

# THE VERY BUSY WIZARD

Based on Shakespeare's 'The Tempest'

Literacy and Art



TWO  
MINUTE  
TALES  
from  
SHAKESPEARE

*Introduction to Shakespeare's **The Tempest**, reimagined for little ones by Hopster's Two Minute Tales. The Very Busy Wizard tells a two-minute tale about a very busy wizard who doesn't make time to play with his daughter.*



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

**The Play:** The Tempest is a tale about a magician called Prospero and his daughter, Miranda, who have been banished to a deserted island by Prospero's brother Antonio. The magician uses his magic to get revenge and eventually everyone feels sorry for their actions and they return to Italy together.

## KEY CHARACTERS



**The Wizard**  
Miranda's  
Father



**Miranda**  
The  
Wizard's  
daughter



**Ariel**  
A Fairy



**Caliban**  
Monster



## THE EPISODE

The very busy wizard is too busy to play with his little girl, so he makes her a fairy friend thinking this will stop her from bothering him. When she brings home a monster he realises that he should have made more time for her.



## KEY THEME: FAMILY

Spending time with family and friends is more important than work.



## HIDDEN SHAKESPEARE

Somewhere in this episode there is a statuette of Shakespeare. Can you find it?

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



## LANGUAGE LEARNING GLOSSARY

**Pearl:** A hard, round, shiny object which grows inside the shell of an oyster

**Potion:** A drink that is meant to have a special or magical effect on someone

**Abjure:** To say formally that you no longer agree with a belief or way of behaving



## FAMOUS PHRASES

***“This rough magic I here abjure!”:***  
The Wizard says this when he officially gives up his magic.

***“Are melted into air, into thin air”:***  
It means to vanish or disappear.

***“O brave new world that has such people in’t!”:***  
Miranda says this when she sees other humans for the first time



## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What did the wizard make for the little girl?
- What things did the little girl find to show her daddy?
- Can you remember two things that the Monster ate?
- How did the wizard stop the monster?
- What game was the wizard good at?
- What fun games do your parents like to do with you?

## PLAY HOPSCOTCH

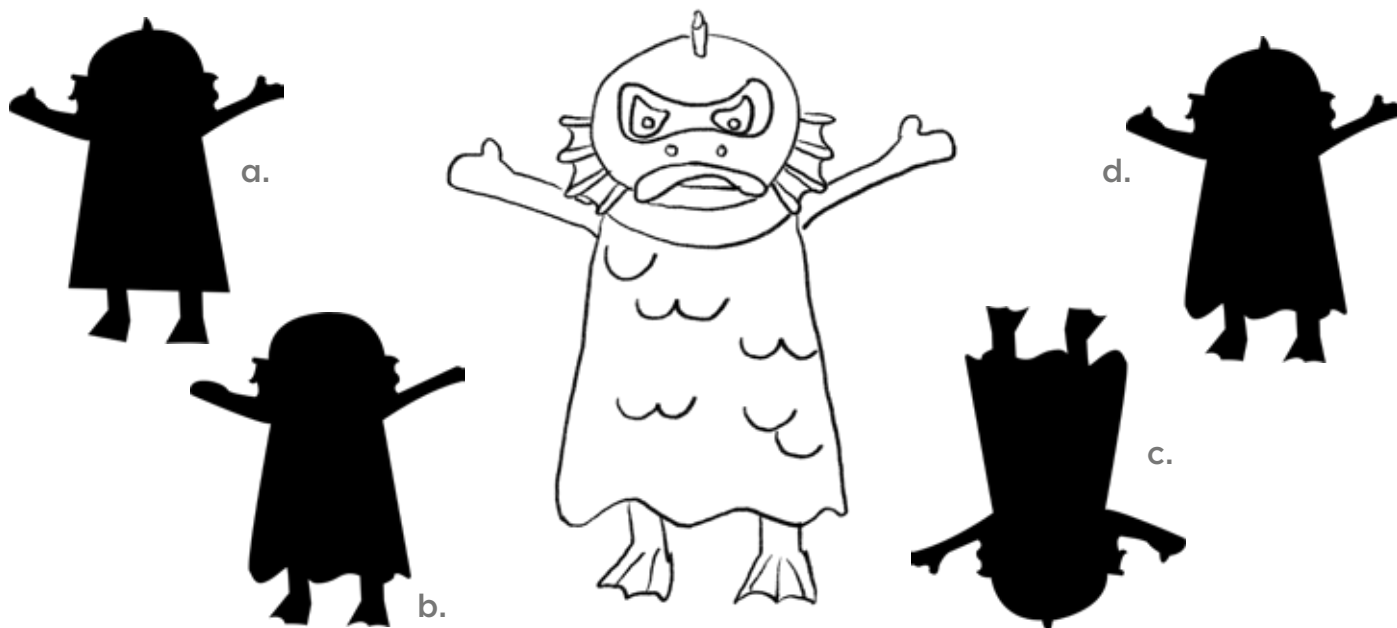
Get some chalk and find a space outside to draw a Hopscotch. This is a great physical game to get your body moving and your brain thinking as you count.



