

CHARNWOOD ARTS PRESENTS

DICK WHITTINGTON



PANTO
IN A
BOX!

Welcome to Panto in a Box!

The resource that is going to allow YOU to direct and perform your very own Panto.

We can't wait to see what magical moments you create so feel free to share your 'panto-in-action' shots with us by uploading any photos/videos you capture and tagging us on Facebook and Instagram using #CharnwoodArts

Make sure to keep up to date with us by following our socials:

Facebook: Charnwood Arts

Instagram: @Charnwood_Arts

For any more information feel free to send us a message: info@charnwoodarts.com

Happy creating!

CHARNWOOD
ARTS



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

WHAT'S IN THE PACK?

This pack has everything you need to make your own pantomime - a script for the Dick Whittington panto story, templates to make masks, finger-puppets and accessories for you to dress up as the characters.

You may also want to gather together:

- Pencil crayons for colouring in the masks, hair-pieces, and finger puppets
- Self-adhesive 'gems' to decorate the Rat's crown, and the crown in three pieces.
- A roll of sticky tape, so that you can attach the masks and hair-pieces to card headbands.
- A square of fabric for Dick's knapsack, and a stick to tie it to.
- A wooden spoon for Sarah the Cook.

There are five characters altogether but you don't need five people to put on the show – people can play more than one of the characters. And it doesn't matter if males play the female characters, or the other way around – that's what panto is all about!

Once you have made the props and/or puppets, all you need to do is read the script to learn the lines, dress up in character and enjoy - you might also like to film it to share it with others. Don't worry if it goes slightly wrong while you're performing, that's the beauty of panto and the mistakes are often the best bits!

If you decide to film your performance to share it, make sure you film everything in landscape to make it easier to watch on the screen. It will make any editing much easier too.

Have fun and enjoy making your panto production!

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THE CHARACTERS

- Dick** The handsome hero. In traditional panto, he's usually played by a girl or woman (but you don't have to do this in your production). We've given you Dick's knapsack – a stick and a square of fabric. You can put in it whatever you like, maybe they are props that he needs in the play?
- Alice** Dick's girlfriend. She has a hair-piece that you need to colour in, and fasten to a card headband with the sticky tape.
- Sarah the Cook** She's usually the 'dame', played by a man, with very over the top makeup. If you have makeup or face paints at home, you could have a go at turning your character into the brash and glamorous dame! She has a big hair-do, which needs to be coloured in and stuck onto a card headband, like Alice's. She also has a cook's hat, which has a headband to attach like the hair. She also has a wooden spoon.
- King Rat** King Rat is the villain in this story. He has a rat mask that needs to be coloured and fastened onto a card headband. He also has a gold crown – you need to stick the crown pieces together, then decorate it with the self-adhesive 'gems'.
- The Cat** Dick's cat is very important to the story. There is a cat mask, that needs colouring in and sticking to a card headband.



THE SCRIPT

DICK WHITTINGTON

Written by Andrew McWilliam

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Hello!

Thank you for choosing to join in with our Dick Whittington pantomime!

The script is divided into eight different scenes with four principal characters DICK, ALICE, SARAH THE COOK and KING RAT. Dick can be played by a male or female, Alice is usually played by a girl, Sarah is the Dame, and King Rat is the villain. There is also TOMMY THE CAT, who could be played by a puppet or a person who prefers not to learn lines! King Rat also interacts with the rats, which could be finger puppets or anyone else in your family or group who fancies the role!

There is a song at the end that is quite simple to learn. The words can ‘spoken-sung’ for anyone who is not confident with singing. You don’t need to be Adele or Pavarotti to sing it! Also, if anyone wants to play the song rather than use the backing track then the chords are included. Please feel free to add in your own instruments if you can play them! You could also use pots and pans and boxes to make percussion sounds or just simply clap along! You can find the song and backing track here: <https://bit.ly/PIABsong>

Our Panto in a Box is not about perfection- we want you to create your version of it! Use whatever you have in the house to bring the story and scenes to life!

Most importantly...HAVE FUN! This is not Hamlet so don’t worry if you go wrong!

Best wishes

**Andrew McWilliam
Writer & Director**

SCENE ONE – OUTSIDE THE SHOP

Music

DICK Hello everyone! I can't hear you! I said 'Hello Everyone!' My name is Richard Whittington but my friends call me Dick, Dick Whittington. I've come to London to seek my fortune. London is a big place though but thankfully I've brought along my bestest friend in the whole world. Tommy my cat! Say hello, Tommy.

Cat appears. The cat can wave!

DICK Tommy and I have heard that the streets are paved with gold, which must take ages to clean! Although this doesn't look like gold.

Dick holds up an old sweet wrapper

DICK First of all, I need to find a job. If only there was a conveniently-placed job advert that could come along really quickly.

In the background Alice appears with a handwritten sign saying 'Help Wanted'. Tommy gets his attention.

DICK What is it Tommy? Look, it's a conveniently-placed job advert. What does that say? Help wanted. Well I'm good at helping. Excuse me. What help do you want?

ALICE We need some help in our shop because tomorrow we're expecting a big delivery of precious silks and magnificent spices from Morocco.

DICK Precious silks and magnificent spices?

ALICE Yes, we need someone to help Sarah our cook and we need to get rid of the rats!

DICK Rats?!

ALICE Yes, the rats keep trying to get in to the kitchen. We can't have rats when the precious silks and magnificent spices arrive from Morocco.

DICK Yeah. Rats never look good in silk. I can do the job.

ALICE I'd need to interview you.

DICK OK.

ALICE Question one. Can you tell me your name?

DICK Yes.

ALICE Your name is 'yes'?

DICK No.

ALICE Your name is ‘no’?

DICK No.

ALICE OK, Mr No.

DICK My name is Dick.

ALICE So, your name is Dick No?

DICK No, no, no.

ALICE Dick NoNoNo?

DICK No, it’s just Dick Whittington

ALICE Just Dick Whittington. I see. Question two. How did you hear about this job?

DICK You told me.

ALICE So I did. Question three. Why should we hire you?

DICK *(He crouches)* Because I’m too low down.

ALICE Question four. How much would you like to be paid?

DICK How much have you got?

ALICE Question five. Where can you see yourself in five years?

DICK Probably in a mirror.

ALICE Question six. Do you have any questions for us?

DICK Is that a trick question?

ALICE Is that the question you’re asking?

DICK I thought I was asking the question?

ALICE You are. So...

DICK What was the question again?

ALICE Never mind, you’ve got the job.

DICK Really? Oh, I won’t let you down. When do I start?

ALICE Right now. Come with me. *(Both exit)*

SCENETWO – OUTSIDETHE SHOP

Enter King Rat. He has a rat with him. The rat can nod along and react to the speech below.

KING RAT Oh hello. The name's Rat. King Rat.

KING RAT Oh, do shut up. So, that young Dick Whittington has taken a job at Fitzwarrens has he? And he has brought that mangy flea-ridden cat with him. That's ruined all of my plans. Let me tell you everything, it'll save time. The Fitzwarrens are expecting a delivery precious silks and magnificent spices from Morocco. I had planned to distract them by filling their shop with my army of rats and then stealing the precious silks and magnificent spices to make me rich, rich, RICH! As you can see I am so clever!

AUDIENCE "Oh no you're not!"

KING RAT Oh, yes, I am!

AUDIENCE "Oh no you're not!"

KING RAT Oh, yes, I am

AUDIENCE "Oh no you're not!"

KING RAT Oh, shut up. We need to get on with this! A quick recap. Shop, silks, spices, rats, steal, rich, rich, RICH. Got it? Good. But now that Dick Whittington is working there with his cat my rats won't be able to get in. (To the puppet rat) Yes, I know, cats and rats are never a good mix. If only there was some way to get rid of Whittington and his cat. I'll get back to you when I've thought of something.

Booing again

KING RAT *(Off-stage)* I said 'shut up'!

SCENE THREE – THE KITCHEN

Optional background music: The Great British Bake-Off Theme

ALICE Sarah, where are you? I've got yesterday's takings from the shop.

She puts the takings down as Sarah enters

SARAH Hello Alice.

ALICE I've found someone to help us out. This is Just Dick Whittington.

DICK No, no, no!

ALICE I thought you said it wasn't Dick NoNoNo.

DICK Forget it, just call me Dick.

ALICE Ok, well I'll leave you to it.

Alice exits

SARAH So, you're the young man who is going to help me in the kitchen?

DICK That's me. I'm Dick, Dick Whittington.

SARAH Dick, Dick Whittington?

DICK No, just Dick.

SARAH Right then Just Dick, fetch those boxes.

He does

SARAH This is what we're cooking today.

DICK Microwave food? That's not cooking. That's just warming up!

SARAH Do you want to eat it cold?

DICK No.

SARAH Then we have to warm it up. Now, what does it say on the packet?

DICK It says stir and recover.

SARAH Ok.

She stirs and then sits

DICK What are you doing?

SARAH I'm recovering.

DICK No, I don't think it means that.

A 'ping' from the microwave

SARAH That's one I prepared earlier.

She fetches it

SARAH What does it say on the packet?

DICK Stand for two minutes.

She does this. After a moment Dick speaks

DICK What are you doing?

SARAH I'm standing for two minutes.

DICK Ooh, what about this one?

SARAH What does it say on the packet?

DICK Remove box and film lid.

She gets a camera or phone

DICK What are you doing?

SARAH I'm filming the lid.

DICK We're never going to get any cooking done here.

SARAH Perhaps I'll open a bottle of wine.

DICK Wine?

SARAH There's nothing wrong with a glass of wine with meal.

DICK But this meal is breakfast.

SARAH Oh, I want to get out of this kitchen.

DICK The door's over there.

SARAH I mean permanently.

DICK You could lock the door on your way out.

SARAH I had dreams once upon a time. I could've been famous. When I was younger they used to say I was like a star.

DICK Yeah, small, pointy and best seen in the dark.

Sarah sits, forlornly

SARAH Don't tell anyone this but I'm not really a very good cook.

DICK You don't say.

SARAH I've had some disasters in this kitchen.

DICK Like what?

SARAH Well, it turns out rat isn't actually an ingredient in ratatouille.

DICK Oh dear.

SARAH Yep, I had the same problem with marble cake.

DICK Blimey.

SARAH And the less said about my mud pie the better.

Dick is almost throwing up.

SARAH I'm going for a lie down. You keep an eye on everything.

Sarah exits

DICK Will do. Actually, whilst she's gone I might have a quick nap myself. It was a long journey walking to London. I should've got the bus. You can have a catnap too Tommy.

Dick and Tommy sleep as King Rat enters

KING RAT Ah, sleeping beauty. To be awakened with one kiss...no, wait. That's the wrong story. Ah, Dick Whittington and his rotten feline friend. How to get rid of him? What about this? The takings from the shop? What if they were stolen and just happened to found in Dick's bag?

He places the takings in Dick's bag. The 'audience' can boo off-camera

KING RAT And now my evil plan will come to fruition. I told you I'd think of something.

He laughs a loud, maniacal laugh.

KING RAT Actually, better not laugh too loud or I'll wake him up.

He laughs a quieter, maniacal laugh and exits

SCENE FOUR – THE KITCHEN

SFX Cockerel crowing

SARAH *(Speaking really fast)* Dick! Dick! Wake up! We've overslept and today is the day that the precious silks and magnificent spices are arriving from Morocco so we have to get everything ready!

Dick is slowly waking up

DICK What?!

SARAH I said *(Speaking really fast)* Dick! Dick! Wake up! We've overslept and today is the day that the precious silks and magnificent spices are arriving from Morocco so we have to get everything ready!

Dick yawns

DICK What did you say?!

SARAH I'm not saying it again, I had enough trouble doing it twice.

