



Christmas
is cancelled!

...or is it?

KS1
ACTIVITY PACK



Christmas is cancelled!

...or is it?

Dear elf friends,

Welcome to our learning and play progression activity pack.

Inside you will find Mikka's story, but not as you know it!
On each page you can colour in the full scene, or help
fill in the missing parts.

At the end, you will find some play and learn ideas
we hope you'll enjoy too.

Make sure you send your favourite drawings or completed play
and learn activity pages to hello@friendlygiants.com for
a chance to win a signed copy of the book!

This activity pack belongs to:

.....
(A SMALL ELF WITH A GIANT HEART)

This page shows how we used colour to bring our book to life, but you can colour this version however you wish!

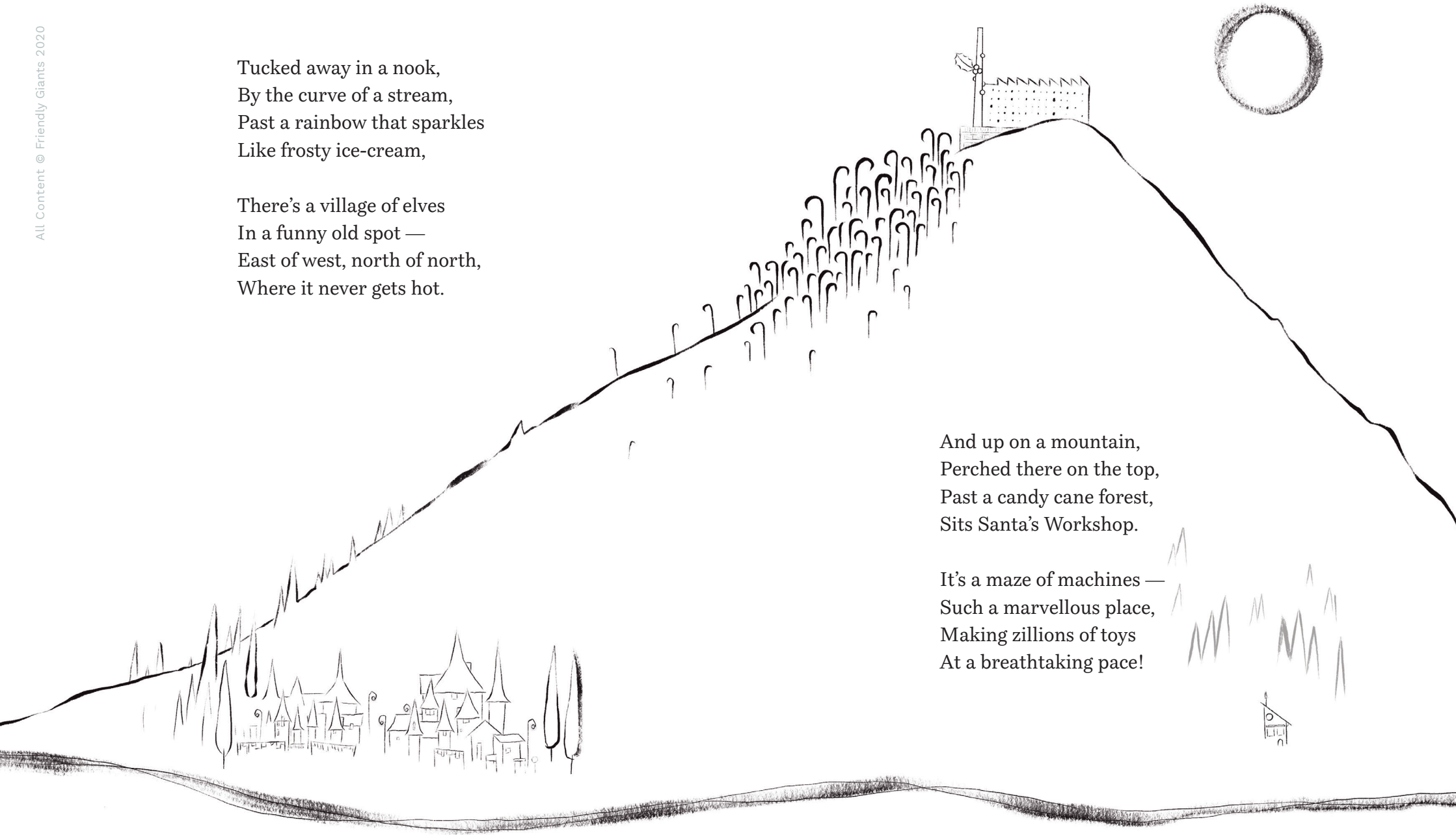


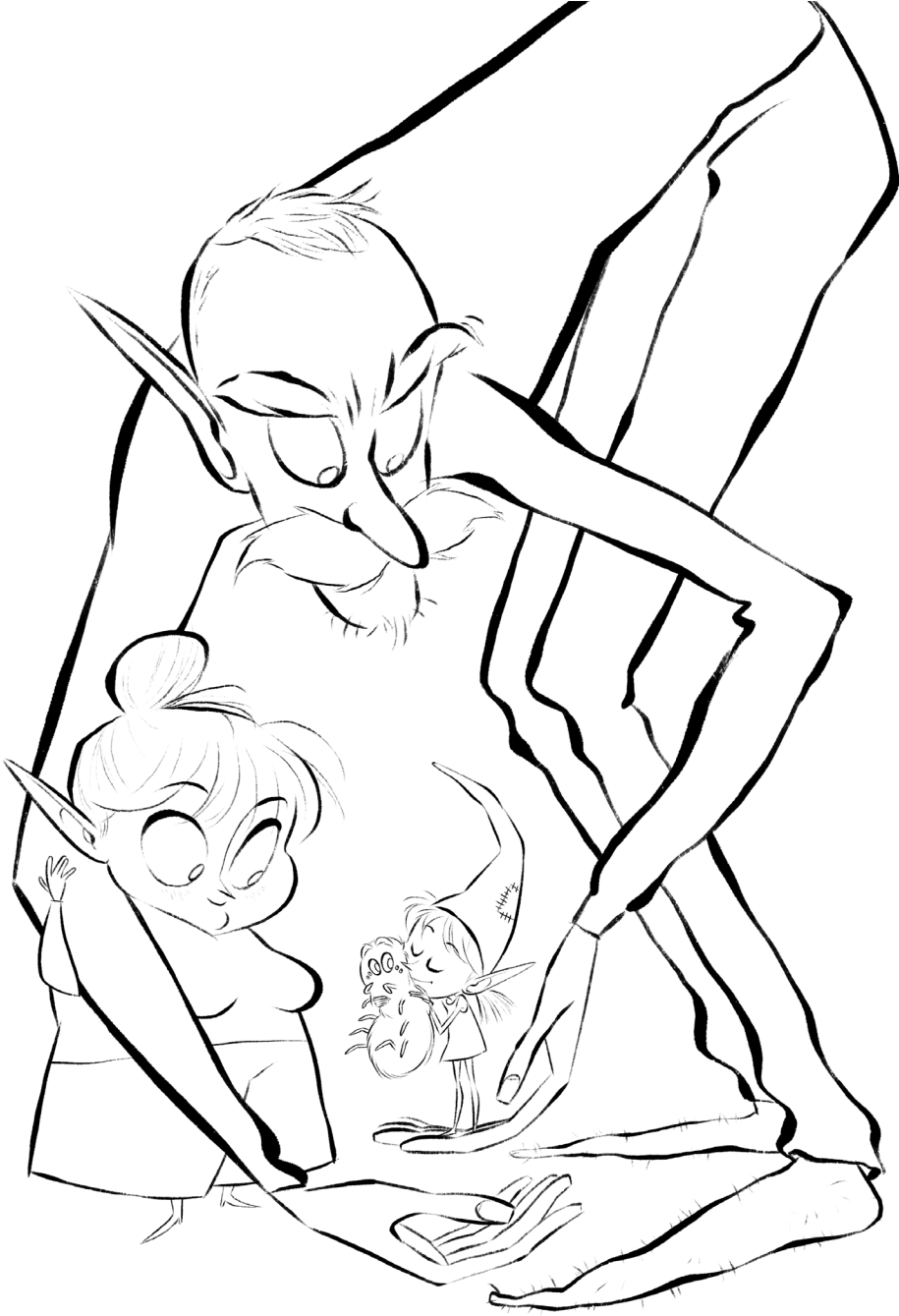
Tucked away in a nook,
By the curve of a stream,
Past a rainbow that sparkles
Like frosty ice-cream,

There's a village of elves
In a funny old spot —
East of west, north of north,
Where it never gets hot.

And up on a mountain,
Perched there on the top,
Past a candy cane forest,
Sits Santa's Workshop.

It's a maze of machines —
Such a marvellous place,
Making zillions of toys
At a breathtaking pace!



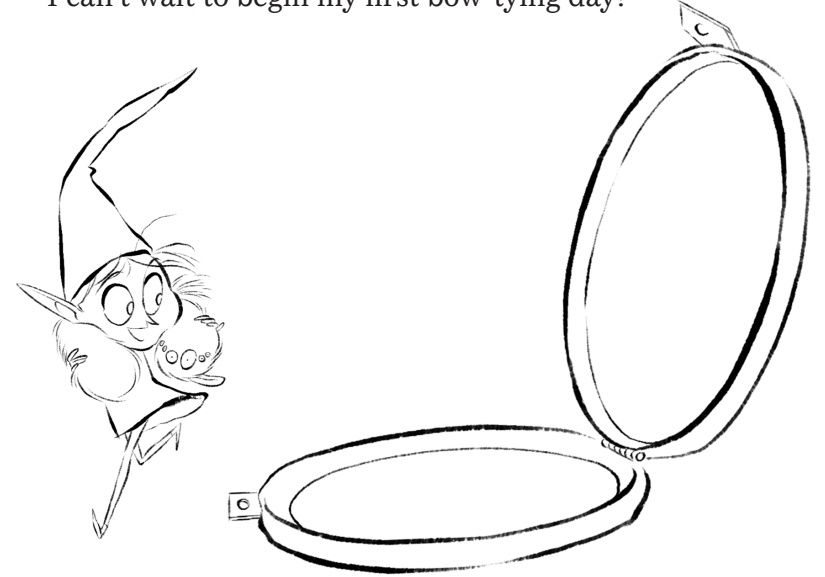


Meet Mikka, the world's smallest elf — she can't wait
For tomorrow to come, for tomorrow is great!

