

THE JOLLY POSTMAN

Letters Trail

Based on **THE JOLLY POSTMAN** by **JANET & ALLAN AHLBERG**

(Session created and written by Justine de Mierre)

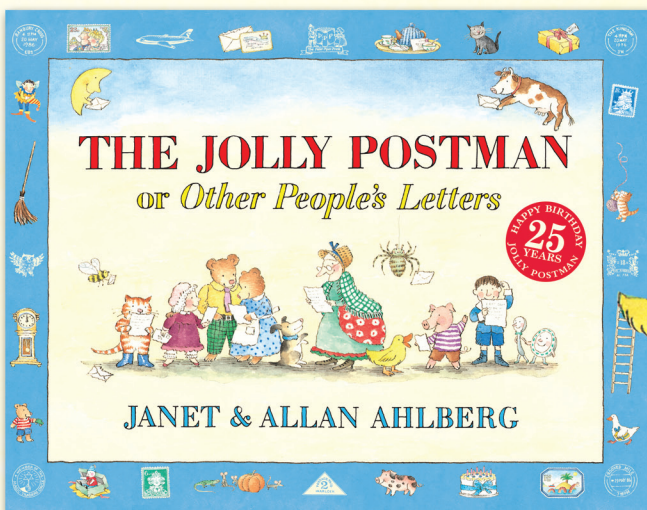
Dear Session Leader

Welcome to *The Great Jolly Postman Letters Trail* to celebrate **25 years** of *The Jolly Postman*. The Jolly Postman needs some help with his round, to respond to all the demands of the fairytale characters he delivers to – can you help?

This is a fun, interactive session for 5–7 year-olds which is very easy to set up if you follow the few simple instructions below. Everything else you need to do is contained in the ‘To the Children’ notes from the characters.

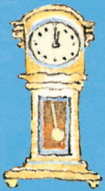
The session can take place in a bookshop, classroom, library or whatever space you have. The children will get the best enjoyment from the session if you are relaxed and enjoy it too, so once you’ve got everything set up, just take a few minutes to try the trail out for yourself. Everything should be self-explanatory, but if anything doesn’t make sense, check the ‘Additional Notes’ section at the end of the instructions, where we’ve explained the activities in a bit more detail to help you.

Good luck and happy delivering!



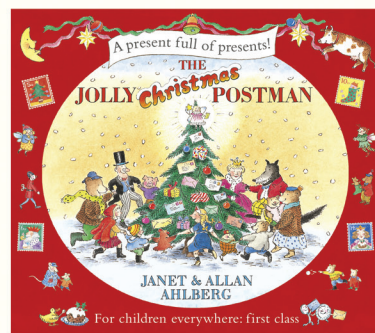
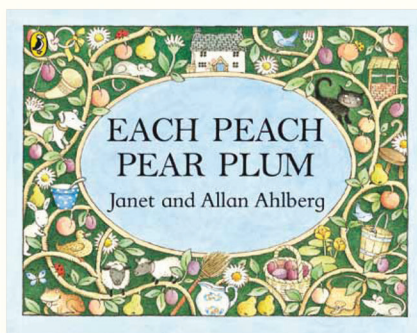
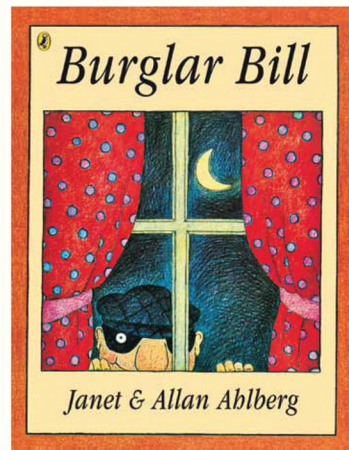
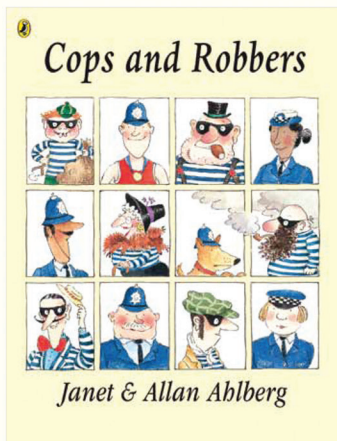
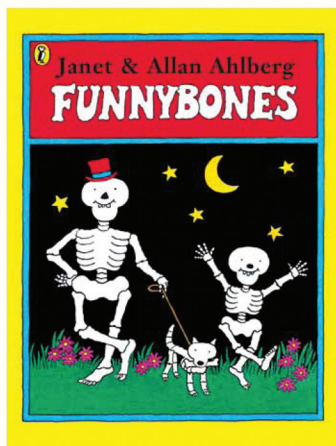
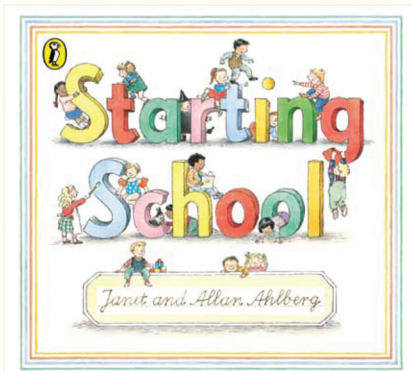
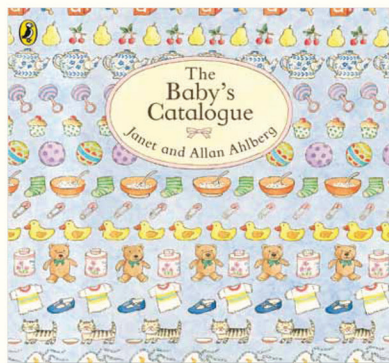
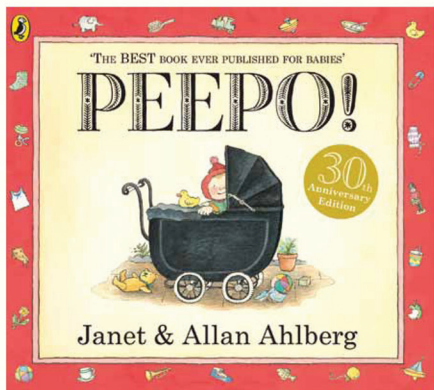
9780670886241 £12.99

