

THE NUTCRACKER

EXPLORATION BOOK



DECORATING THE CHRISTMAS TREE

It's Christmas Eve and it's time to party,
To have some fun and to see everybody.

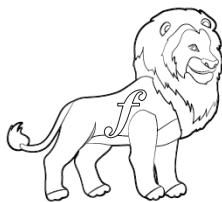
Frederick and Clara decorate the tree,
Standing on stools and down on their knee.

With baubles and tinsel and fairy lights,
It's full of sparkles and full of delights.

The brother and sister don't always get along,
But it's Christmas Eve so what could be wrong?

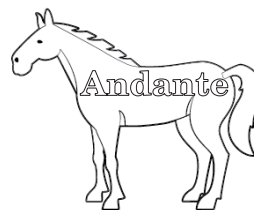
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TEMPO

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Andante for walking pace or the tortoise with
Largo for slow.



MUSICAL MOOD

What's the mood of the music like? Circle or colour in your answer.

EXCITING



SCARY



SILLY



HAPPY

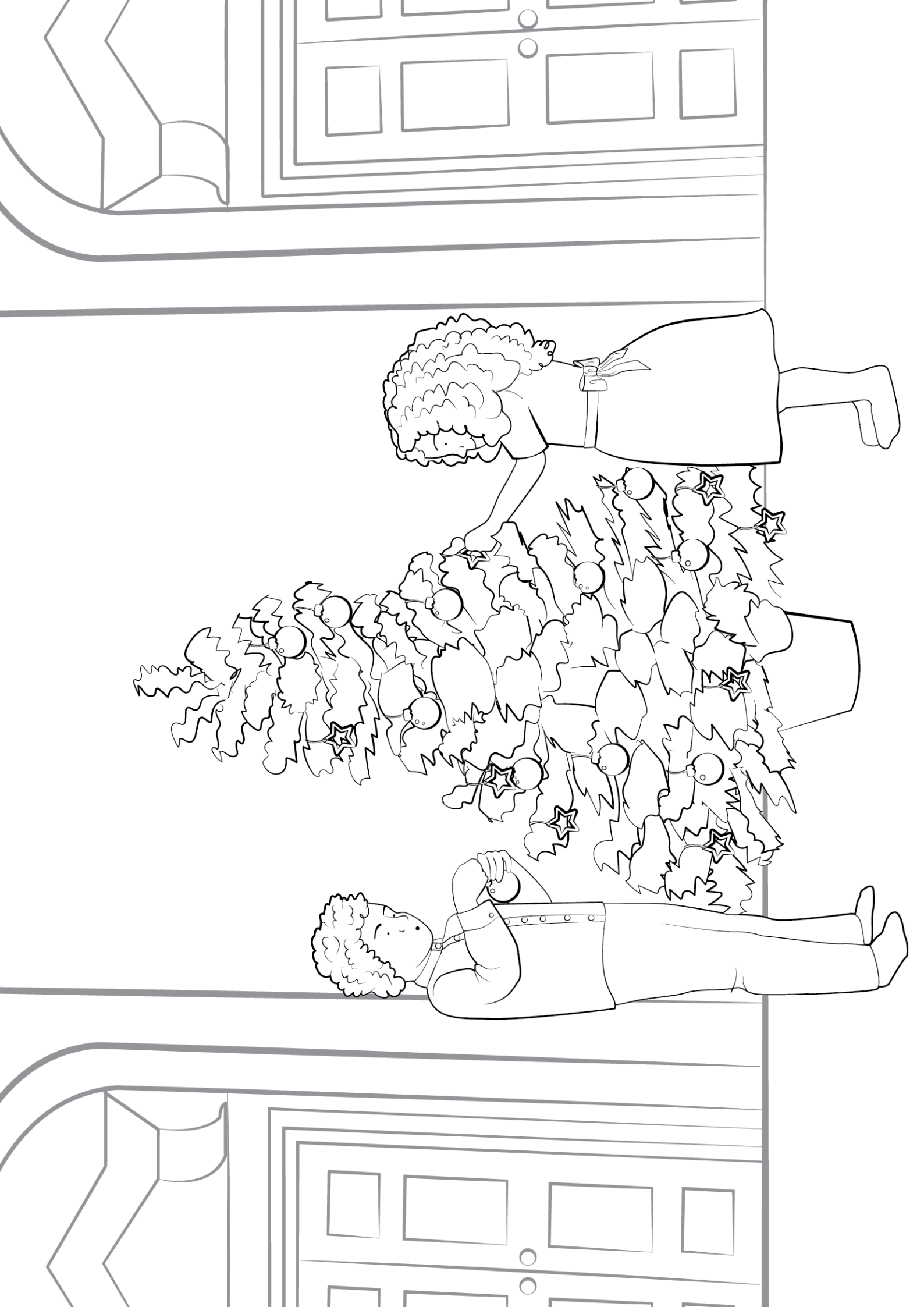


ANGRY



SAD





THE CHILDREN'S MARCH

Ding dong goes the doorbell and who can it be?
It's Clara's friend Ester and her sister Dorothy.

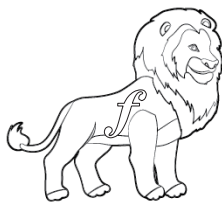
In come the children and the music starts up,
A jolly merry march with a beat to make you bop.

The kids dance and jump and sidestep and sway,
Happy to be together on this gleeful day.

They leap and chase and excitedly play,
And they know that the presents are on their way.