Alice enters

ALICE Hello Sarah, hello Dick. Time to get everything ready. I'll go and open up the shop. Where are the takings from yesterday?

SARAH I haven't seen them.

ALICE I left them here yesterday.

SARAH We'd better look for them.

They search for the takings. Dick lifts up his sack and they fall out.

ALICE Dick! You had them!

DICK No, I didn't.

SARAH Oh, how could you?!

Sarah starts wailing

ALICE They were in your sack.

DICK But I didn't take them.

ALICE I think you should leave before I call the police.

DICK But...Oh, come on Tommy. We'd better go.

Dick and Tommy exit

ALICE I'm so disappointed with...

Sarah wails loudly, interrupting her.

ALICE I'm so disappointed with Dick...

Sarah wails even louder, interrupting her.

ALICE I'm so disappointed with Dick. I can't...

Sarah wails really loud, interrupting her.

ALICE Oh, do be quiet, Sarah.

SARAH Fine. I'll go and weep and wail somewhere else then.

Sarah exits

ALICE I'm so disappointed with Dick. I can't believe he's a thief.

She exits

Enter King Rat

KING RAT Now with that mangy cat out of the way my rats can overrun the shop and the kitchen and I can steal the precious silks and magnificent spices for myself!
Rats? Attack!

Evil laugh!

I'M VERY
DISAPPOINTED
WITH DICK...
REALLY?
WHO WROTE THIS?
CERTAINLY NOT ME.



SCENE FIVE – THE ROAD OUTSIDE LONDON

DICK Oh Tommy, I can't believe that everyone thinks I'm a thief. You don't think I'm a thief, do you?

Tommy shakes his head

DICK Time to head back home, penniless then.

The bells start to ring.

DICK What's that? Oh, it's the bells.

We hear the voice of the bells saying "Turn again, Whittington"

DICK Wait, I can hear something else. It's a voice.

"Turn again, Whittington. Thrice Lord Mayor of London".

DICK That can't be right.

"Turn again, Whittington. Thrice Lord Mayor of London".

DICK Lord Mayor of London? Me?! Right, Tommy we're not going back home penniless. We're going back to London and I'm going to prove my innocence and find out what happened.



SCENE SIX – THE KITCHEN

Sarah is screaming, Alice is with her

SARAH There's a rat in my kitchen what am I going to do?

ALICE Sarah, the shop! It's full of rats!

SARAH Oh, I wish Tommy was still here. We need a cat. Or something to distract them. Like a song. I know a good song.

Sarah sings the first word of a song before Alice interrupts her

ALICE That's not going to work, although it might traumatise them.

Enter King Rat

Others boo

KING RAT Oh, shut up with your booing. Do you want this story to end or not? *(To Alice and Sarah)* Oh ladies, my rats are everywhere. If only you had a cat to get rid of them but no, Whittington and his cat have gone away because I tricked you.

SARAH You?!

KING RAT Yes, little old me. I planted the takings in his bag and you two sent him and his cat packing. Now, the precious silks and magnificent spices will be mine and I will be rich, rich, RICH!

ALICE How could you?

KING RAT Well, I am the villain. What did you expect? And just for good measure I will take you as my pretty young wife.

SARAH Oh, I thought you'd never ask.

KING RAT Not you, you ugly old toad. Alice!

SARAH Ugly old toad?! I'll give you such good hiding!

KING RAT No, you won't! Rats. Chase her off!

Rats appear and chase Sarah off

KING RAT And now, young Alice, let us go and prepare for our wedding day.

He takes her off

SCENE SEVEN – OUTSIDE THE SHOP

Dick enters

DICK Tommy look, there are rats everywhere!

Sarah enters

SARAH Oh, am I glad to see you.

DICK Really? What about the stolen takings?

SARAH Oh, it was a misunderstanding. You see King Rat planted the takings in your sack so that you and Tommy the cat would get fired. Then his rats would be free to infest the shop and kitchen and he would be able to steal the precious silks and magnificent spices to make him rich, rich, RICH!

DICK What?!

SARAH I said...Oh, it was a misunderstanding. You see King Rat...

DICK Yes, I got it. I was just saying What?!

SARAH What are we going to do about the rats?

DICK We're not going to do anything. Tommy? Do your stuff.

SFX of cat noises, squeaking and clatter then Tommy appears

DICK There you go, Sarah. Problem solved.

They breathe a sigh of relief

SARAH Oh, I forgot to mention that King Rat has kidnapped Alice and plans to marry her.

DICK What?!

SARAH I'm not getting in to that again.

DICK Right, this is what we're going to do. We're going to rescue Alice from the clutches of King Rat and we're going to get back the precious silks and magnificent spices. Now let's go and find him! You go that way, I'll go this way.

They exit on opposite sides and King Rat enters

KING RAT Soon I will be married to Alice Fitzwarren and will be rich, rich, RICH!

DICK *(Offstage)* Alice!

KING RAT It's Whittington! I must hide.

DICK (To audience) Have you seen King Rat?

He appears behind Dick and the others shout “He’s behind you!”. But each time he looks King Rat has hidden again.

AUDIENCE Behind you!

DICK Where is he?

AUDIENCE Behind you!

DICK I can’t see him!

AUDIENCE Behind you!

DICK Oh, there he is!

King Rat appears with Alice.

KING RAT Whittington, you are a fool for returning to London! Miss Fitzwarren and I will be married today.

DICK I’m not going to let that happen.

KING RAT You can’t stop me. And where is that ugly old toad of a cook?

Sarah appears behind King Rat

SARAH Behind you!

Sarah hits him over the head with a rolling pin

SARAH That’s’ what happens when you call me a toad.

DICK He also said old.

SARAH I’m sure he didn’t.

DICK And ugly.

SARAH Do you want a knock on the head as well?

ALICE Hurray! Thank you for coming to rescue me.

DICK Anytime. Tommy chased off all of the rats.

SARAH And I found all the precious silks and magnificent spices by the way so we can wrap up that bit of the plot without too many questions.

ALICE Well done Sarah, well done Tommy, well done Dick.

King Rat wakes up

KING RAT I seem to have banged my head!

SARAH That was me.

KING RAT And who are you? You are so stunningly beautiful.

DICK I think it must've knocked his brain out! See if it fell on the floor.

SARAH Shush you! My name is Sarah.

KING RAT I want to take you for my wife.

SARAH I've never met your wife, what if she doesn't like me?

KING RAT Will you marry me?

Sarah faints



SCENE EIGHT – FINALE

ALICE I'm glad everyone's back together again.

DICK Now join in with our song!

SARAH What if we don't know the words?

DICK Then you can play an instrument. Find pots and pans and play along!

SONG: TOGETHER AGAIN

DICK King Rat has been defeated, Now we are unified
Alice, Sarah, Tommy too, Standing side by side

ALICE It's happy every after, I think you know the drill
No one now to break us up, No one ever will

ALL Everyone, together again, Everyone, together again
Everyone, together again, Again, again, again, again
Again, again, again, again

SARAH My cooking is the greatest, I am a cordon bleu
It's really quite delicious

OTHERS But we all think it's bleuuuurrggghhh!

SARAH Oi!

DICK I have found my fortune, Here in London Town
One day I'll be mayor, And all the bells will sound

ALL Everyone, together again, Everyone, together again
Everyone, together again, Again, again, again, again
Again, again, again, again

ALL Everyone, together again, Everyone, together again
Everyone, together again, Again, again, again, again
Again, again, again, again

AGAIN!

DICK Thank you everyone. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy
New Year!

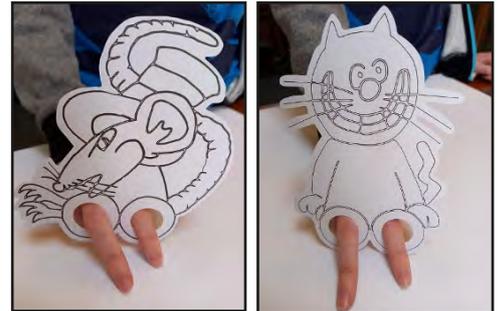
THE END

HOW TO MAKE THE PROPS

You could make your own props and costumes from things lying around the house. You can use the templates included, or draw your own. It's easier to colour them in before cutting them out, and always make sure you ask an adult for help with scissors if you need it. Here's a few tips on how to make the props. **Whatever you do, make it fun!**

THE FINGER PUPPETS

You can use these if you don't fancy dressing up for your panto production, or you can use them as well as dressing up – it's up to you! There are the same five characters. The characters are already cut out, you just need to colour them in. Put your fingers through the two holes to make legs. You can use make up or face paint to decorate your fingers, to create shoes, trousers or a dress/skirt.



DICKS KNAPSACK



1 Lay out the fabric, and put your chosen contents on top.



2 Tie the diagonal corners together in a loose knot.



3 Lay the stick across the pack, and tie another knot.



4 Tie the other diagonal in a loose double knot.



5 The pack should now be secure and ready to use!

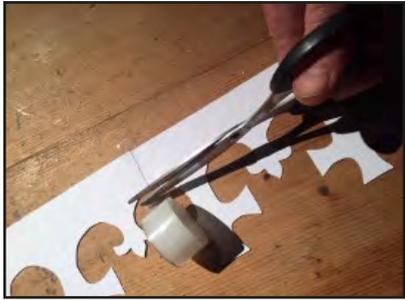
ALICE AND SARAH THE COOK'S HAIR-DO'S

Colour in the hair first- it's much easier to do this now, before you've assembled everything. Then take one of the head band strips, and fasten one end to the edge of the hair piece using sticky tape, and fasten another one on the other side. Get someone to help you hold the hair piece in place, then bring the two sides together and fasten them together with sticky tape, so that it's held firmly in place.



KING RAT'S CROWN

Get all three gold card crown pieces and line them up into one long strip. Stick them together using sticky tape (see the photos below – yours will be in gold card). Hold the crown strip up to your head, and fasten it to fit, using more tape. Decorate the crown using the stick-on gems.



