

The following are selected excerpts from the poem "Goliath of Gath" by Phillis Wheatley. The poem appeared in Poems on Various Subjects, Religious and Moral, which was published September 1, 1773. You can read the [full text of the poem and the digitized book](#), but please note that portions of the poem are very descriptive and not appropriate for all readers.

Now front to front the armies
were display'd,
Here Israel rang'd, and there the
foes array'd;
The hosts on two opposing
mountains stood,
Thick as the foliage of the
waving wood;
When from the camp of the
Philistine foes,
Dreadful to view, a mighty warrior
rose;
In the dire deeds of bleeding
battle skill'd,
The monster stalks the
terror of the field.
From Gath he sprung,
Goliath was his name,



Of fierce deportment, and
gigantic frame:

Through Jacob's race a chilling
horror ran,

When thus the huge, enormous
chief began:

"Say, what the cause that in this
proud array

You set your battle in the face
of day?

One hero find in all your vaunting
train,

Then see who loses, and who wins
the plain;

For he who wins, in triumph may
demand

Perpetual service from the
vanquish'd land:

Your armies I defy, your force
despise,

By far inferior in Philistia's eyes:
Produce a man, and let us try the
fight,
Decide the contest, and the
victor's right."
Thus challeng'd he: all Israel stood
amaz'd,
And ev'ry chief in consternation
gaz'd;
But Jesse's son in youthful bloom
appears,
And warlike courage far beyond
his years:
He left the folds, he left
the flow'ry meads,
And soft recesses of the
sylvan shades.
Then Jesse's youngest
hope: "My brethren say,
What shall be done for



him who takes away
Reproach from Jacob, who
destroys the chief,
And puts a period to his country's
grief.

He vaunts the honours of his arms
abroad,
And scorns the armies of the
living God."

Before the monarch dauntless he
began,

"For this Philistine fail no heart of
man:

I'll take the vale, and with the
giant fight:

I dread not all his boasts, nor all
his might."

When David thus: "I kept the
fleecy care,

And out there rush'd a lion and a

bear;

A tender lamb

the hungry lion took,

And with no other

weapon than my crook

Bold I pursu'd, and chas'd him o'er
the field,

The prey deliver'd, and the felon
kill'd:

As thus the lion and the bear I
slew,

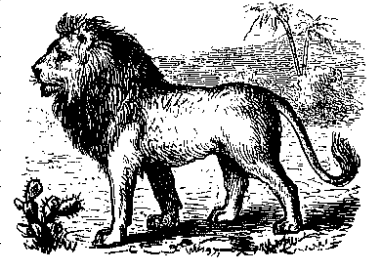
So shall Goliath fall, and all his
crew:

The God, who sav'd me from these
beasts of prey,

By me this monster in the dust
shall lay."

So David spoke. The wond'ring
king reply'd;

"Go thou with heav'n and victory



on thy side:

This coat of mail, this sword gird
on," he said,

And plac'd a mighty helmet on his
head:

The coat, the sword, the helm he
laid aside,

Nor chose to venture with those
arms untry'd,

Then took his staff, and to the
neighb'ring brook

Instant he ran, and thence five
pebbles took.

Now David comes: the fatal
stones demand

His left, the staff engag'd his
better hand:

The giant mov'd, and from his
tow'ring height

Survey'd the stripling,



and disdain'd the fight,

And thus began: "Am I a dog with thee?

Bring'st thou no armour, but a staff to me?

The gods on thee their vengeful
curses pour,

And beasts and birds of prey thy
flesh devour."

David undaunted thus, "Thy spear
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Shall no protection to thy body
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Jehovah's name—no other arms I
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To-day the Lord of Hosts to me
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Vict'ry, to-day thy doom thou
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The fate you threaten shall your
own become,

And beasts shall be your
animated tomb,

That all the earth's inhabitants
may know

That there's a God, who governs
all below:

This great assembly too shall
witness stand,

That needs nor sword, nor spear,
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The battle his, the conquest he
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And to our pow'r consigns our
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To meet the hero in the field of
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Ah! fatal meeting to thy troops
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But thou wast deaf to the divine
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thee not in vain;