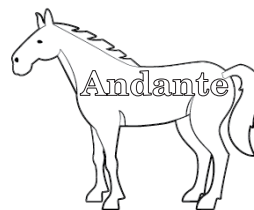
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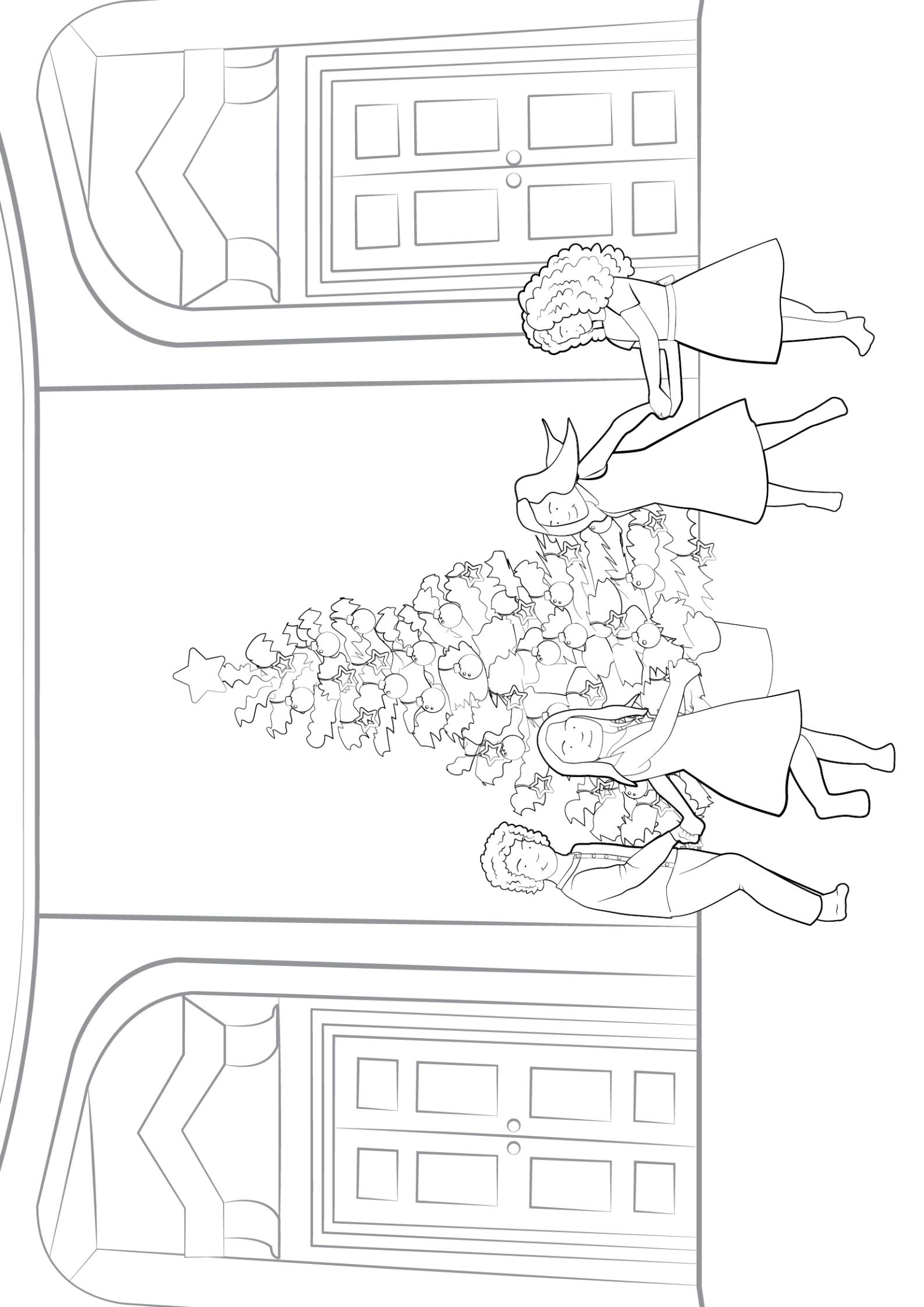


ANGRY



SAD





THE PARENTS' GALLOP

Knock knock at the door. Who's coming in?
It's the grownups' turn for a bit of a spin.

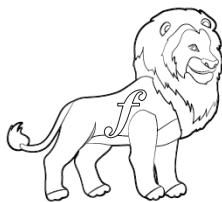
The music cranks up and they take to the floor,
Quite as soon as they've closed the open door.

Their energy's up and spirits are high,
They prance and they bounce, they practically fly!

Now the party's in full swing, they're all having fun,
The adults, the kids, every single one.

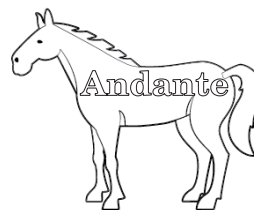
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DROSSELMAYER

But the best guest of all is yet to arrive,
Once Drosselmeyer gets here we'll really thrive.

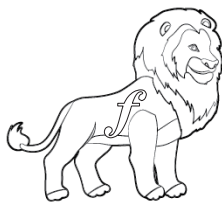
He's the magician, the toymaker, and the major too,
Is there anything that this man can't do?

He'll be here before long, lickity split,
And his party tricks are always a hit.

He'll come with arms laden with presents galore,
Dolls and horses and magic and more!

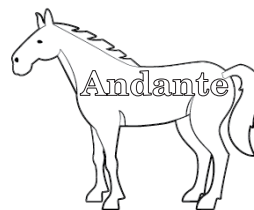
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THE NUTCRACKER

The kids devoured the gifts in less than a flash,
And went off to play with them having a bash.

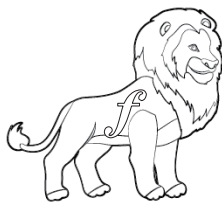
But one toy was left, without any love,
A charming nutcracker with crown up above.

Clara was the only one to notice his charms,
And she picked him up into her arms.

She admired the woodwork and each little detail,
This was her favourite by far, it wouldn't grow stale.

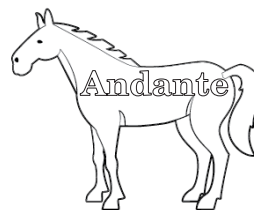
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THE GUESTS DEPART

"It's ten o'clock and it's time to go,
It really has been the most wonderful show!

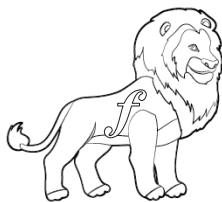
We danced and sang and joked and gave,
Wonderful gifts that our loved ones did crave.

It's time to go, time to away,
We're nearly ready to hit the hay.

The children are sleepy, they're nodding their heads,
We need to get them into their beds.

