

# The Children's Bookshow

GET CREATIVE!

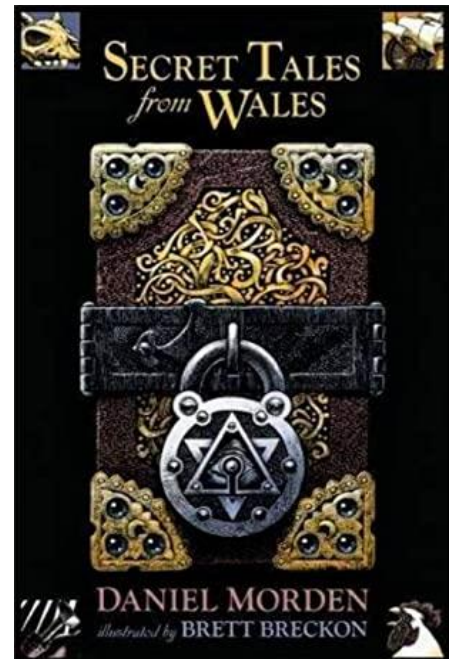
## *Secret Tales from Wales*

By Daniel Morden  
Illustrated by Brett Breckon

Have a go at these creative activities at home or at school. Visit our website for many more ideas and activities linked to our other featured books!

[www.thechildrensbookshow.com/news](http://www.thechildrensbookshow.com/news)

### Create the Magician's Study



Using the following extract from the book as inspiration, create a diorama of the Magician's study. You could use a shoe box and craft materials, or make it from Lego, like the one pictured here.



What a jumble of wonders! Crucibles, candles and cauldrons, books, bowls and bones, shelves of skulls, clawed creatures curled in jars, heady roots hanging from the roof beams, bottles of lotions and potions.

## Make a Puppet Theatre and Perform a Show

1. Make the theatre, using a shoe box or a cereal box with one side cut away. Cut two slits on the top of the box – a wider one through which to control your puppets and a narrower one through which to drop in the scenery. Paint the floor and the insides of the box. Make some curtains for each side and a pelmet for the top, using either fabric or painted card and glue them into place.

2. Choose a story and plan out the different scenes, so that you know which backdrops to create for your scenery.

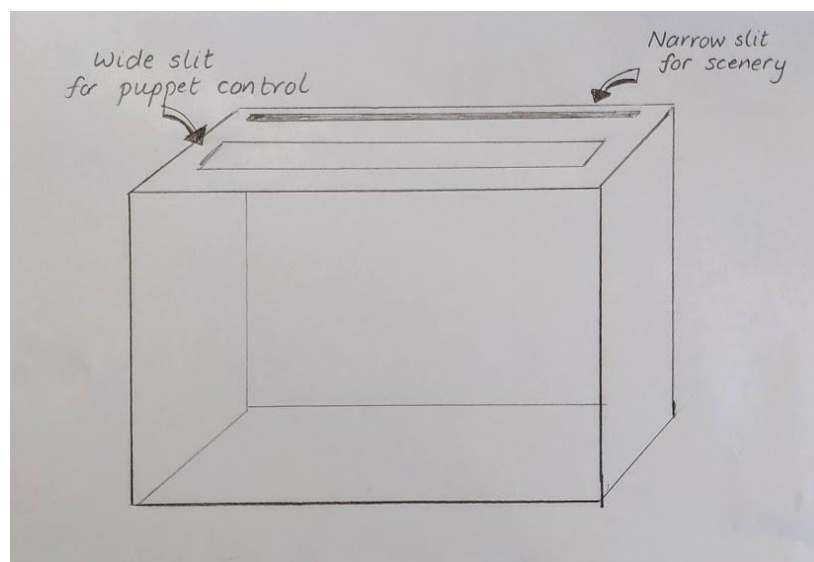
3. Make stick puppets of the characters using card and lollipop sticks or coffee stirrers.

4. Draw or paint different backdrops for each scene onto card. Make sure the card is slightly narrower than the size of the box, so that it almost fills the back of the theatre but you can lower it through the slit on the top.

5. Before you perform the show, make sure you rehearse it well. Decide which parts of the story you will narrate and which parts will be spoken by your characters. You might want to write a script or you could just make some notes and use these to improvise.