'Tis thine to perish on th'
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In his dread forehead, where the
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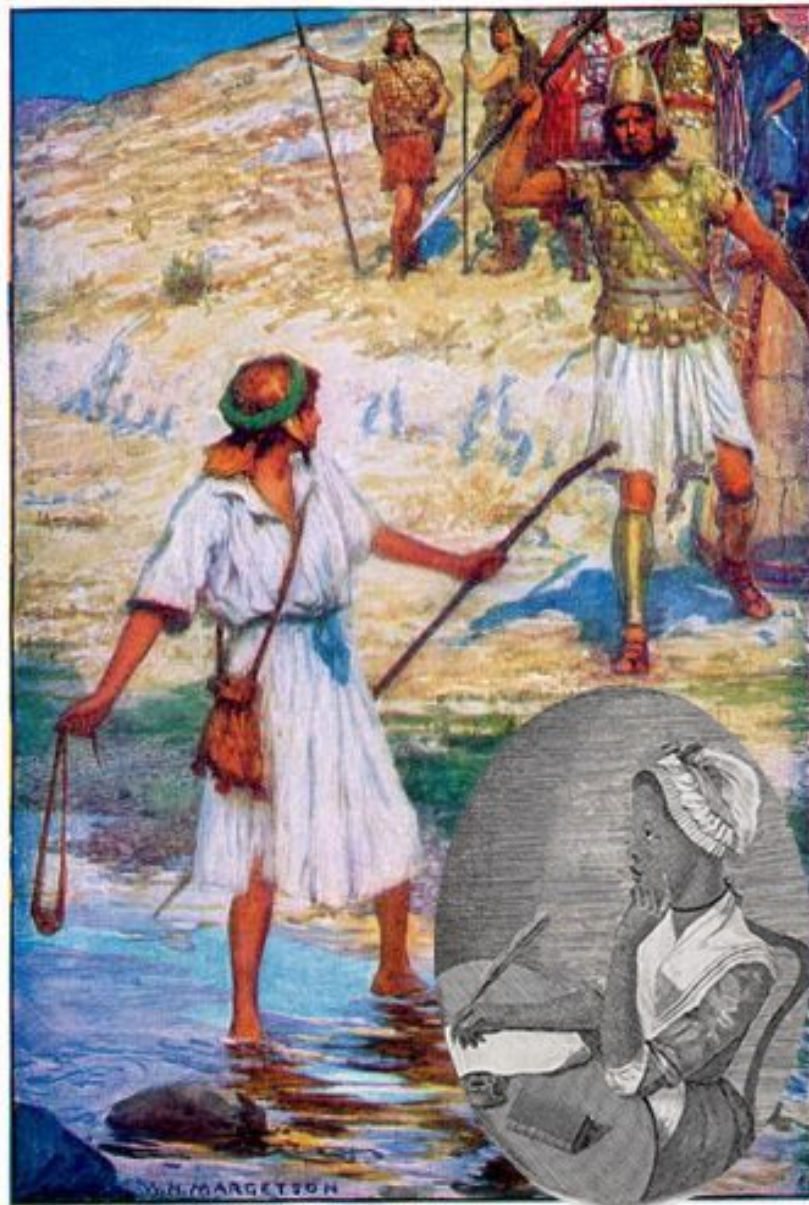
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Goliath's fall no smaller terror
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Than riving thunders in aerial
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And now aloud th' illustrious victor
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"Where are your boastings now
your champion's dead?"