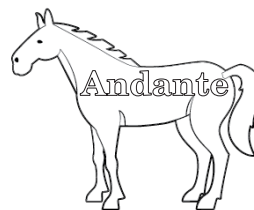
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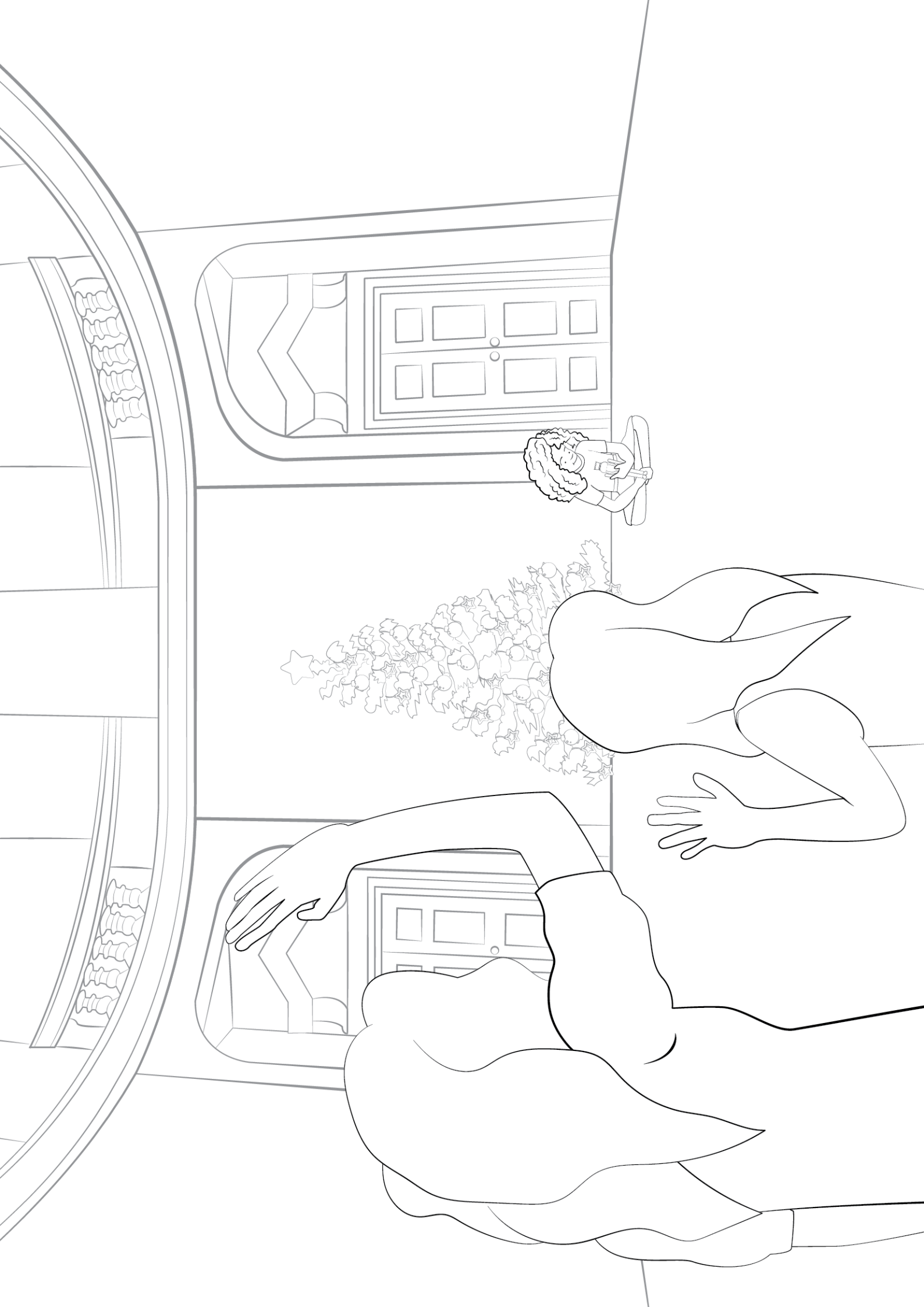


ANGRY



SAD





THE BATTLE

At twelve o'clock little Clara awoke,
To hear a scuttling, or was it a croak?

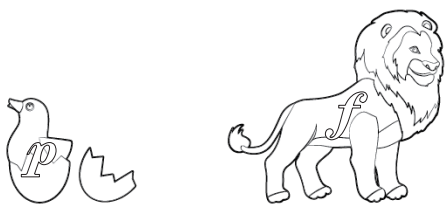
She ran downstairs, nutcracker in hand,
And wondered if she was still in dreamland.

For there before her stood a mouse battalion,
And in leapt her nutcracker on his stallion.

They fought and battled, it was quite a din,
But in the end, of course, her prince did win.

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THE FOREST

After the battle they could all relax,
They hugged and patted each others' backs.

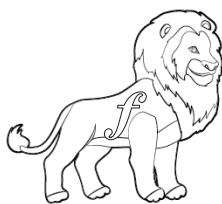
But while they were hugging, something terribly strange,
Happened behind them - it was quite a change.

The Christmas tree that stood in the room,
Grew and it grew like a wonderful bloom.

Soon the room was no more, it had disappeared,
For all round were trees, it was very weird!

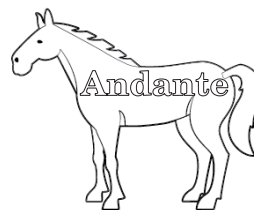
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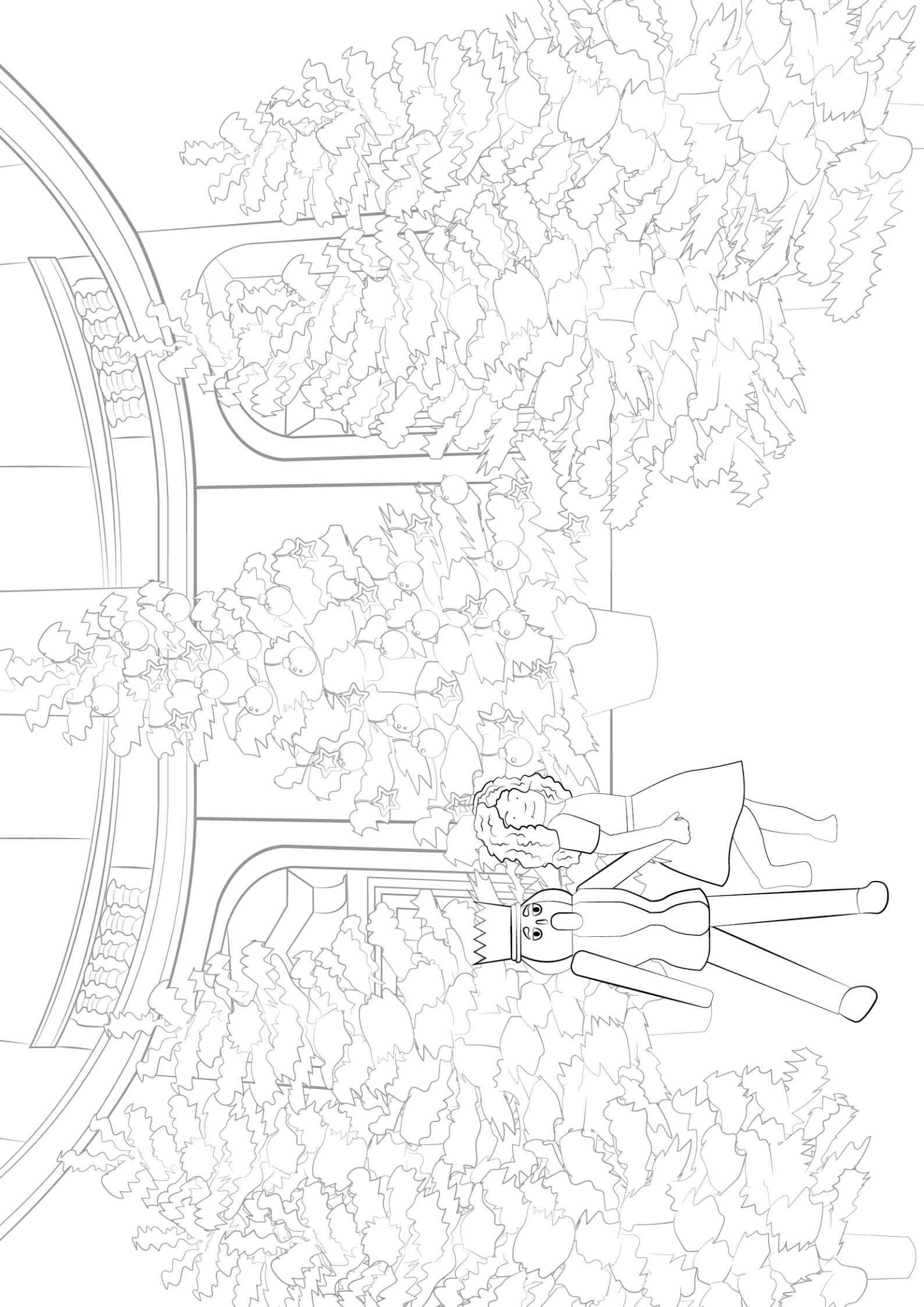