Illustrations © Janet Ahlberg



Growing up

with Janet & Allan Ahlberg





INSTRUCTIONS FOR SETTING UP THE JOLLY POSTMAN *Letters Trail*

THE PARAMETERS Suitable for groups of 6 – 20 children (but can easily be reset to run consecutive sessions)
| Suggested ratio of adults to children: 1:6 | Session lasts approximately 30 – 45 minutes depending on space and group size | Requires a space big enough for the whole group to sit in a circle | Requires a space where it is okay to be a bit noisy – please check first!

YOU WILL NEED The attached pack including: Instructions | The doors | Spotty Steps | ‘To the children’ letters | Witch’s Brew images | Jolly Postman stickers | Letters to deliver

AND Scissors | Blu-tac | Sellotape or glue stick | A copy of the *The Jolly Postman* | A paper clip or peg

Step 1. Make the Letterboxes

On each of the six letterboxes, cut a slit along one long side of each letterbox for the letters to tuck into.

TIP: If you prefer, you can cut the letterboxes on 3 sides, and fold back to make a flap. Then, stick or tape an A4 sheet along 3 sides to the back of each door. This will catch the envelopes.

Step 2. Make the Trail

Blu-tac the doors in order around your chosen space (the numbers are in a small circle in the bottom right-hand corner). Make sure:

- The children will only be able to see one door at a time (so they don’t wander off to the next door without you)
- There is enough space for the number of children you have to stand or sit in a circle by the door (you’ll need this space for the activities)
- The doors are high enough up that all the children will be able to see them, but not reach them (so you can control the pace of the session)

TIP: If you only have a small space and can’t use different rooms for each door, then hide the doors in books on different shelves, and use the same space for each activity.

Take the round coloured stickers and place them to make a trail from your start point to the first door, and then between each door. Use a different colour to lead between each door.

TIP: If you have a small space the trail can be one you follow with your fingers between bookshelves. You can then bring each book down to show the door as the children discover it. If you have a large space you can put the spots on the floor for children to walk along (make more spots if you need to).

Step 3. Put the ‘To the Children’ letters on the doors

Take each of the ‘To the Children’ letters, fold the top edge forward and down to the line so the words ‘To the children’ can still be seen. Fold in half again so ‘To the Children’ is on the front and the number is at the back Blu-tac each letter to the bottom of the door with the same number, with ‘To the Children’ showing clearly. Attach the Jolly Postman’s letter to yourself with your paper clip/peg, somewhere the children will see it.