KING RAT'S AND CAT'S MASKS

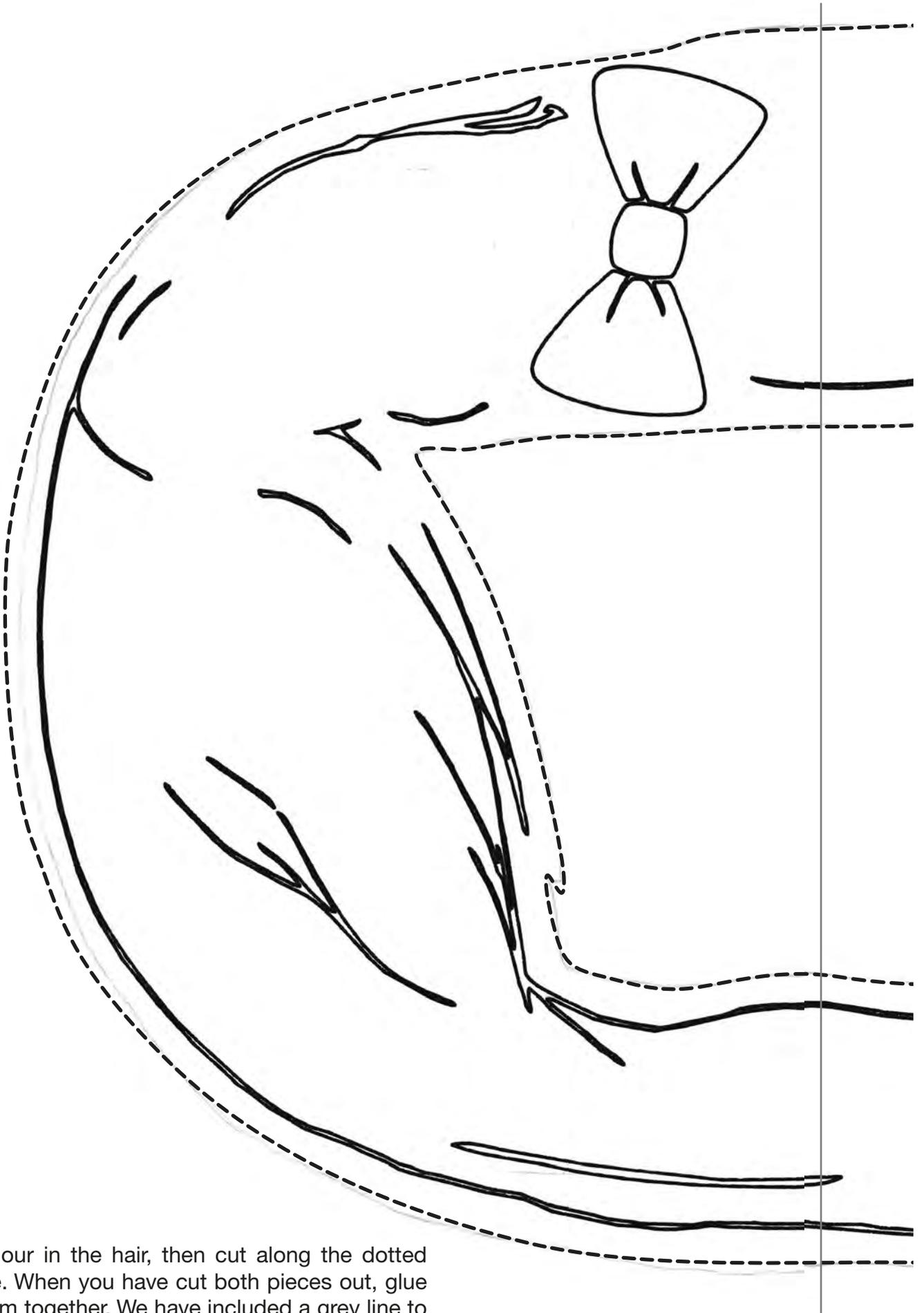
Colour in the mask before attaching it to the headband pieces. Then attach the card headband pieces, just like you did for the hair pieces – fasten them to the sides of the mask, about level with the eyes. Hold the mask in place, bring the headband pieces around the back, and fasten them to fit, using sticky tape.



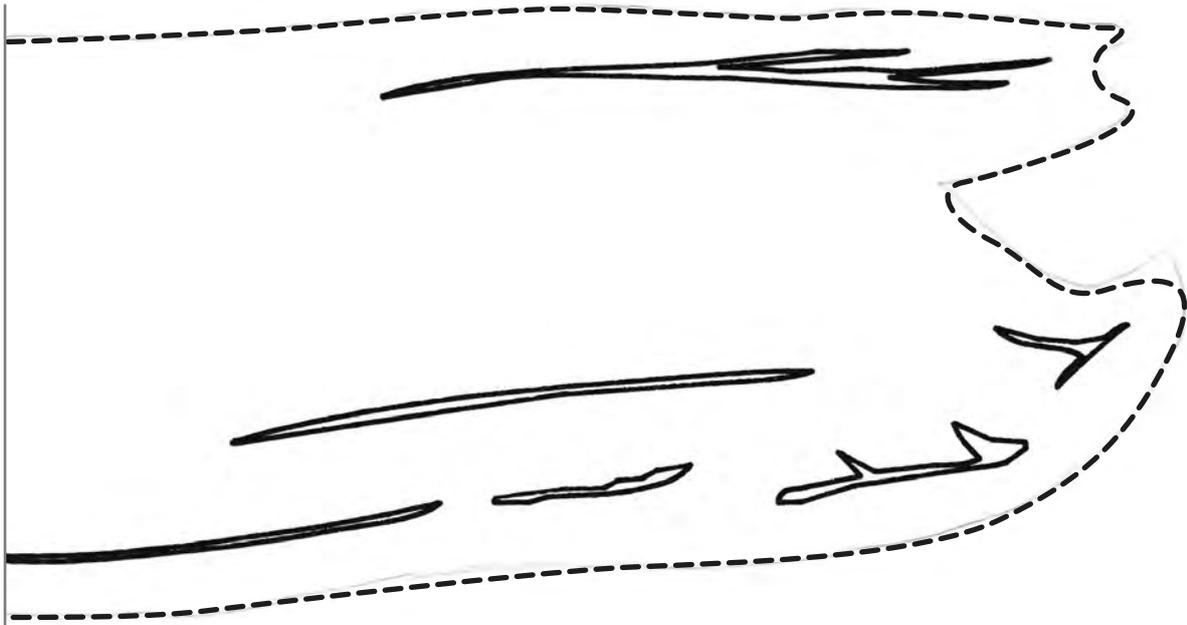
SARAH THE COOK'S HAT

Do any colouring in first, before attaching card headband pieces to each side, just as you did for the masks and hair pieces. Bring the two pieces round back and secure with sticky tape. You can see how it fits over her hair as well, in the last photo.

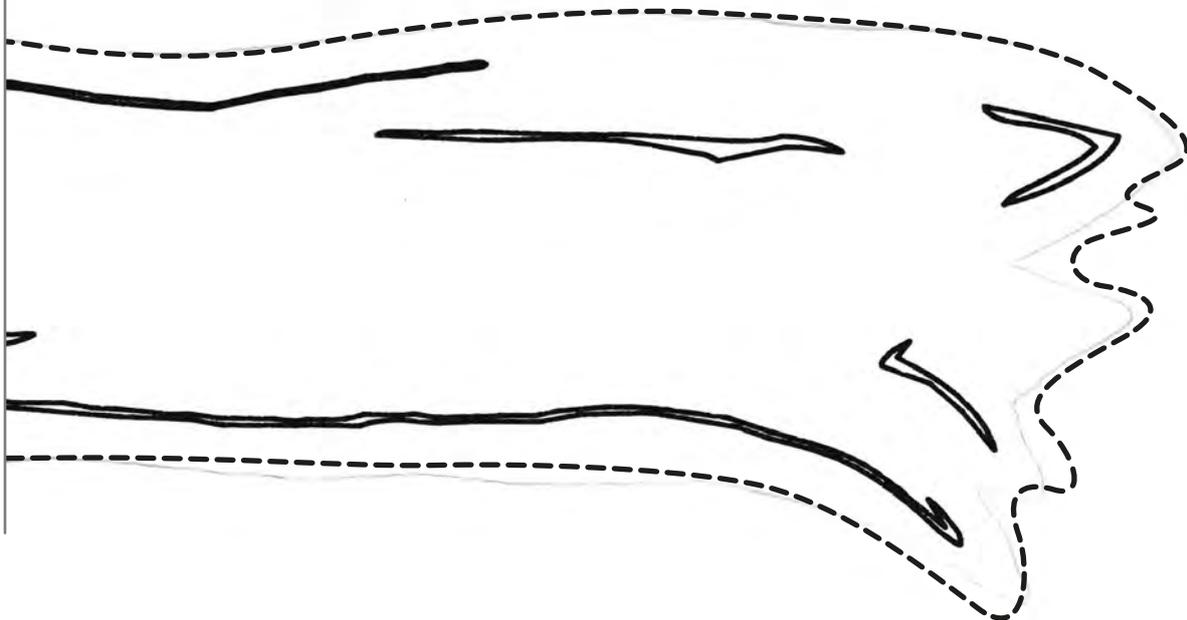




Colour in the hair, then cut along the dotted line. When you have cut both pieces out, glue them together. We have included a grey line to show where to join the pieces.

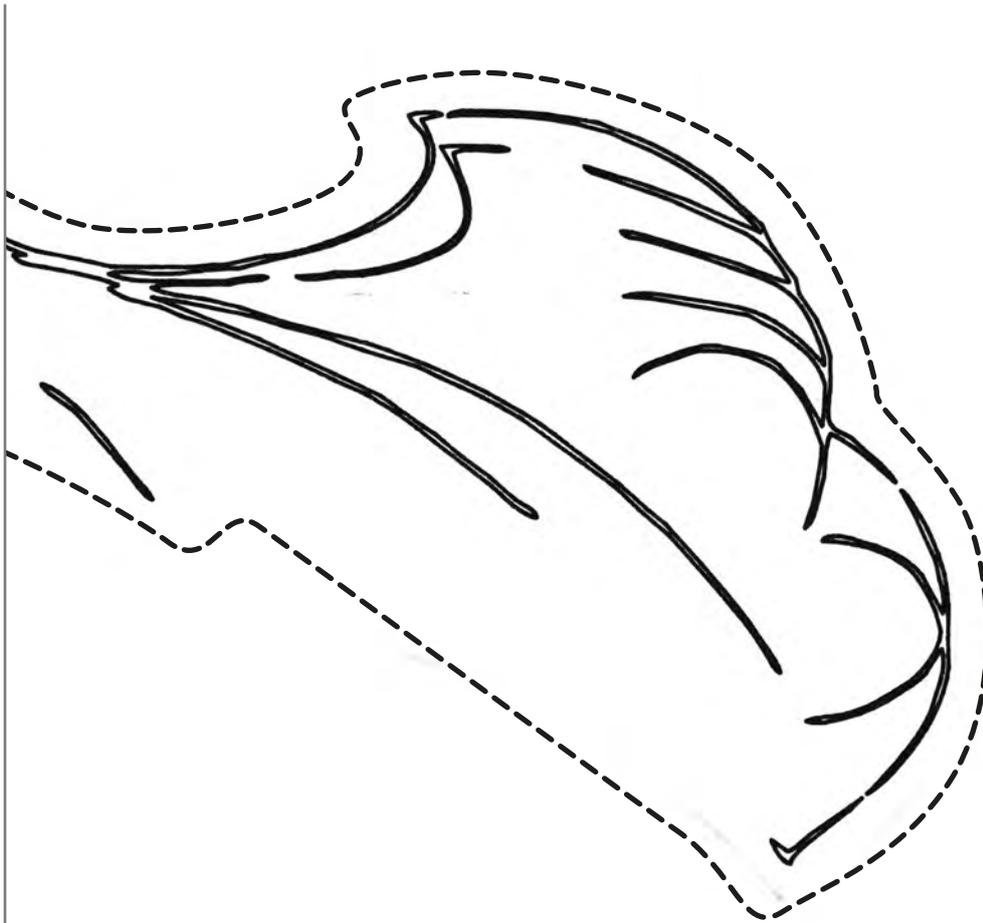


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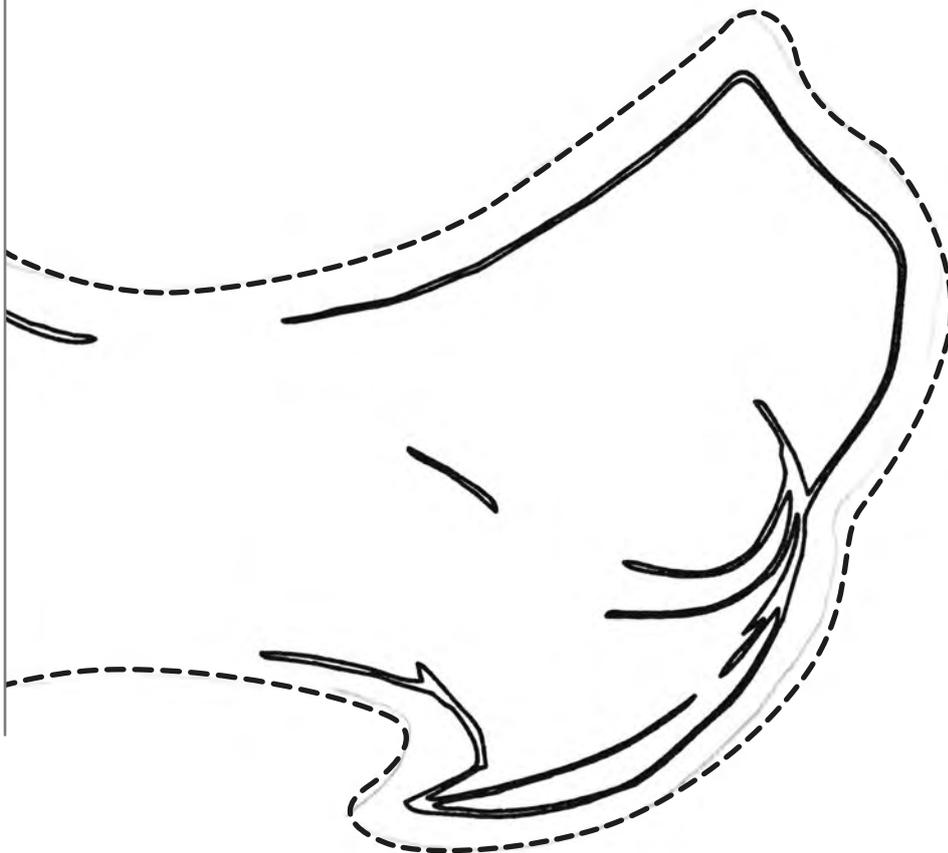


