

🦇 **International Bat Night: Flutter & Fly Under Moonlit Skies!** 🌙✨ Leap into a swirl of moonlit magic! ✨ With echo-play that sparks giggles and tactile, bat-themed crafts that invite curious fingers, this collection brings movement, storytelling, and sensory thrills together in one nocturnal adventure. Little explorers will flap their imaginary wings, click like bats to explore sound, and create cozy, bat-inspired art—learning through play in motion, language, creativity, and discovery. Perfect for classroom snug times or after-dark fun at home!

## Marble-Paint Bat Craft

Ages 3-6 (with supervision)

### Materials:

- Printable bat template (below)
- Washable black paint & marbles
- Shallow box, glue, googly eyes, cardstock
- Child-safe scissors, wipes

### Instructions:

1. Print bat templates.
2. Help your child cut out the bat shape.
3. Pour paint into a bowl, dip a marble in it, and roll within the box over the bat for a fun speckled effect.
4. Once dry, glue on googly eyes.
5. Display their marble-painted bat proudly!

### Targets WMELS Domains:

- Approaches to Learning - creativity
- Health & Physical Development - fine motor skills

# Bat Movement & Echolocation Game

Ages 2-6

## Materials:

- No special tools needed

## Instructions:

1. Let kids flutter their arms like wings.
2. Teach them to “click” gently—imitating echolocation.
3. For older or more adventurous kids, play a gentle “blind bat” version where one child (blindfolded) follows soft clicks to find a helper—always under close supervision.

## Targets WMELS Domains:

- Health and Physical Development - gross motor skills
- Social and Emotional Development - turn-taking, self-awareness

# Bat Story & Sensory Bin

Ages 2-6

## Materials:

- Bin, dark-colored fillers (e.g., shredded paper, cotton balls), small toys

## Instructions:

1. Set up a “nighttime” sensory bin with dark materials and tiny bat toys or cutouts.
2. Read *Stellaluna* or another bat-themed book while letting children explore the bin under soft light.

## Targets WMELS Domains:

- Language Development and Communication - listening, understanding
- Cognition and General Knowledge - sensory exploration
- Social and Emotional Development - emotional understanding through stories

# Paper Plate Bat Craft (“It Flies!”)

Age 6 & Under

## Materials:

- 1 small paper plate
- Paint or crayons (preferably black or dark tones)
- Bat wings and facial features printable or cutouts
- Scissors (child-safe)
- Glue (white craft glue or glue stick)
- String (optional, for flying effect)
- Craft stick (optional, for puppet use)