Step 4. Set up the Witch’s Brew Ingredients

Cut out the Witch’s Brew pictures and hide just in sight around the Witch’s Door (No. 2) for the children to find

Step 5. Set up Goldilocks Party

Put the book on a chair near Goldilocks’ door (No.6) and make sure there is space around it for the children to sit and listen to the story. Place the Jolly Postman stickers nearby

Step 6. Prepare the letters that will be delivered

Cut out the Letters for Delivery along the dotted lines, fold them so the address is on the front and the number/envelope back is on the back. Glue or tape the edges together.

TIP: Some kind of ‘mail bag’ to put them in might be useful, so you can have your hands free to read the ‘To the Children’ letters and do the activities

Step 7. Start!

Add children and begin by showing them the Jolly Postman’s letter you attached to yourself earlier and reading it to them

GENERAL TIPS

- When you arrive at a door, post the letter then ask the children if they can see the ‘To the Children’ letter. When they’ve pointed it out take it down and read to them. To help keep the children engaged, get them to carry out the instructions as you read each one, rather than reading to the end and going back. The ‘P.S.’ then gets read when you’ve completed the activity.
- You could get the child who you think has made the best effort at the activity to be the one who gets to carry the letter to the next door.
- Point out the first spot on the path to the next door to the children, so they know what colour spots to look for when they’re looking for the next door.
- If anything else is confusing or doesn’t work for you, feel free to use your imagination and alter it so that it works for your space and children.





ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE ACTIVITIES

Only refer to these if you've read through the
'To the Children' letters and you're not sure what to do.

Activity 1. The Three Bears Show

You can get the children to stand in a circle and show each other their actions, or get into pairs and show each other – whatever works for your size of space and number of children. It's good if they all do their actions together, and you can always give them ideas by doing some of your own, or reminding them what happens in the story (e.g., the porridge being too hot, too cold and then just right)

Activity 2. The Witch's Brew

Make sure you've put all the pictures where the children can find them, and point out the imaginary cauldron for the children to put them in. You can help them by getting an imaginary stick to stir it with and encourage them all to join in. Read the rhyme once so they know how it goes and then get them to join in and say it a few times – if they're really into it you could see how fast you could say it altogether

Activity 3. What's the time, Mr Giant?

If you don't know 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?', it goes like this:

- Everyone lines up at one end of your space, facing the person chosen to be the Wolf. They all say together 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?' and he will say '5 o'clock' or whatever number he chooses
- Everyone then takes that number of steps, counting them out loud as they go i.e. '1,2,3,4,5' they then say again 'What's the time, Mr Wolf?'
- This carries on until either a/ someone reaches the wolf, or b/ the wolf says 'It's dinnertime' and then chases everyone back to the start line, trying to catch them.

- In 'What's the time, Mr Giant?' everyone does the steps, and the running away (they can do this with their fingers and the wolf only needs to try to catch hold of people's hands if you are short of space). Make it clear to the children before you start that the running and catching is done with your fingers, not your feet. The children can walk their fingers along the ground, a table top, or if they're standing they can walk them along their hands. Do what works best for your space.

Activity 4. Cinderella's Shoe Game

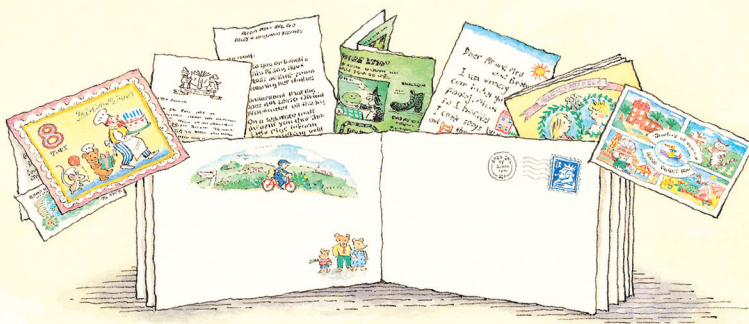
If children really don't want to take a shoe off, they can use a coat or other item of clothing, or they can help the other children reunite people with their shoes. (If you're playing outside, you may need to put down a rug for this game). Go round and help them out as they're doing it. If they enjoy the game you can play it two or three times, sometimes it helps to have a first try as a practice.

Activity 5. Scaring the Wolf

This is a very simple one, it is literally just pulling a face at and roaring/shouting at the door. You can applaud each one and generally offer encouragement. Make sure the children only do it one at a time and get the others to stand back and put their hands over their ears if they want to, so no one gets deafened and little ones don't get frightened

Activity 6. Goldilocks Party

This is where you read the book to them, so make sure there's a place for you all to sit comfortably. Ask the children if they remember delivering each letter, and what they did there, and see if they can remember what came next. Make sure they can all see the book, and what was inside the letters they delivered. On their way out make sure they all get a Jolly Postman sticker.