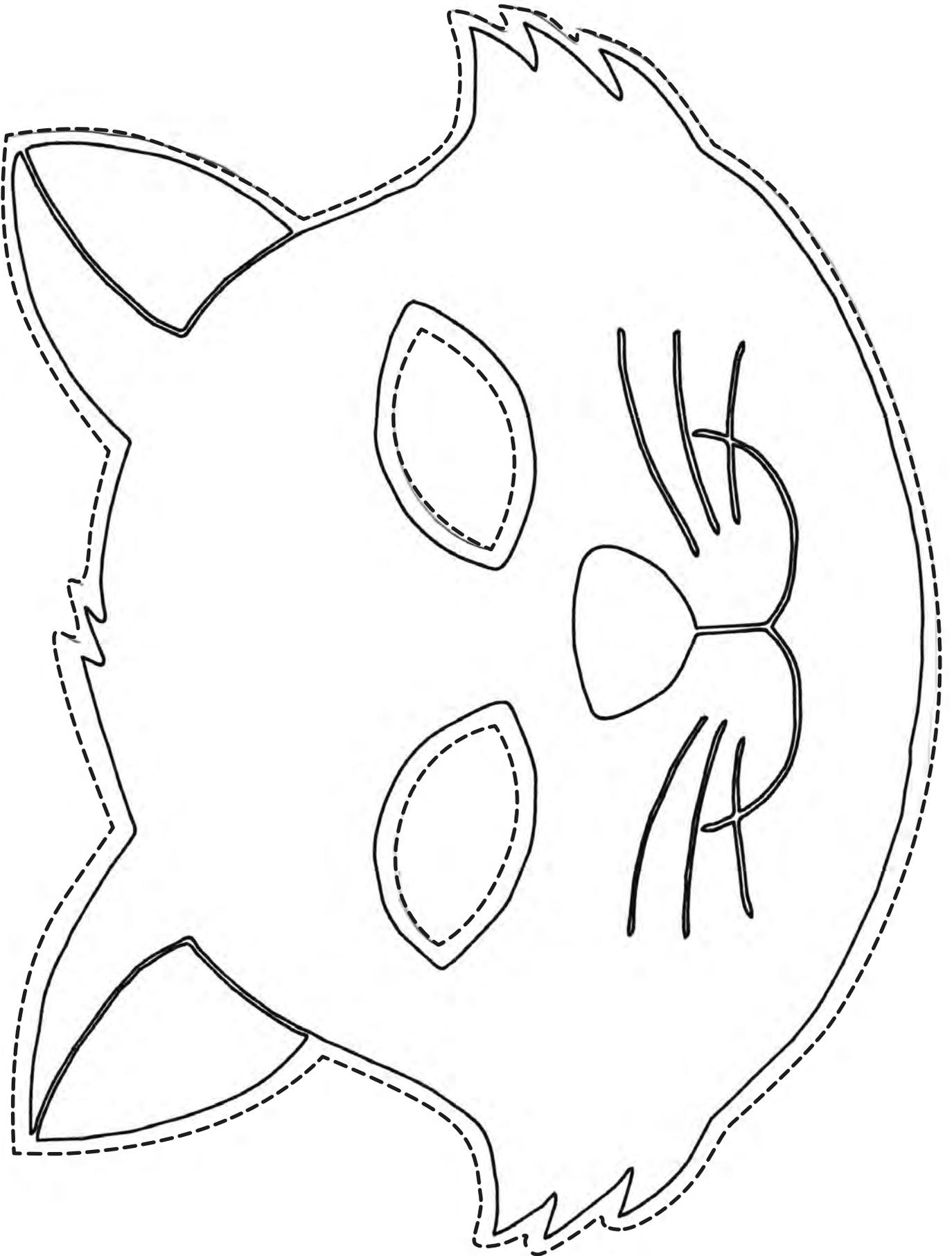
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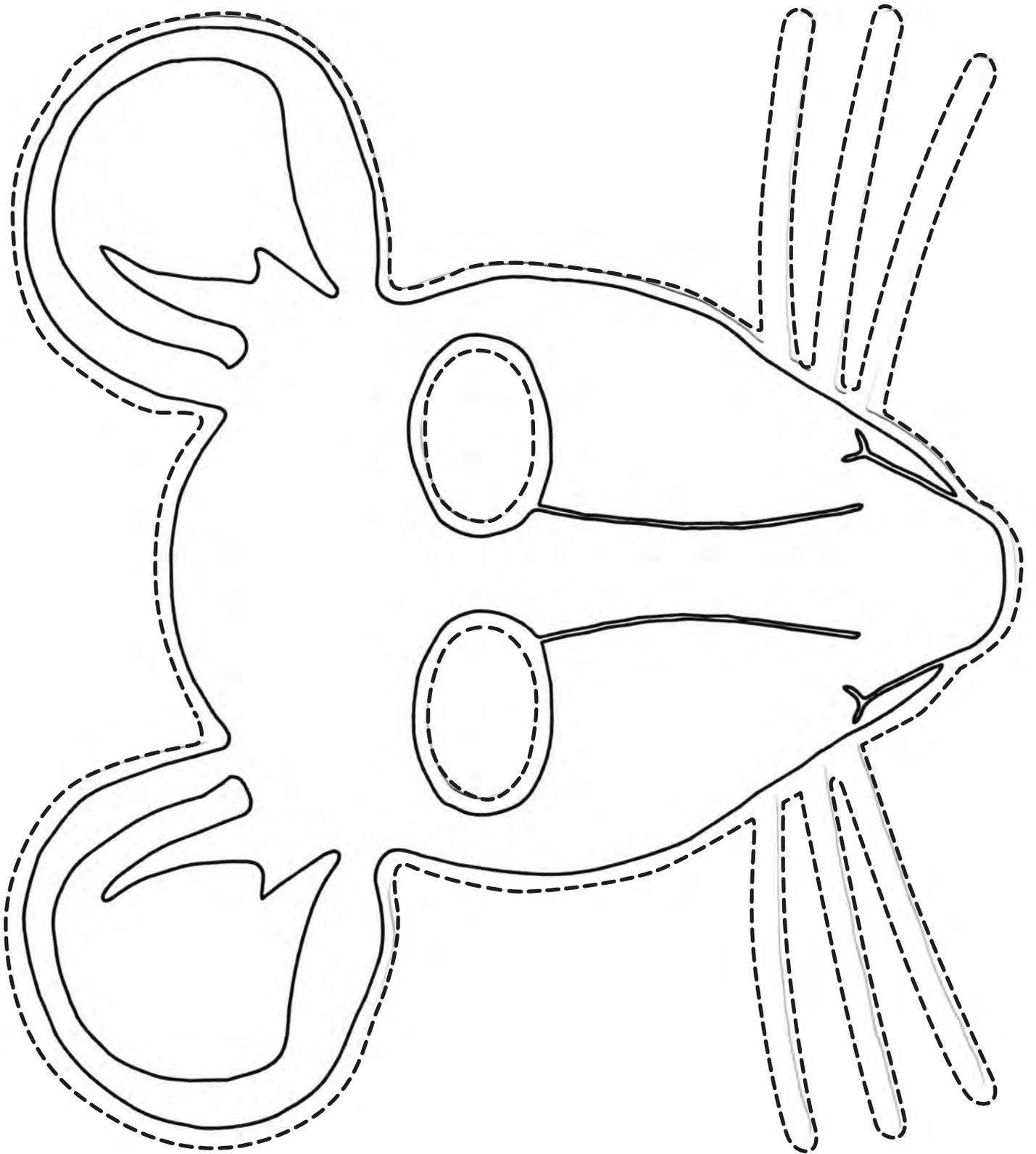


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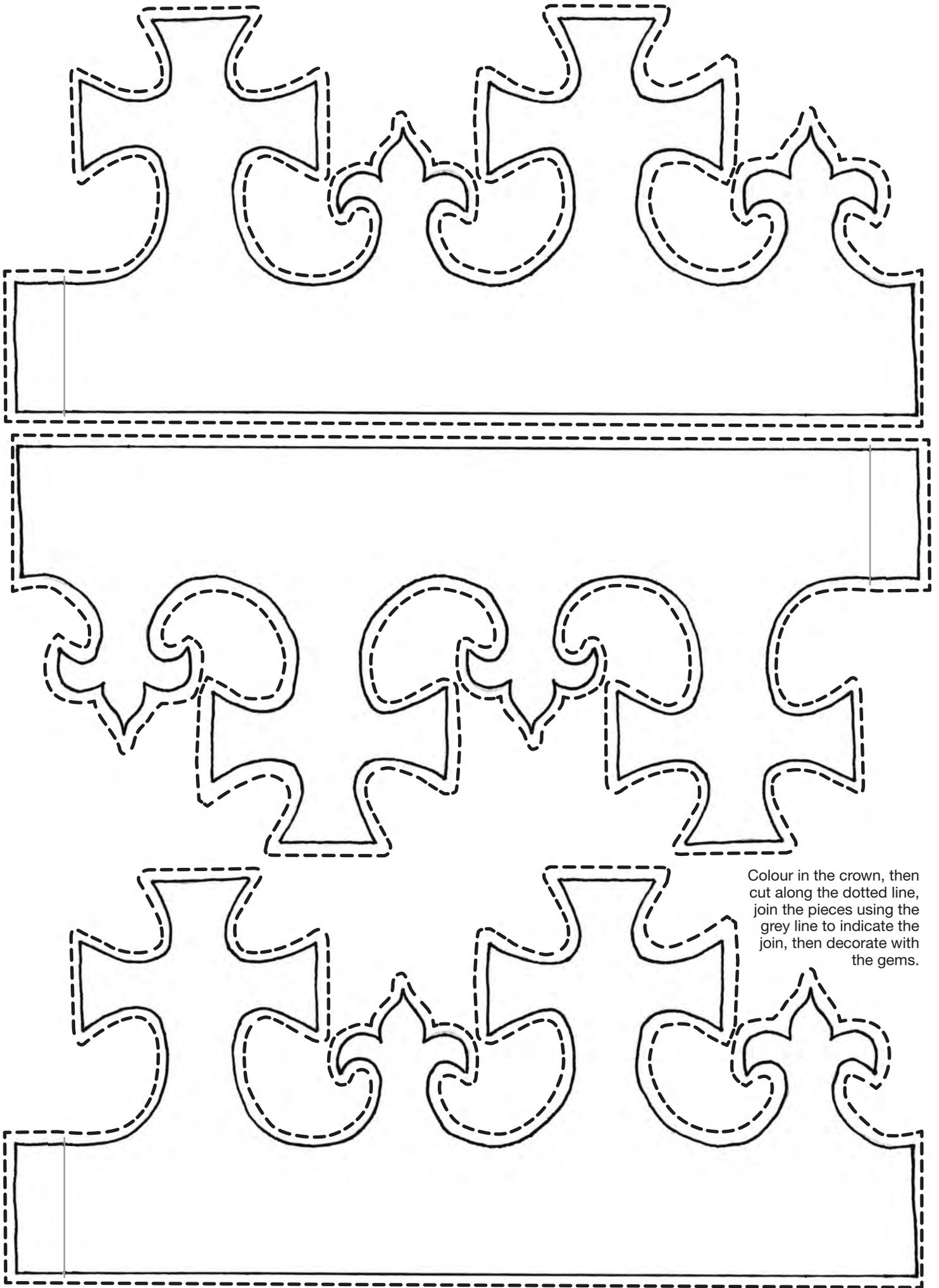




Colour in the mask, then cut along the dotted line and fix the headband to the back.