ANGRY



SAD





SNOWFLAKES FALLING

Clara and the nutcracker walked through the trees,
And as they strolled they felt a new breeze.

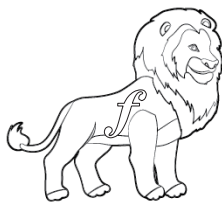
The forrest got colder and down from the sky,
Beautiful snowflakes started to fly.

Flakes drifted and floated through the great pines,
And with their soft edges blurred all the lines.

It really was such a spectacular sight,
To see those snowflakes soar and take flight.

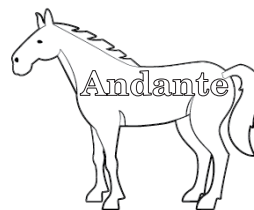
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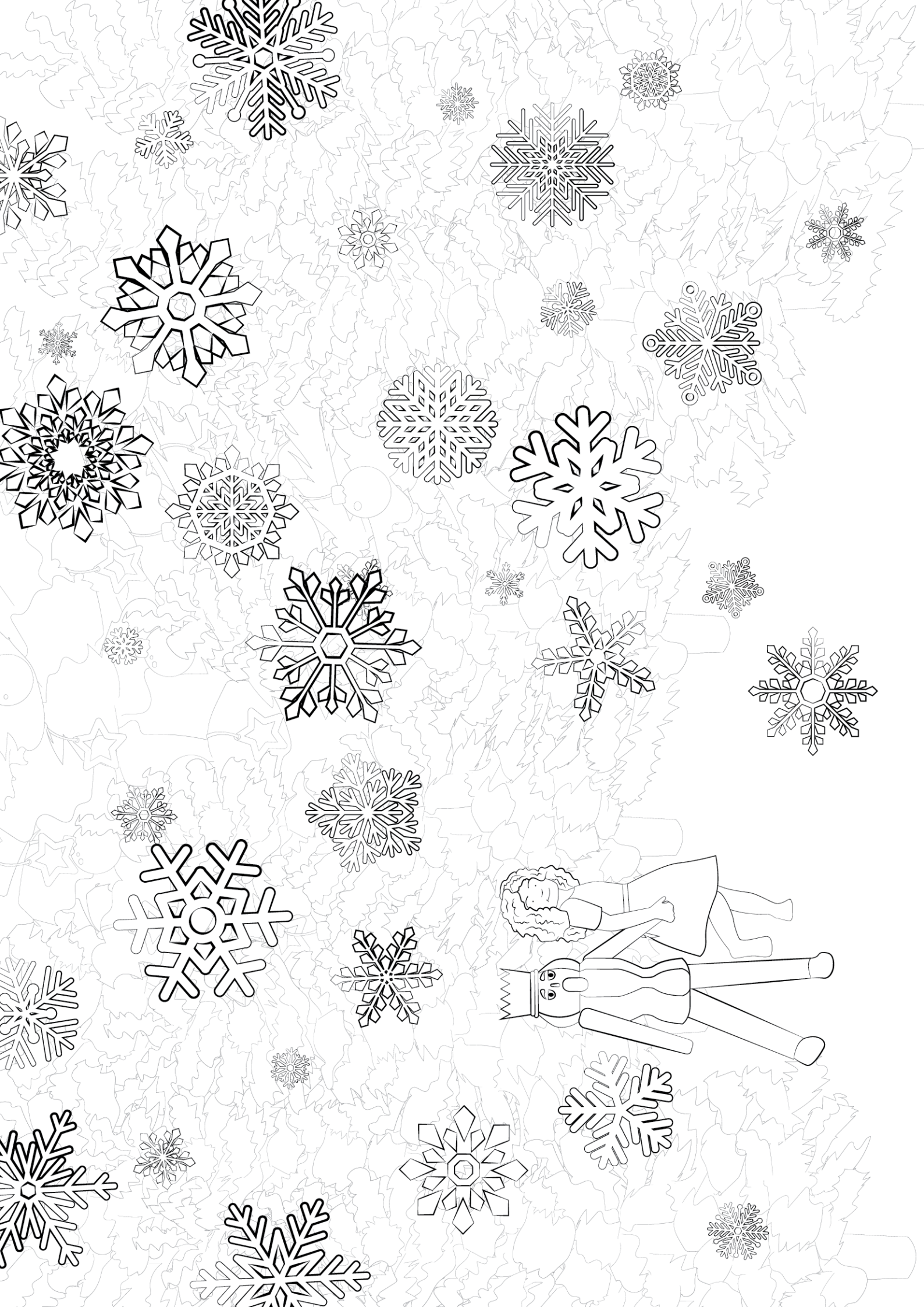


ANGRY



SAD





KINGDOM OF SWEETS

As they rounded a corner the trees started to clear,
And they saw a great castle as they grew near.

Now this was not just an ordinary palace,
It had bonbon battlements and chocolate ballasts.

There were fountains of floss and mountains of gumdrops,
And lampposts made of lollipops.

The two were amazed to see such a scene,
And climbed to the castle, terribly keen.