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Mr and Mrs Bear
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The Woods



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PAR AVION
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1986
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MIR V. BIGG
MILE HIGH HOUSE
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*M. R. H. Cinderella
The Palace
Half Kingdom Road*



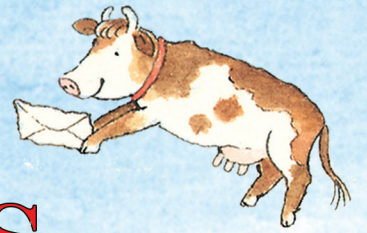
URGENT

B. B. Wolf Esq.
C/o Grandma's Cottage
Horner's Corner

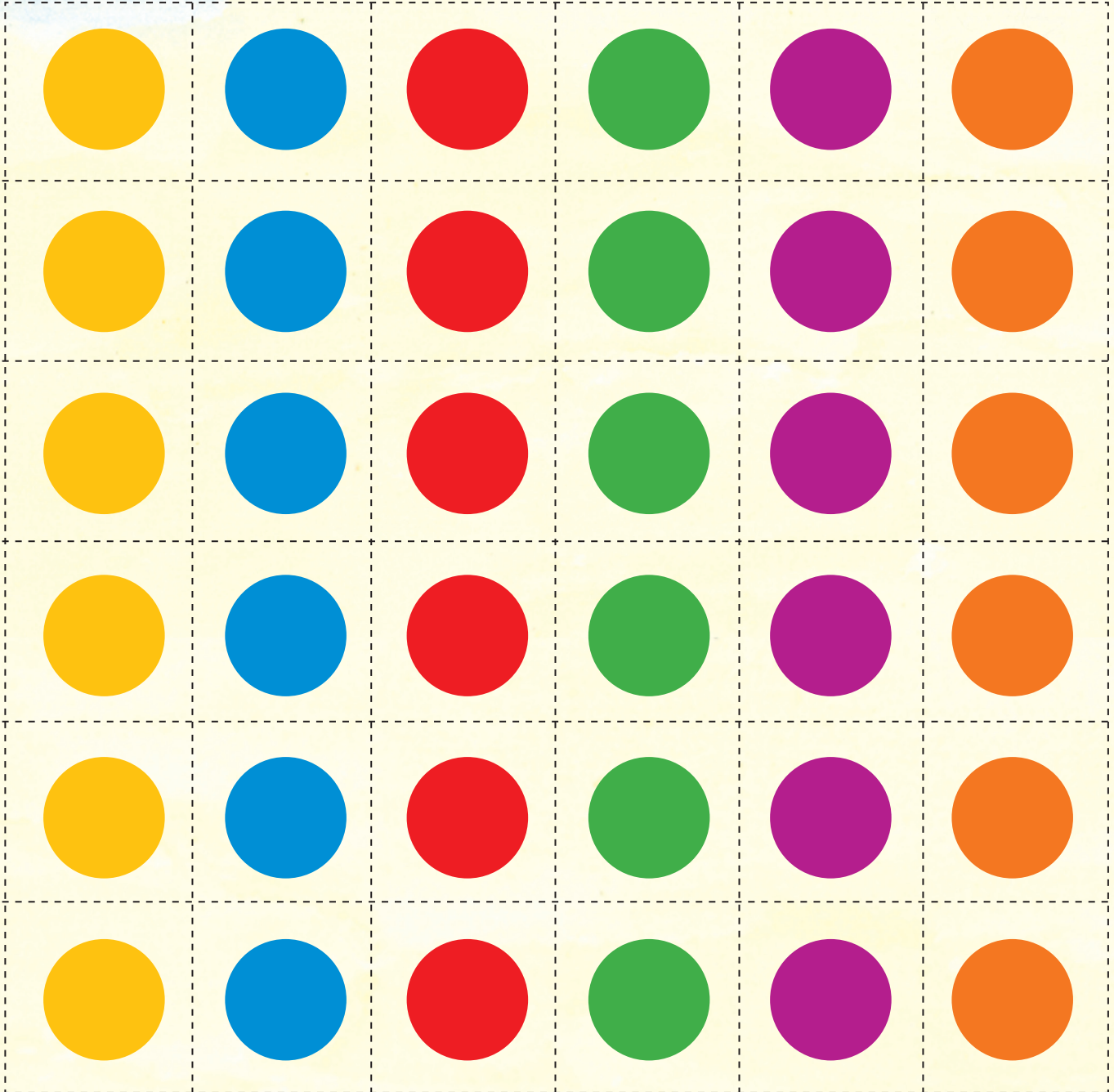


To
*Goldilocks
24, Blackbird Road
Banbury Cross*

PLEASE DO NOT BEND



SPOTTY STEPS



Three Bears Cottage



1

Gingerbread Bungalow

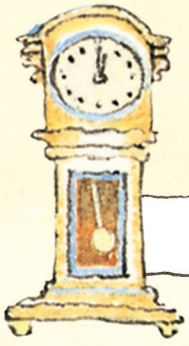


2

Mile High House



3



The Palace

4



Grandma's Cottage



5



Goldilocks' House



6



Dear Children,

My name is the Jolly Postman and it is my job to deliver letters to all the people in Fairytale Land. Can you believe I've been doing it for 25 years now?

There are lots of letters to deliver today so I would really like you to help me with my delivery.

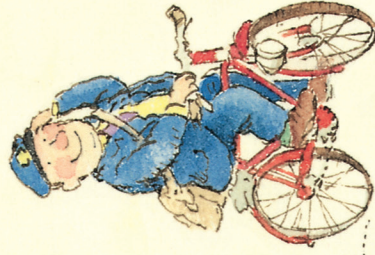
The people on my round leave me a task to do whenever I deliver their letters. I've told them you're coming so they've got some extra special tasks just for you. As it's Fairytale Land, they're always fun things to do, so I hope you enjoy them!

Follow the spotty paths between the doors and you shouldn't go far wrong, but I'm attaching a grown-up with this letter just in case you need some help.

I've given the grown-up the letters too. Do make sure they deliver them in order - grown-ups can get terribly confused in Fairytale Land and they will need your help!