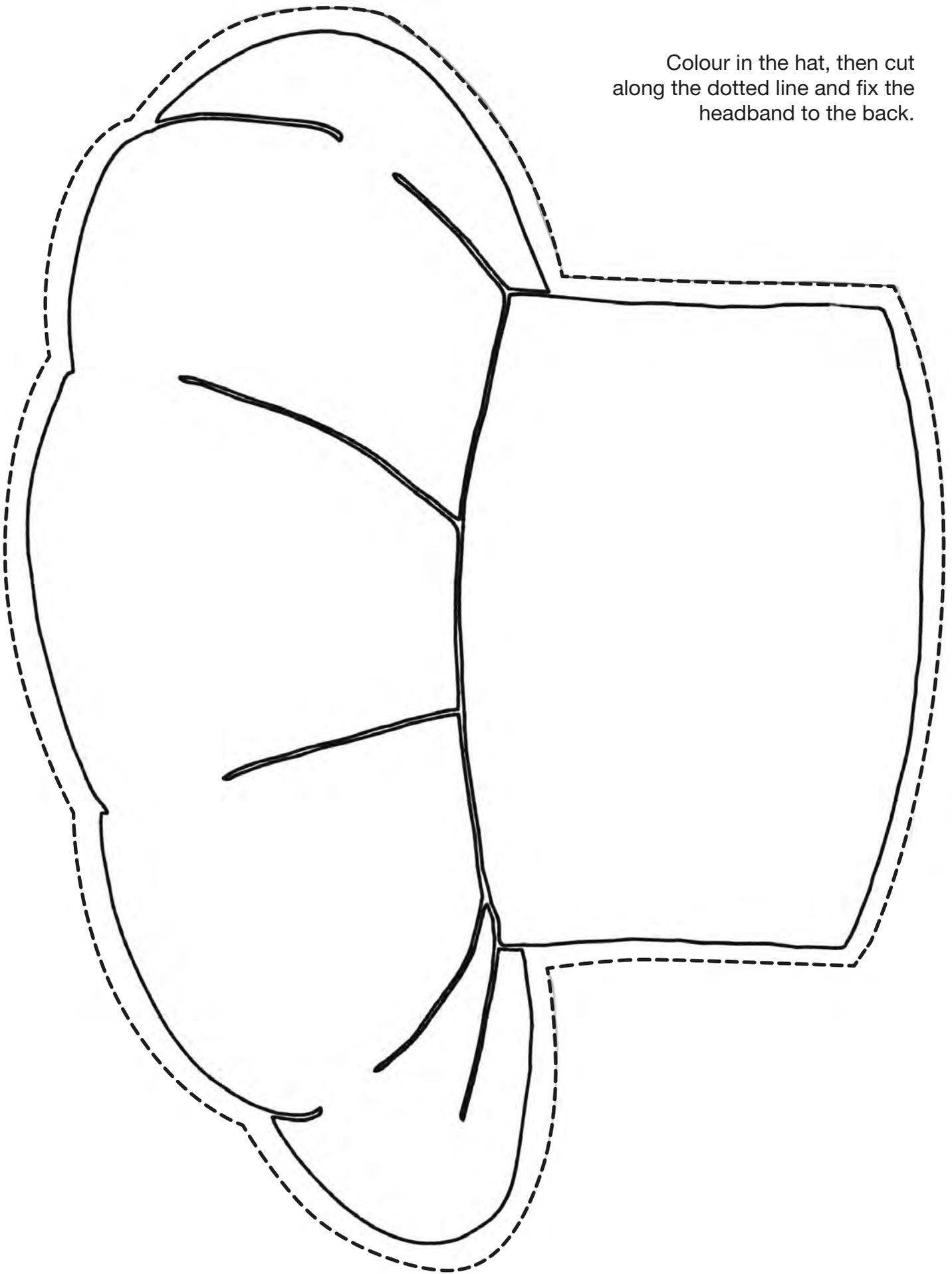


Colour in the mask, then cut along the dotted line and fix the headband to the back.



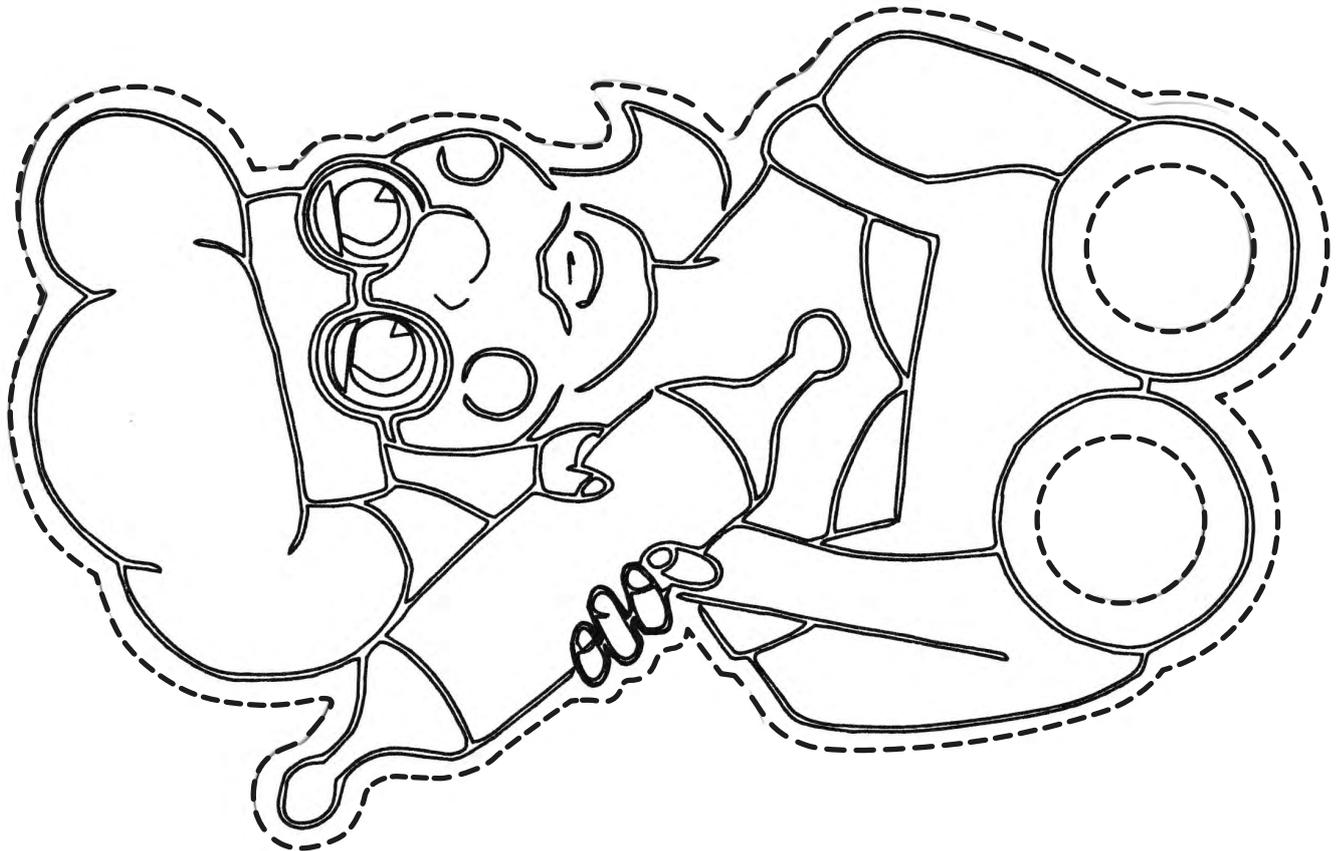
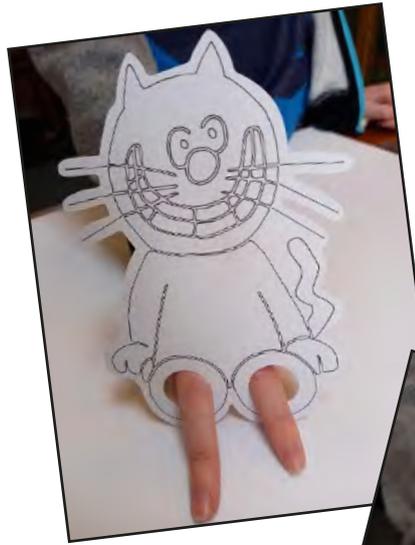
Colour in the crown, then cut along the dotted line, join the pieces using the grey line to indicate the join, then decorate with the gems.

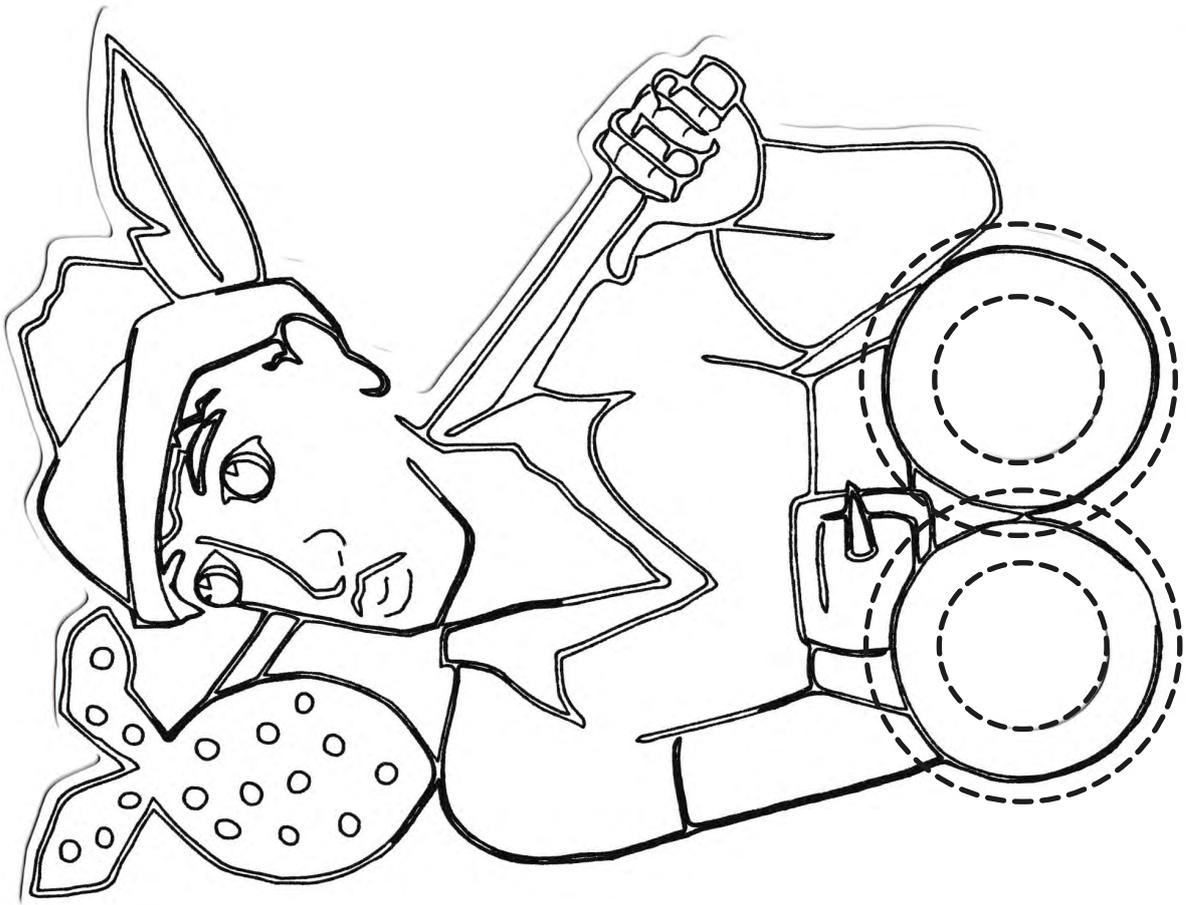
Colour in the hat, then cut along the dotted line and fix the headband to the back.