## Instructions:

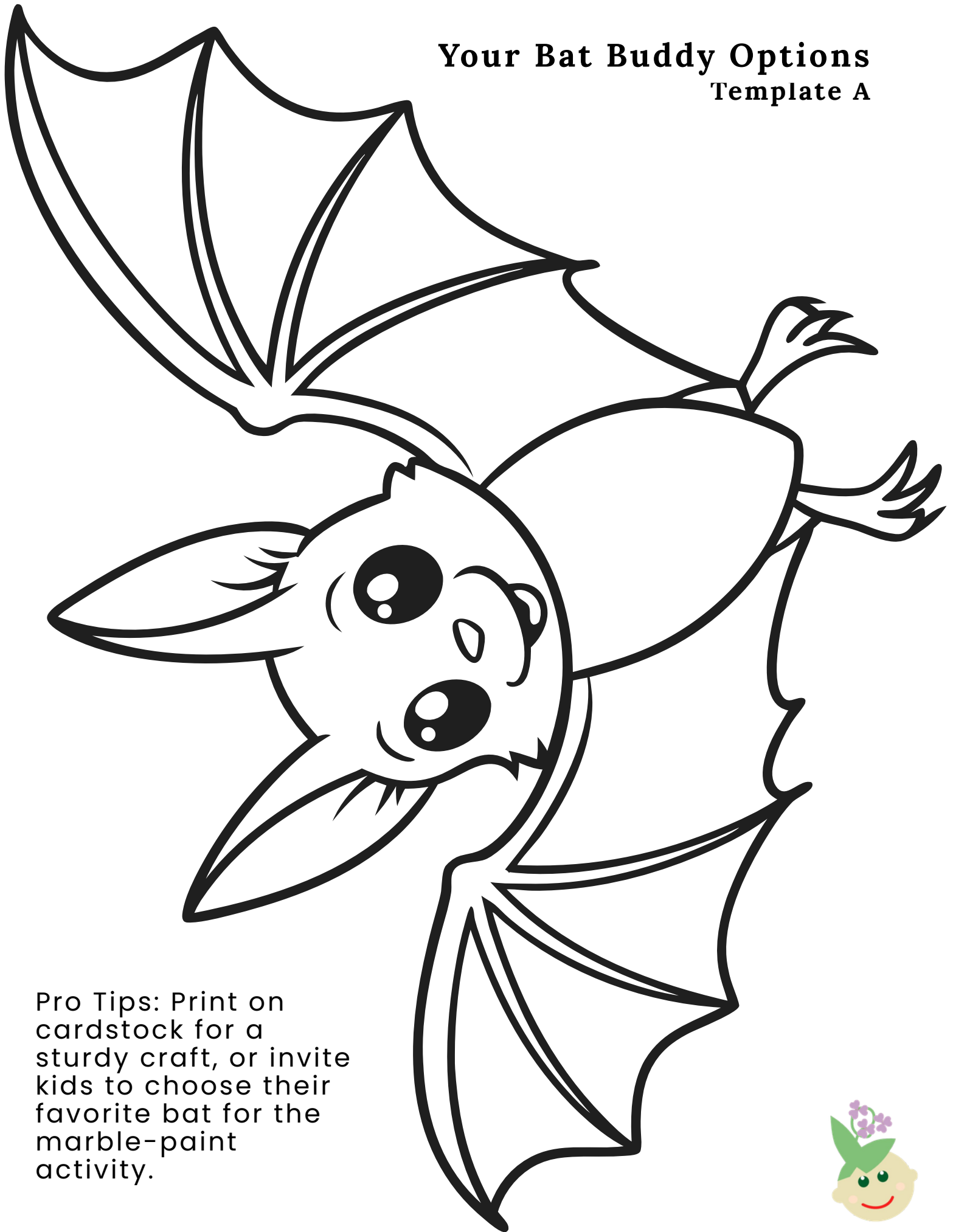
1. Color the Plate: Help children color or paint one side of the plate. Let it dry completely.
2. Prepare Bat Features: While drying, cut out printable bat wings and facial elements—or use simple black paper shapes.
3. Assemble: Glue the wings to the back of the plate and attach eyes, mouth, and ears to create a friendly bat face.
4. Add Movement (Optional): For a fun twist, attach a string so kids can make the wings flap by pulling it, or glue a craft stick to the back to turn the bat into a puppet.
5. Display & Play: Use the finished bat as a puppet, swing it from ceilings, or place it as a fun wall decoration!

## Targets WMELS Domains:

- Health & Physical Development - Builds fine motor skills through coloring, cutting, and gluing; may also engage gross motor coordination if kids flap the bat or use it as a puppet.
- Approaches to Learning - Encourages creativity, experimentation, and problem-solving as children design and assemble their bat craft.
- Cognition and General Knowledge - Supports sensory exploration and early understanding of cause and effect (e.g., adding string allows the wings to flap).

# Your Bat Buddy Options

## Template A



Pro Tips: Print on cardstock for a sturdy craft, or invite kids to choose their favorite bat for the marble-paint activity.



