



# ACTIVITY BOOK

## *MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS*

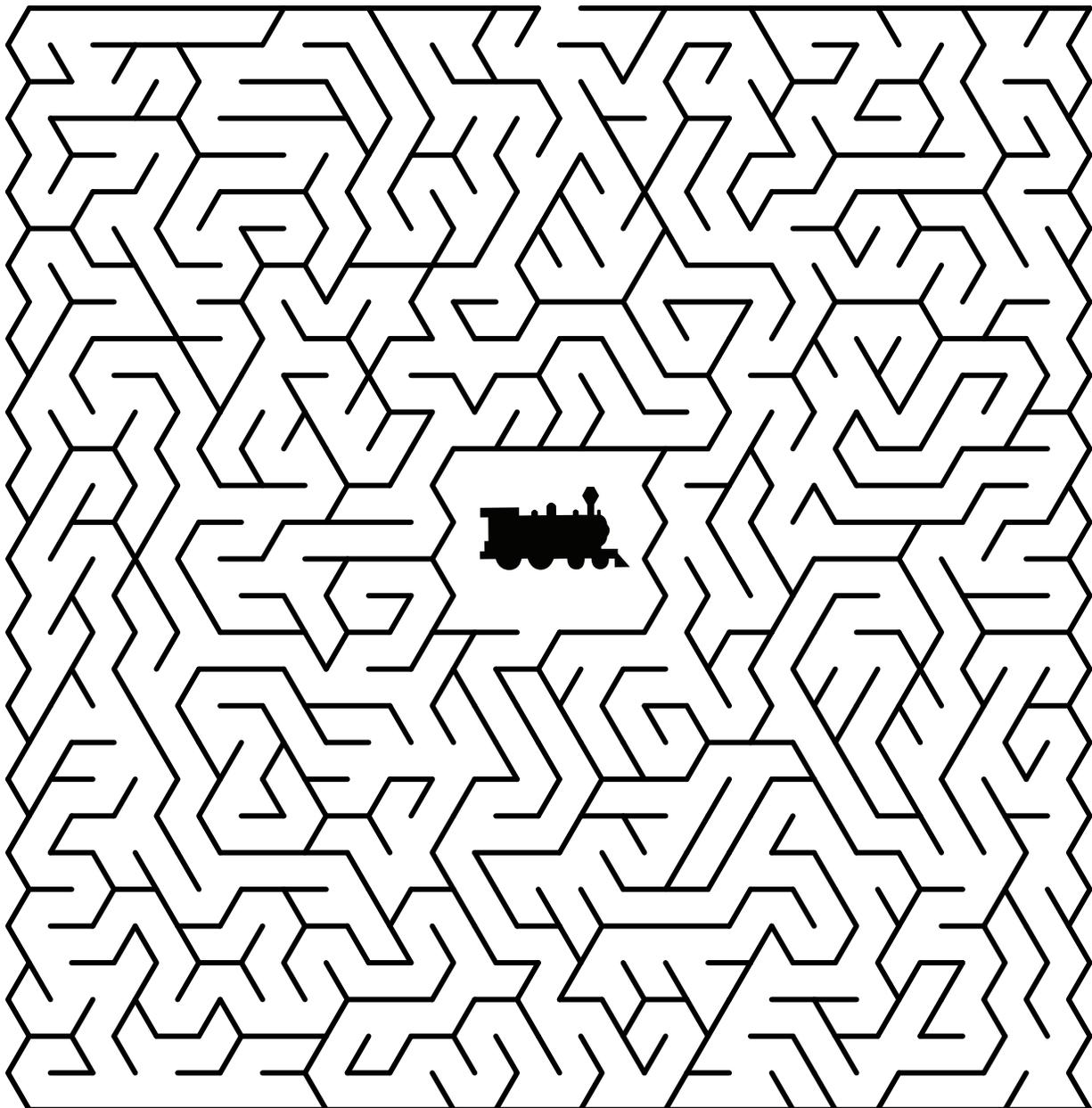


# MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

Board the exotic and mysterious Orient Express as it takes off into the opulence and grandeur of the 1930s, with a train full of suspects, each with a motive and an alibi. This dazzling new adaptation of Agatha Christie's masterpiece is filled with twists, turns and larger-than-life characters. Join beloved detective Hercule Poirot as he battles the clock to figure out "whodunit" in this murder mystery!

Let's find our way to the train station!!!!

Choo-Choo Here





# A CLUE! A CLUE!

A white handkerchief with the letter “H” embroidered on it is found and is our first clue to the murder! You’ve been hired as a prop artisan at Milwaukee Rep. It is your task to create the handkerchief! Can you make one?