All the best and good luck!

The Jolly Postman



To the children

Hello Children,

Thank you for bringing our letter. We wondered if you could do a task for us: we're sure you've heard about Goldilocks' recent visit to our house, but we love people acting it out for fun. So, can you show each other...

...Trying the porridge and then eating Baby Bear's all up?

...Trying the different chairs and Baby Bear's breaking?

...Trying the different beds and going to sleep in Baby Bear's?

...Your surprised face when you wake up to find three bears standing over you!

Hope you have fun and see you soon,

Hugs,

**Mummy Bear, Daddy Bear
and Baby Bear**

P.S. Follow the spots to the next door - but go carefully, our neighbour can be a bit scary!



To the children

1



Dear Children,

Thank you for bringing my letter - I should warn you that I do like a bit of child pie for my tea, but if you make a Witch's Brew for me instead, I shall agree not to eat you (just this once).

You will need: Eye of Newt Tail of Cat
Wing of Bat A pair of smelly old socks
Tongue of Frog Some snot

They should all be around the door somewhere. Once you've found them, put them into the imaginary cauldron I've left outside (only the clever children will be able to see the imaginary cauldron). Then give the cauldron a big stir and say this rhyme:

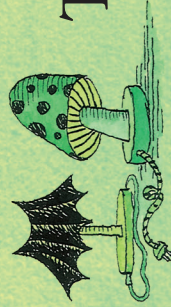
Ubble Bubble Toil and Trouble
Cauldron boil and cauldron bubble
Make this brew so foul and smelly
As tasty as they make on the telly!

Then just leave it outside for me and I promise not to eat you when you put the letter through my letterbox.