DYNAMICS

Was the music mostly loud or soft?
Colour the *p* for soft or the *f* for loud.

p

f

TEMPO

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Largo

Andante

Allegro

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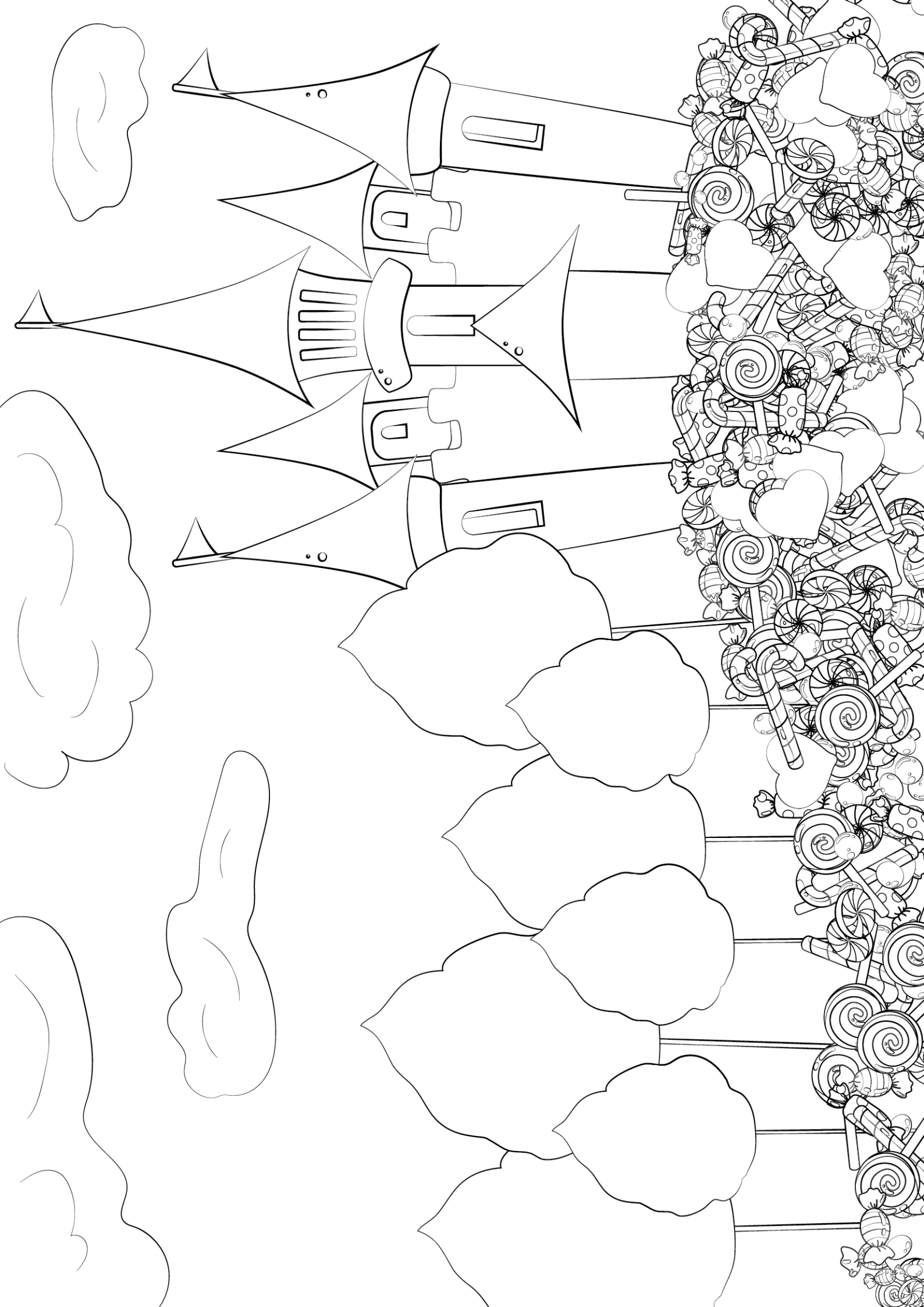


ANGRY



SAD





HOT CHOCOLATE

As they entered the castle they got a great welcome,
From the host who called herself "Sugarplum".

She put on a show to provide a reception,
She was always a great host, no exception.

The first act was hot chocolate from Spain,
Who took to the floor without any strain.

They clickitty clacked and ruffled about,
And when they were done the crowd gave a shout!

DYNAMICS

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Colour the *p* for soft or the *f* for loud.

p

f

TEMPO

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Largo

Andante

Allegro

MUSICAL MOOD

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SAD





COFFEE

Next was the coffee, brought from Oman,
They danced just like an elegant swan.

They twirled and twisted with graceful ease,
They could move to the music just as they pleased.

Like the piping hot coffee they brought to the fore,
It was hard to keep from wanting some more.

When it came to a stop Clara yelled "hurrah!"
The Omani dancers had left her in awe.

DYNAMICS

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p

f

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Largo

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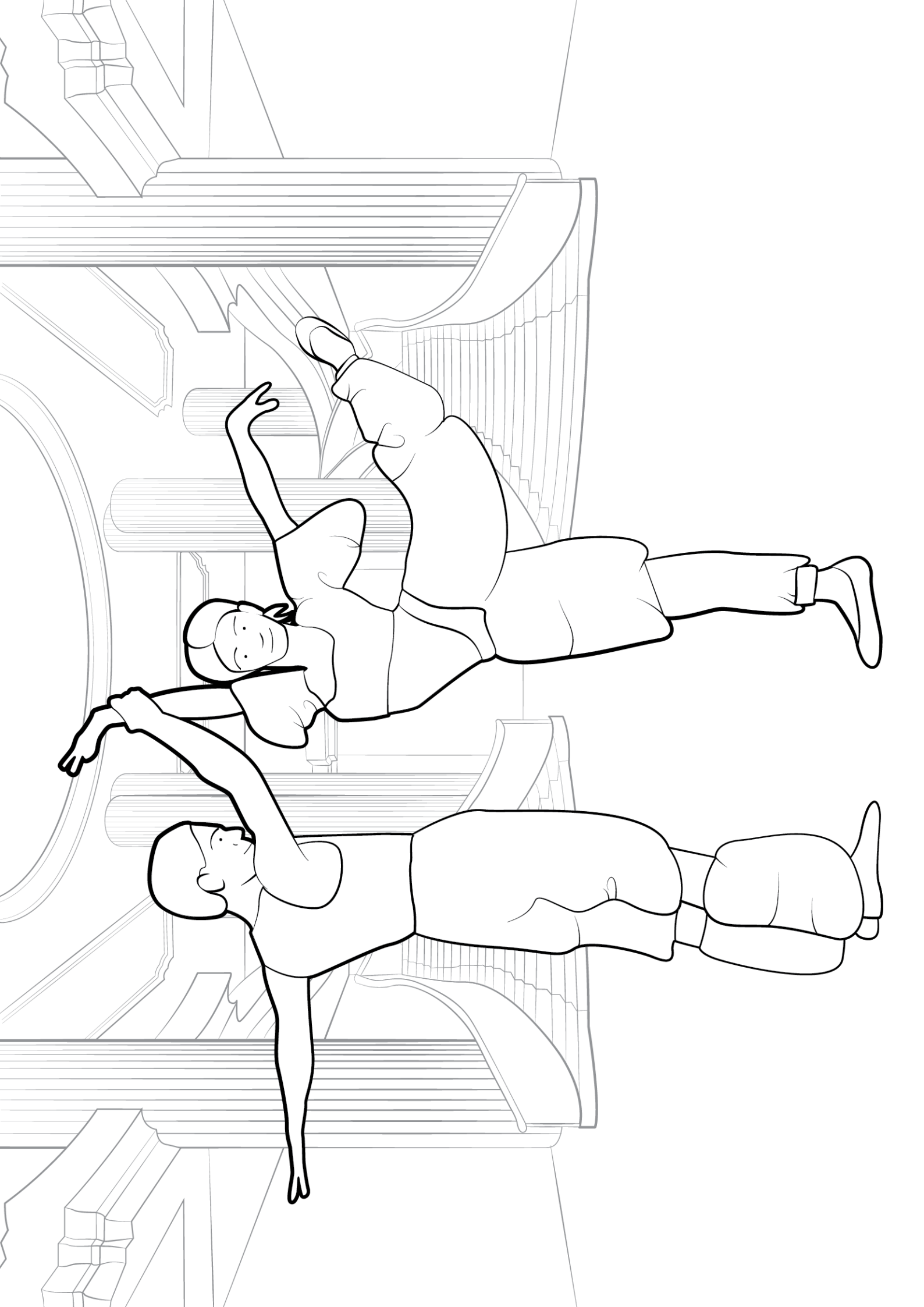