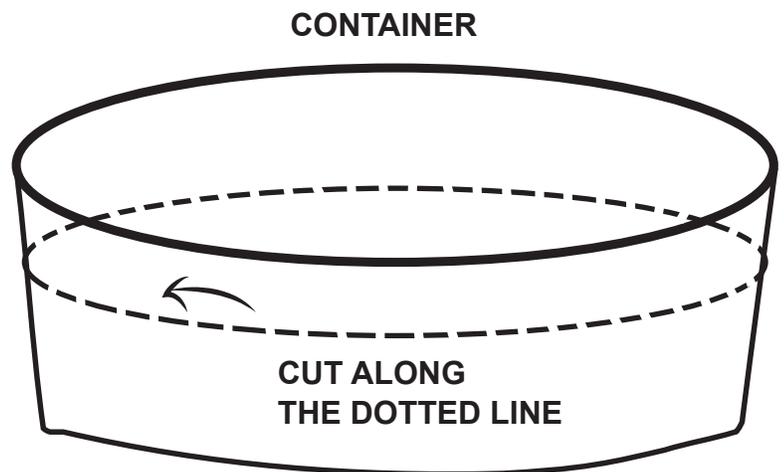
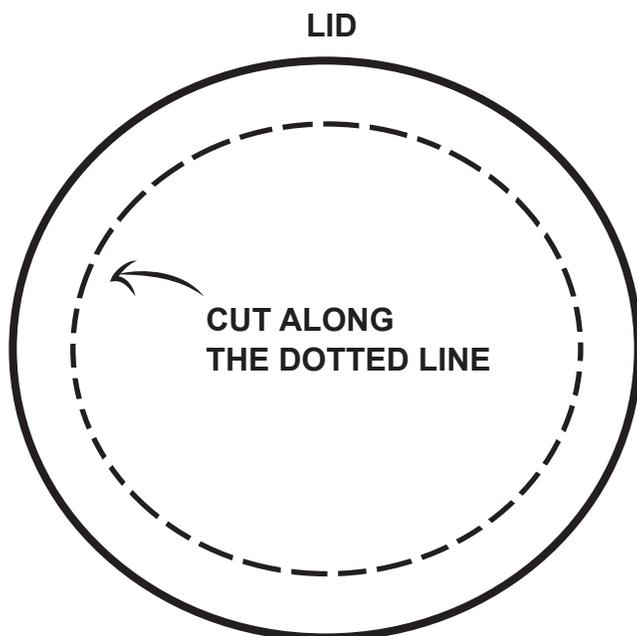
**SAFETY WARNING:** *This activity requires the use of strong scissors or a utility knife. If you are too young to use these tools on your own, then please delegate this job to someone with steady hands if you are young or nervous. Make sure you are cutting on a protected surface (use lots of newspaper).*



## MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- A plastic container with a lid that 'clicks' into place
- A Stanley/Utility knife/X-acto knife\*
- Strong pair of scissors\*
- Nail File/Sandpaper/Duct tape
- White Fabric (8 in X 8 in square)
- Embroidery floss or thread
- A sewing needle with a large eye

**Let's Create!** You can improvise an embroidery hoop out of a plastic take-away container like one used for cottage cheese or yogurt. Cut 1/2 cm in from the raised edge of the lid (1/5 inch) and 1/2 cm from the raised edge of the container. Use a strong pair of scissors to cut the center out of the lid, leaving only the raised edge. You will want to file down the edges or use duct tape so as not to snag your fabric.