For tomorrow's the day Santa sends out his list
And it's packed full of every good wish that was wished.

Then off to the workshop
The whole village goes
(Where *big* elves push buttons,
And *small* ones tie bows).

And Mikka was hugely excited to say,
'I can't wait to begin my first bow-tying day!'



! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

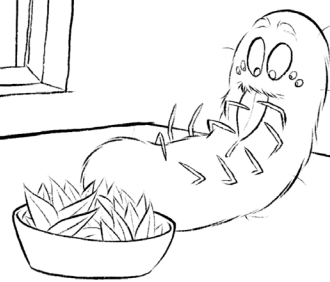
See if you can draw Mikka and Cat's reflection
in the mirror.

They flew from the workshop with lists in their beaks
To the village — to cheers, whoops and hollers and shrieks!

Yet the joy was short-lived.
How I wish it were better.
Instead of a list,
Every elf got a letter ...



Next morning, as everyone
Munched on their muffins,
There came from the sky
A great circus of puffins.



! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

Add in Mikka's family, enjoying their breakfast.



*Dearest elves, our whole world
has been turned upside down!*

*There's a terrible illness
that's going around.*

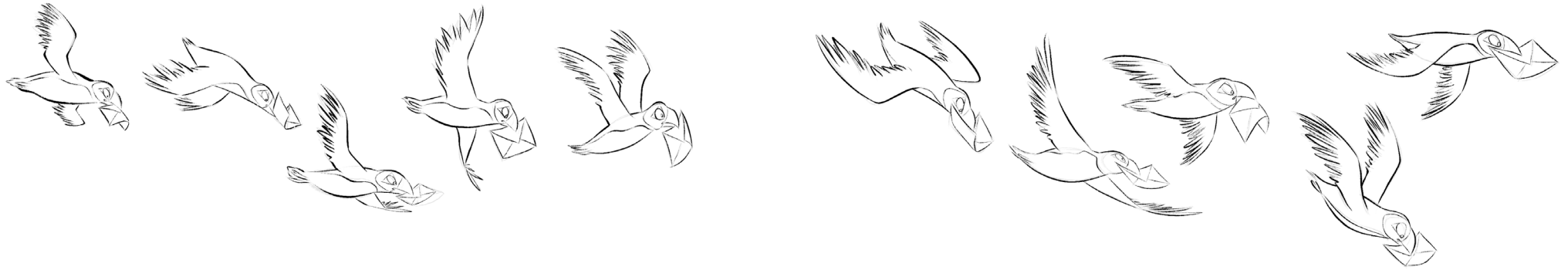
*While the making of toys
is our great source of pride,*

*For the sake of your health
we must all stay inside!*

*So we cannot make toys!
No more work, no more play ...*

*This Christmas is cancelled,
I'm sorry to say.*





What a shake! What a shock!
An unthinkable twist
For a village of elves, who'd expected a list.

Well they flopped and they flapped
And fell into despair —
'If we can't leave our houses,
Then who'll cut my hair?!

'We'll run out of toilet roll, syrup and bread,
Goey goose eggs and doughnuts
And cheesy cheese spread!
So they scurried at once to the shops like raccoons,
To stock up on staples like hot pickled prunes.
Exhausted, they crawled to their homes to lie down
As a miserable gloom settled over the town.



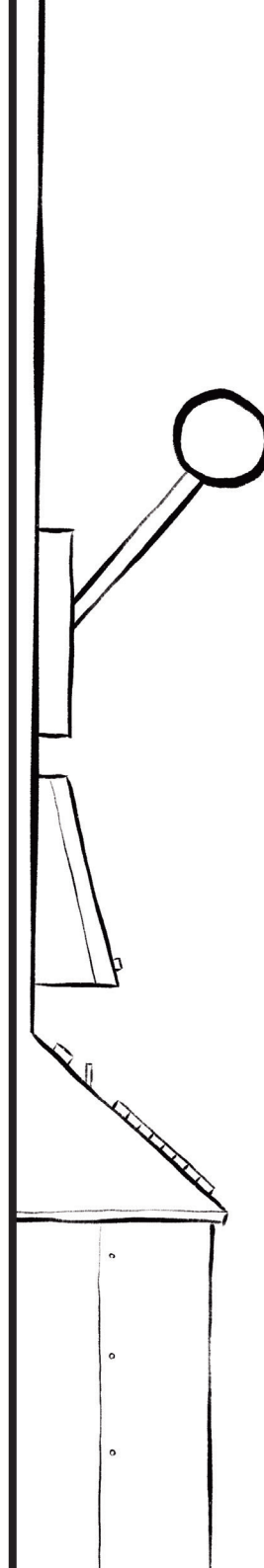
! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

On the left, see if you can draw the rest of the elves reacting to the news.



 ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

What do you think Santa's toy machine looks like?



With no handles to crank
And no buttons to press,
Very soon all the elves
Suffered badly with stress.

For you see, they'd forgot
How to make toys by hand
Since they switched to machines
To keep up with demand.

With the workshop closed down,
that was it for the year —

No surprises,

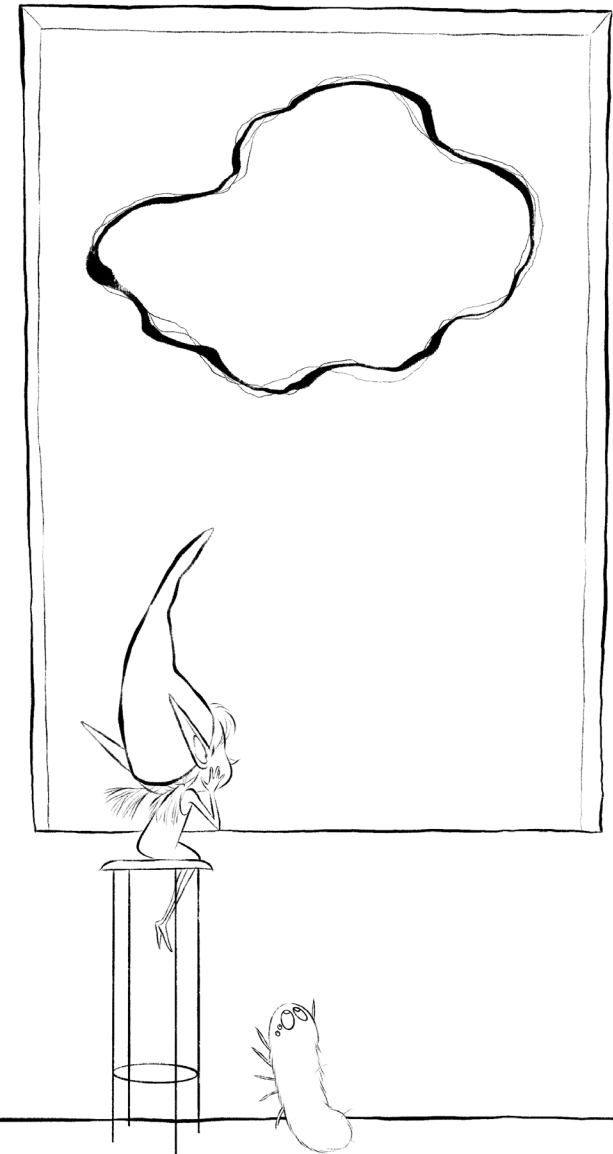
No laughter

And no Christmas cheer.

In her room, Mikka gazed at a peachy-puff cloud.
'I can surely do *something*,' she pondered aloud.

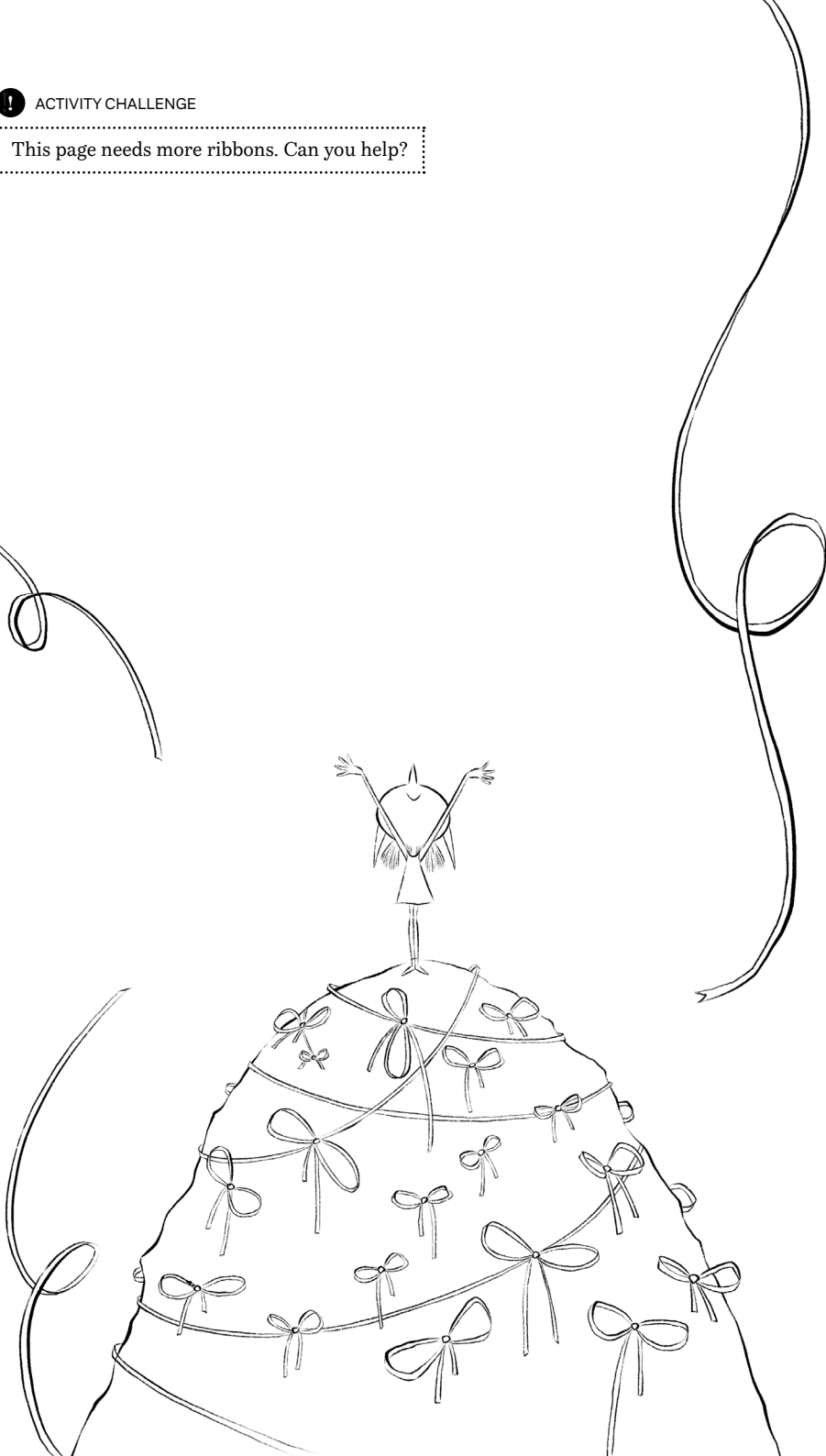
'As a small elf I know
How to tie and to twist ...

