

The Old Toy Room

Lottie and her mum were staying at Granny Mabel's house for the weekend. Lottie was excited because she had never slept over before and there were so many rooms to explore. She headed upstairs to find her bedroom.

As she walked down the hall, Lottie spotted a wooden door with a small rocking horse carved into it. 'I wonder what's in there,' she thought. She took a step closer and gently turned the doorknob.



The dusty door creaked as Lottie pushed it open. She gazed in shock as she emerged into a noisy, bustling train station. Everyone was heading towards the carriages and climbing aboard. The guard blew his whistle to signal that the train was ready to leave.

As the platform cleared, Lottie watched the train begin to chug away. "Are you not going?" asked a deep, gentle voice behind her. Lottie turned around and saw the most beautiful white horse.

"Where are they going?" asked Lottie.

"Today's the day of the grand theatre opening!" said the horse. "The Music Box Ballerinas are putting on a special performance and everyone is invited."

"Oh no! I've missed the train now," said Lottie, sadly.





“Perhaps I could help,” offered the horse, kindly. “I have a very special job to do for the grand opening but there is plenty of time for me to drop you off first.” He bowed his head, inviting Lottie to climb onto his back.

“Thank you!” said Lottie, as she clambered into the saddle. “I’m Lottie, by the way.”

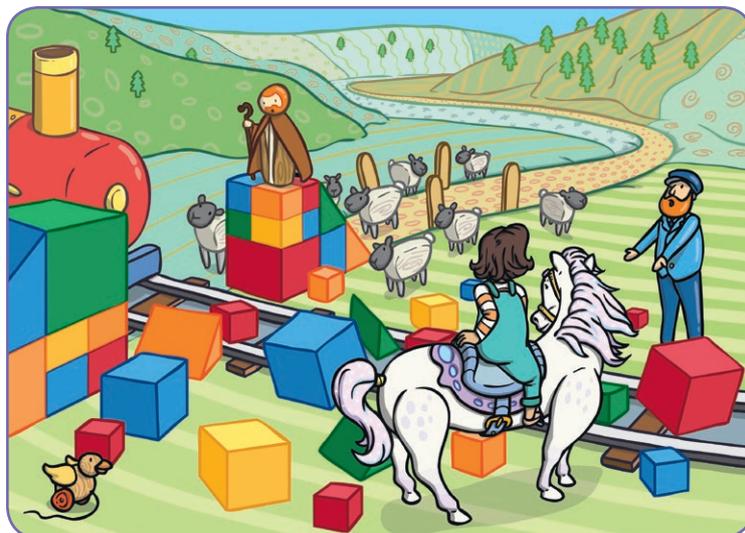
“My name is Chester,” said the horse, “and I would be honoured to take you.”

Lottie and Chester chatted and laughed as they galloped through the fields, towards the theatre. Suddenly, Lottie paused. “Look, it’s the train,” she said. “Why has it stopped?”

“Let’s go and take a look,” said Chester.

The train had come to a halt and some of the passengers had stepped out of their carriages. “Is everything OK?” called Chester, as they approached.

“The bridge has collapsed onto the track,” replied the train driver. “If we don’t get these blocks moved soon, we’ll all miss the grand opening!”



Chester stopped and Lottie climbed down. “We can fix this if we work as a team,” she said confidently. “Does anyone have any rope?”



“We could use these ribbons,” said a doll.

“I can lift the blocks,” said the tin robot.

“We can help!” called a group of toy soldiers.

“Us too,” agreed the bears.

“Perfect!” said Lottie, “I think I have a plan.”

Everyone got to work joining the ribbons together and tying them around the blocks. Chester and the tin robot pulled the heaviest blocks out of the way while the ducks nudged the smaller ones. The toys formed a long line, passing blocks to one another as they sang a happy song. “Work together, get it done. Teamwork can be really fun!”

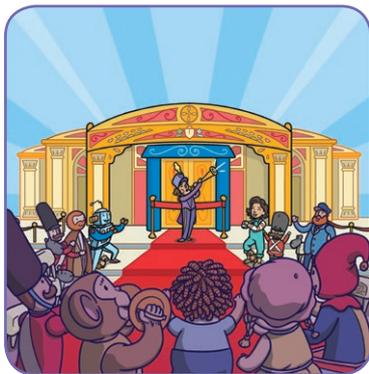
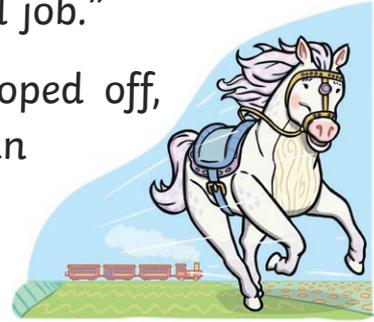


Before long, the track was clear and the blocks were neatly piled up next to it. “I’ll send a message to my team,” said the train driver. “After the grand opening, they will get the bridge rebuilt in no time!”

“The grand opening!” shrieked a teddy bear. “We must get going if we want to make it in time!” All the passengers climbed back on board and the driver blew the whistle.

“Why don’t I take the train from here?” suggested Lottie to Chester. “Then you’ll still have time to do your special job.”

“Good idea, Lottie,” smiled Chester. He galloped off, taking a shortcut across the field. The train began to chug along the track once more and all the passengers cheered as they headed for the theatre.



Lottie and the toys arrived to a huge crowd gathered outside the theatre. There was a red ribbon across the door and everyone was buzzing with excitement. A trumpet played and everyone fell silent. Mayor Wibble-Wobble cut the ribbon with a huge pair of scissors and the crowd cheered.

Once everyone was inside, the Music Box Ballerinas took to the stage, twirling and leaping gracefully.

Suddenly, Lottie heard a familiar voice.

“It’s lunchtime now,” said Mum, as she stood in the doorway. “I’ve unpacked your tablet if you want to play on it afterwards.”

“Can I just come back in here instead, please, Mum?” asked Lottie.

“Of course! I used to love going on adventures with Chester, too,” smiled Mum with a wink.



Questions

1. What was carved on the door Lottie walked through? Tick one.

- a train
 a rocking horse
 a doll's house

2. What is the name of the white horse Lottie meets? Tick one.

- Chester
 Charlie
 Chet

3. What was Chester's special job?

4. Draw a line to match up the boxes to complete the sentences.

She took a step closer ●	● Lottie climbed down.
Chester stopped and ●	● really fun!
Teamwork can be ●	● and gently turned the doorknob.

5. Complete this sentence.

"I used to love going on _____ with Chester too."

rides trips adventures

Answers

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**Chester brought the mayor to the grand opening of the theatre./
Chester pulled the carriage with the mayor in.**

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