

**THE VERY FRIENDLY NEIGHBOURS**  
*Based on Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'*

Literacy and Art



**TWO  
MINUTE  
TALES**  
from  
**SHAKESPEARE**

*The Very Friendly Neighbours tells a two-minute tale about a friendly puppy called Juliet and a kitten called Romeo, who want to play together but their parents don't allow them to.*



**Learning Aim:** To meet key characters, learn about the setting and story plot of The Very Friendly Neighbours.

**The Play:** Romeo and Juliet tells the story of two teenagers who meet and fall in love.

## KEY CHARACTERS



Juliet



Romeo



Their Parents

## THE EPISODE

A lonely puppy and kitten want to play together but their parents tell them that cats and dogs are not allowed to be friends. The two pals sneak off to play and the parents get worried when they can't find them, so they work together and let them be friends.



## KEY THEME: LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP

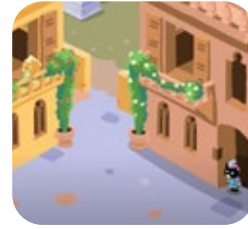
Love and Friendship: Everyone is different and unique. It's what's on the inside that counts and we can be friends with anyone we choose.



## HIDDEN SHAKESPEARE

Somewhere in this episode Shakespeare makes an appearance. Can you find him?

**Learning Aim:** To introduce kids to some well known Shakespearean words and phrases and accelerate learning with talking points and games.



## LANGUAGE LEARNING GLOSSARY

**Balcony:** A platform that projects from the upstairs wall of a building

**Woe:** Means sorrow or sadness

**Dignity:** The right of a person to be valued and respected

**Yonder:** Refers to something in the distance



## FAMOUS PHRASES

***“Romeo, Romeo  
wherefore art thou Romeo?”***

‘Romeo, why are you of another tribe - a Montague?’

Juliet wishes he was Capulet.

***“What light through yonder  
window breaks?”:***

Romeo sees a light shining in the distance from Juliet’s room.

***“For never was a story of more  
woe, Than this of Juliet and her Romeo”:***

The love story of Romeo and Juliet is the saddest story told.



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What kind of animals are Romeo and Juliet?
- Why do you think Romeo and Juliet run off? Where do they go?
- In the story, why do the parents not want their children playing together?
- Can you think of 3 ways Romeo and Juliet are the same and 3 ways they are different?
- After looking everywhere the parents find the children fast asleep. How did the parents feel?

## ROLE PLAY

Sometimes making new friends can be a little scary. Work together with your child to think of ways they can start a conversation with other kids, such as smile and say ‘Hello, my name is ....’ or ‘Would you like to play with me?’. Then have a go at role playing and act it out.