I could start making bows
For each kid on the list!'



! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

This page needs more ribbons. Can you help?



Mikka leapt to her feet — it was time to get going
And soon a great flurry of ribbon was flowing!

She tied bows with lace
And she tied bows with string.
She tied bows that could dance
And tied bows that could sing.

Mikka twisted and tangled and knotted and curled
'Til she'd tied every bow she could tie in the world.

Now these bows need a gift, Mikka thought as she sat,
'And I wonder,' she said, 'what to do about that?'

She tiptoed downstairs, when —

SHA-BLAM!

An idea!

‘I know!

I’ll make toys with the things that are here!’

‘All these forks and these spoons

And these old blue balloons.

A few boxes, this broom

And these hot pickled prunes.’

Mikka gathered these things in the glum evening
gloom,

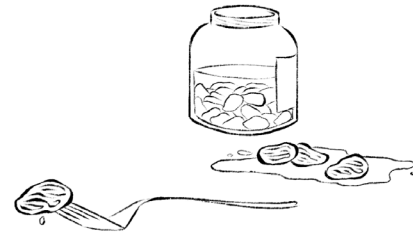
Then she stayed up all night, making gifts in her room:

Little doo-dahs and trinkets,

Some frills, knicks and knacks.

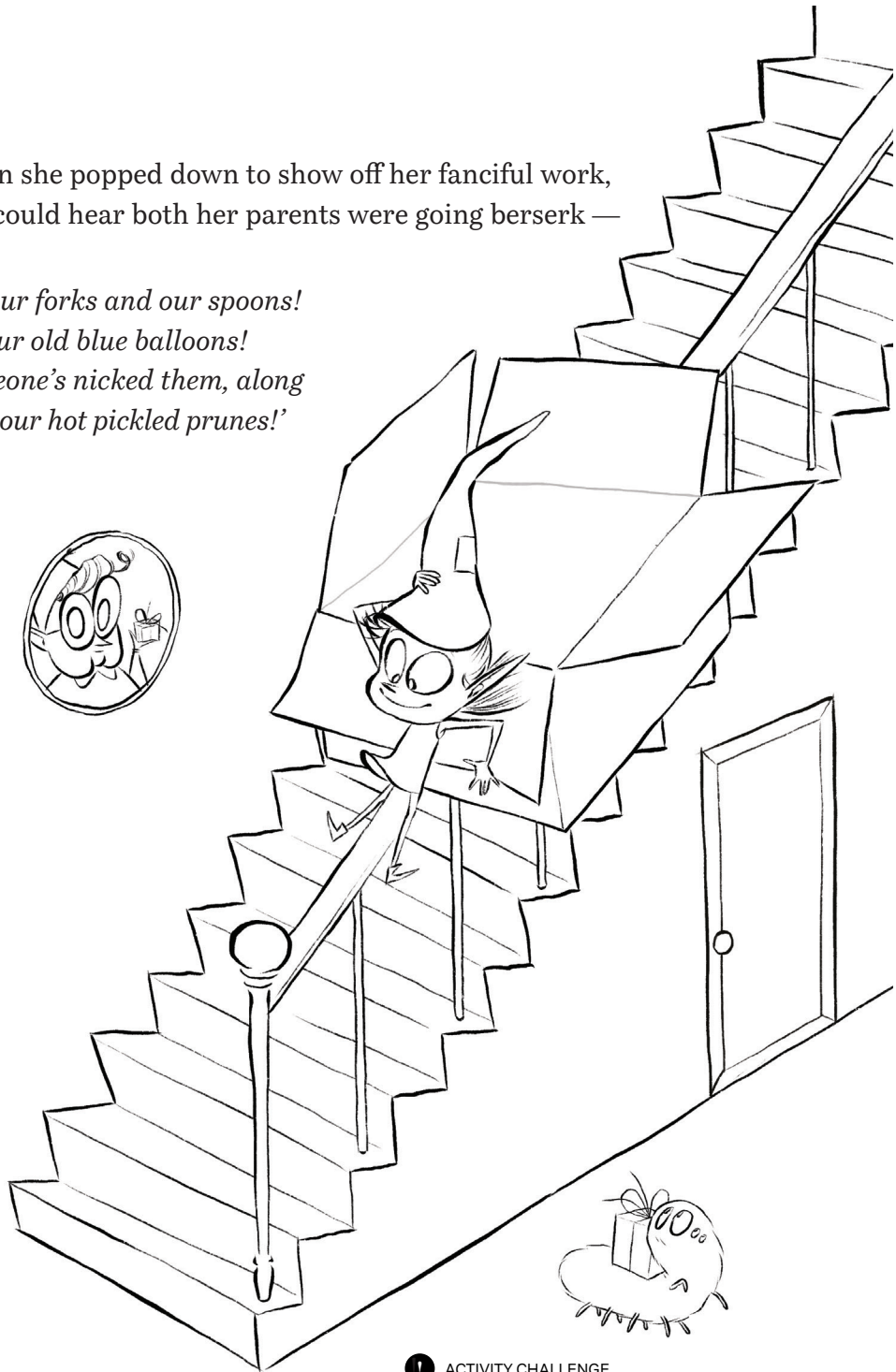
A few what-nots and what-sits

And widgets from wax.



When she popped down to show off her fanciful work,
She could hear both her parents were going berserk —

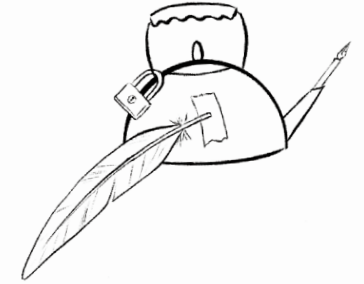
*'All our forks and our spoons!
All our old blue balloons!
Someone's nicked them, along
with our hot pickled prunes!'*



! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

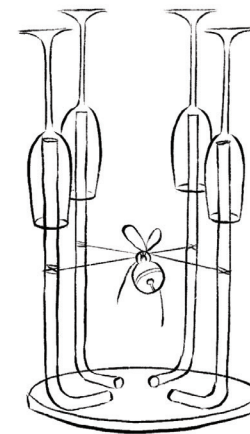
Can you fill Mikka's box with presents?

Mikka piped up, quite proudly,
'No stuff has been thieved.'
(Expecting her folks
Would be rather relieved.)



'See, I made all those things into toys — here they are!'
Papa coughed, 'Making toys? *With your hands?* How bizarre!'

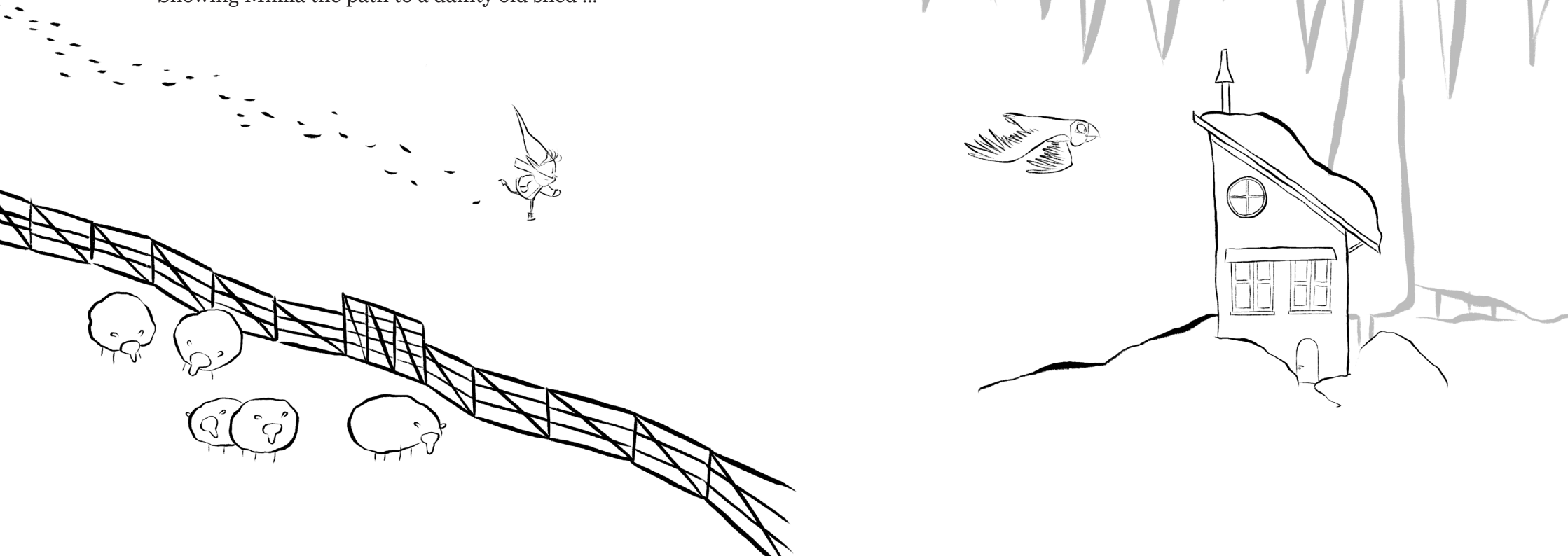
Well her Ma flipped her lid. 'These old rubbishy gubbins?
Your head's fallen off! Swapped your noggin for nubbins!'



