

# Gear up!



Skilled Trades  
Careers  
Are For You!

Dear Grown Ups,

Our society has a hard time accepting skilled trades as a viable career route. Did you know college isn't the only way to start a fruitful career? Please teach your children and your grandchildren that college isn't the only option. Skilled trades certifications offer an alternative to college. There are lots of careers - careers, not jobs - that offer paid time off, benefits, a 401k plan, and the chance to have the American Dream! These jobs will always be around. They won't be shipped overseas or turned over to robots.

We encourage you to talk to your kids. Teach them they can be anything they want to be. Let them know that rolling up their sleeves and putting in a good day's work is good for them.

The skilled trades community holds our cities and our country together. We call these very people to fix our cars, install new toilets, build our homes, take our blood, and make sure our pets are healthy. It would be an honor and a privilege if your child became one of them!

**When I grow up, I want to be a carpenter.**



**Carpenters build things. They make the deck outside your house or build a fence around the pool you swim in and even build the gas station or store down the road from you.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a chef.**



**Chefs make tasty food for hotels,  
restaurants and hospitals.**

**When I grow up, I want to be an  
electrician.**



**Electricians make sure the lights can be  
turned on in your house, so you can always  
play even when it's dark outside.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a barber  
or a hairdresser.**



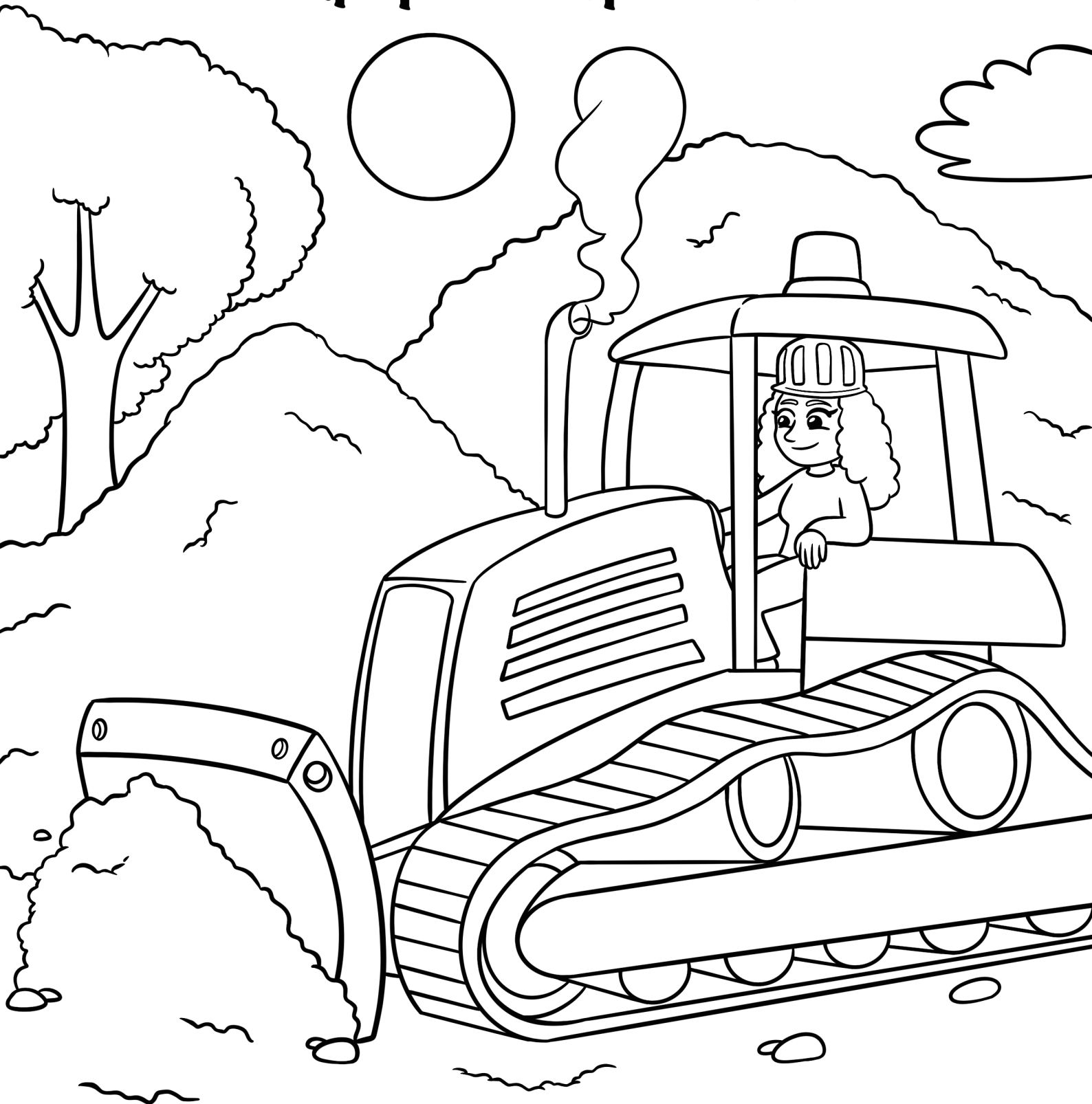
**Barbers cut and style men's hair and make  
them look good. Girls go to hair dressers or  
cosmetologists to get their hair cut and colored  
and their nails painted.**