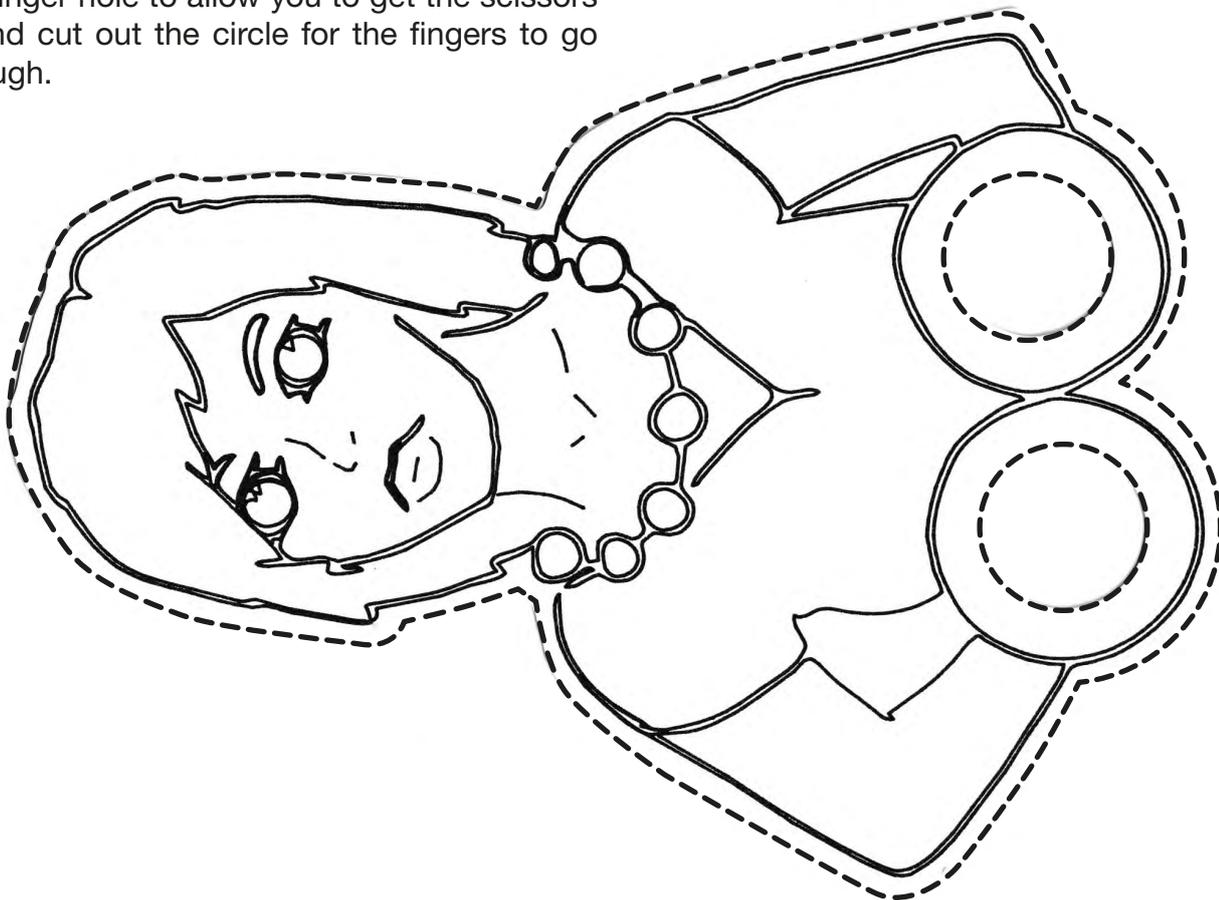
THE FINGER PUPPETS

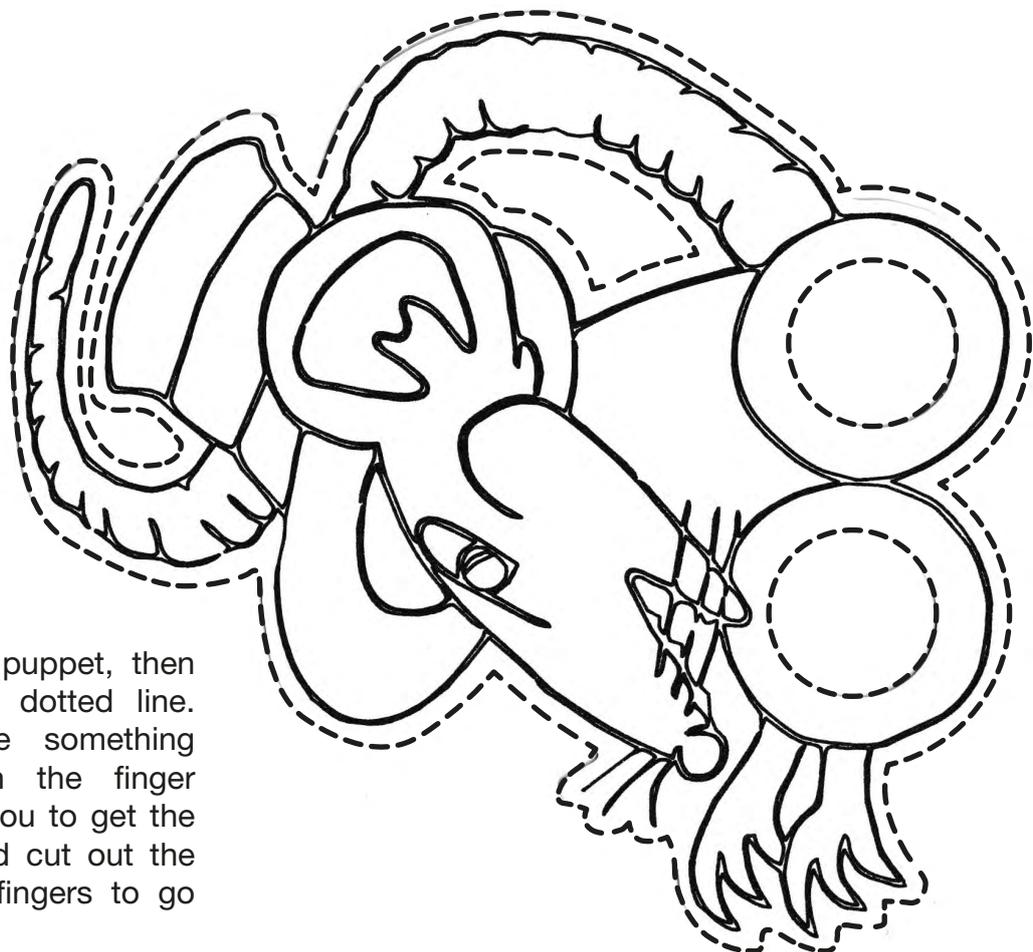
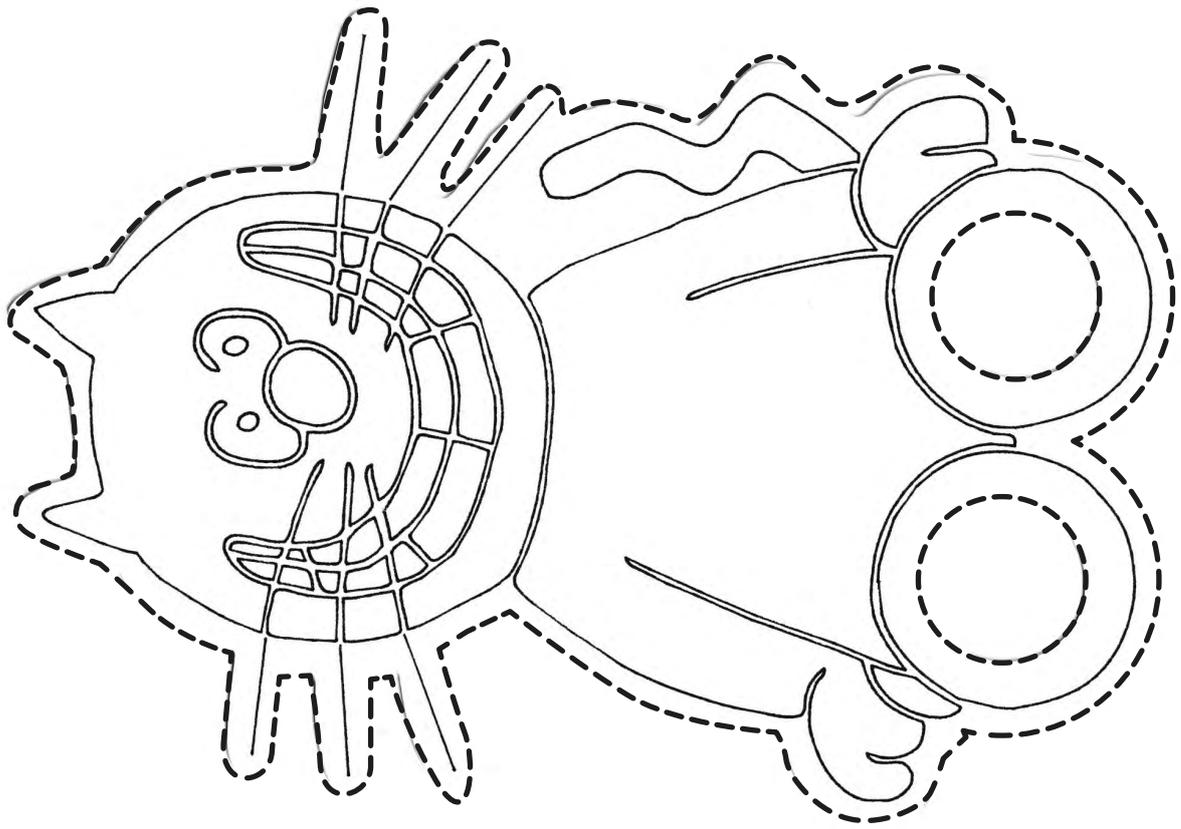
Colour in the characters, then cut along the dotted line to cut them out. You will need to poke a hole through the finger holes with something sharp before you can get the scissors in to cut them out. Please be careful you don't hurt yourself poking through, or ask an adult for some help. When it's all done, put your fingers through the two holes to make legs. You can use make up or face paint to decorate your fingers, to create shoes, trousers or a dress/skirt.