'This Christmas is cancelled —
Now *please* beg my pardon —
But hand back our stuff
AND GO PLAY IN THE GARDEN!'

Mikka slinked out the back with a sulk and a sigh,
When a feathery flapping of wings caught her eye.

It was Puff! The old puffin, who'd shot off ahead,
Showing Mikka the path to a dainty old shed ...



Mikka turned the key twice and creaked open the door
As the wind whipped through cobwebs and dust on the floor.

It smells of old boots.

And of three-day-old bread ...

And of warm custard trifle!

She mused in her head.

In a portrait, a small elf like Mikka was sat
Crafting toys with her hands (and she wore Mikka's hat).

'All these tools,' she exclaimed, 'once belonged to my Gran!'
In a flash, Mikka's brain had come up with a plan.



! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

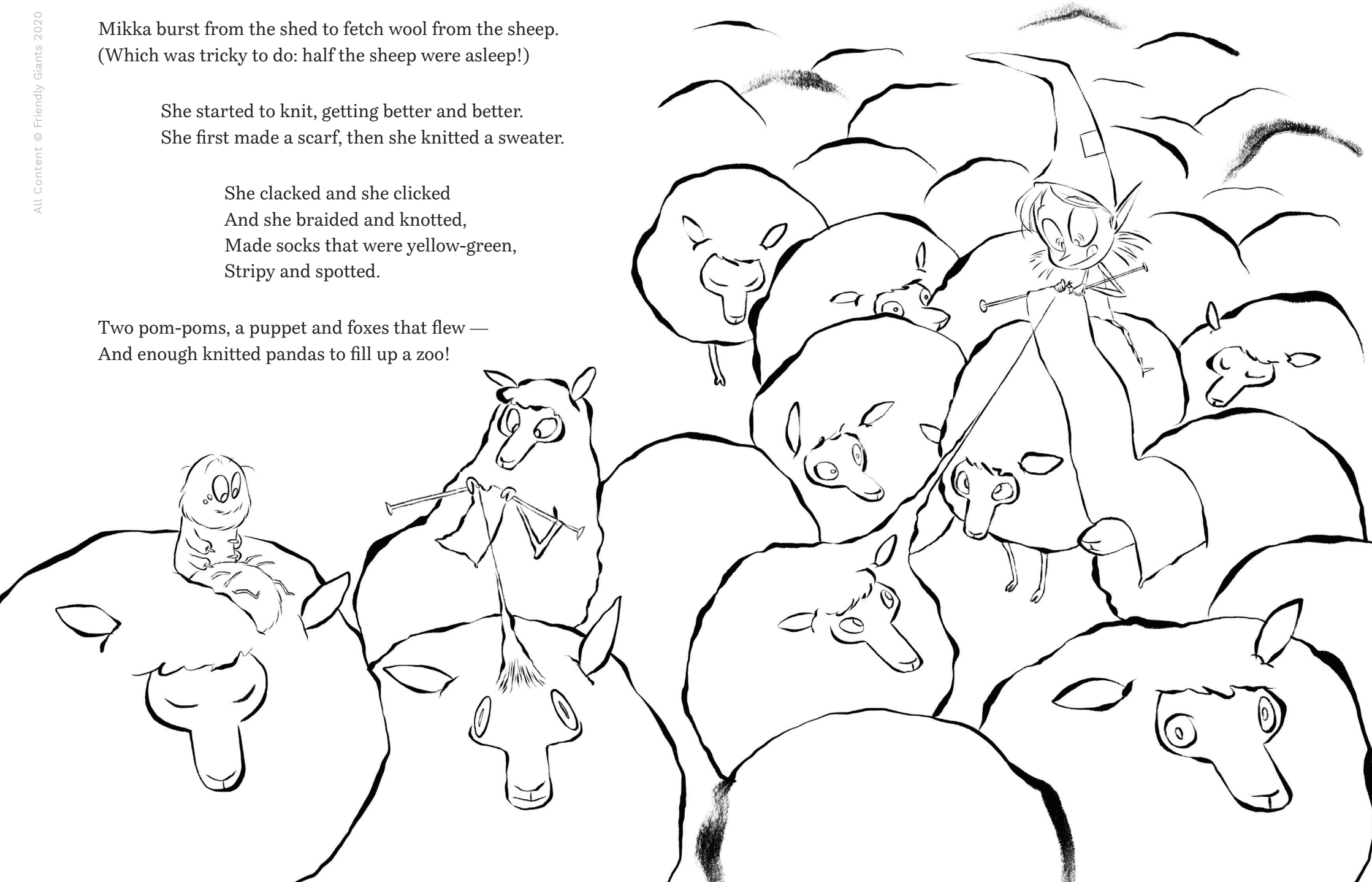
Gran's tools are missing from the wall!
Can you add them in?

Mikka burst from the shed to fetch wool from the sheep.
(Which was tricky to do: half the sheep were asleep!)

She started to knit, getting better and better.
She first made a scarf, then she knitted a sweater.

She clacked and she clicked
And she braided and knotted,
Made socks that were yellow-green,
Stripy and spotted.

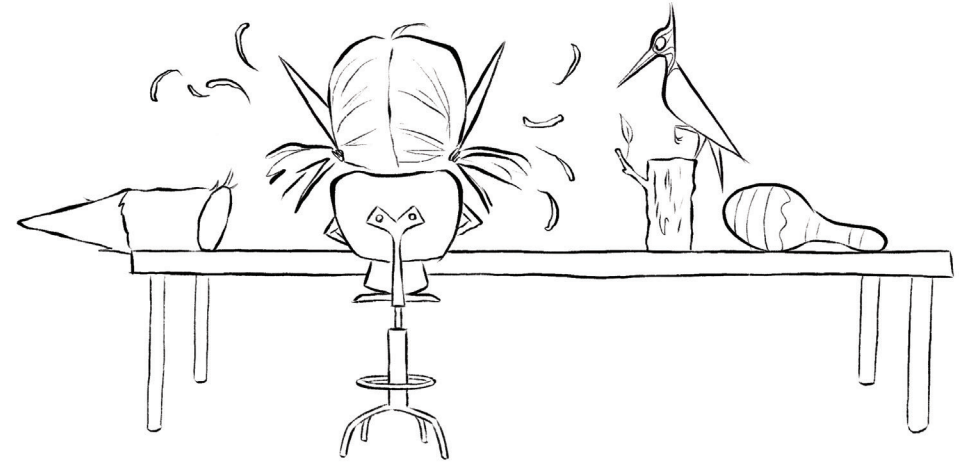
Two pom-poms, a puppet and foxes that flew —
And enough knitted pandas to fill up a zoo!



'Hey beavers, hey woodpeckers!
Quick, come here now!
Let's get wood from these trees —
Every twig, branch and bough!'

'We shall chisel and carve,
Then with hammer and nails
We'll make glockenspiels, skittles
And sailboats with sails!'

'Some blocks, a few buses,
A gold tambourine
And a huge mini train set
That's fit for the Queen!'



! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

Can you draw the other wooden toys Mikka has made?



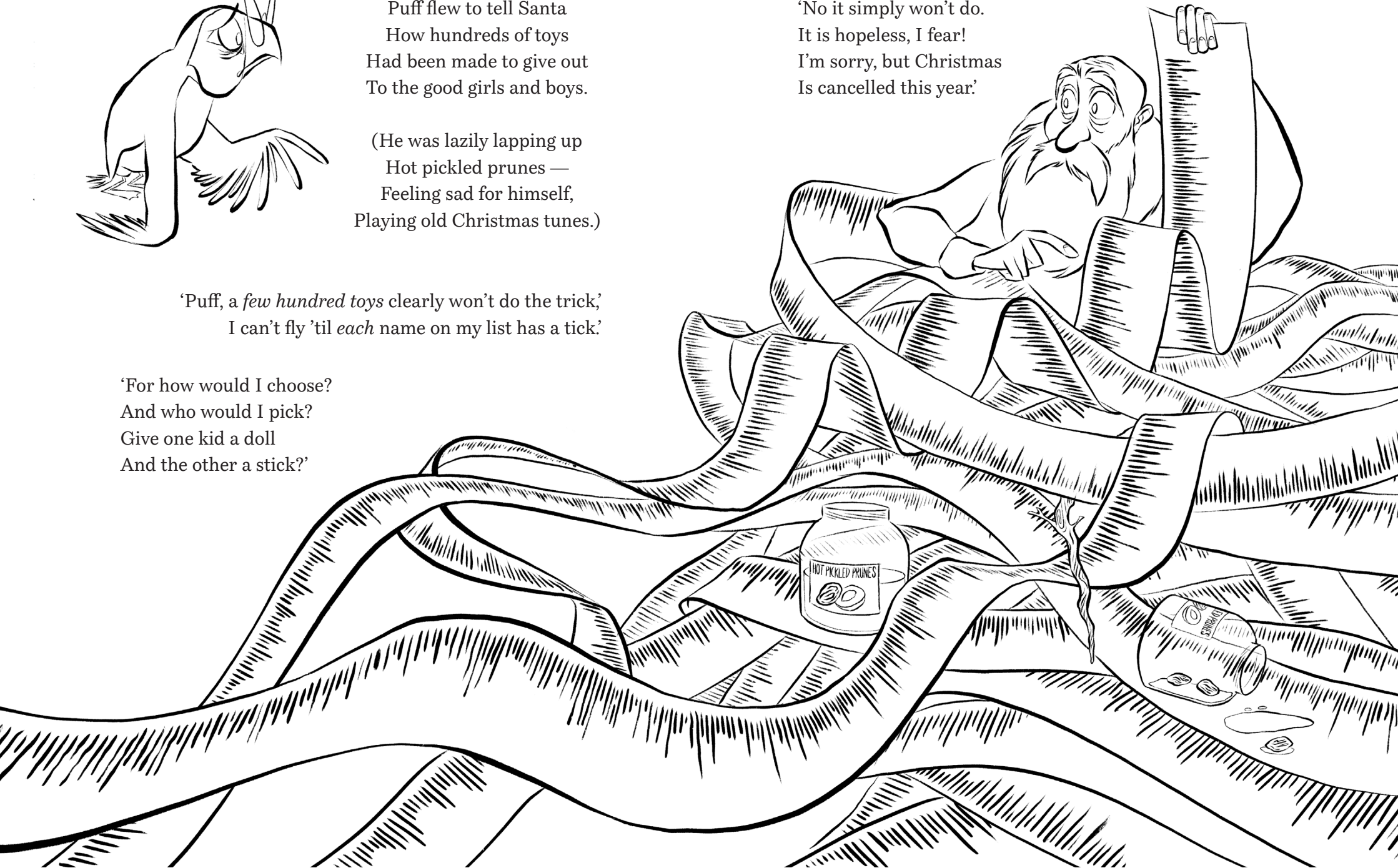
Puff flew to tell Santa
How hundreds of toys
Had been made to give out
To the good girls and boys.

