

Your Name:

Tall Tales

Session Three - Workbook



Strange Sightings Reported!



What's going on?
let's investigate!

Creative
PATHS

CAF
Charities Aid Foundation

The Wise Men of Gotham



The Wise Men of Gotham is the early name given to the people of the village of Gotham, Nottinghamshire, in allusion to an incident where they supposedly feigned idiocy to avoid a Royal visit.

The story goes that King John intended to travel through the neighbourhood. At that time in England, any road the king travelled on had to be made a public highway, but the people of Gotham did not want a public highway through their village as they would have to pay a toll. So the villagers feigned imbecility when the royal messengers arrived.

King John's messengers found some of the inhabitants engaged in endeavouring to drown an eel in a pool of water; some were employed in dragging carts upon a large barn, to shade the wood from the sun. Others were tumbling their cheeses down a hill, that they might find their way to Nottingham for sale; and some were employed in hedging in a cuckoo which had perched upon an old bush which stood where the present one now stands. In short they were all employed in some foolish way or other which convinced the king's servants that it was a village of fools, whence arose the old adage, "the wise men of Gotham" or "the fools of Gotham".

Contents

Page: 16

Introduction to the Story

Page: 17

Discussion Activity

Page: 18

About the Story

Page: 19

Quick Activity

Page: 20

Making Activity - Cuckoo Clock

Page: 21

Making Activity - Templates



Stories from Gotham

The people of Gotham were smarter than they first appeared, and clearly put a lot of work into making sure that their feigned madness was convincing enough to fool the king. We can consider this one of the best early examples of an elaborate prank.

Have you ever played a prank on someone to convince them of something outlandish? What did you do?

Gotham has since become famous for inspiring Gotham City, the place where Batman fights crime. How many superheroes can you name?

A few examples are superman, wonder woman, and spiderman. There are many examples from comics and films which can be found.

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If you saw any of this happened what do you reckon you'd have thought? Do you think it would have convinced you to stay away from Gotham? Maybe you'd have realised right away it was a clever hoax?

Gotham Word Search

A B K W J U Z K G N A N U I M
G Z H O A X U R L K C O Z S T
M R G R B R E G B B A T Q D U
C W Y M O J O D A W Q T J I H
M G V J H Y T G K A J I E G K
Y J O S F G A T B V A N L R I
S M W T J S E L S Z L G D G N
T S U P H Z U E S L H H M R G
E Y F E M A L M Z E M A J R J
R Z W Z T T M Z T G J M O S O
Y W O K X X G D P E F S V Q H
I D F O Y B R E P N U H D G N
E D A N C I N G I D W I V W V
M N N O H I G H W A Y R J L I
V B H A K Q K D I M L E Q C H

Nottinghamshire

Dancing

King John

Highway

Mystery

Gotham

Royal

Hoax

Legend

QUICK ACTIVITY



An illustration by Kate Greenaway from the book *The April Baby's Book of Tunes of Little Miss Muffett*



An illustration by Kate Greenaway from the book *The April Baby's Book of Tunes of Mary, Mary*

Cuckoo Clock



Materials:

Scissors
Glue
Felt pens
Yarn
Cardboard for backing
Small decorations

Instructions:

Photocopy the templates on the next page.

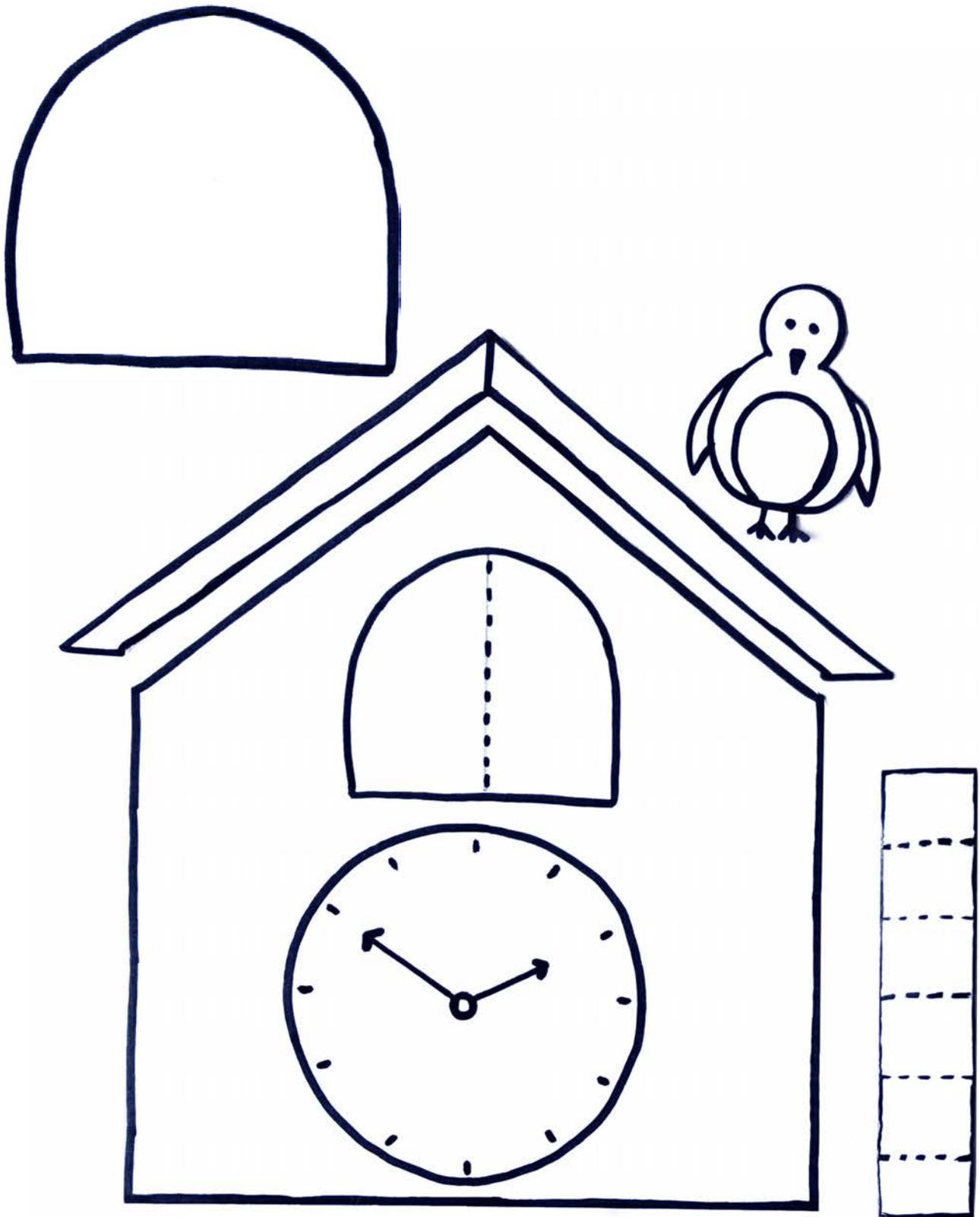
Colour in and decorate the cuckoo house, then cut along the dashed line in the door, and the top and bottom of the door to open.

Glue the semicircle of card behind the open door to mount the cuckoo on. Fold the strip of paper and glue one end in the door, then glue the cuckoo on the other end.

Affix two lengths of yarn at the bottom of the clock.

To make the cuckoo clock more rigid, mount on card.

Template





My Thoughts

Thank you for taking part in our Tall Tales session!
Write down your thoughts about your experience
taking part here:



Thank you for taking part!