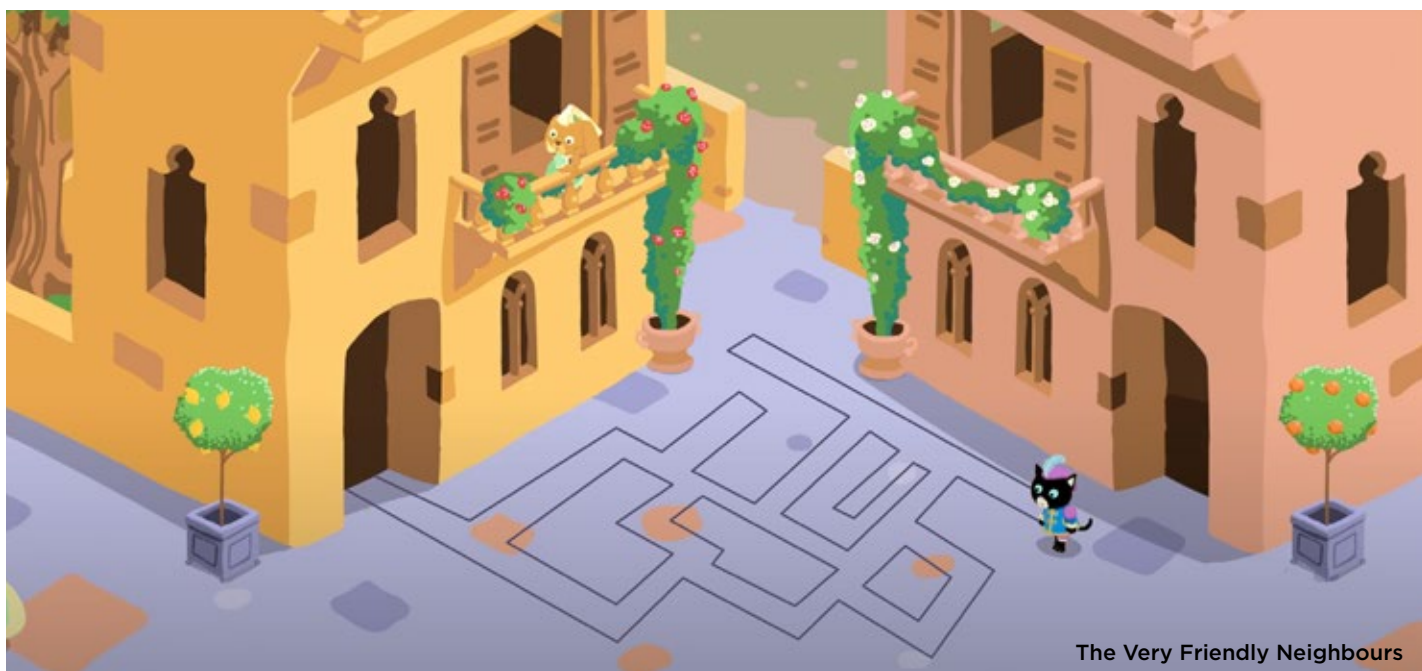


**Instruction:** What does Juliet see out of her window? You decide and draw it.

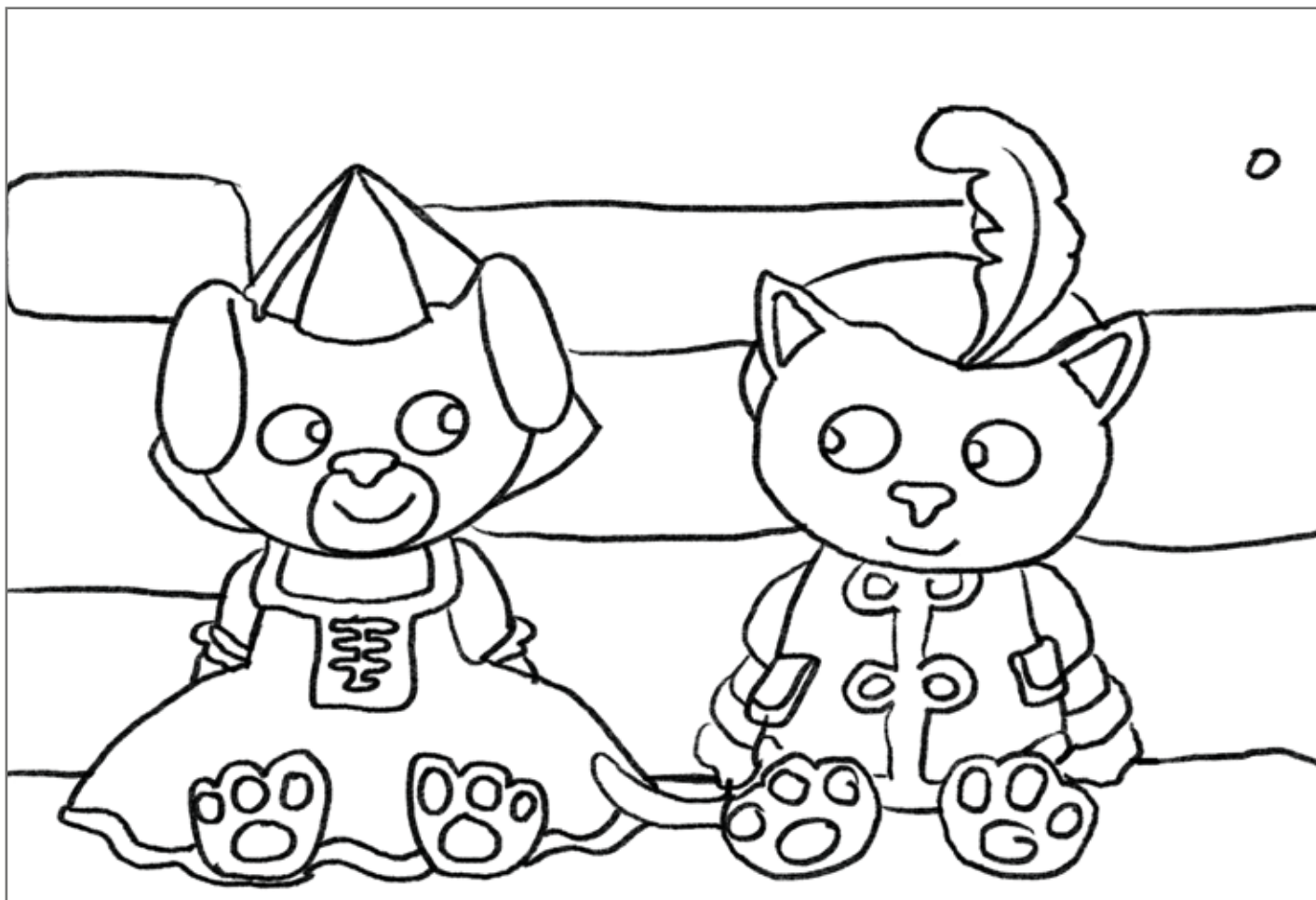


The Very Friendly Neighbours

## MAZE: HELP ROMEO FIND HIS WAY TO JULIET