**When I grow up, I want to be an  
HVAC technician.**



**An HVAC (heating ventilation air  
conditioning) technician installs air  
conditioning to keep you cool in the summer  
and a heater in the winter to keep you warm.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a heavy  
equipment operator.**



**Heavy equipment operators use bulldozers  
and backhoes to move dirt to make room for  
buildings and roads.**

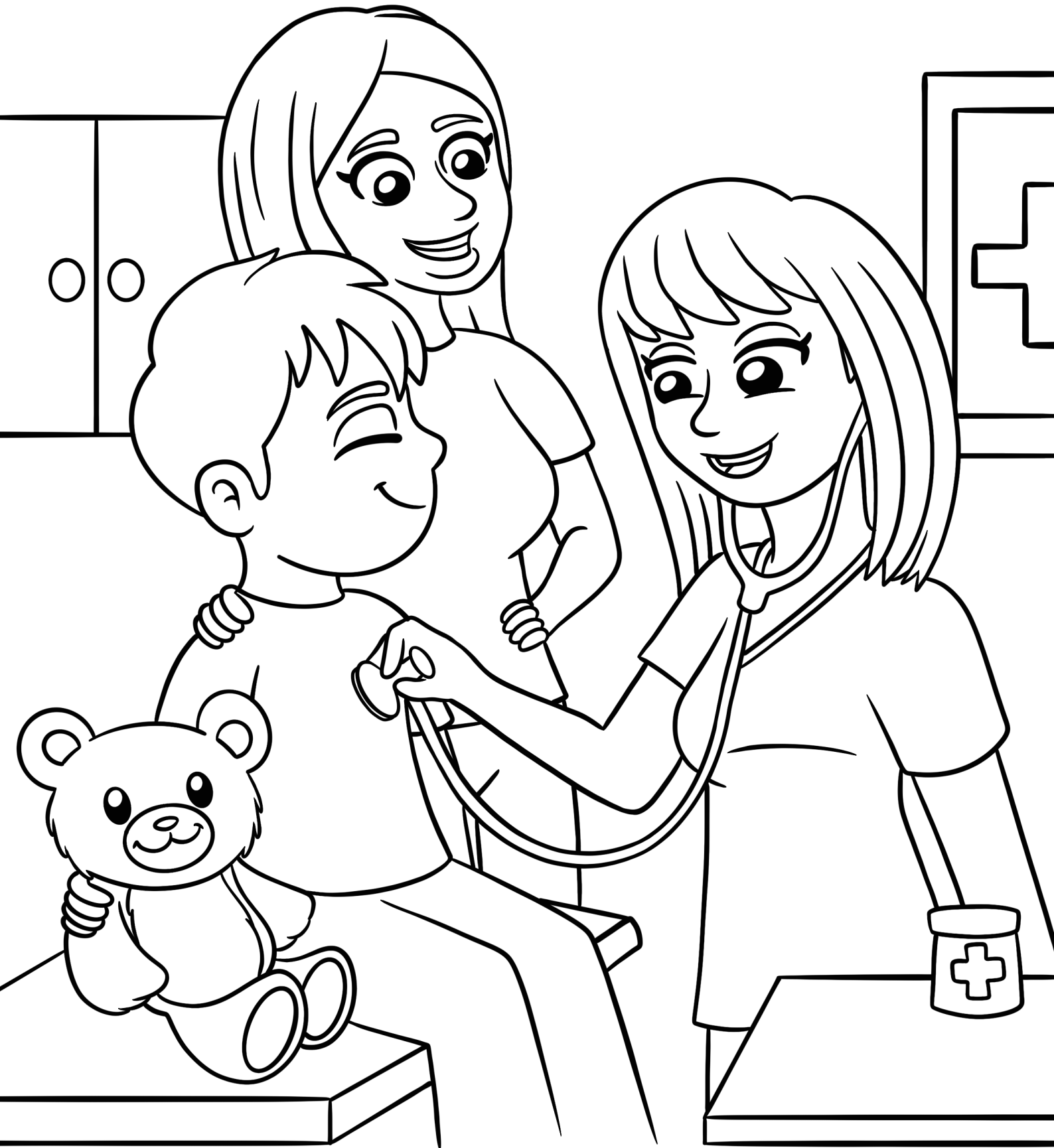


**When I grow up, I want to be a machinist.**



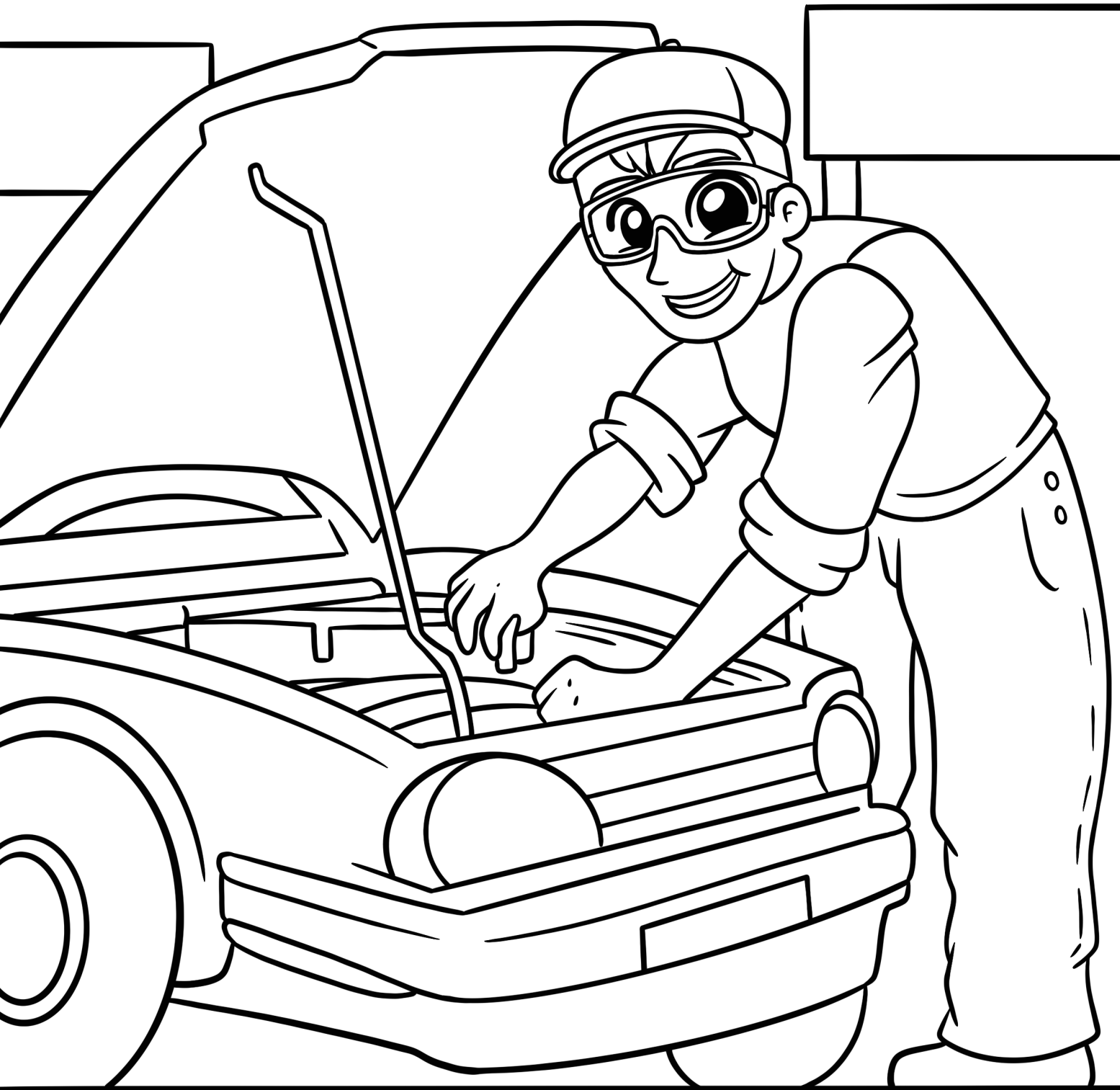
**A machinist takes a piece of steel and makes parts for a motor or an old car that you see at parades.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a medical assistant.**



