

Lockdown Tales Activities



The Musicians of Bremen

A folk tale

Read for Wonderful Beast's Lockdown Tales by Matt Prendergast, with original music by Sylvia Hallett.



Did you enjoy the story? Which part did you like best and why? The animals survived through teamwork. Could they have managed on their own?

Here is one interesting response from Mari Ness, a poet and critic.

I think that 'The Town Musicians of Bremen' has survived largely because it is such a comforting story: a tale where dangerous robbers can be chased off by elderly animals, a story that assures us that what looks like a dangerous witch is nothing more than a lazy, elderly cat, and above all, a tale that promises us that yes, even those turned out from their homes for infirmity or other reason can still fight, and can still find a home.

Draw and colour your version of the animals all stacked up on top of each other, singing loudly to drive the robbers away. The Donkey is the biggest animal and the cockerel the smallest, so make sure you have plenty of room on the paper, leaving enough space for the other animals.

Cut out the animals separately from card or stiff paper, and **turn them into puppets** by sticking them to lollipop sticks or similar, so that you can hold them.

Using your puppet animals, **retell the story** and try to find a way to stack them on top of each other when they frighten away the robbers. You could make some robbers too.

Why not try staging a **puppet theatre performance** with your family, where everyone chooses which animal they want to be in the story.

Have a go at driving out the robbers by 'singing' together (without frightening your neighbours!)

Donkey - braying

Dog - barking

Cat - meowing

Rooster - crowing

What **other animals** would make **good sounds** to see off robbers?
Make up **your own version of the story**, with new animals of your choosing.

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