Template B



Template C



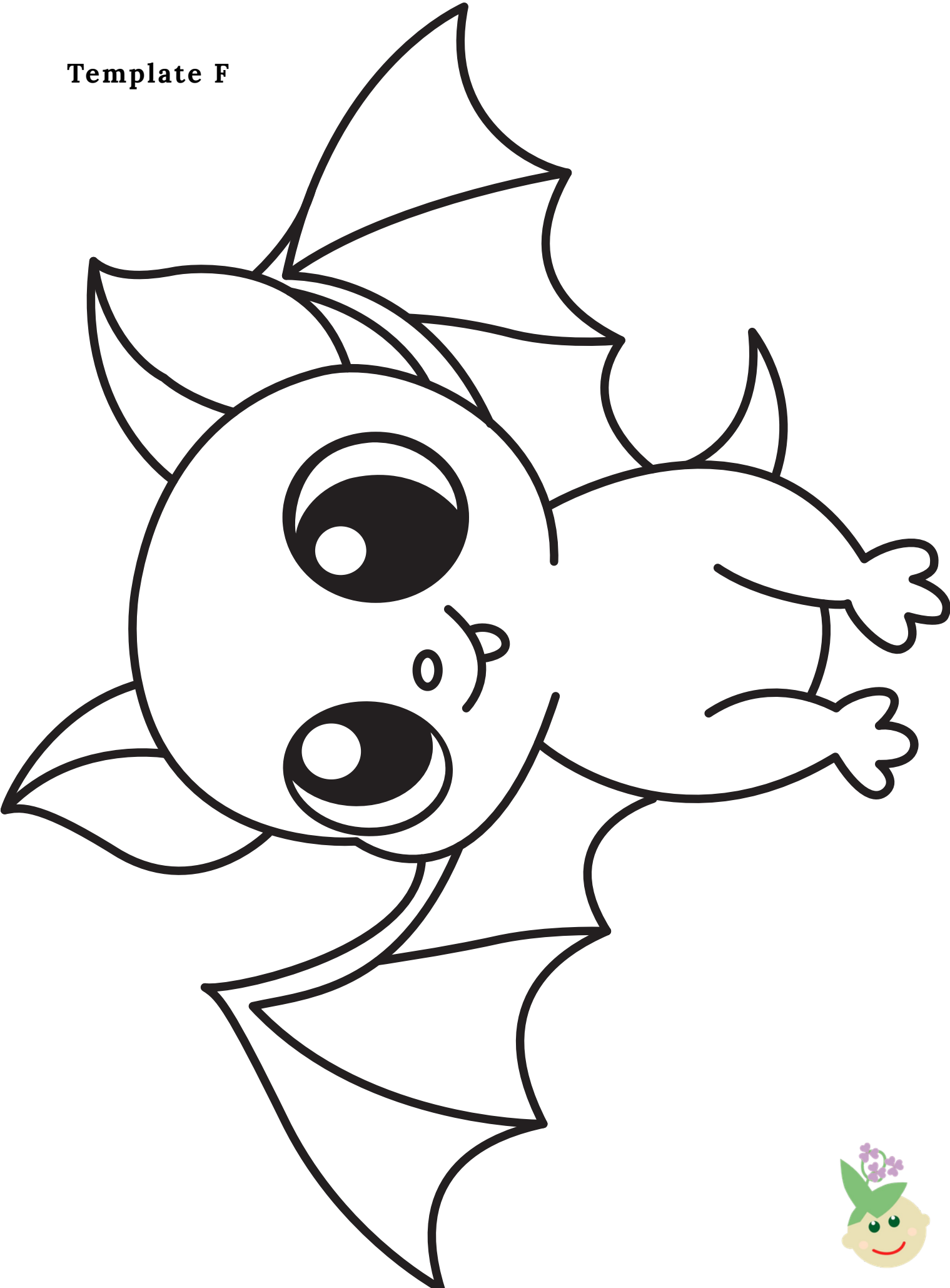