**Medical assistants check your pulse, take your temperature and answer your questions. They work with a doctor to make sure you are healthy.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a mechanic.**



**Mechanics fix many things.**

**Some mechanics fix cars that you ride in to go to fun places like the zoo.**

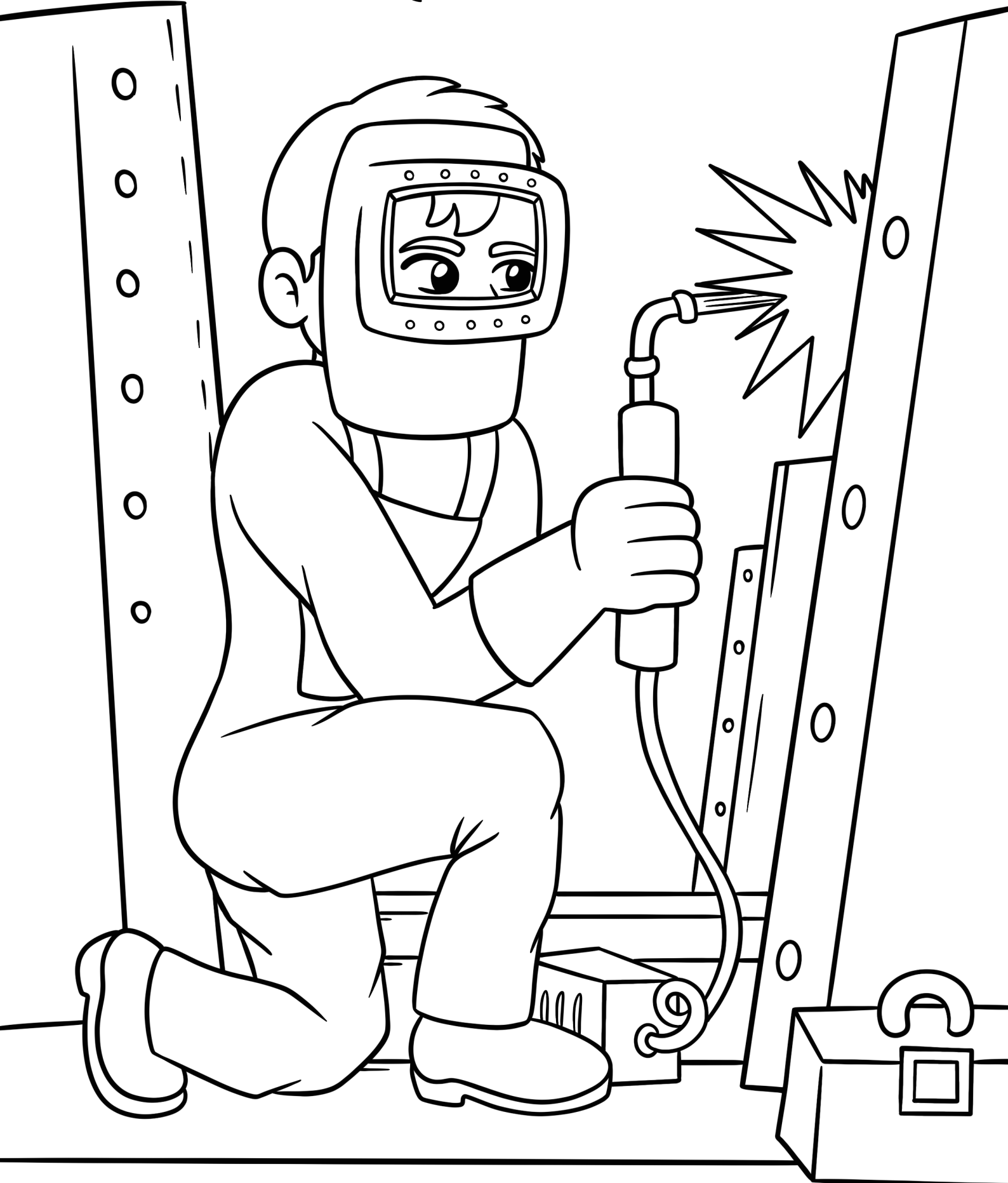
**Some mechanics fix large trucks that bring food to the grocery store that grown-ups buy.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a veterinarian technician.**