Colour in the puppet, then cut along the dotted line. Carefully poke something sharp through the finger hole to allow you to get the scissors in and cut out the circle for the fingers to go through.





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HOW TO MAKE THE PUPPETS

Puppets are a great way to tell a story, especially for or with children. This technique allows you to create a puppet cheaply and easily with objects found around the house. You can put your own spin to the characters and is a great way to join in if you're a little camera shy. Always get an adult to help with scissors or knives.



STEP 1

Wash out a plastic milk bottle then place longways with the bottom on your tummy and squash (don't put your hand over the top or else you will trap all the air in & it won't squash!).



STEP 2

You need to squash & scrunch the bottle up so that it begins to look like a skull with the handle becoming the nose and the top becoming the mouth.

If you don't like the shape you simply blow into the bottle and it will fill out again and then start again from step 1.



STEP 3

Watch out! Be careful! Ask an adult! You need to slice with a craft knife just a bit more than half way around where the screw cap joins the neck of the bottle. This is what forms the mouth as you tease open the slit you have just made.



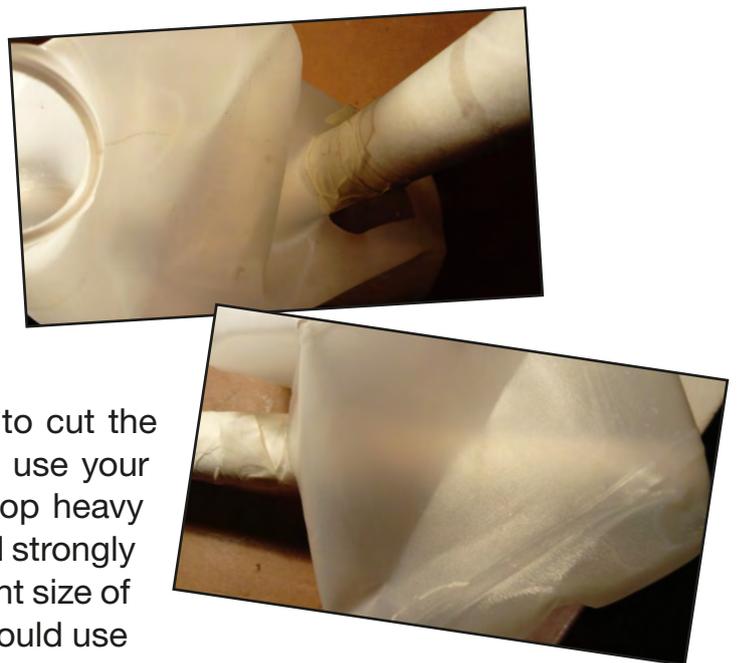
STEP 4

Your head should now be ready! Hold it in your hand and imagine it's a rod or glove puppet head, this will give you an idea of where to make the next cut. Watch out! Be careful! Ask an adult! You need to cut a flap about two thirds and centred at the back of the head.



STEP 5

You will need to poke the rod or tube right up into the top of the head and then with masking tape or gaffer stick the rod or tube to the flap. This should be really taped firm so that it doesn't wiggle around. A good strong tube from a tin foil roll will give you flexibility to cut it down for a glove puppet head or leave long for a rod puppet.. But experiment first before you cut it so you don't have to cut the tube until you are sure how you want to use your puppet. The heads can become a little top heavy so it's so important that you tape the head strongly to the rod. Remember you can use different size of milk bottles too, so for a glove puppet I would use a smaller pint size bottle.



STEP 6

It's now time to either make a very quick puppet & add eyes, buttons/beads on blue tac are good. Watch out! Be careful! Ask an adult as small beads are very easy to swallow by small children!

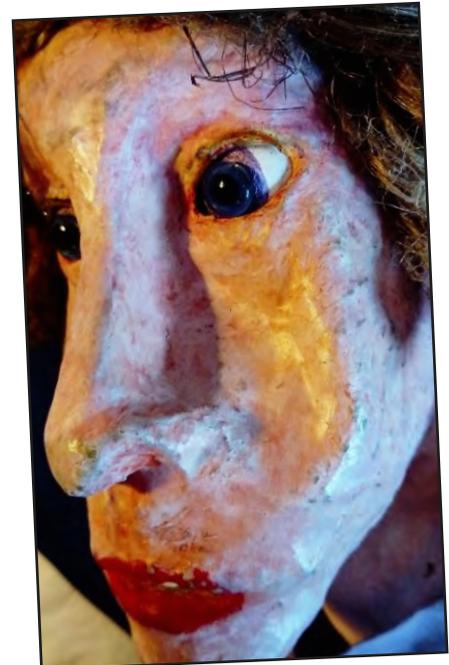
You could spend a little more time & effort by covering the head in papier mâché. You need smallish pieces of paper (old brown paper from parcels/packaging is good – cheap sugar paper or newspaper), make sure you tear it rather than cut as a torn edge blends in much better. You need some PVA glue (this gives a slightly shiny finish) or wallpaper paste or even flour & water paste but PVA is good as it's plastic & so is your bottle. You will need to water the glue down slightly but not too much, just enough to thin the rather thick & gloppy glue texture. You now apply the paper and glue to the head, I use my fingers as you can then really feel which pieces need an extra rub to get them sticking to the bottle well and blending in with all the other pieces of paper. The more care you take at this stage the better. A good two layers should be enough. When the head is completely covered you may want to add extra features like a bigger nose, ears and chin? Tissue paper squigged into the glue and squeezed into place works well. You might need to build this up between letting it dry and then adding more.



Residents at Thorpe House Nursing Home applying papier mâché to Halloween heads.

STEP 7

Once your head is as you want it you can paint it! Acrylic paints are great as the colours are strong and they are also 'plastic' so adhere well to the plastic pva glue and the plastic bottle. Once all the paint is dry you can add the eyes! Eyes on a puppet are really important but remember this is a puppet so it's eyes can be different sizes or really huge or tiny. You can make eyes out of all sorts of things, buttons, bottle tops, tiny ball of thin wire, experiment and see how different eyes will effect the character of your puppet?



STEP 8

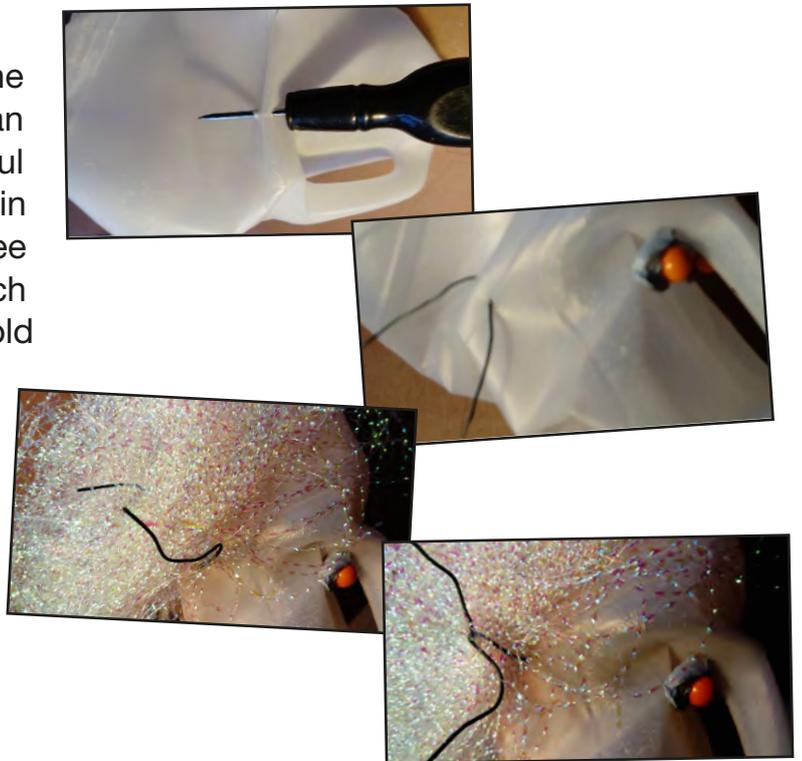
Teeth can be added by glueing them into the mouth, holloween teeth or joke teeth work well. Watch out! Be careful! Ask an adult! A hot glue gun is excellent at glueing in extra additions like teeth & eyes.

If you have spent time making a wonderful papier mâché puppet head, that's terrific and now it's time to follow the instructions to complete your puppet body.



STEP 9

Hair is fun, again the more unusual the better. Builder's hemp is great as it can be dyed, old string, wire wool (careful as can be sharp), unusual wool, again experiment with different hair to see the effect on your puppet head. Watch out! Be careful! Ask an adult! To hold the hair in place I usually use a tool called a bradawl. You carefully poke it through the plastic bottle and then thread through a piece of plastic coated gardening wire and catch a clump of 'hair' in the wire and twist. You may need to do this in several places over the top of the puppet head to hold all the hair in place.



STEP 10

Your puppet needs shoulders to keep their clothes on! You can recycle a take-away tub. Turn the tub upside down and in the middle, you can get the tube which is attached to your puppet head and draw around it so that you have a circle in the middle of your tube.

The next bit can be tricky so you will need to ask an adult to do this bit for you! With a craft knife begin to cut out the circle, a tip is to cut a rough circle first and then very carefully trim it proud to the drawn line.



STEP 11

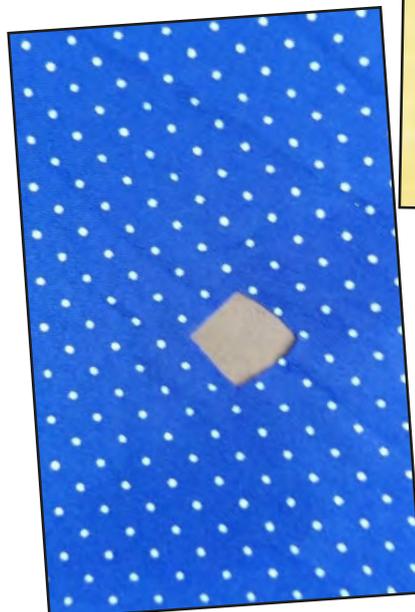
Put the puppet head tube through the hole and make sure it is not too tight but also not too loose.

**STEP 12**

Now get a good-sized piece of material and fold it in half and then half again.

**STEP 13**

Watch out! Be careful! Ask an adult! You need to cut a small snip off the corner of the material (remember it is now four layers thick because of the folds). Cut a small snip to begin with and open the material out to see the hole. Check if the tube will easily slide through it. Do not cut it too big, much better to cut small snips until it is a good fit.



STEP 14

Slip shoulders off your puppet and place the puppet head tube through the hole you have just cut. Get the shoulders and push up under the material so that the material drapes over the shoulders.



STEP 15

It's neat to use your own hand as the puppet's hand and this is very easy, just gather up some of the material over your arm so that your hand sticks out and looks like the hand of the puppet. If you need to wrap an elastic band to keep it in place.

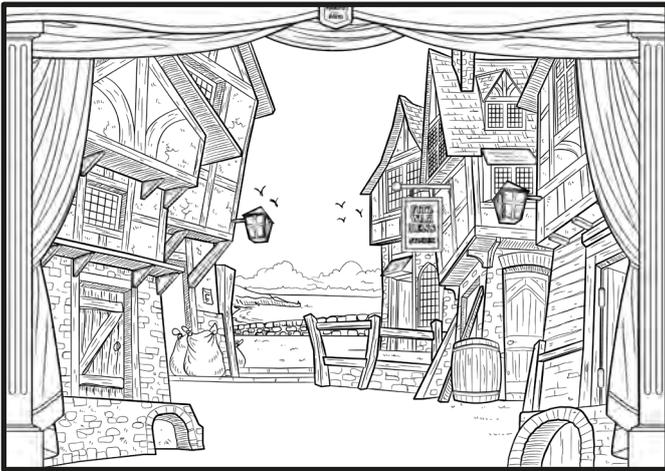
You are now ready to enjoy the fun of being a puppeteer!