(He was lazily lapping up
Hot pickled prunes —
Feeling sad for himself,
Playing old Christmas tunes.)

‘Puff, a *few hundred toys* clearly won’t do the trick,
I can’t fly ’til *each* name on my list has a tick.’

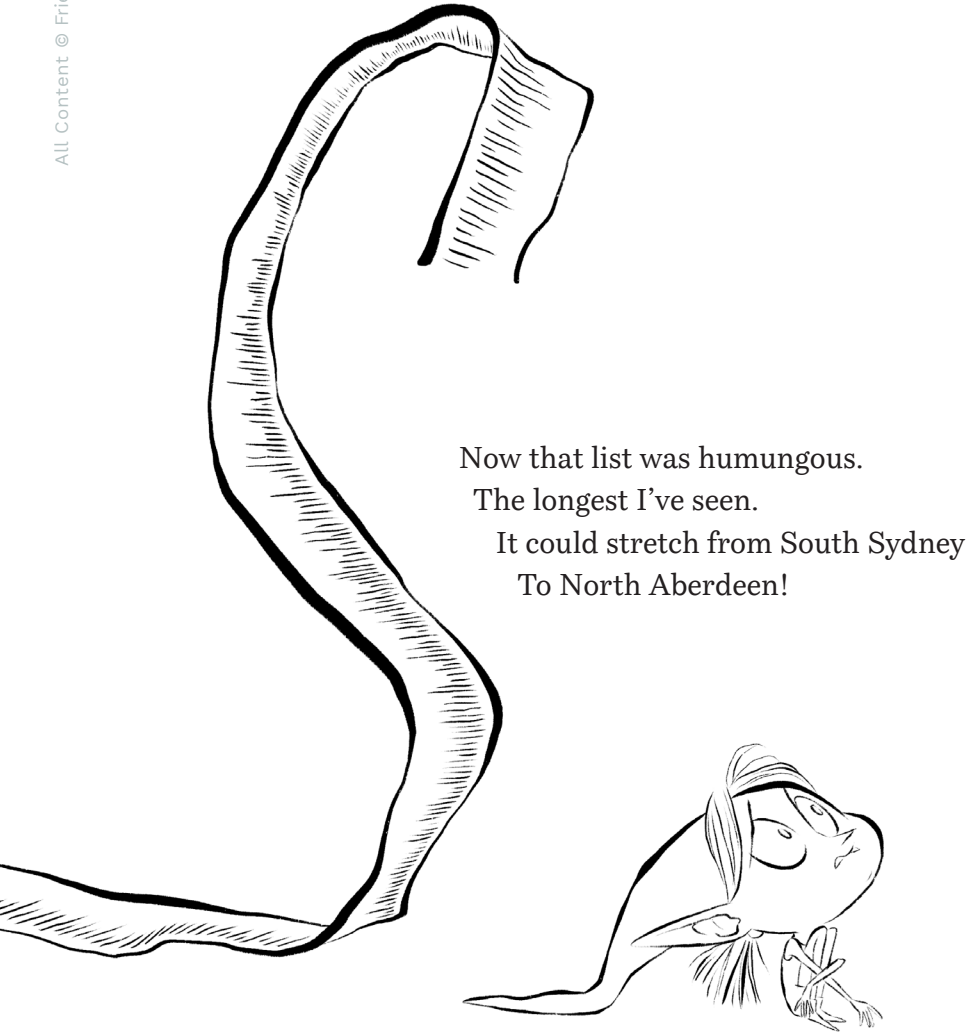
‘For how would I choose?
And who would I pick?
Give one kid a doll
And the other a stick?’

‘No it simply won’t do.
It is hopeless, I fear!
I’m sorry, but Christmas
Is cancelled this year.’



! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

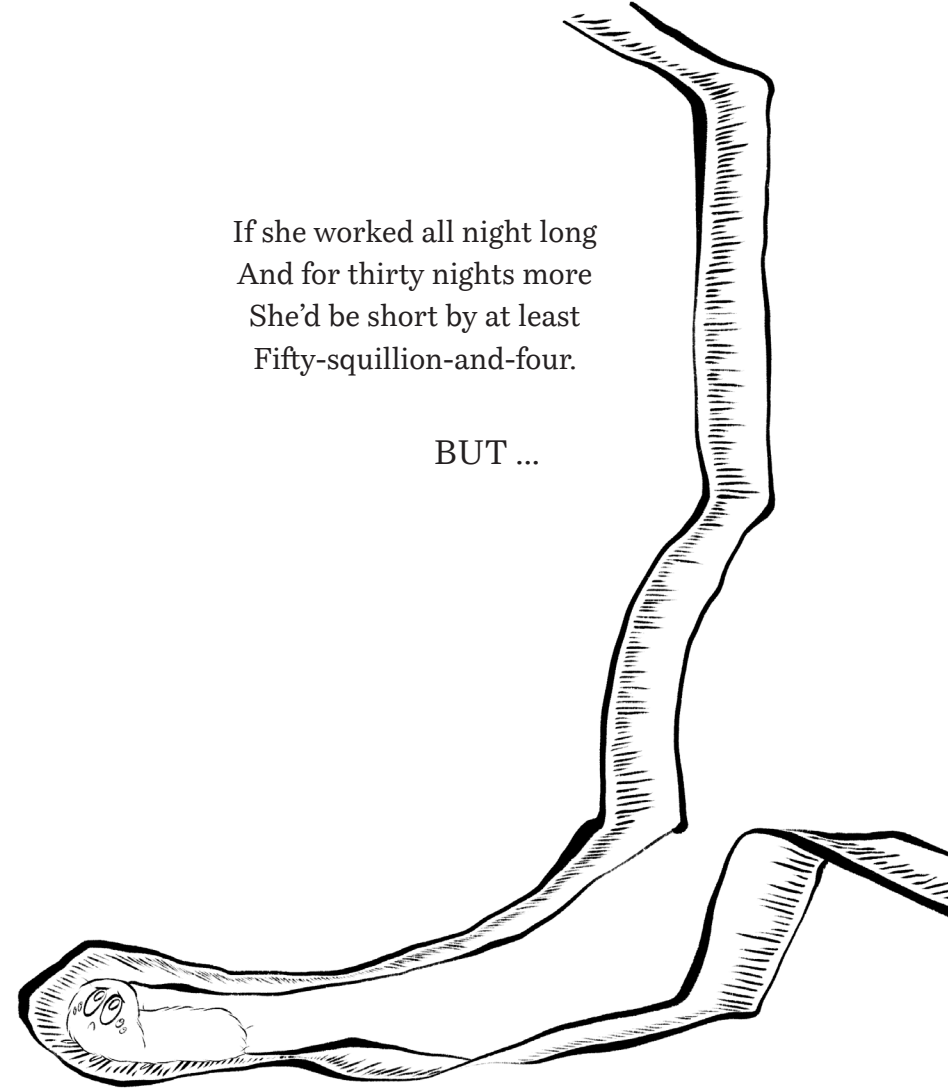
Santa's snaking list needs a middle.
Can you connect the two ends?

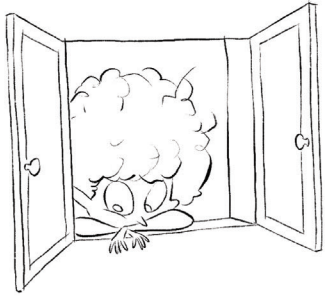


Now that list was humungous.
The longest I've seen.
It could stretch from South Sydney
To North Aberdeen!

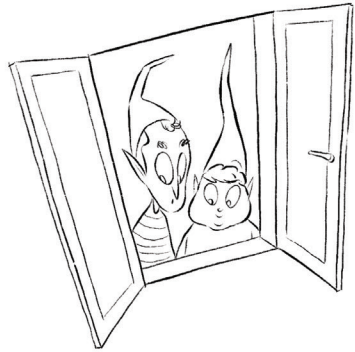
If she worked all night long
And for thirty nights more
She'd be short by at least
Fifty-squillion-and-four.

BUT ...

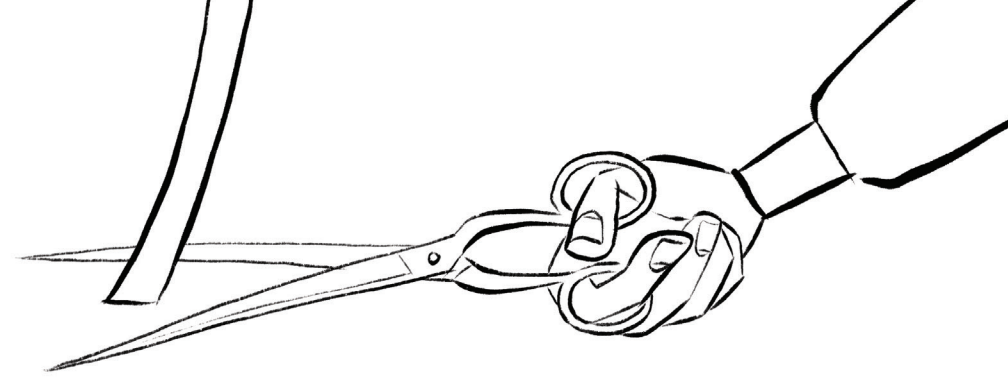
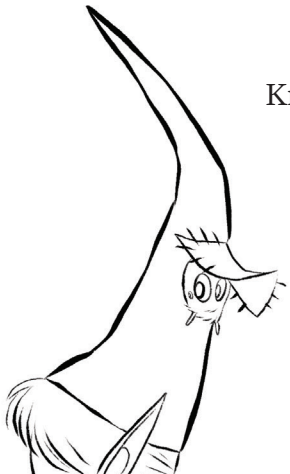




Every elf who was small
Heard the news that went round
Of an elf who'd made toys
With the things that she found.