ANGRY



SAD





TEA

Next came guests from China with delicate tea,
Sweet and aromatic in cups that were wee.

Their dance was intriguing with long flowing sleeves,
The silk reached up almost to the eaves!

The elegant silks had the crowd mesmerised,
But Sugarplum fairy, she wasn't surprised.

She knew that the dancers would give such delight,
And that this would be an incredible night.

DYNAMICS

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p

f

TEMPO

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Largo

Andante

Allegro

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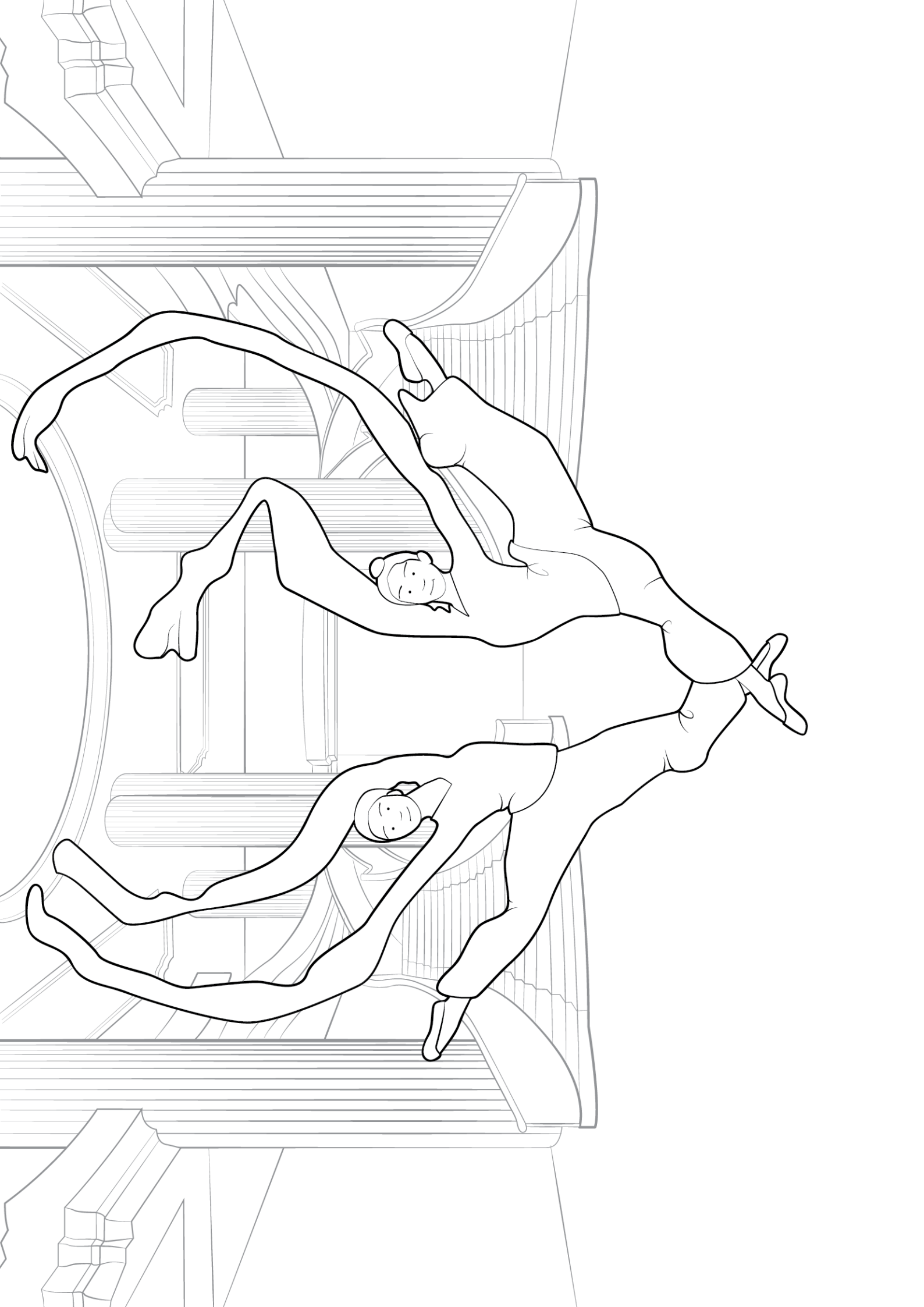


ANGRY



SAD





CANDY CANES

Now comes everyone's favourite holiday treat,
The candy canes are here, please take a seat.

They've brought them from Russia for us to enjoy,
One for every girl and every boy.

The Russians dance the trepak to celebrate,
Their jumps are high and their leaps are great.

They bound and bounce up so very high,
You might think they're going to touch the sky!

DYNAMICS

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p

f

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Largo

Andante

Allegro

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MARZIPAN

From nearer to home the sheperds take the stage,
They've brought with them marzipan in a golden cage.

They danced around their great crooks,
While all sat up to get closer looks.

They may tend to the sheep,
But don't dare go to sleep.

You don't want to miss the marzipan dance,
And reed flute music that will put you in a trance.