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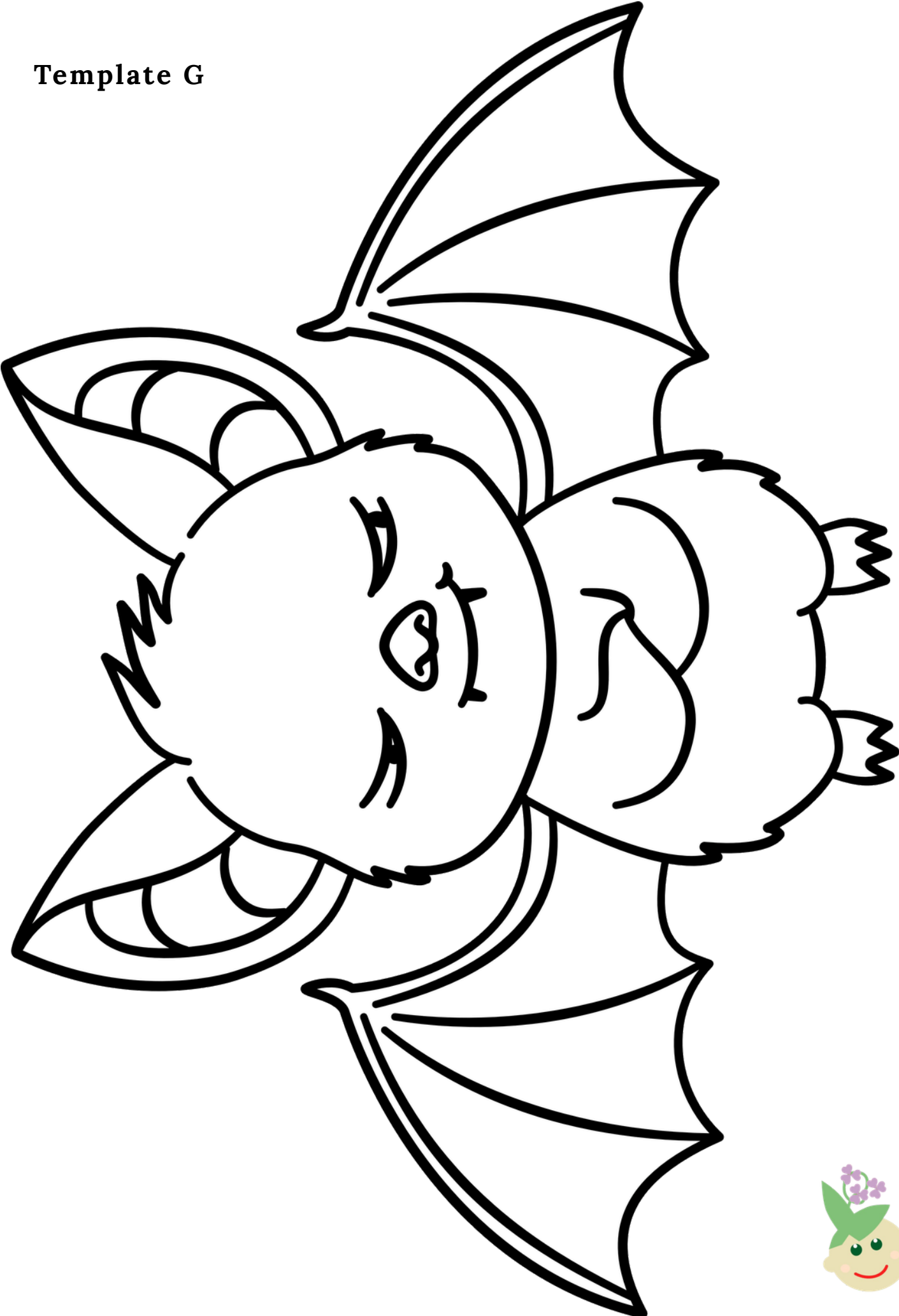