Inset is a sketch of author
Phillis Wheatley attributed to
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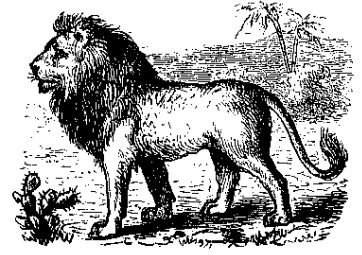
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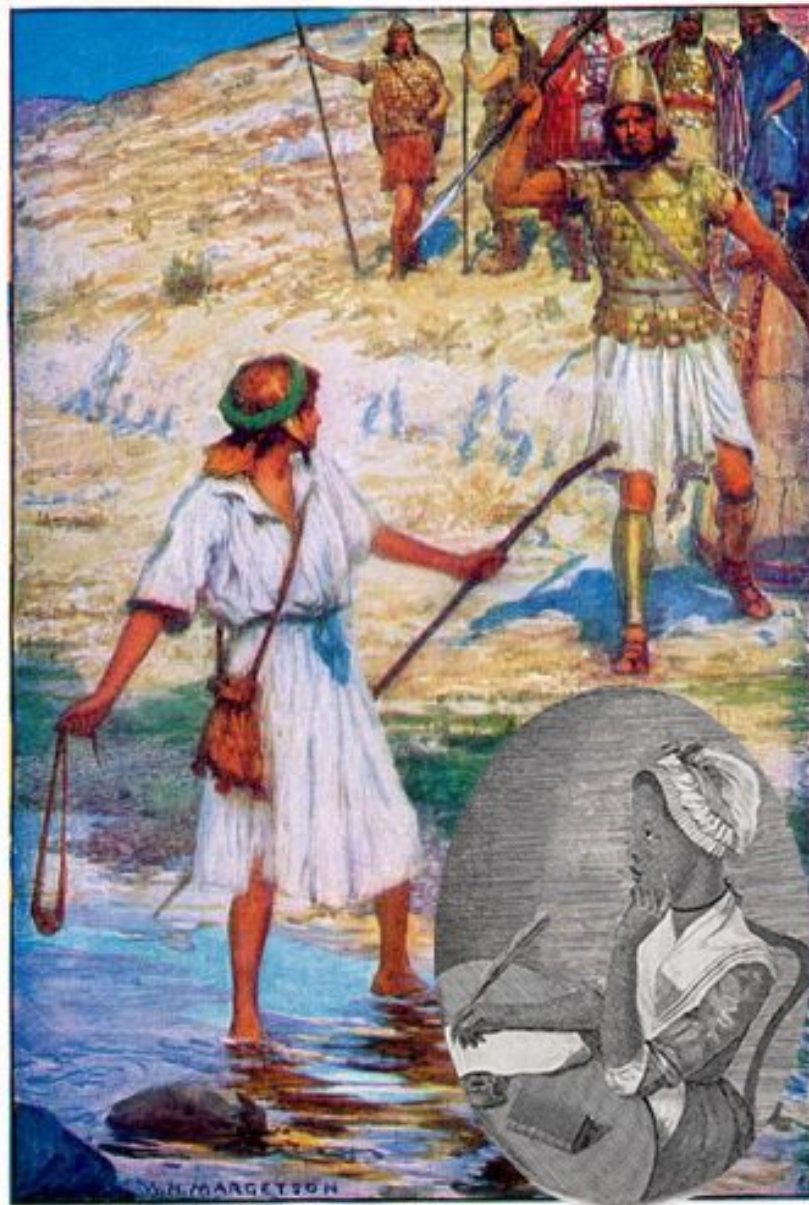
