

The Train of DARK WONDERS

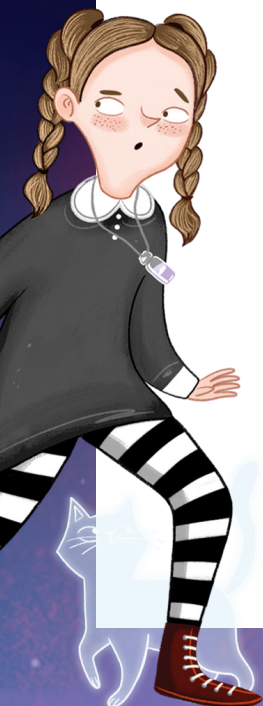


ACTIVITY PACK

Ages 9+

IMAGINE YOUR OWN ODDITORIUM

Bess adores all of the unusual exhibits in her grandfather's peculiar museum, from the albino alligator, to a talking doll, to the whispering flowers. Imagine if you had your very own Odditorium. What sort of things could you find in there? List them here!



BESS'S HALLOWEEN BISCUITS

INGREDIENTS

- 100g/3½oz unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
- 100g/3½oz caster sugar
- 1 free-range egg, lightly beaten
- 275g/10oz plain flour
- 1 tsp vanilla extract



To decorate:

- 400g/14oz icing sugar
- 3-4 tbsp water
- 2-3 drops food colouring. Orange, purple and black are perfect. Or leave your icing white, if you're making ghost biscuits!

METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 190C/375F/Gas 5. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
2. Beat the butter and sugar together in a bowl until combined.
3. Beat in the egg and vanilla extract, a little at a time.
4. Stir in the flour until the mixture comes together as a dough.
5. Roll out the dough on a lightly floured work surface to a thickness of 1cm/½in.
6. Using spooky-shaped biscuit cutters, cut biscuits out of the dough and carefully place onto the baking tray.
7. Bake the biscuits for 8-10 minutes, or until pale golden-brown. Set aside to harden for 5 minutes, then leave to cool on a wire rack.
8. Now it's time for the icing! Sift the icing sugar into a large mixing bowl and stir in enough water to create a smooth mixture. Stir in the food colouring.
9. Carefully spread the icing onto the biscuits using a knife and set aside until the icing hardens.



INVENT YOUR VERY OWN SCARY SIDEKICK

From a ghostly cat, to a fruit bat, to ninja mice, the Train of Dark Wonders is filled with fantastical creatures. Come up with your own Halloween themed furry friend who can assist you on your mission!



IMAGINE YOUR OWN HALLOWEEN LAND

The Land of Halloween Sweets may seem nice but it isn't as sugary as it first appears... From chocolate eyeball plants, to minty mummies, there's a surprise around every corner. Draw your own Halloween land and fill it with all sorts of curious creations. It can be as spooky as you want!



OUR SPECIAL PLACE

Bess loves her grandfather's Odditorium because it is filled with such weird and wonderful surprises. But it also means a lot to her because it reminds her of their special relationship. Think of a friend or relative that you are close to and a place that means a lot to both of you. Draw that place in the picture frame here:



SPOOKY SKILLS...

Bess's new friends all have their own unique spooky skill, from fire witchery, to puppeteering, to playing the ghost violin. Is there a skill you'd love to learn? Write it down here!



PICTURE YOUR OWN PUMPKIN!

Using the pumpkin template below, have a go at designing your own pumpkin. Once you've finished your design, you could even ask an adult to carve it onto a real pumpkin!



CREATE YOUR OWN CARRIAGE IN THE TRAIN OF DARK WONDERS

Each carriage in the Train of Dark Wonders has its own different theme, to surprise and startle visitors.

Taking inspiration from the book, why not have a go at coming up with your own carriage filled with whatever Halloween surprises you can think of!