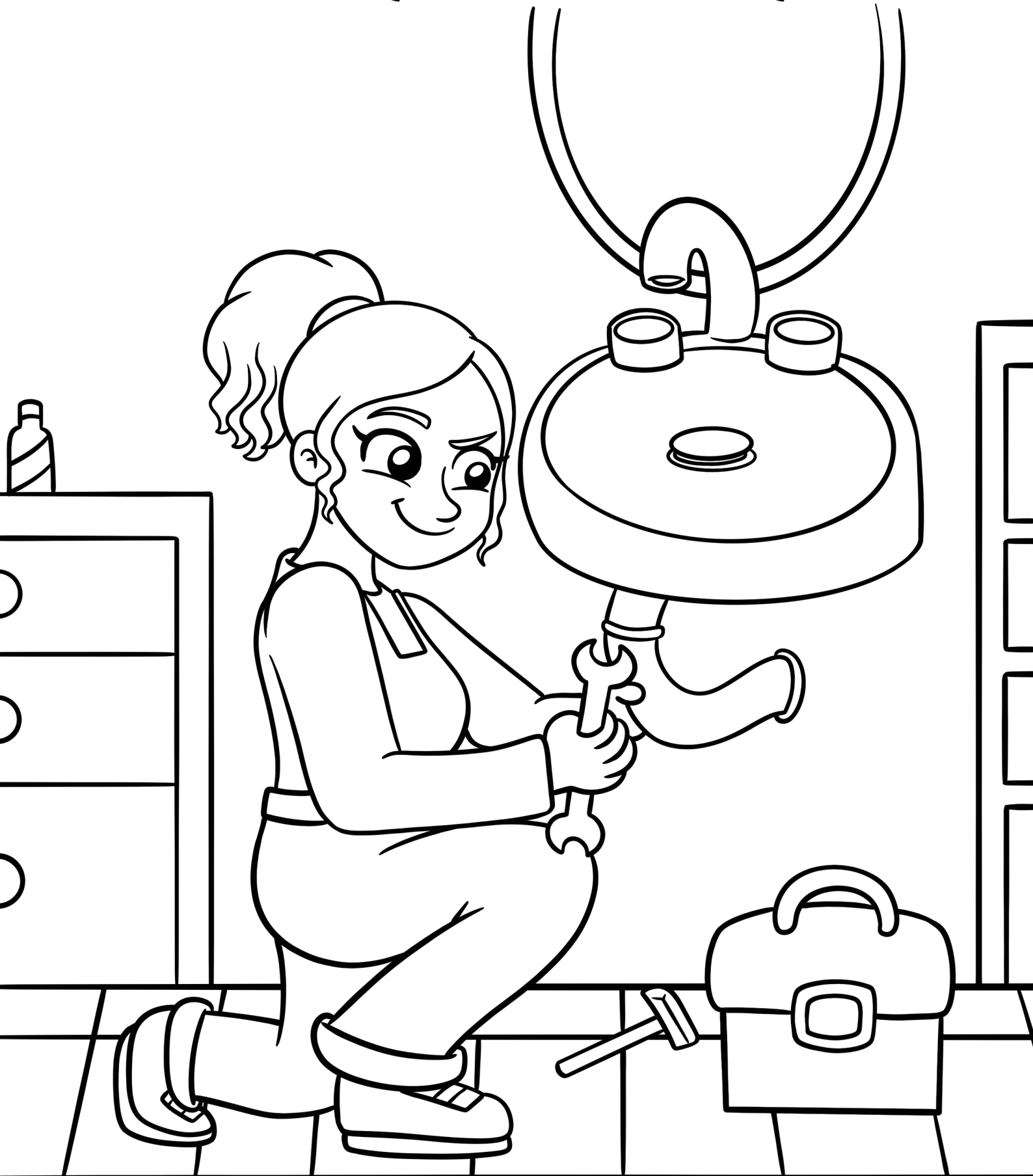
**Veterinarian technicians, sometimes called vet techs or vet assistants, take care of animals, help in surgery and make sure your favorite pet can play with you.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a weldor.**