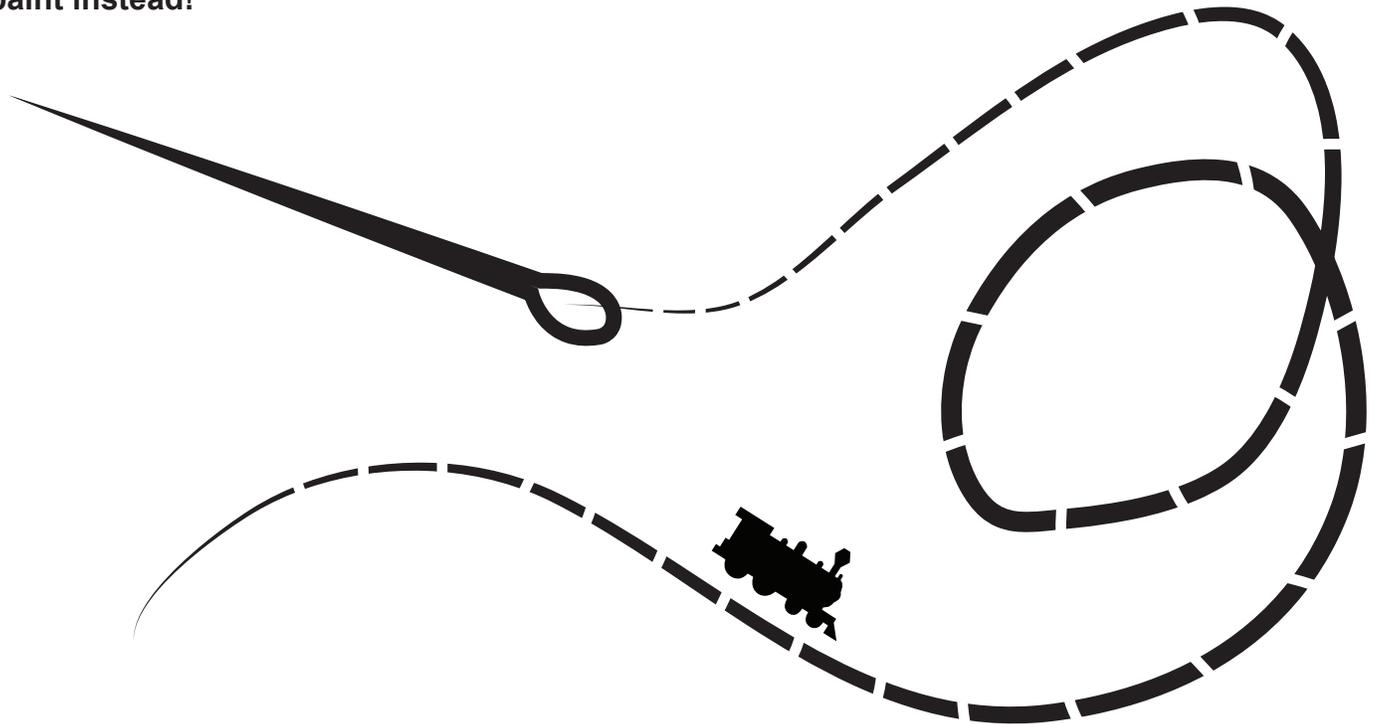
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As a prop artisan you will need to pay special attention to certain details. Hercule Poirot would never miss the smallest detail and notices that the handkerchief must belong to a woman due to its size (8in x 8in square).

Now, find a white or cream colored fabric. This can be a rag, old tshirt, dish towel, pillow case, bed sheet, etc. Place your fabric face-up over the bottom piece of the container, positioning the part you want to work with in the center. Then place the lid over the bottom. Push it into place, until the two pieces 'click' together. The fabric should be pulled taut as a result of this. If not, pull the fabric taut as you click the lid into place.

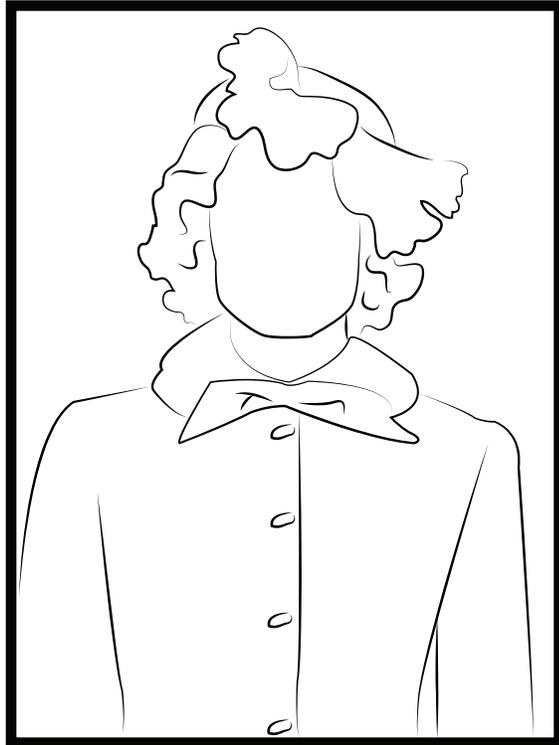
You will need embroidery floss (or thread) to stitch the "H". Start with threading your needle and tying a knot at the end. (If you need additional help there are plenty of videos online to show you how to thread your needle.) If you do not have thread or a needle then you could use puffy fabric paint instead!