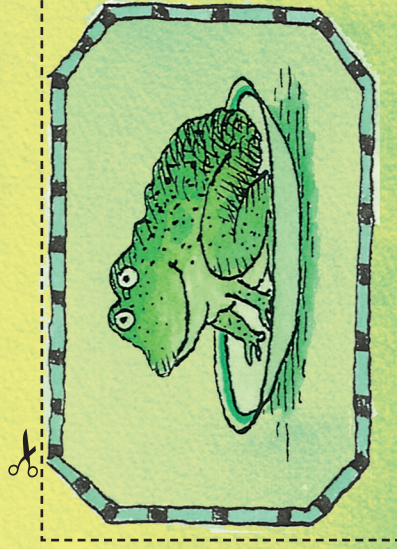
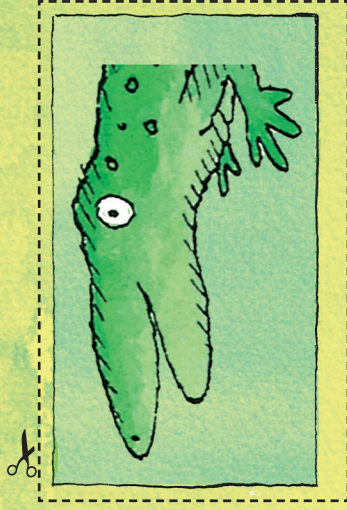
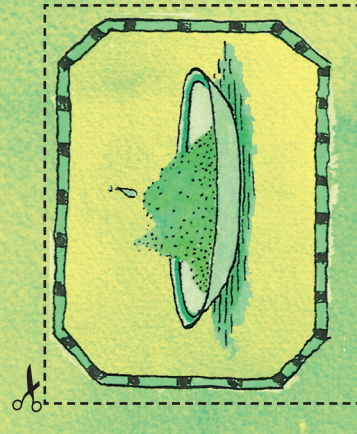
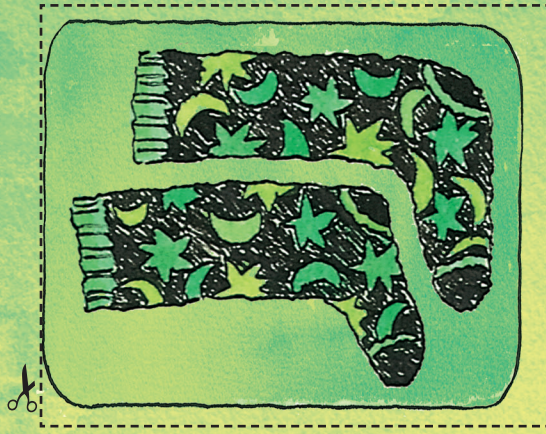
Cackles and curses,

The Witch

P.S. If you get squidged by my neighbour's big feet, I can't keep my promise not to eat you - I can't let good food go to waste!



To the children





Dear Children,

Thank you so much for bringing my letter. I wonder if you would mind doing me a favour.

Baby Giant has been very bored since Jack stole the hen that lays the golden eggs – he used to love playing with the shiny eggs. Would you mind playing a game to cheer him up?

He loves to watch children play ‘What’s the time, Mr Giant?’.

It’s just like ‘What’s the time, Mr Wolf?’ but instead of taking steps with your feet, you all sit down and make your hand into a little person, and take steps with your fingers like this:



Then at ‘Dinnertime’ you run your fingers away and ‘The Giant’ has to try to catch your hands as they run away.

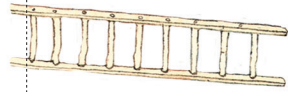
(The Giant can only reach from where she’s sitting though – no getting up allowed!)

If you have time to play it two or three times before you head off on your rounds that would be great.

Thank you so much,
Big Hugs,

The Giant

P.S. Don’t forget to follow the spots right up to our neighbour’s door – and curtsy or bow when you get there!



To the children



Dear Children,

Thank you so much for bringing my letter. I am so happy to have married my handsome prince after he found my shoe, that I have made a royal decree: anyone visiting the palace must play The Royal Shoe Game so they can share in my happiness.

This is how you play.

1. Everybody take off one shoe and put it in a pile
2. Get your grown-up to mix up the shoes
3. Everyone stand round the pile, close your eyes and pick a shoe (check that it isn’t yours!)
4. When your grown-up says ‘Go!’ see how quickly you can find the person it belongs to.

Good luck and have fun.

All the best,

Princess Cinders

P.S. be careful on your way to Grandmother’s House, she seems to have become rather furry recently...



To the children

Dear Children,

I'm afraid I've been eaten by the Big Bad Wolf so I'm writing to you from inside his tummy.

I wonder if you could help me? Could you get everyone to stand back and cover their ears, and then, one at a time, go up to the door and do your scariest faces and loudest roars through the letter box at the wolf?

With any luck it will scare him into spitting me out and leaving my home alone! Thank you so much and wish me luck!

Warmest wishes,

Grandma

P.S. Do say Happy Birthday to my neighbour Goldilocks when you get there.



5

To the children



Hello Children,

Thank you so much for bringing my card, please do come in and join my party.

You'll find my favourite book, *The Jolly Postman* on the chair so do get your grown-up to read it for you – then you can find out what was inside all the letters you have just delivered!

Have fun and help yourself to cake on the way out.

Lots of love,

Goldilocks xxx

P.S. The Jolly Postman said to say thank you so much for helping with his round and he hopes you had a lovely time.



6

To the children



THE JOLLY POSTMAN

Stickers