### You will need:

- A shoe box
- Paints and brushes
- Scissors
- Craft Knife
- Glue
- Lollipop sticks or coffee stirrers
- Card
- Fabric



## Create a Forest Silhouette Picture

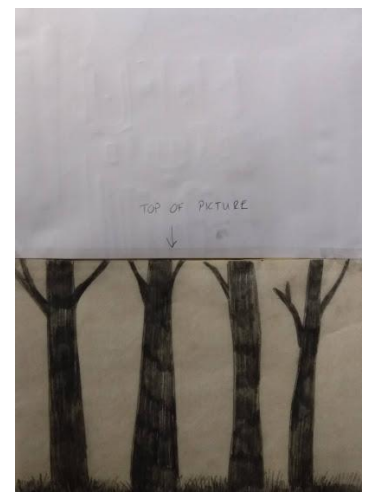
### You will need:

- Pencil (soft 'B' pencils work best)
- Sheet of A4 paper
- Baking Parchment (or tracing paper if you have it)
- Sticky tape
- Scissors



At the beginning of the story *The Secret of the Ring* Jack has never ventured beyond the trees of his forest home. Create a silhouette picture of his house among the trees.

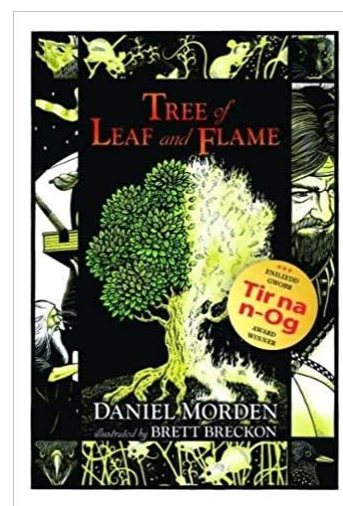
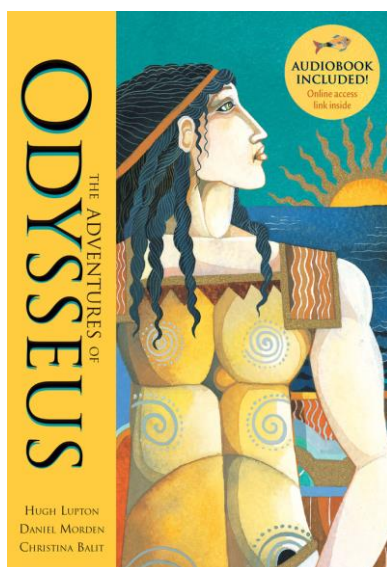
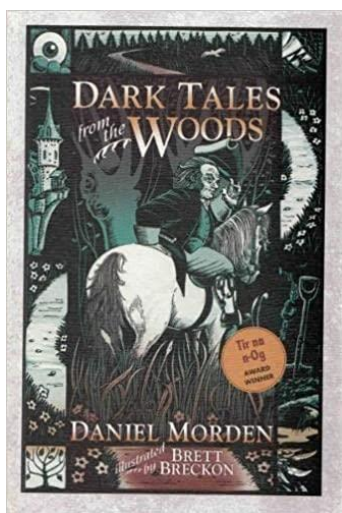
1. Start by drawing the house in the middle of a piece of paper. Then add a wavy line behind the house for the horizon.
2. Next, add the trees, making them bigger and thicker in the foreground, and smaller and thinner in the background to give your picture some perspective.
3. Add texture, detail and shading to your picture.
4. Next, cut a sheet of baking paper to the same size as your picture and draw several large tree trunks with some grass in the foreground.
5. Now, turn your first drawing face down and upside down onto a flat surface. Line up the second drawing, face up, next to it. Stick the two sheets together with sticky tape.
6. Finally, fold the two together to see the final effect of your silhouette picture.



### Further Activities to Try

1. Make your own secret book and decorate it with patterns and jewels, like the one on the front cover.
2. Have a go at storytelling. Choose a short story which you already know very well or one which you can learn quickly and easily. Fairy tales and fables work very well, especially those which have repetitive elements to them. Watch Daniel's 5 Top Tips for Storytelling on our website:  
<https://thechildrensbookshow.com/news/bookshow-at-home-with-daniel-morden>
3. If you were given three wishes, what would they be? Illustrate your wishes in a creative way. You could try drawing a self-portrait, adding three thought bubbles containing your wishes in image or words.
4. Watch Daniel perform some more of his stories on The Children's Bookshow's [YouTube channel](#).
5. Choose one of Daniel's stories to illustrate as a storyboard or a graphic novel.

### More books by Daniel Morden



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