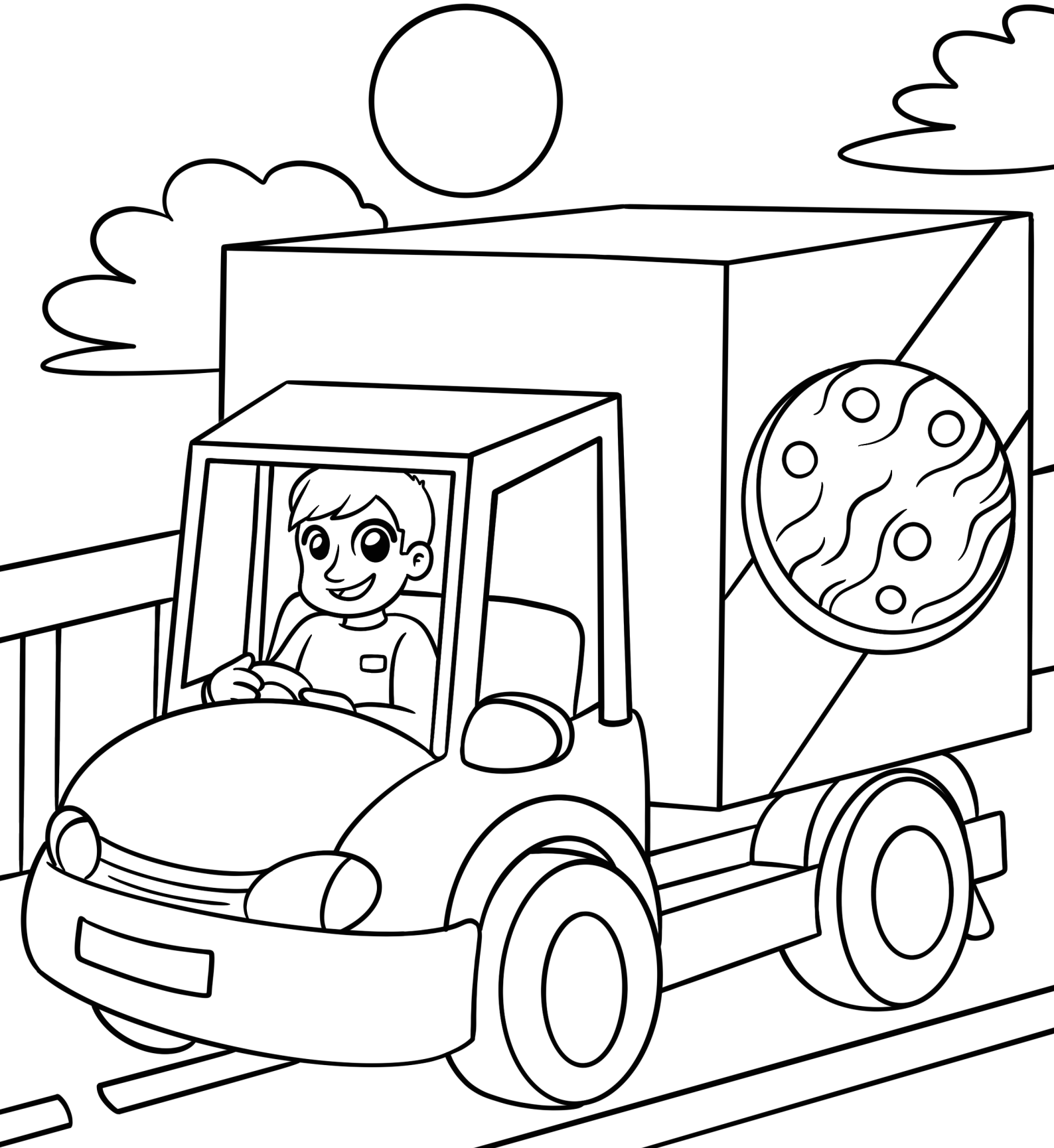
**Weldors melt steel and make cool things like bridges.  
They even weld everyday things like  
porch railings or doors.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a plumber.**



**A plumber installs and repairs water pipes in your home and in stores. They can put in a new toilet, bathtub or sink.**

**When I grow up, I want to be a truck driver.**



**A truck driver brings your favorite cookies  
and toys to the store.**



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