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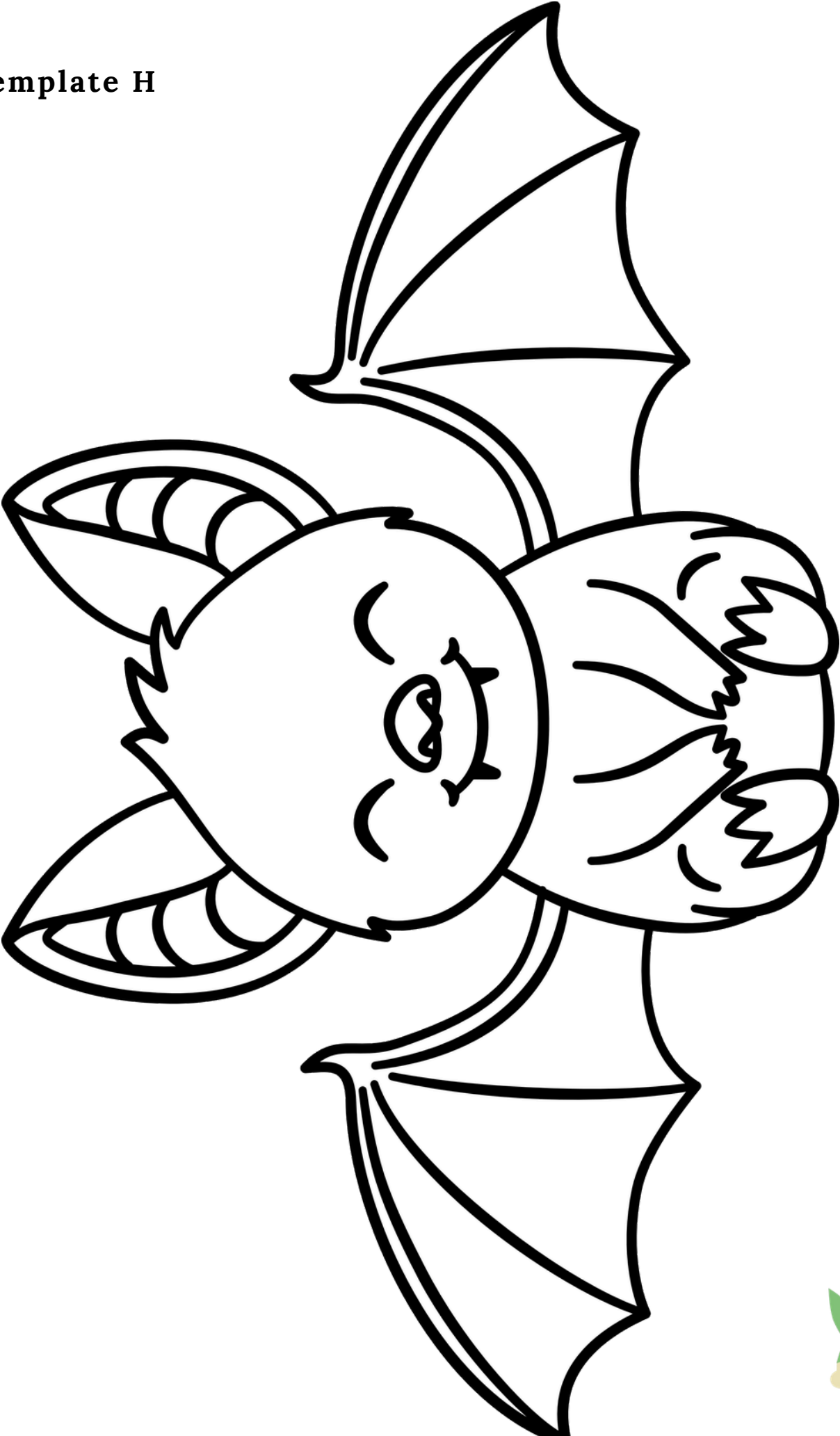
Template F