## COLOURING: COLOUR JULIET AND ROMEO



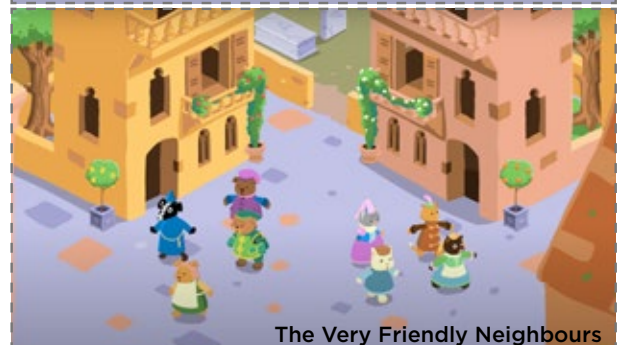
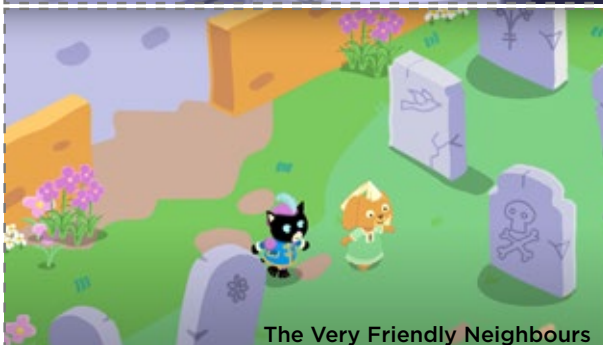
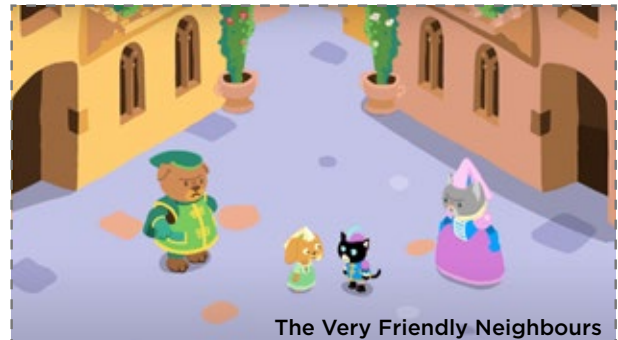
**Learning Aim:** To sequence and retell the story of The Very Friendly Neighbours.