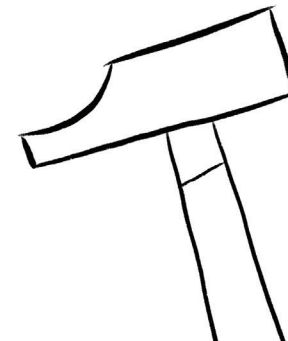
Knitting jumpers and pandas
And yellow-green socks,
Carving skittles and glockenspiels,
Buses and blocks.



Now they watched every start,
Every stop, every sigh —
And they thought to themselves,
'Well why not? *Why don't I?*'

...

So they dashed to their sheds,
Where they carved and they knitted.
They worked through the night,
(Not a single elf quitted!)
Until they had finished the world's longest list,
Making presents for every good wish that was wished.



Santa's jaw hit the floor when he witnessed the scene,
 'How on earth did you do this *without a machine?*'

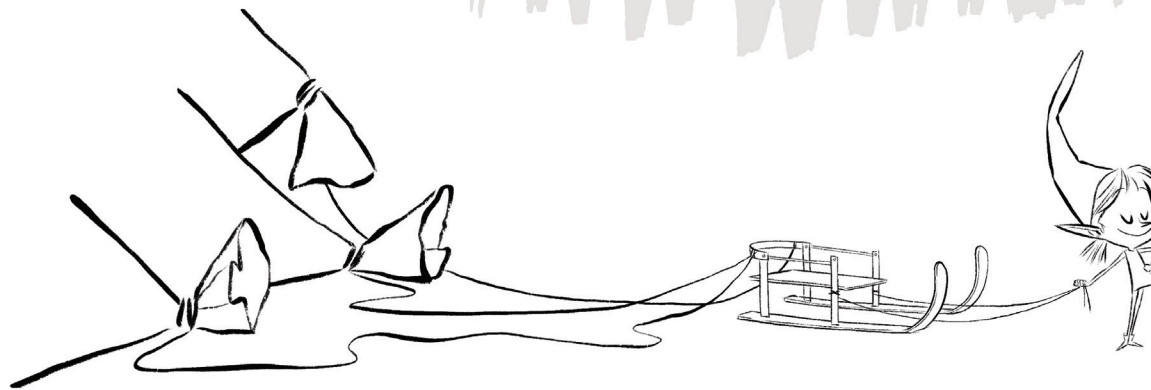
Mikka grinned, 'I just practised
 Until I got better.
 I knitted a scarf,
 Then I knitted a sweater.'

'I beaved with the beavers
 And pecked with the 'peckers.
 Made skittles and buses
 (They're all double deckers).'

'I finished the list with the other small elves.
 Every toy that you see here — we made them ourselves!'

Well Santa, he nearly
 Leapt out of his suit.
 He sprang in the air
 With a holler and hoot.

'Well done little elves,
 You have saved Christmas Day!
 Come on Rudolph,' he cried,
 'Load these up on the sleigh!'



! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

Draw Mikka's giant sacks of presents.
 Are there any in there that you have on *your* list?

Santa took to the skies with his sleigh overflowing,
The moon shining bright, Rudolph's red nose a-glowing.

He whizzed round the world,
Soaring speedy and swift
To be sure *every* kid
On that list got their gift.

For Mikka had done it!
Saved Christmas for all —

It's astounding, the things
You can do when you're small.



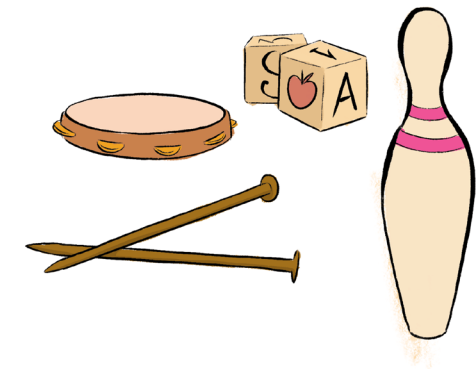
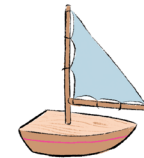
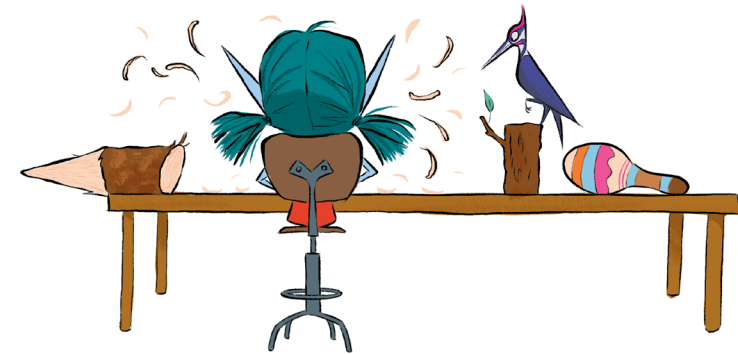
! ACTIVITY CHALLENGE

Santa's sleigh is missing.
Can you add it to the night sky?

KS1: Learning and Play Progression

We really hope you enjoyed bringing the story to life through your own colour and illustrations. On the following pages we've created a series of play and learn exercises for you to try out.

Remember to send a photo of any illustrations or completed exercises to hello@friendlygiants.com for a chance to win a signed copy of the book.



Play and learn activity one:

What happened next?



.....

..... In the story, Santa loads all the presents onto his sleigh and takes to the skies.
What do you think happened next?

.....

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Draw what happened next here:

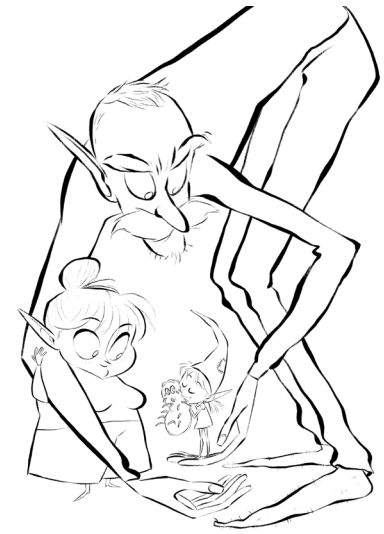
A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for a child to draw their own continuation of the story.

Play and learn activity two:

Elf yourself!

.....

If you were a magical small elf like Mikka,
what would you and your family look like?
Draw your elf family in the space below.

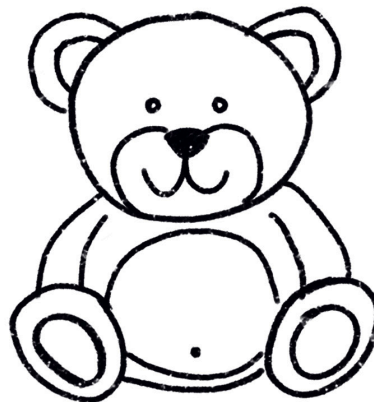
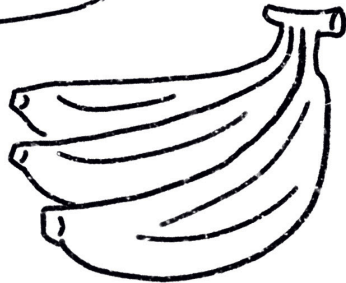
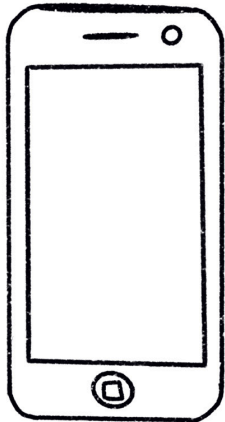
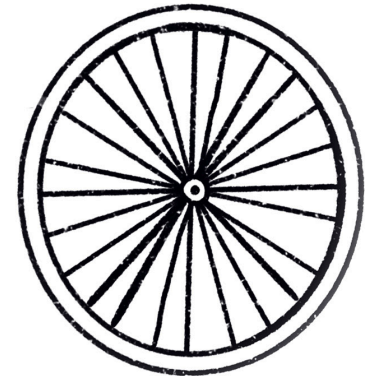
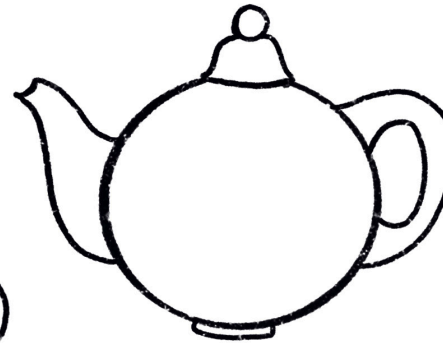
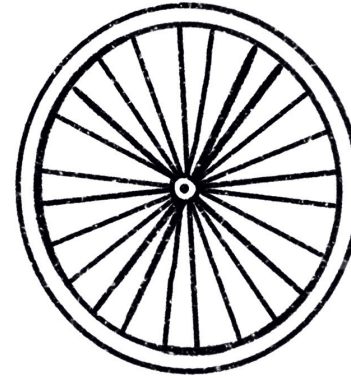
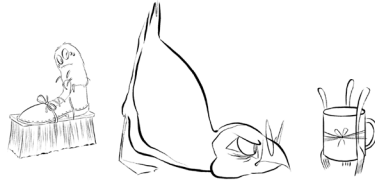


A large, empty rectangular box provided for drawing the elf family.

Play and learn activity three:

Invent a toy!

..... In the story, Mikka begins her toy-making journey by creating toys from things she finds around the house. What toys can you create by cutting out and putting together the household items below?