DYNAMICS

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p

f

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Largo

Andante

Allegro

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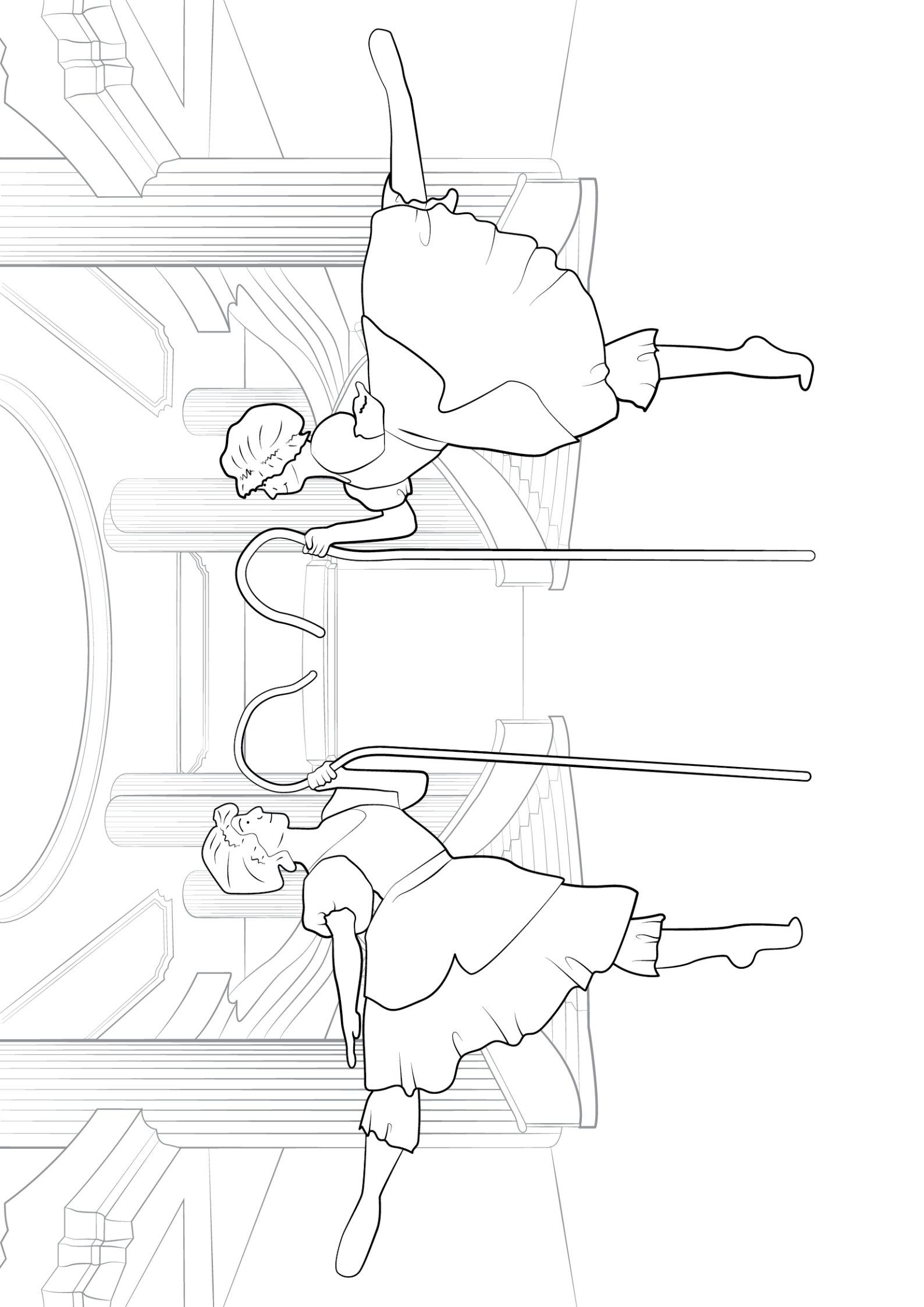


ANGRY



SAD





GINGER

Next from the corner sprang up a shock,
The gingerbread men got up to walk!

Who would've thought they would come alive,
And start to dance an incredible jive?

The gingerbread men put a spring in your step,
And give you a most remarkable pep.

They're not all gumdrops or button-shaped eyes,
They're dancers too, that was just a disguise!

DYNAMICS

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p

f

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Largo

Andante

Allegro

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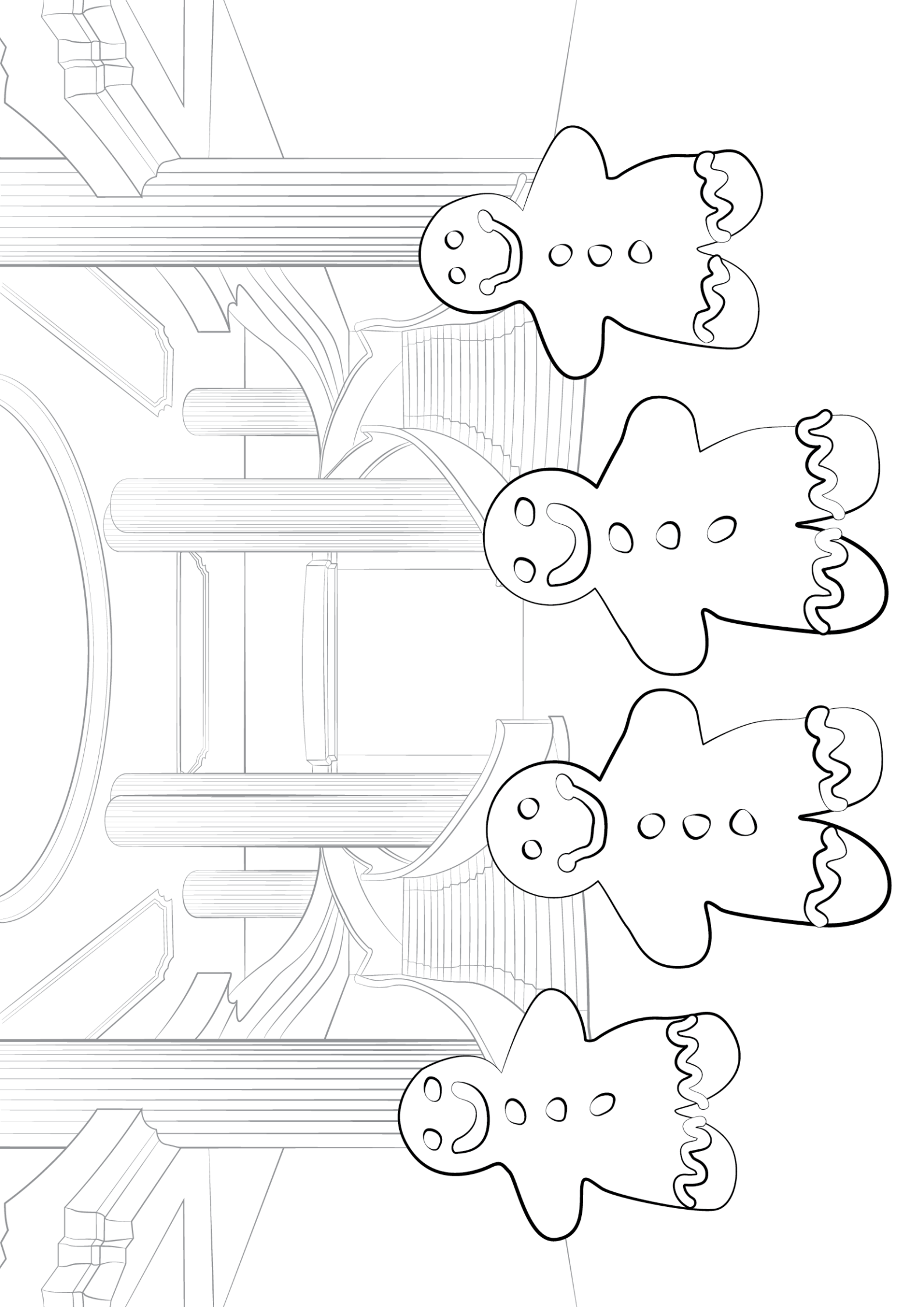


