

Traditional Tales (1)

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful garden in the surroundings of Tatton Park...It was the most wonderful garden that went on as far as the eye could see, filled with colourful flowers and singing birds. The Tatton Park Garden was no ordinary garden, however. You see, Tatton Park Garden was the most magical of all; it holds many tales and stories within its leafy walls.

Maybe you have visited Tatton Park's Gardens with your friends or family? Or maybe you have heard some of the magical tales about them? Why not have a go at the activities below with your grown-ups and see what magical tales you can create at home.

Activity 1: Going To See Grandma

Once upon a time, there was a little girl named Red Riding Hood. One morning her mother sent Little Red Riding Hood through the Tatton Park Gardens to see her grandmother who lived in a cottage at the end of the gardens. They packed a nice basket for Little Red Riding Hood to take to her grandmother - full of cakes, jam sandwiches, cheeses and fresh strawberries. On the way Little Red Riding Hood strayed off the path, not noticing a big bad wolf was following her all the way to Grandma's cottage.

The wolf, in the meantime, took a shortcut and arrived at Grandma's cottage where he gobbled poor grandma up! The wolf began to put Grandma's night clothes on and then he jumped into Grandma's bed. A few minutes later, Red Riding Hood appeared at her Grandma's realising that Grandma doesn't usually have such big eyes, big ears and big teeth! It was not Grandma but the big bad wolf! Shouting for help, little Red Riding Hood was saved by a nearby log cutter who made the wolf spit Grandma out and chased the wolf off into the deep depths of the gardens. Little Red Riding Hood, Grandma and the log cutter all shared the treats in Grandma's basket and never saw the wolf again.

Write a letter to your Grandma or Grandad. Tell them all about the fun activities you've been doing recently. Or you could tell them about the story of Little Red Riding Hood and draw all the lovely foods she packed in her basket to take to her Grandma. Have lots of fun and use all the colouring pens and pencils you have at home!

Activity 2: The Enormous Turnip

Once upon a time, there was an old man who lived and worked in the Tatton Park Gardens. One day he decided to plant some turnip seeds. He watered them and cared for them and soon the seeds began to grow. After a little time, the seeds grew into beautiful plants and the old man made sure to look after them. Every day the old man would water and weed his turnip patch until his wife would call him in for his dinner. One afternoon, while the old man was having his dinner, he felt the ground beneath his feet give an almighty shake. The old man and his wife ran outside and there they saw his turnip had grown much bigger than the others. The turnip was not just a big turnip, it was, in fact, quite ENORMOUS! So the old man and his wife shouted to a little boy who was playing in the neighbouring field to come and help. The boy ran over to the turnip patch to help and all together they pulled and pulled and pulled and pulled, but the enormous turnip still would not move! So the old man, his wife and the little boy shouted to a little girl who was playing by a tree to come and help. The little girl ran to the turnip patch to help and all together they pulled and pulled and pulled and pulled, but the enormous turnip still would not move! So the old man, his wife, the little boy and the little girl all shouted to the old man's dog to come and help. The dog ran to the turnip patch to





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help and all together they pulled and pulled and pulled and pulled, but the enormous turnip still would not move! So the old man, his wife, the little boy, the little girl and the dog all shouted to the old woman's cat to come and help. The cat ran to the turnip patch to help and all together they pulled and pulled and pulled and pulled, but the enormous turnip still would not move! So the old man, his wife, the little boy, the little girl, the dog and the cat all shouted to the farmhouse mouse to come and help. The mouse ran to the turnip patch to help and all together they pulled and pulled and pulled and pulled and suddenly POP! Out of the ground came the enormous turnip! The old man was so happy and thankful for everyone's help that he invited everyone in for a delicious turnip supper!

At Tatton Park, the gardeners grow lots of exciting fruit and vegetables. With the help of a grown up, see if you can grow something special in your garden, backyard or on your windowsill. But remember, like the old man in our story, you must give your planting lots of care, love and time.

All you need is a little patch of dirt or a sunny place to put some pots, and a bit of time to get dirty! Take out any big stones and rake the area.

Before purchasing seeds think about what vegetables you like to eat and choose one that is easy to sow and grow. Radishes, sprouts and carrots work really well. Once you have chosen them, dig small holes in the soil for the seeds, cover them over and water well. Remember to water regularly and give your plants plenty of sunlight.

TIP: Radishes are perfect for first time gardeners. It doesn't matter where you plant them, they will grow quickly. After a few days the first sprouts will appear and they will be ready to harvest within 30 days or earlier. They will grow through spring, summer and autumn.

Activity 3: Cinderella's Sneaky Slippers

Once upon a time, there was a beautiful girl named Cinderella. She lived with her wicked stepmother and two stepsisters who were very mean to her. One day, they were all invited to the Prince's Ball at Tatton Park. But Cinderella was very sad as her stepmother would not let her go. Suddenly, a fairy godmother appeared and said, "Don't cry, Cinderella! I will send you to the ball!" The fairy godmother waved her magic wand and created Cinderella a beautiful dress, glass slippers and a magical pumpkin carriage to take her to the ball. Before leaving the fairy godmother said, "Cinderella, this magic will only last until midnight! You must be home by then!" Cinderella had the most magical time at the ball where she danced all night with the Prince. But as the clock neared midnight, Cinderella remembered her fairy godmother's words and rushed to go home. "Oh! I must go!" she cried and ran out into Tatton Park Gardens. One of her glass slippers came off but Cinderella did not turn back for it. She reached home just as the clock struck twelve. The Prince found her glass slipper and he set out to search the whole kingdom to find Cinderella. Finally, the Prince reached Cinderella's house and he fell in love as soon as he saw her. He married Cinderella and together they lived happily ever after.

Here is a fun game to play in the house or garden with the whole family. Gather a pile of different shoes from everyone that you live with. Hide the shoes and choose one pair that you hide only one shoe. Put the other shoe from the chosen pair on one member of your family: they must sit on a chair while everyone else goes in search of the shoes. When someone finds a shoe, they must bring it back and try it on to see if it matches the one their family member is wearing. If it doesn't, they must continue searching!