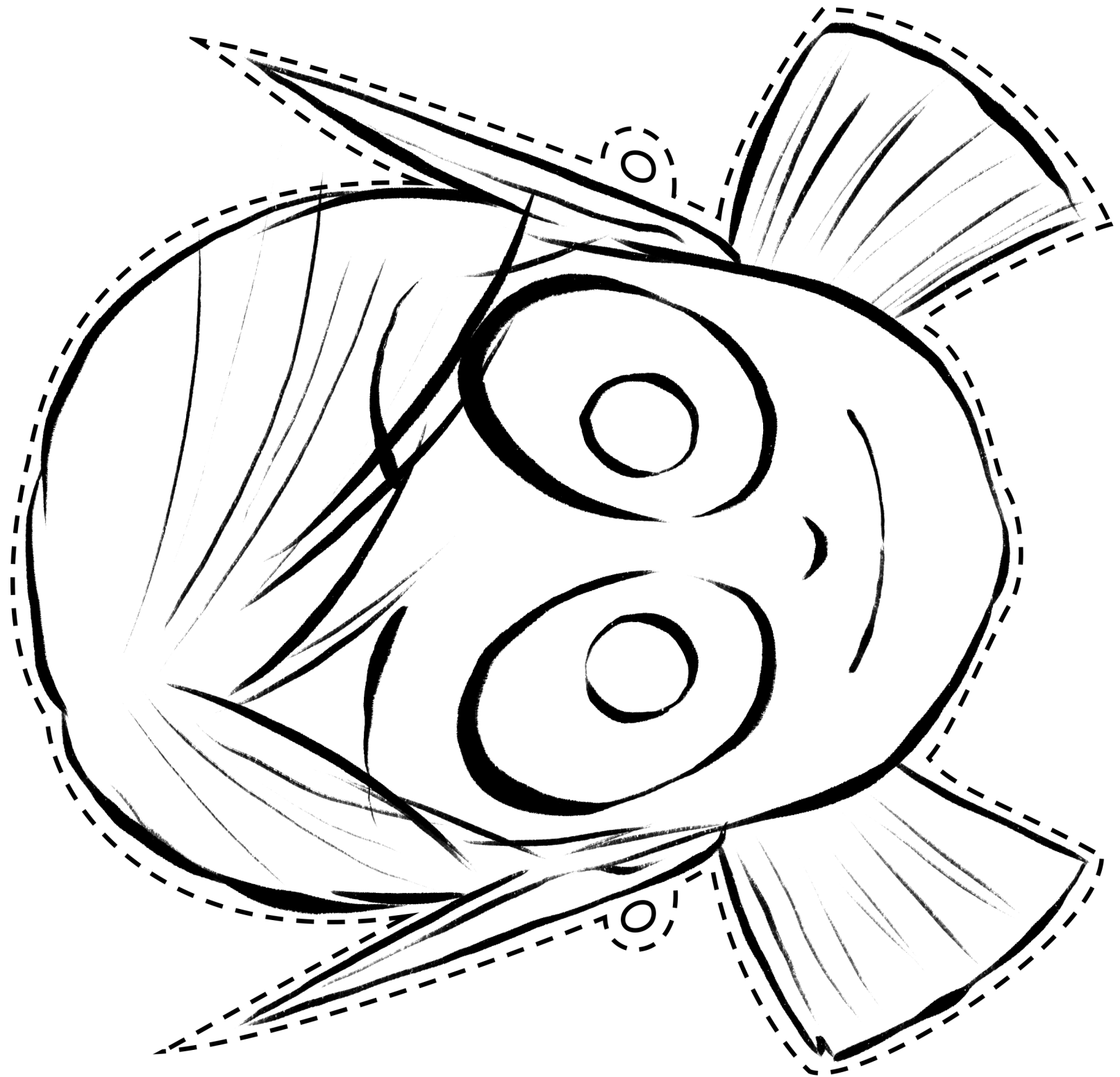


Play and learn activity four:

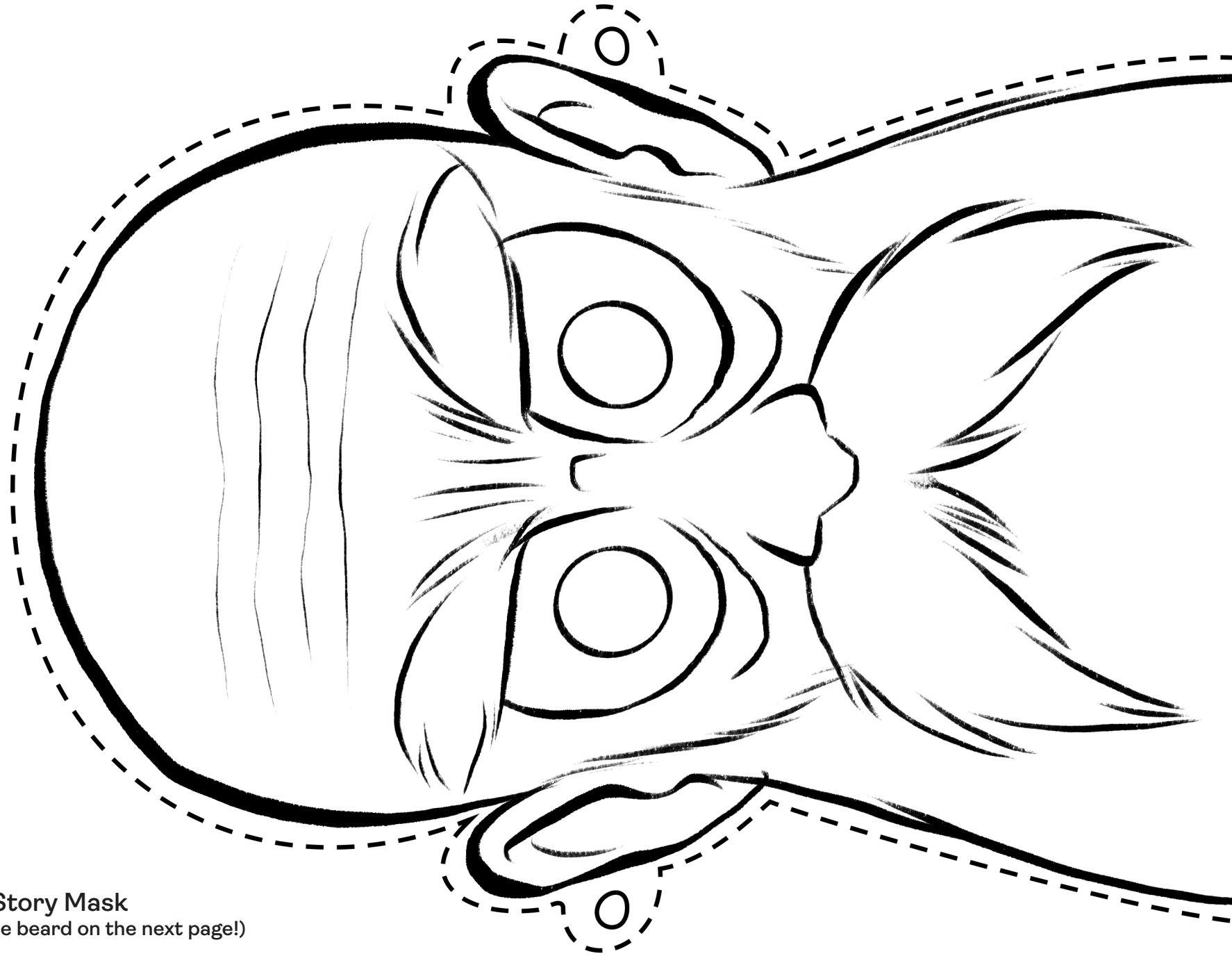
Story masks



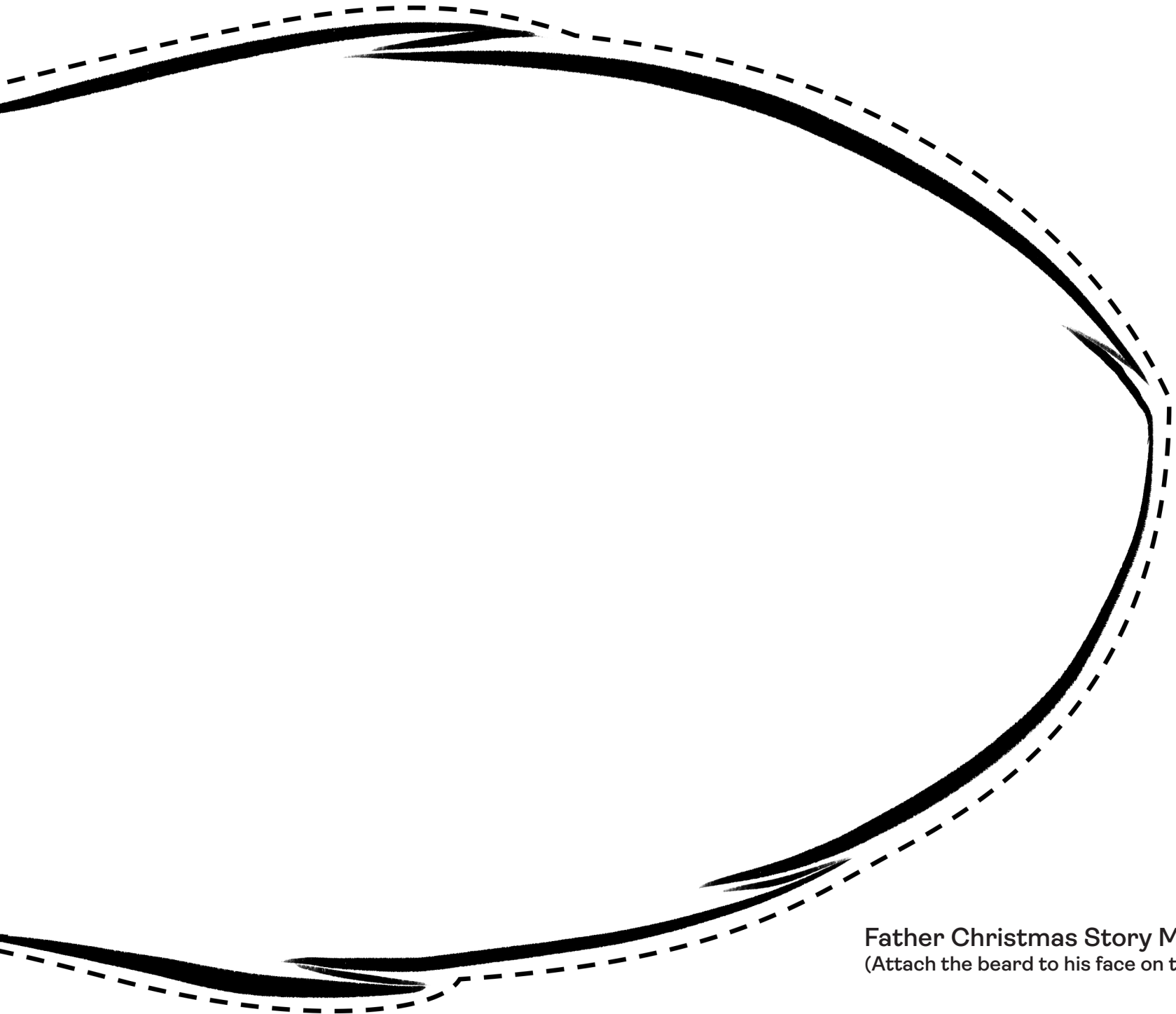
Colour in your favourite character,
cut them out and bring your very
own elf story to life!