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WALTZ OF THE FLOWERS

Clara was the happiest she'd ever been,
And delighted in all that she had seen.

But the most exquisite was yet to come,
As the flowers' harp began to strum.

The flowers waltzed all 'round the room,
And there was one of every bloom.

Rose and violet, tulip and lily,
They really did look quite wonderfully frilly.

DYNAMICS

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p

f

TEMPO

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Largo

Andante

Allegro

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SUGARPLUM PRINCE

Next the fairy introduced her husband the prince,
Whose smile was so bright you would practically wince.

The two danced together around the great floor,
While the crowd clapped and called out for more.

At the end of their dance the fairy stepped back,
So that her prince could show off his knack,
For leaping great heights and flying like a bird.
But it was the fairy herself who would have the last word.

DYNAMICS

Was the music mostly loud or soft?
Colour the *p* for soft or the *f* for loud.

p *f*

TEMPO

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Largo Andante
Allegro

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SUGARPLUM FAIRY

Finally the moment for which we've been waiting,
It's the fairy's turn to do some rotating.

Clara's eyes grew wide as she saw Sugarplum,
She could not even speak; she was struck dumb.

The fairy's dance was the most stunning of all,
It was no wonder she was queen of the castle.

The elegant twirls brought tears to her eyes,
The happiest tears, without any cries.

DYNAMICS

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Largo

Andante

Allegro

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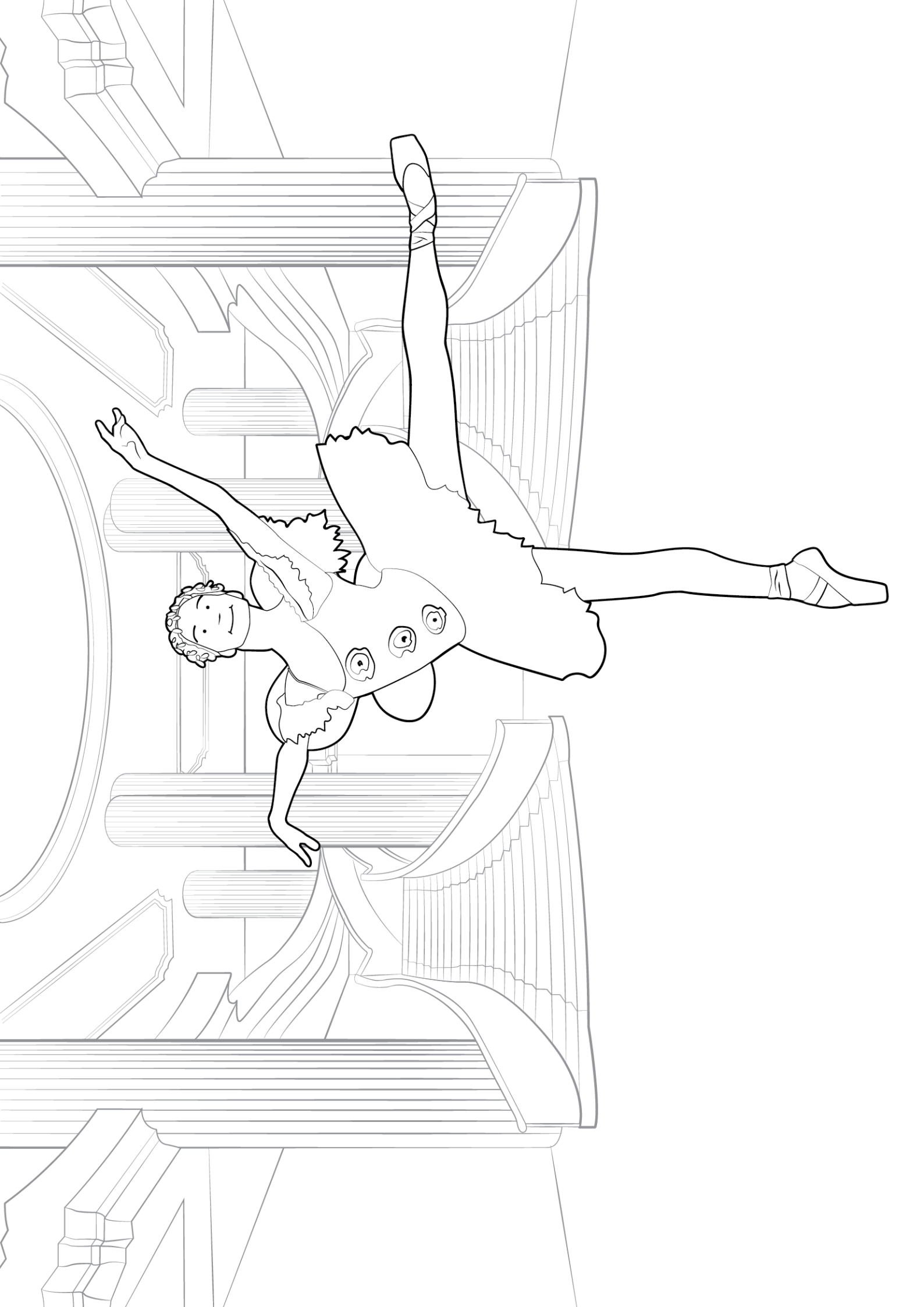


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FAREWELLS

Alas this great night was drawing to an end,
And Clara would have to leave her new friend.

She and her nutcracker got up to go,
And said their goodbyes to everyone from the show.

To hot chocolate and candy canes, flowers and tea,
To Sugarplum and marzipan, and to the coffee.

They were off to more adventures, to see great sights,
But they would never forget this most wonderful of nights.

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Andante

Allegro

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