

Stories around us

All the objects within our collection have their own story to tell (if only they could talk!) and some are made to tell a particular story or myth.

For today's activity draw an object you own that has a story and enjoy decorating it with pictures to tell its tale, taking inspiration from our collection.



Diana and Actaeon dish (about 1495)

This earthenware maiolica dish was made over 500 years ago and would have been used as a centre piece within a wealthy home. Pieces like this were known as *Istoriato* ware (meaning "painted with stories").

It was made in Italy using a tin-glaze method. Earthenware pottery was painted with a white base layer of lead glaze with added tin oxide and then colour and detail were added, making it very vibrant!

In the centre of the plate is the myth of Diana and Actaeon. The goddess Diana is bathing in the forest when Actaeon the hunter sees her. In anger she turns him into a stag, whereupon his dogs set upon him. Around the rim is the battle of the Lapiths and Centaurs.

For more inspiration from our collection : <http://collections.holburne.org/home>



Ovid's Metamorphoses

Here are some extracts from the original source of this story:

'Actaeon, free of his share of the labour, strays with aimless steps through the strange wood, and enters the sacred grove'

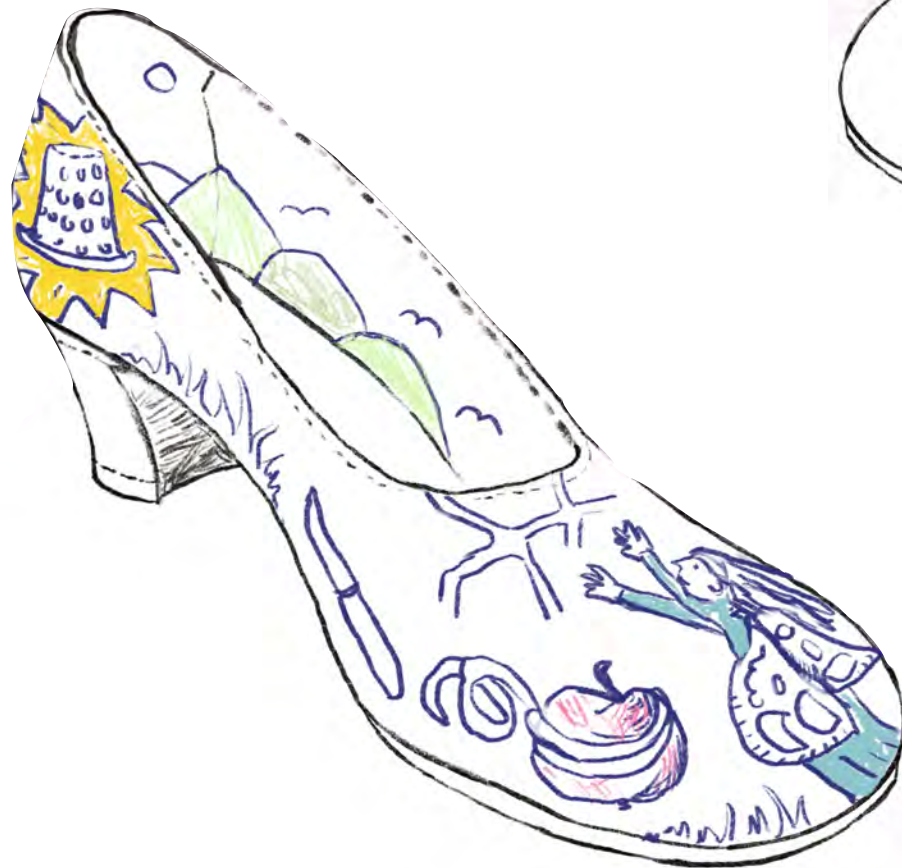
*'She caught up a handful of the water that she did have, and threw it in the man's face'.
(Diana turning Actaeon to a stag).*

Activity

- Find an object you own that has a story.
- You could tell someone else the story or write it down.
- Make a simple line drawing of your object, without any surface pattern added.
- Or use our object outline provided (below).
- Decorate adding drawings that tell it's story or one you have imagined.
- Use pencil, pen or paint and add colour.

You Could:

- Add words and decorative details such as leaves or patterns like maiolica pottery.
- Try decorating an actual object with a story.



Objects could be anything with a good surface for drawing on: a vase, walking stick, locket, cushion, hat, plate etc.

Opposite is the shoe of a grandmother. She tells stories of 'the magic thimble', likes walking in the moors and can peel an apple in one long strip!

Design inspiration page

Willow Pattern one of the most famous British ceramics designs, adapted here to reflect the local industries of Stoke-on-Trent. Plate detail, made at The Potteries.



Tibetan wedding plate



Patterns inspired from Diana and Actaeon dish



African wax prints, whether used for clothing or for interior decoration such as cushions, often tells a story.



Why not tell an imagined story of a teapot.

Who could it belong to?

Where might it have travelled?

Who might it have served tea to?

Using the outline on the next page add your own design using pencil, pen, collage and colour.

This is an outline of a teapot from our collection made from soft-paste porcelain, Chelsea Porcelain Factory, about 1755. It would have been decorated with Japanese and Chinese decoration that were copied, as well as invented motifs.