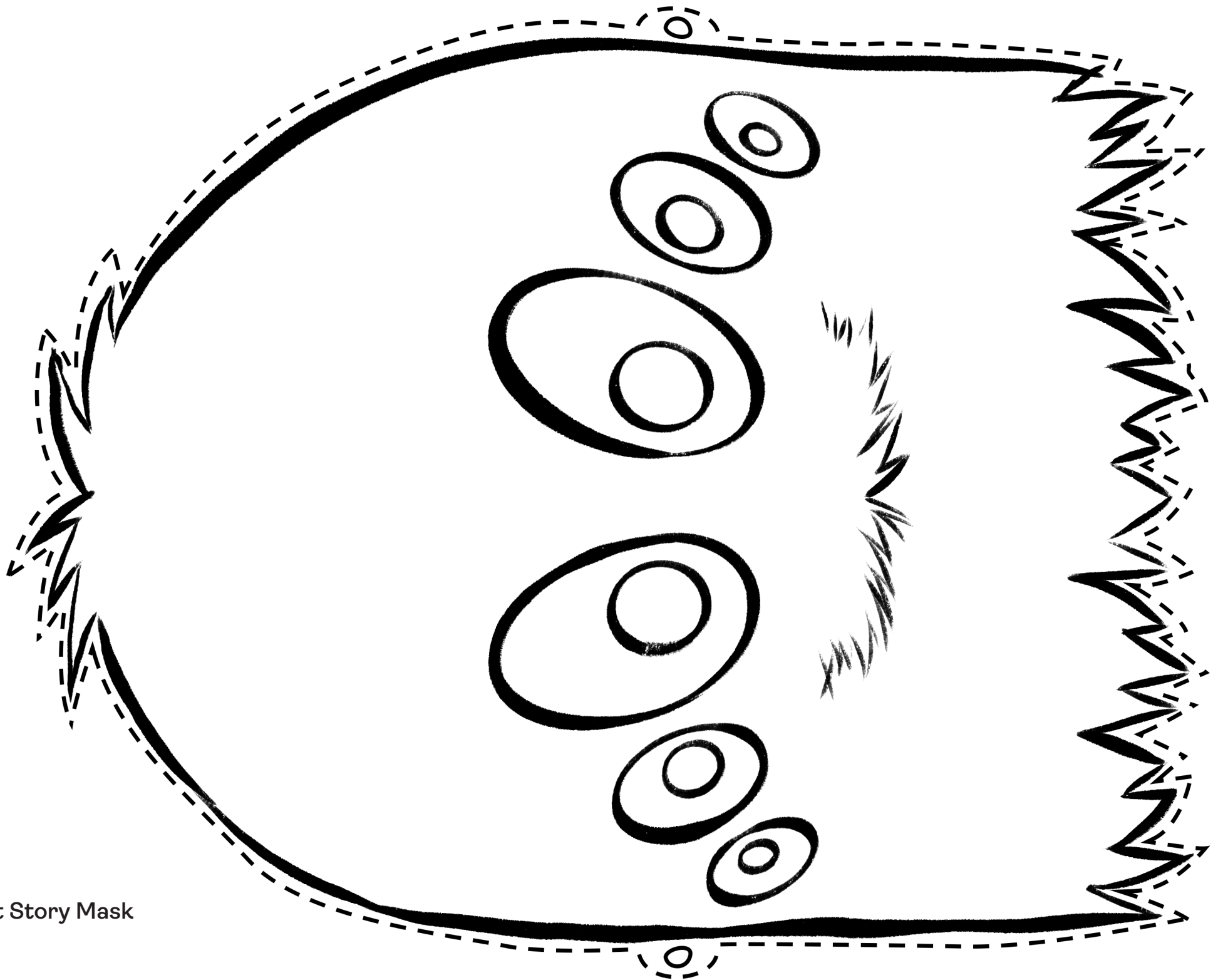
Mikka Story Mask



Father Christmas Story Mask
(Remember to attach the beard on the next page!)



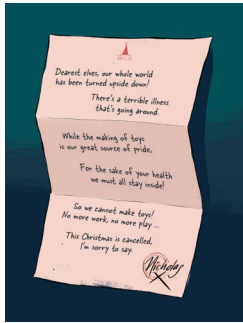
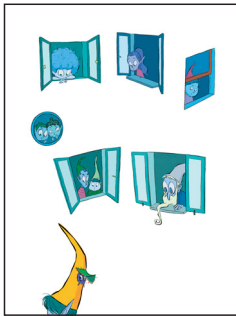
Father Christmas Story Mask (Continued)
(Attach the beard to his face on the previous page!)

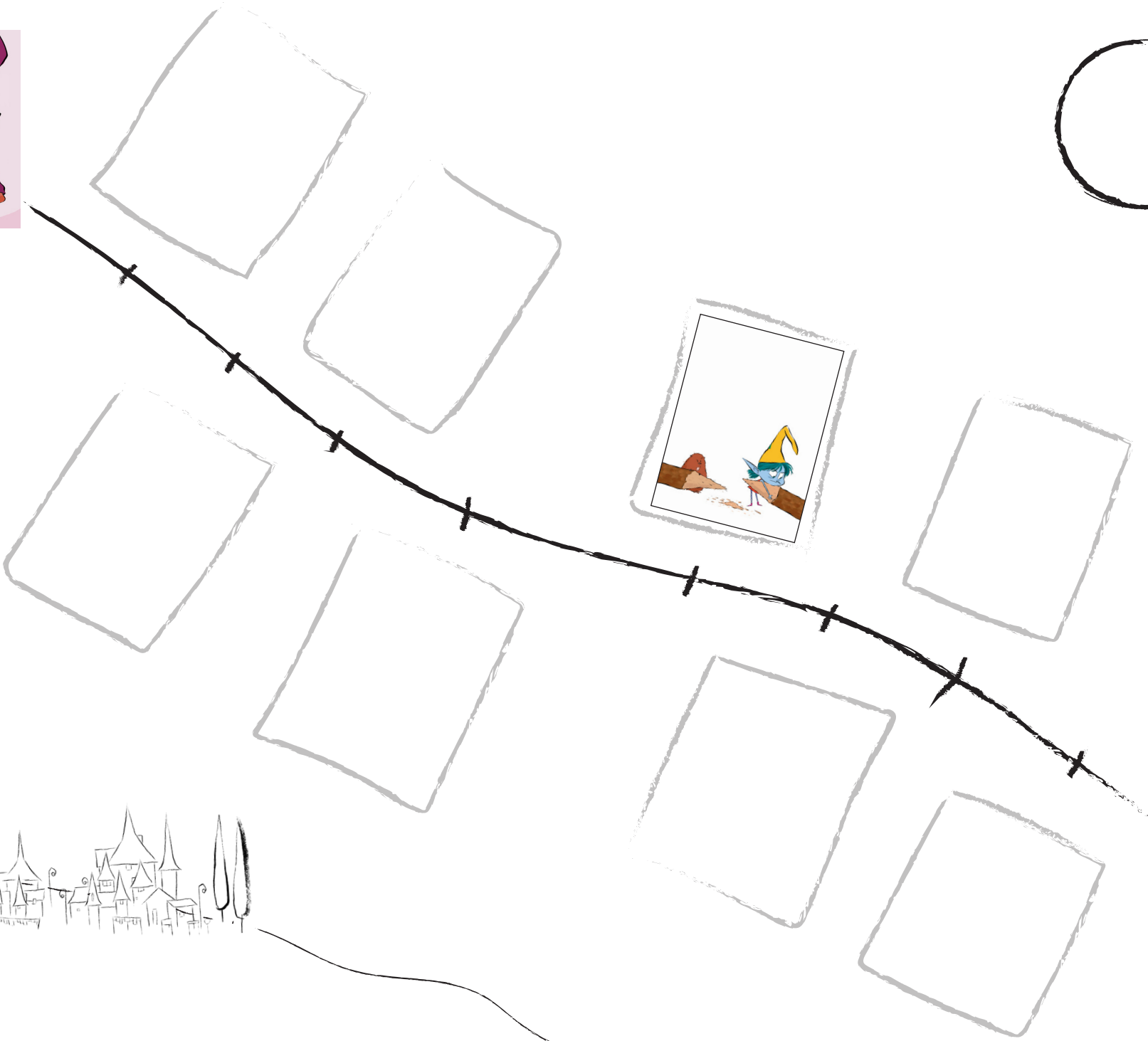


Cat Story Mask

Play and learn activity five: Plot Mikka's journey

..... Cut out the images below from the story.
Can you reorganise them and plot Mikka's journey
through the story by sticking them onto the timeline
on the next page?





Congratulations!
You have now completed
the activity pack, proving you
are a star elf just like Mikka.



**If you would like to enjoy the complete
version of this book, visit:**

www.friendlygiants.com/christmasiscancelled

You can also find the book at Hive, Waterstones,
Foyles, Amazon and all good bookshops.

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