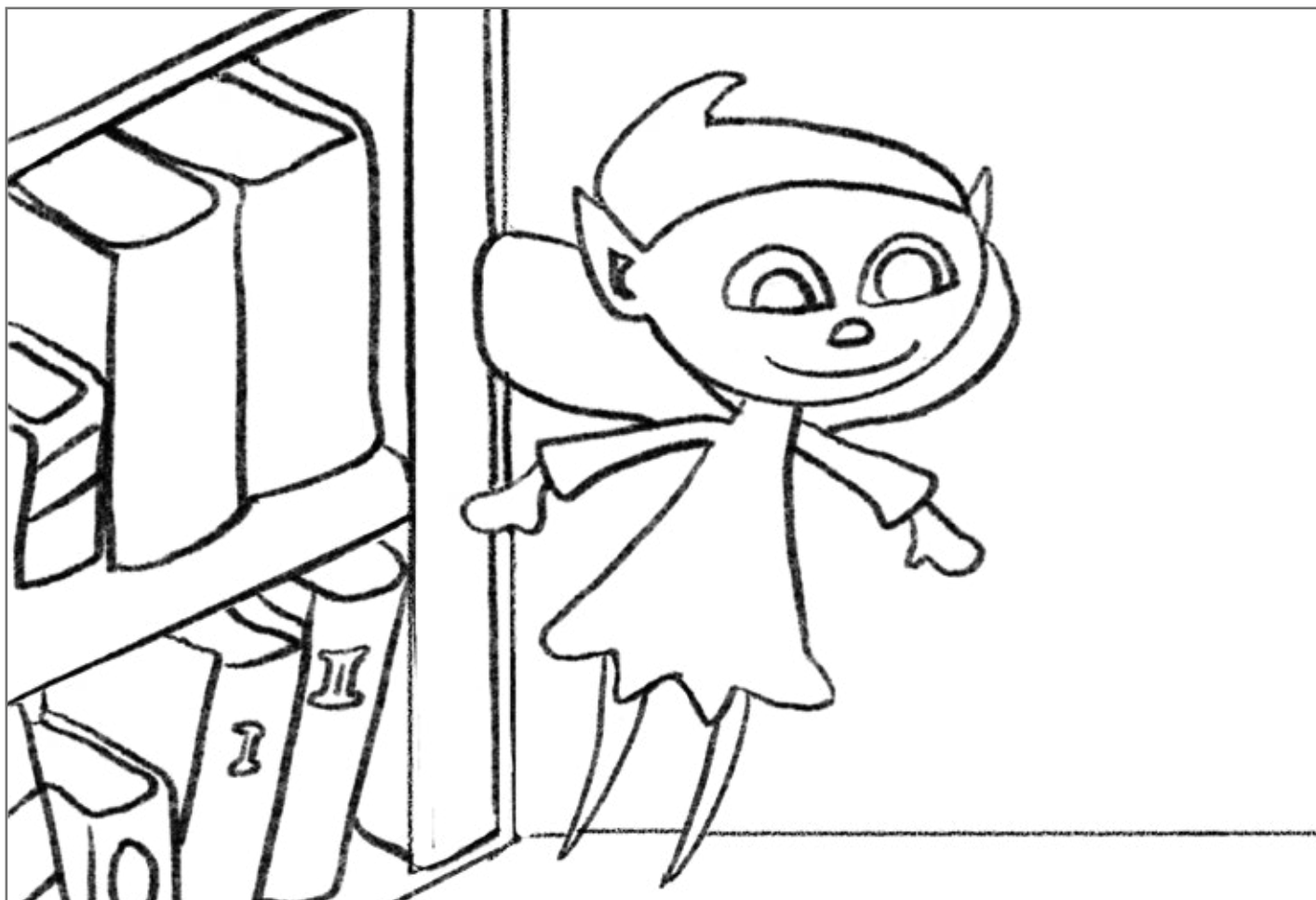
**Instruction:** Look closely at the the two images -  
There are 7 differences, can you circle them?



FIND THE SILHOUETTE THAT MATCHES WITH CALIBAN.



COLOURING: COLOUR ARIEL





**Learning Aim:** To sequence and retell the story of The Very Busy Wizard.

**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 Busy Wizard together, encourage your kid to use the name of the characters and some new words like pearl and potion.



**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 island 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 Busy Wizard.



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