Template G



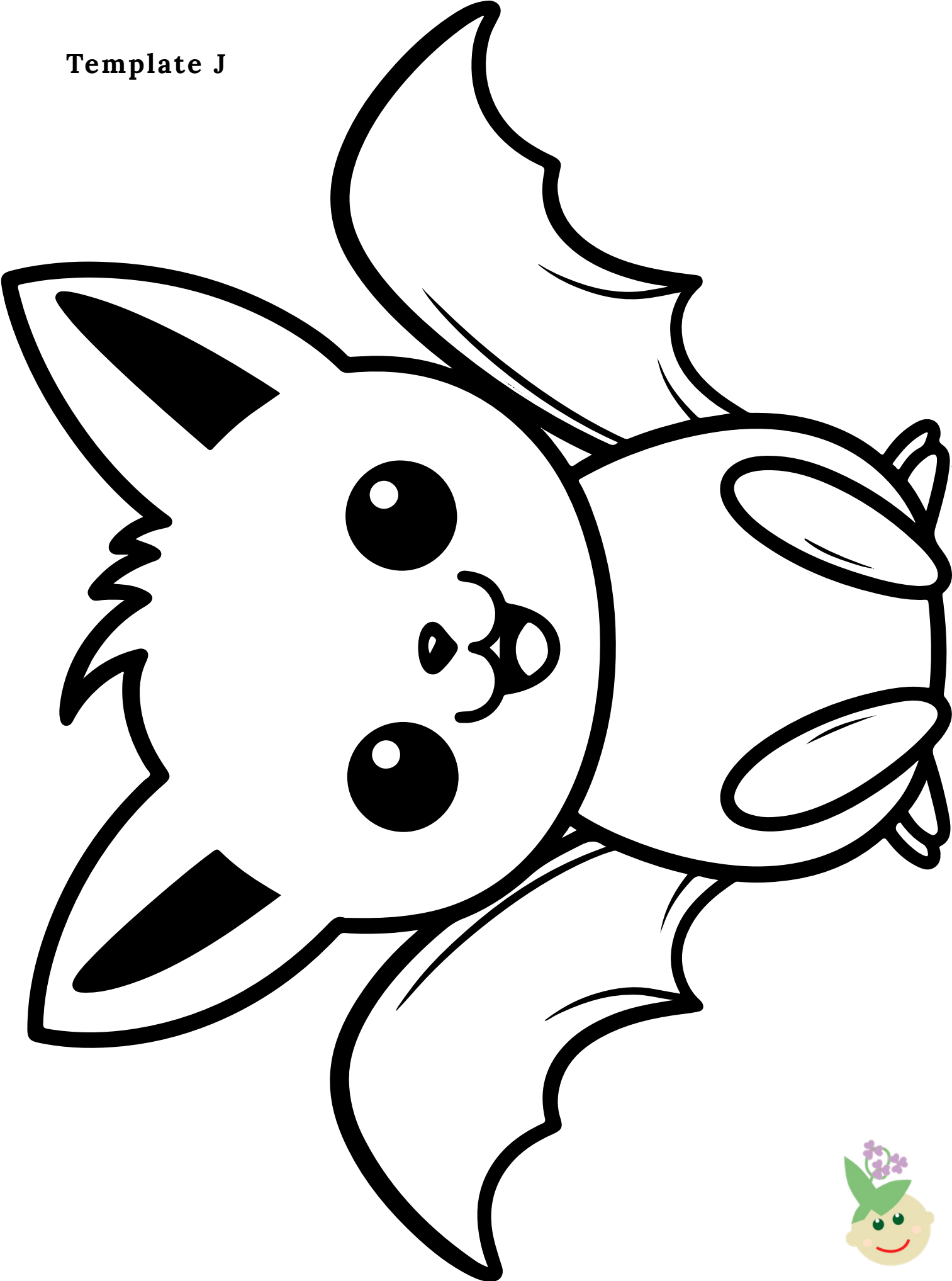
Template H



Template I



Template J



Template K