**Learning Purpose:** To deepen the child's understanding of narrative through sequencing the story from beginning to end and to develop confident storytelling using visual prompts.

## STORYTELLING BRIEF

**Materials:** A4 white paper, scissors, printer

After watching the show, sequence the cards in order to retell the story. Let your child think about how the story begins, what happens in the middle and how it ends. Use the cards to retell The Very Friendly Neighbours together, encourage your kid to use the name of the characters and some new words like balcony and woe.





**Learning Aim:** To make stick puppet characters and use them to retell the story.

**Learning Purpose:** By making stick puppets children will explore **characterisation** and **setting** in a fun way. They can use the scenes of the house to create their own retelling of the story. This will encourage them to think about scene changes and how they can **change** their voices and expressions to suit the setting.

## ACTIVITY TIME: MAKE YOUR OWN THEATRE, STICK PUPPETS & BACKDROPS

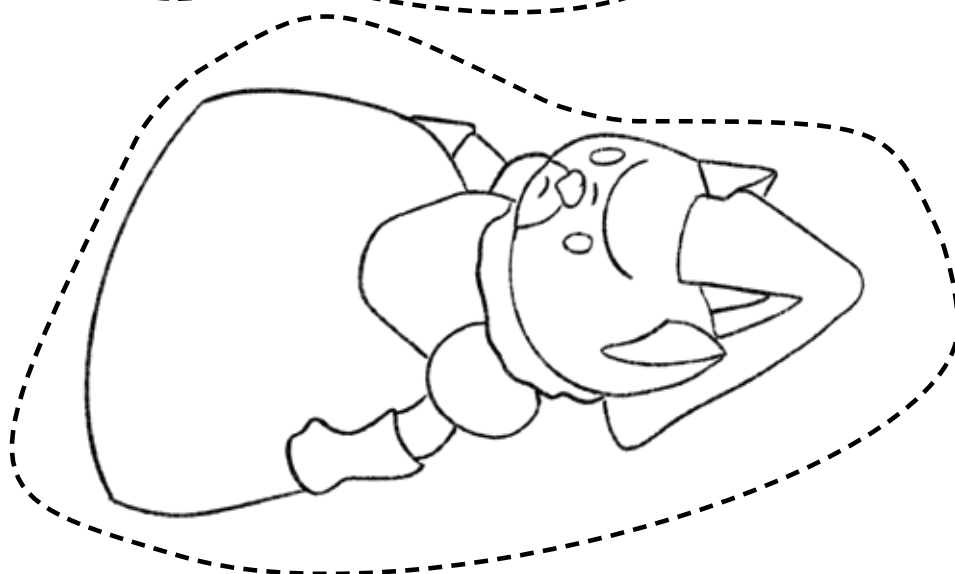
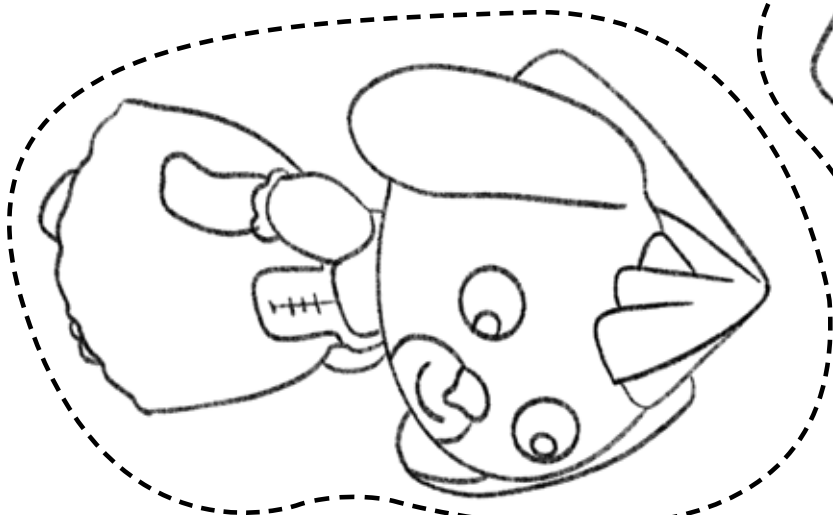
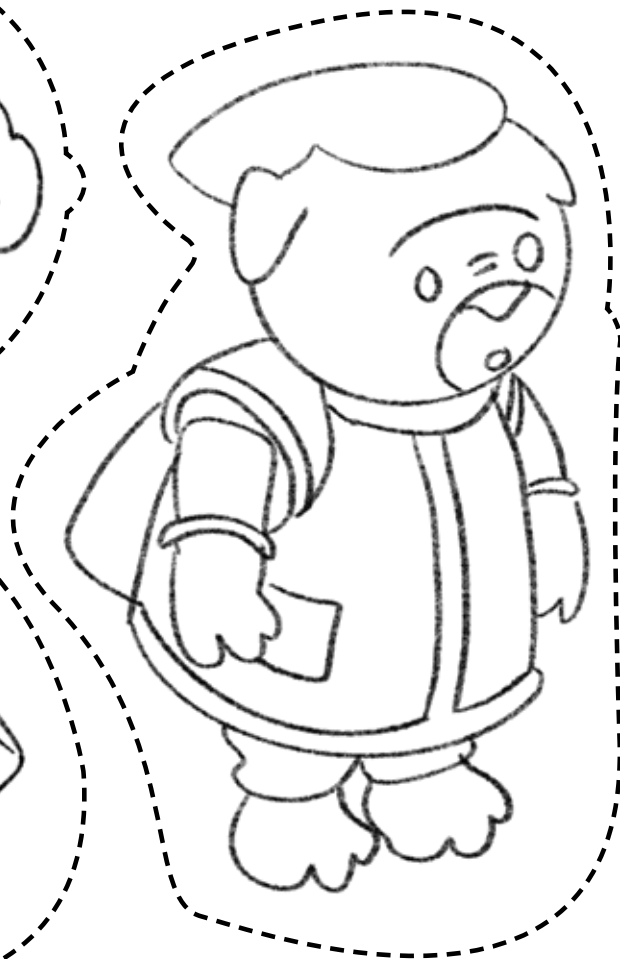
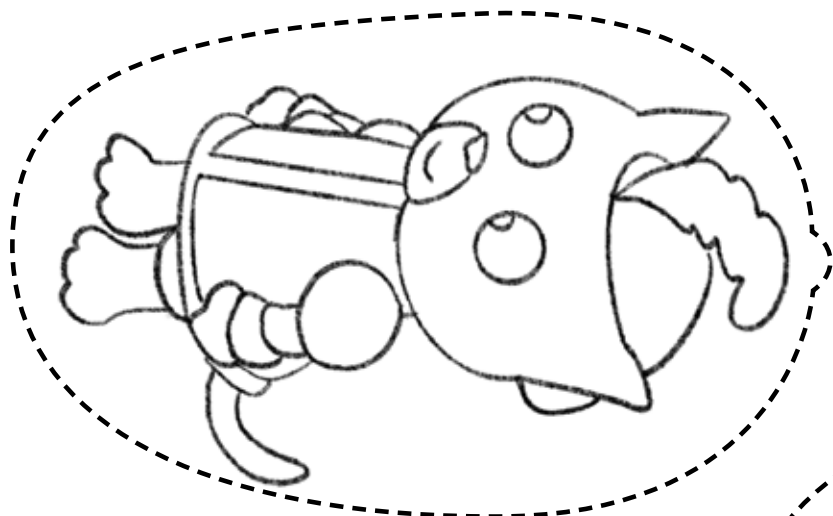
### Instructions:

- 1 - Colour each of the templates for the puppets then use scissors to cut them out.
- 2 - Check that your child can name each puppet.
- 3 - Use glue to attach the puppet to a craft stick.
- 4 - Colour the theatre scenes.