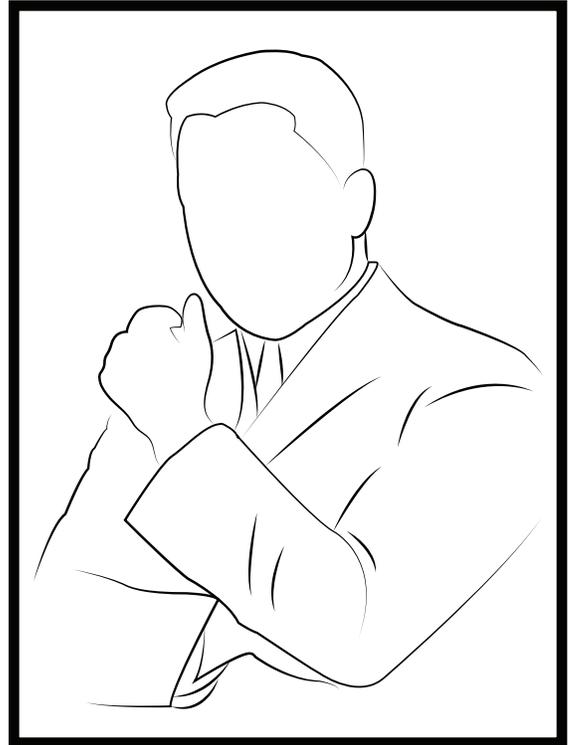
Did you know? It would be more common for a prop artisan to use cream colored fabric or paper (instead of white), because the stage lights are so bright that any true-white objects become too bright and distracting.

# MEET SOME OF THE SUSPECTS.

GIVE THEM A FACE AND COLOR THEM IN.



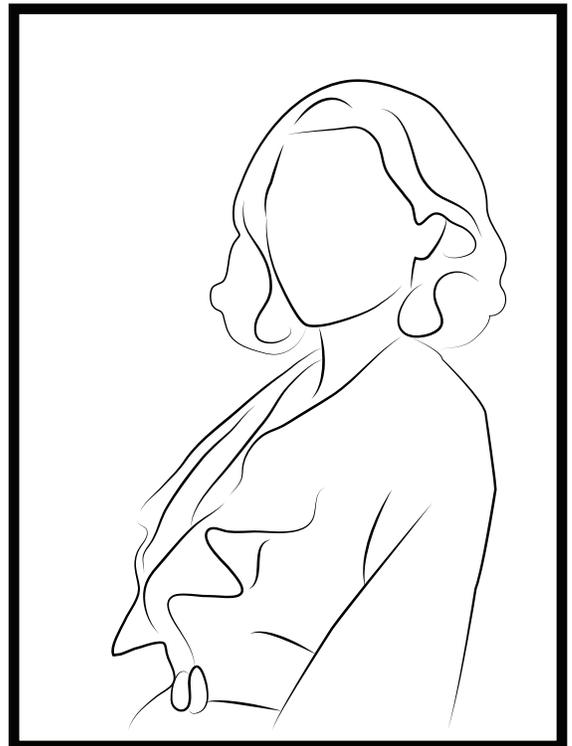
**GRETA OHLSSON**



**HECTOR MACQUEEN**



**MICHEL THE CONDUCTOR**



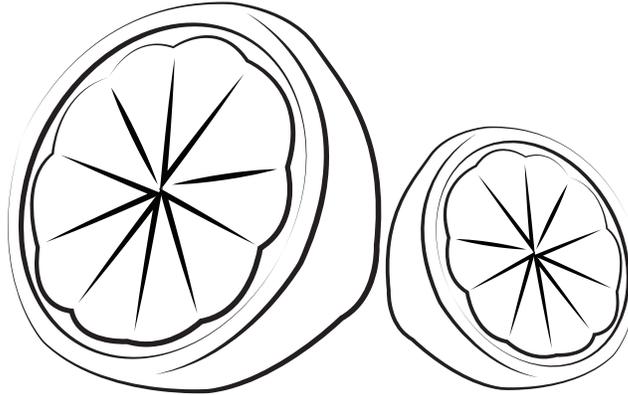
**PRINCESS DRAGOMIROFF**

# INVISIBLE INK

Making invisible ink is a lot of fun, you can pretend you are a detective as you keep all your clues and messages hidden from others. All you need is some basic household objects and the hidden power of lemon juice. Now find a buddy and leave your clues for each other to find!

## MATERIALS YOU WILL NEED

- Half a lemon
- Water
- Spoon
- Bowl
- Cotton bud
- White paper
- Lamp or other light bulb



## INSTRUCTIONS

1. Squeeze some lemon juice into the bowl and add a few drops of water.
2. Mix the water and lemon juice with the spoon.
3. Dip the cotton bud into the mixture and write a message onto the white paper.
4. Wait for the juice to dry so it becomes completely invisible.
5. When you are ready to read your secret message or show it to someone else, heat the paper by holding it close to a light bulb.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Lemon juice is an organic substance that oxidizes and turns brown when heated. Diluting the lemon juice in water makes it very hard to notice when you apply it to the paper, no one will be aware of its presence until it is heated and the secret message is revealed. Other substances which work in the same way include orange juice, honey, milk, onion juice, vinegar and wine. Invisible ink can also be made using chemical reactions or by viewing certain liquids under ultraviolet (UV) light. (Resource: [www.sciencekids.co.n](http://www.sciencekids.co.n))