HOW TO CREATE SCENERY

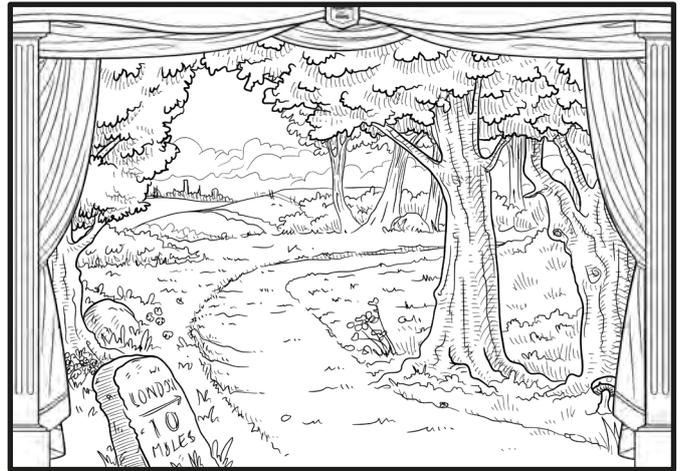
No panto is complete without some backdrops or scenery. You can use whatever you have in your house to create the scenery needed for this panto. Cardboard boxes are very useful to create shops or signs, and blue bedsheets make a great sky. You could simply just use your own kitchen for the kitchen scene, or your back garden for outside the shop, with a shop sign made from cardboard or paper. If you're feeling particularly brave, you could film the road outside London scene on a country road or lane. Make sure there's not much traffic or it may ruin the sound. You could just use one of the backdrops on the next few pages. They will work best with the puppets, but if you're using zoom to record your footage, you could set them as your custom background. The plainer the background behind you when filming in zoom, the better the results will be. Colour them in and use them however you want. You could even draw your own, or use images from the internet (although be aware some images will be copyrighted).

There's also a page for you to colour in and put your family details or photos on to personalise your video production of Dick Whittington. If you want to make your own, that's great - just use the next page as a guide. You don't need to do one, but it's a nice way to introduce the rest of the panto. There's a lot of hard work that goes into a panto before the curtain opens, but this can be just as much fun as prancing about on stage in silly clothes. Whatever you do, have fun doing it.



OUTSIDE THE SHOP

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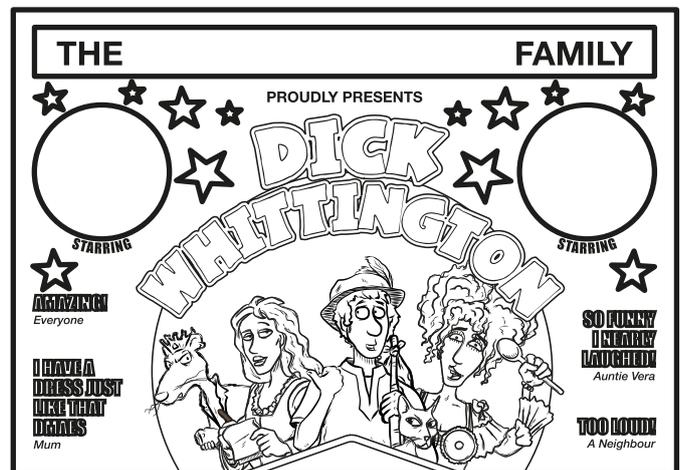
A ROAD OUTSIDE LONDON

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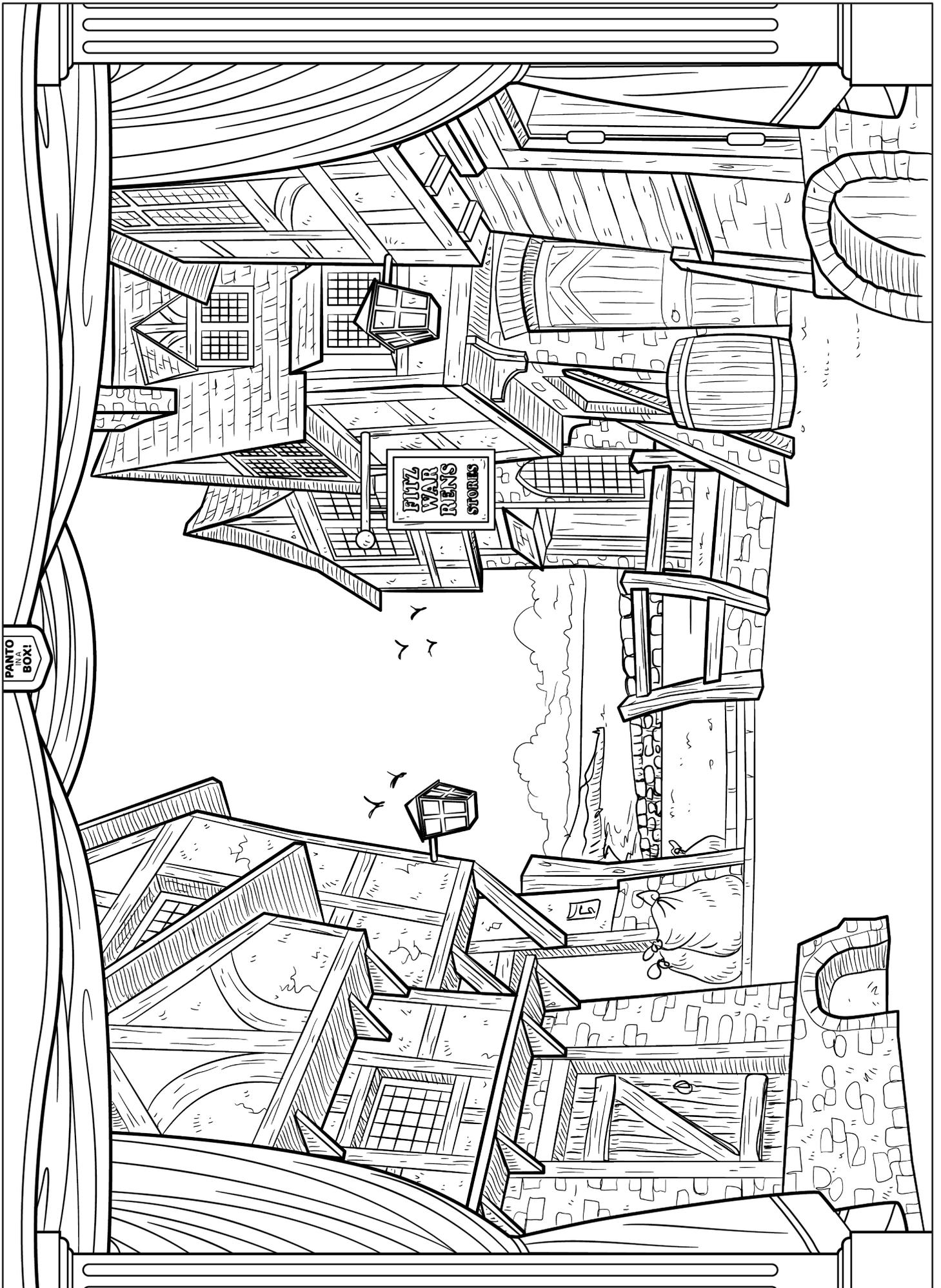
IN THE KITCHEN

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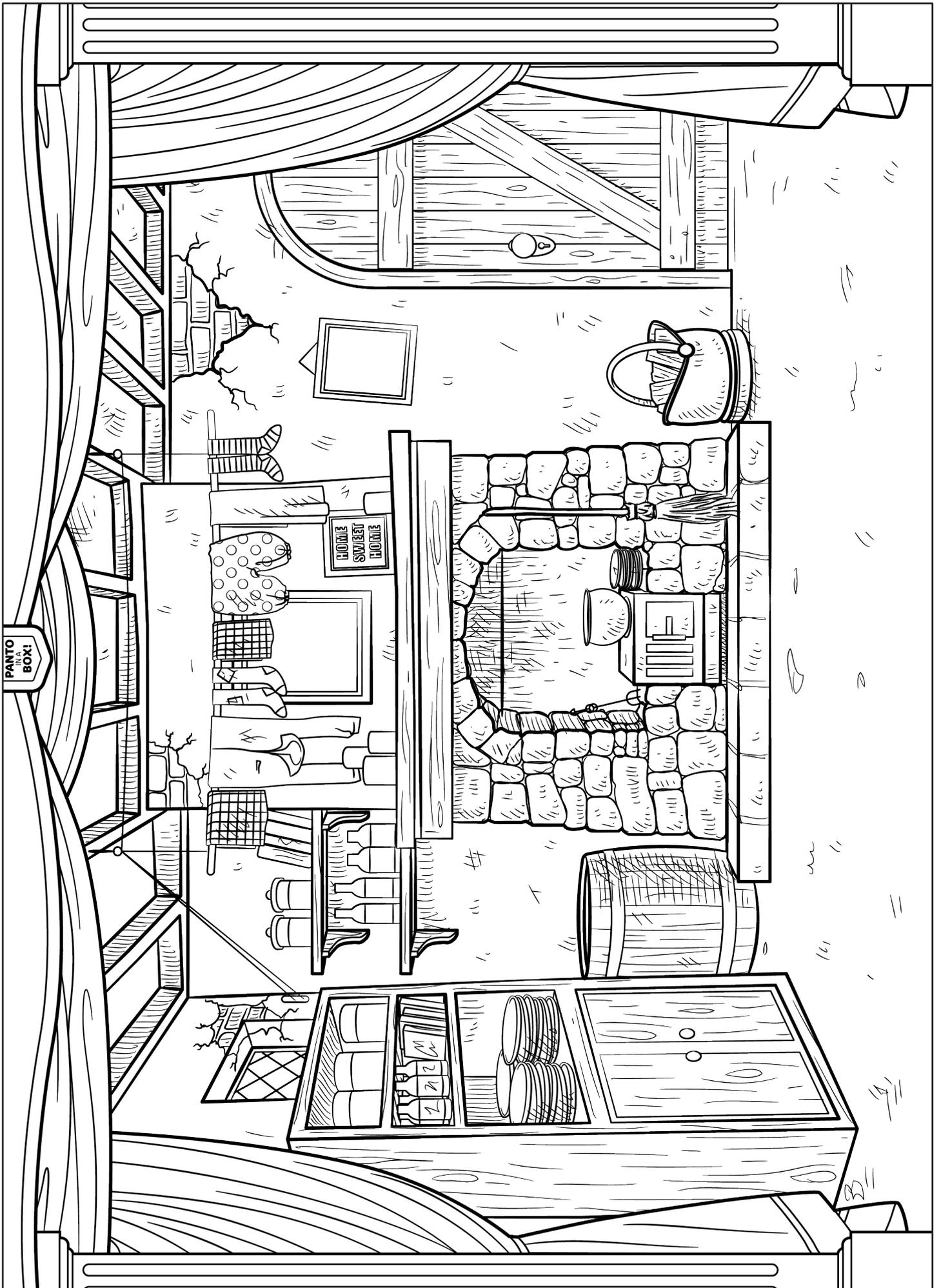


YOUR TITLE SCREEN

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FAMILY

THE

PROUDLY PRESENTS

DICK WHITTINGTON

STARRING

STARRING

SO FUNNY
I NEARLY
LAUGHED!

Auntie Vera

TOO LOUD!
A Neighbour

AMAZING!
Everyone

I HAVE A
DRESS JUST
LIKE THAT
DAMES
Mum