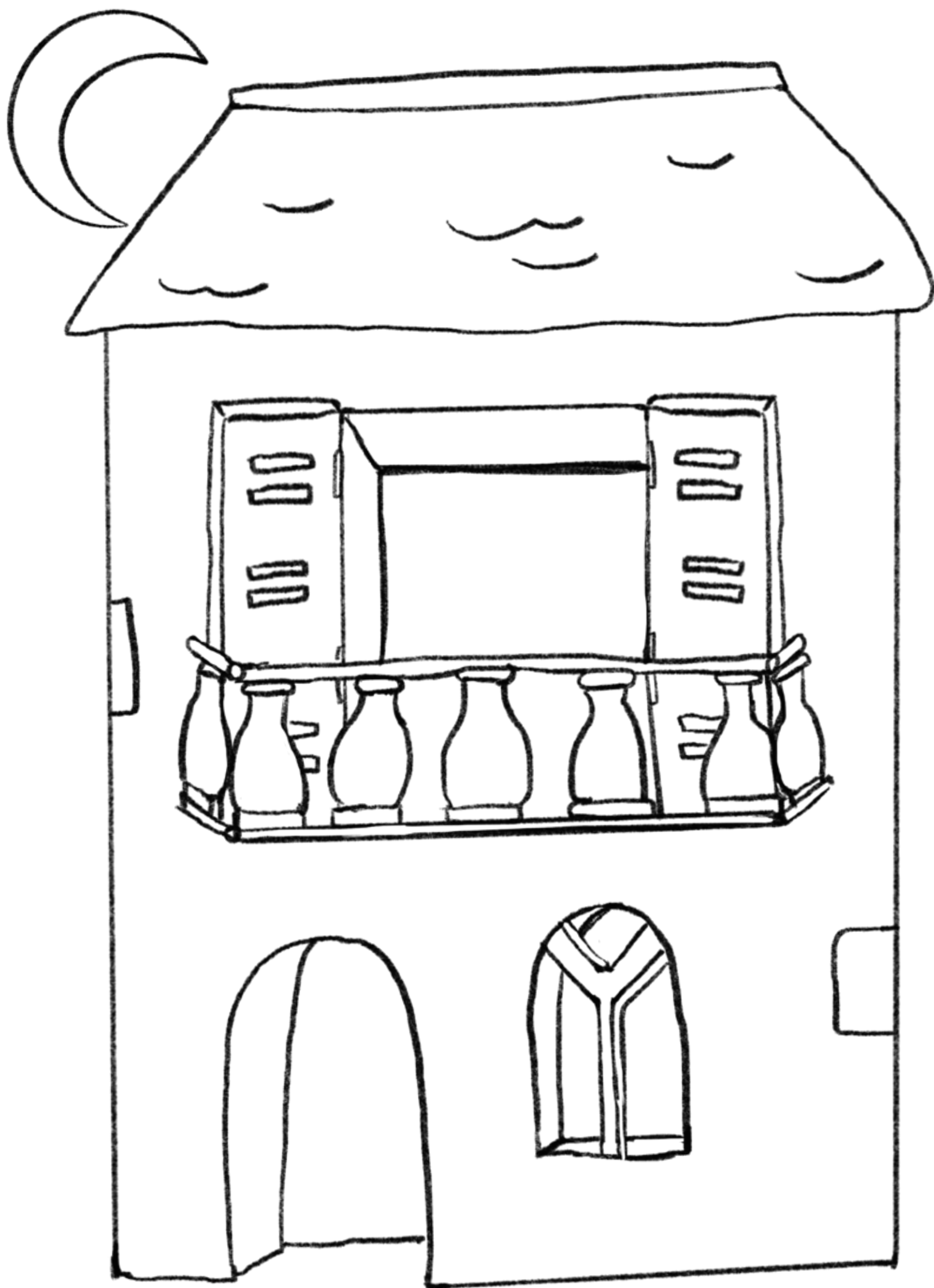


Make a puppet theatre and film it. Together with your child use the stick puppets and sets to retell the story of The Very Friendly Neighbours.

Activity Time: Make Your Own Theatre & Stick Puppets & Backdrops









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