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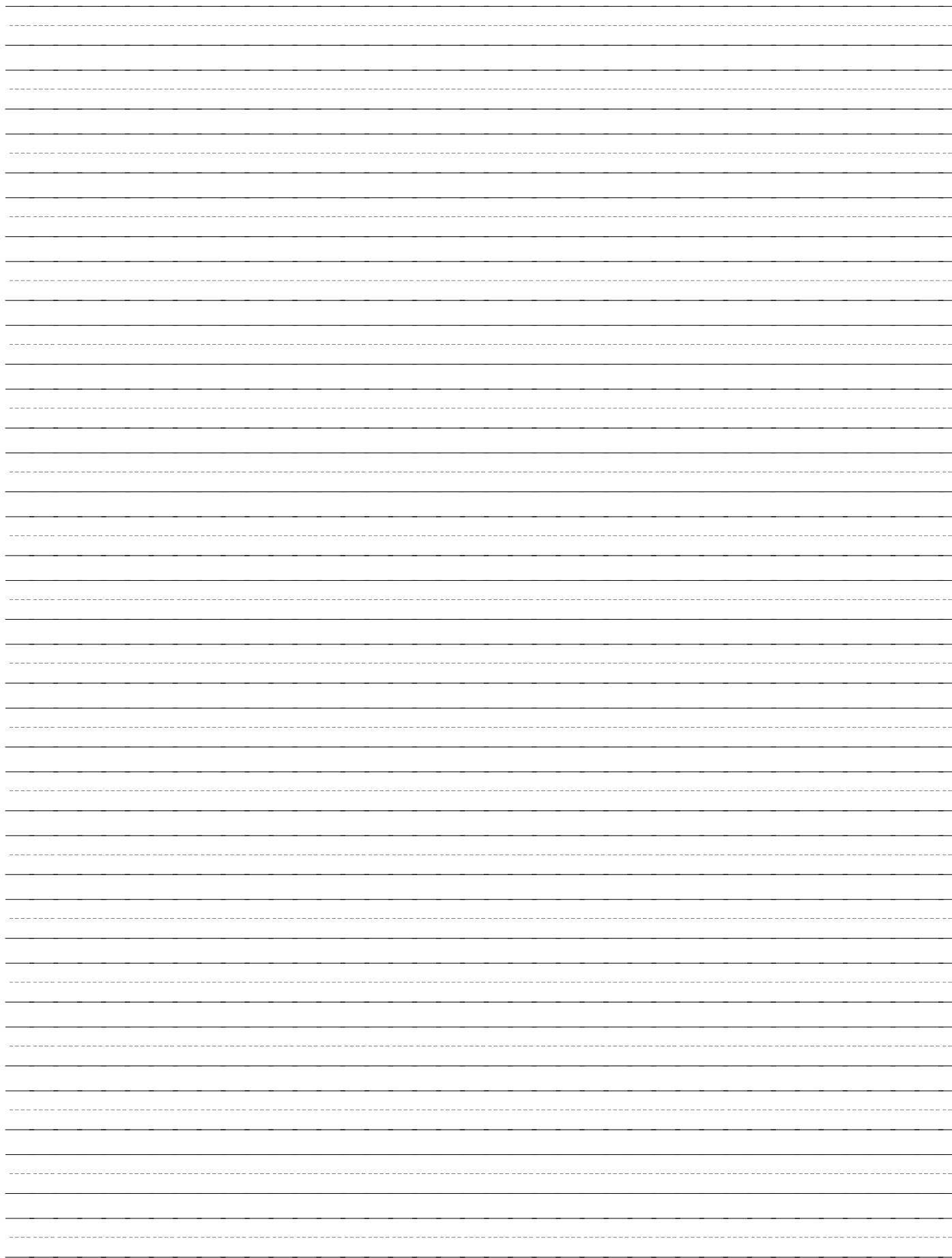
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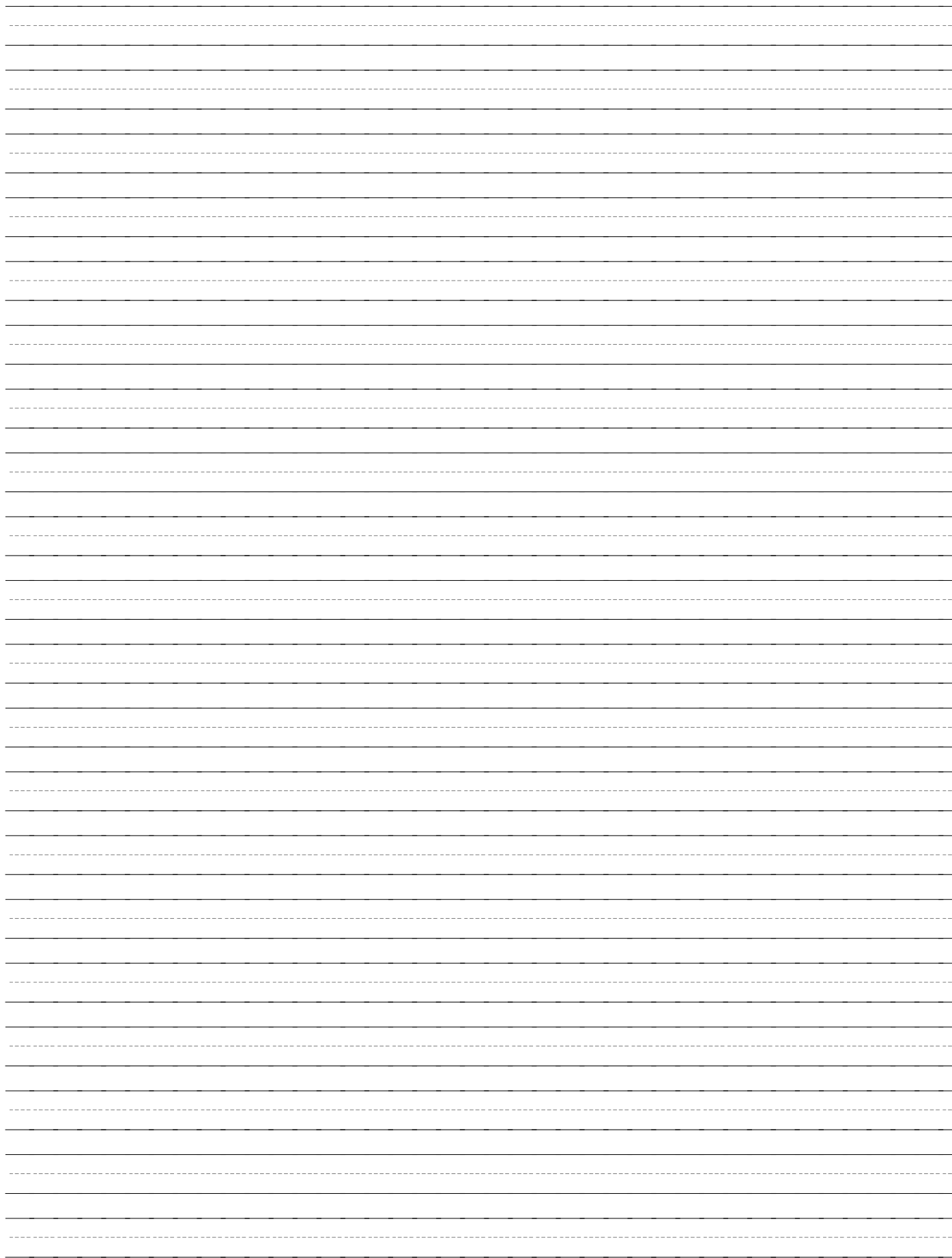
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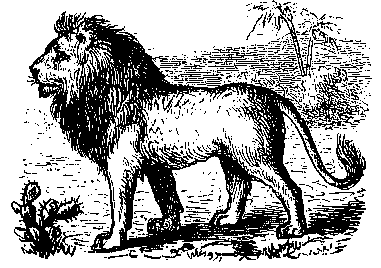




Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for letter formation.





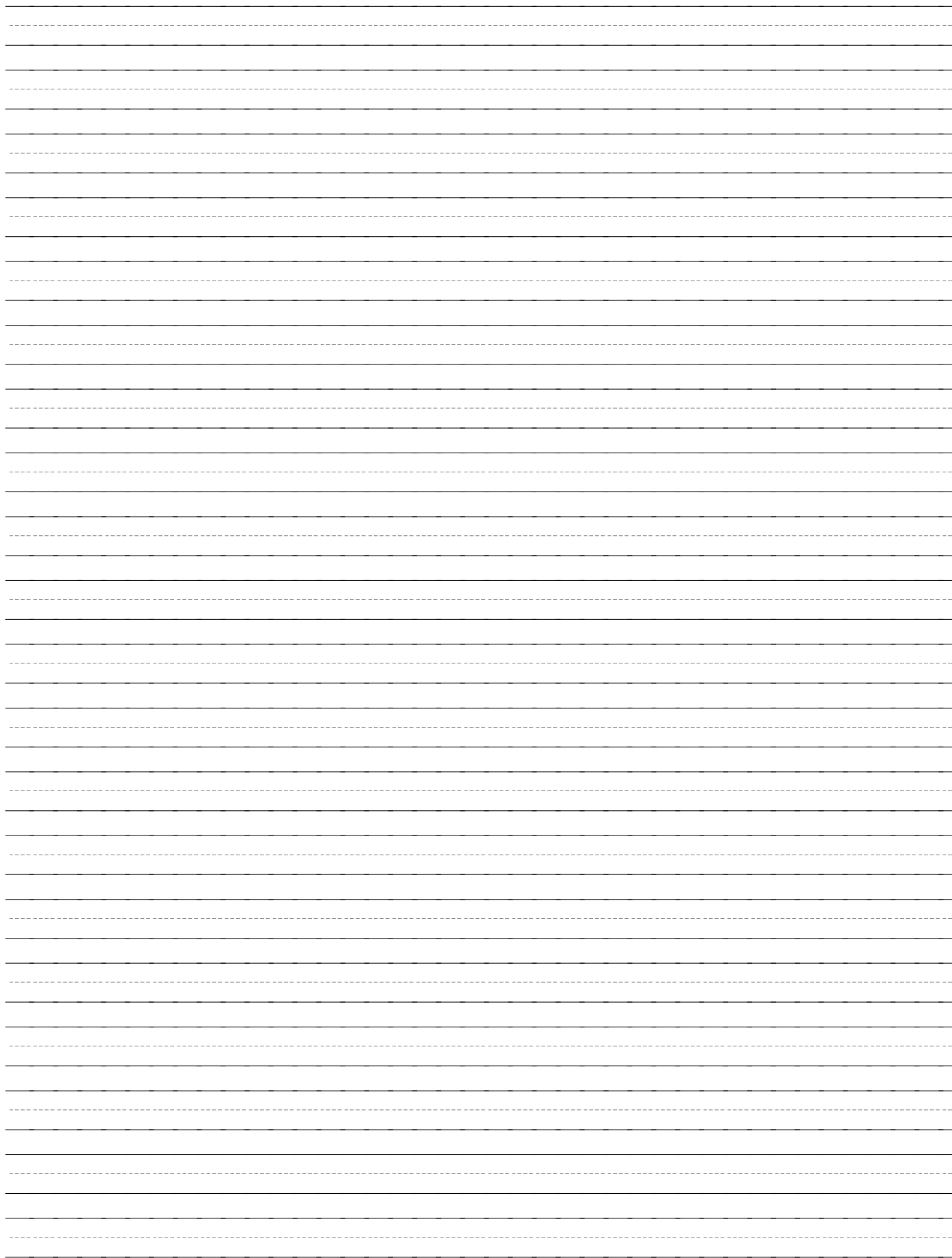


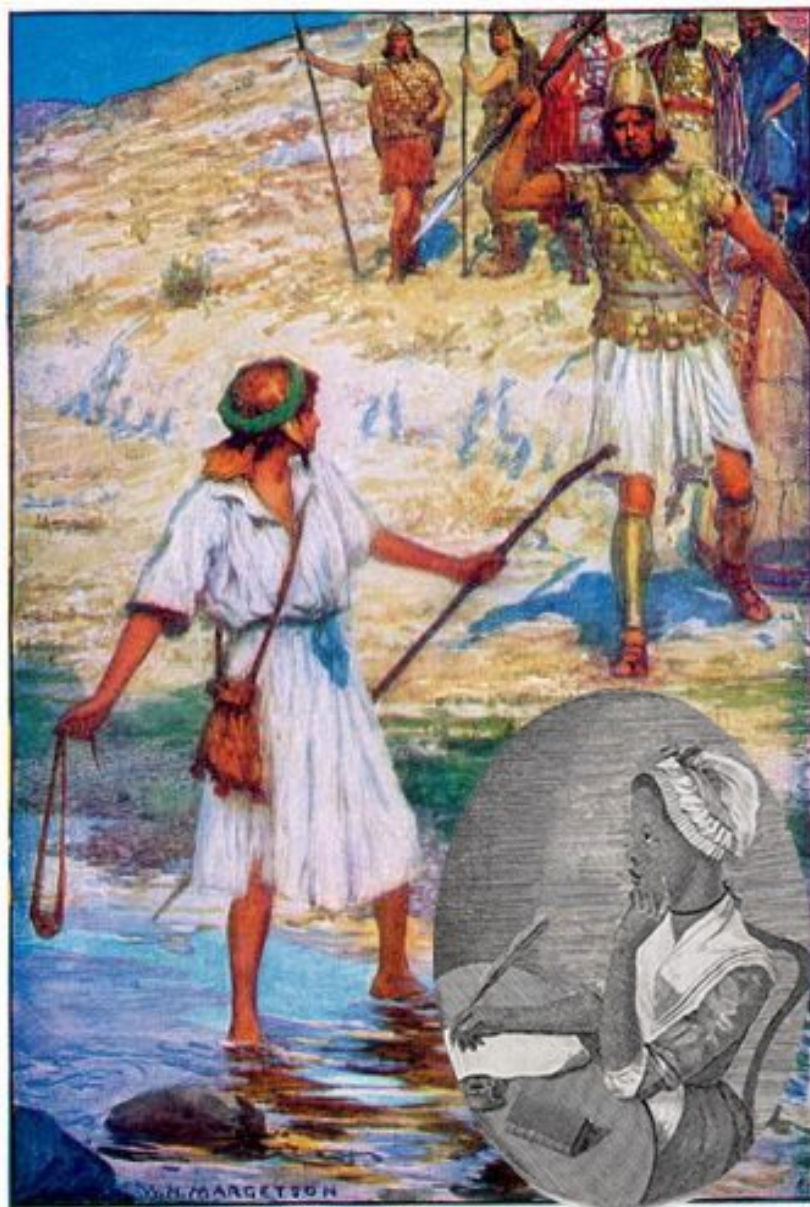
Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal lines (top solid, middle dashed, bottom solid) for letter formation.



Handwriting practice paper with 20 sets of three horizontal lines (solid top and bottom lines, dashed middle line) for letter formation.

Handwriting practice paper with 20 sets of three horizontal lines (solid top and bottom lines, dashed middle line) for letter formation.





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