



Hi all,

This week we have taken a darker turn with an activity pack full of the weird and wonderful things that lurk in the corners of our lives.

Hmmm.....Intrigued yet?

As always if you have a suggestion for us – or a topic you would like covered please let us know and we will build a pack around your topic!

Have a great week – we are thinking of you.

Stay well, stay warm.

Your Caladenia Friends

## Some weird theatre superstitions

### 1) **A Bad Dress Rehearsal Means The Show Will Be A Hit**

The idea behind this superstition comes from an old wives' tale, but the theory is that a bad dress rehearsal will result in a great opening night.

### 2) **Blue Should Not Be Worn On Stage**

This superstition is more of a rumour that was started than an actual superstition. Long ago, blue dye was the most expensive to make for colouring fabrics. To discourage the spending of money on such luxuries, the rumour was started that blue costumes were unlucky.

### 3) **Turn On The Ghost Light Before Leaving The Theatre**

A ghost light is a light that remains turned on in the center of the stage when all other lights have been turned out. Practicality might be part of it since there is always a plethora of obstacles (furniture, trap doors, and orchestra pits) that could lead to accidents in the dark. More superstitious theatre folk believe that the ghost light helps to keep spirits at bay, including the ghost of Thespis (the first actor), and preventing them from playing mischievous pranks.

### 4) **Never Bring A Peacock Feather On Stage**

This superstition comes from the pattern on the feather that some people believe looks like the evil eye. Theatre productions don't want to risk offending their audience with this curse, which is supposed to bring misfortune or injury to anyone who casts it.

### 5) **Mirrors On Stage Are Bad Luck**

Mirrors are considered bad luck because they reflect light which can wreak havoc with the lighting design of a production. One wrong hit with a spotlight and you could have a blinded performer walk off the edge of the stage.

### 6) **Whistling Backstage In A Theatre Is Considered A Jinx**

In the older days, scenery was manually lifted into the air by men using ropes. The stagehands would cue each other by whistling. If an actor were to whistle backstage, that may cue a stagehand to lift or drop scenery, which could potentially put an unaware performer at risk of being crushed.

### 7) **Cats Walking Across A Stage Is A No-NO**

Most theatres use to keep a cat or two to get rid of mice and rats that could nibble through costumes and scenery. However, it is bad luck if a cat runs across the stage during a performance. Yet, being greeted at the stage door by the theatre cat is good luck, and the cat rubbing against you or sitting on your knee brings excellent luck and good reviews.

### 8) **Never Say Macbeth In A Theatre**

It is considered bad luck to say the name of Shakespeare's "Scottish play" inside of a theatre. This is due to some of the play drawing on witchcraft incantations that supposedly call upon evil spirits. Others suggest that the original actor who played Macbeth died tragically during the performance and the show has been cursed ever since.

### 9) **Sleep With Your Script Under Your Pillow**

Theatrical superstition says sleeping with your script under your pillow will help you learn your lines faster. The practice is said to help actors learn by diffusion.

### 10) **Do Not Give Gifts Of Flowers Before The Performance**

Flowers should only be given to performers, directors and playwrights after a show plays in front of the audience and the artists have earned their accolades. To do so beforehand tempts the fates to intercede and ensures a lacklustre show.

### 11) **Loose Threads Must Be Snapped Off**

If a performer finds a loose thread on their costume, another performer must snap (never cut, it means the run will be cut short!) the thread off, and wrap it around their forefinger. The amount of loops indicates how long the run of the show will be.

### 12) **Speaking The Last Line Of The Play**

An old superstition says that a cast should never speak the last line of the play in rehearsals as it means that in performance the play will never get through a performance. It also supposed to relate to the idea that the play is not 'finished' until there is an audience there.

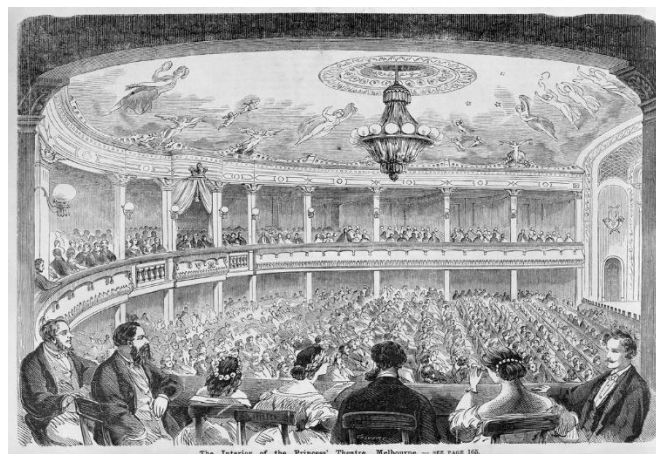


## Frederici – The Princess Theatre Ghost



In 1887, British opera singer Frederick Baker (Signor 'Federici') arrived in Australia to perform with Messrs. Williamson, Garner and Musgrove's Opera Company. He was to play in several operas, culminating with a star turn as Mephistopheles (the devil) in Gounod's famous opera, 'Faust'.

The opening night of Faust at the Princess Theatre was keenly anticipated. The Argus reported that: 'There was a very large house, and "Faust" was given with unexpected success ... Mr Federici shared with his fellow artists the applause of the audience'.





It was in the final scene that tragedy struck. Federici, as Satan, was to spirit Faust down to hell. Standing over the stage trapdoor in a mirage of smoke and fire, Federici wrapped his scarlet cloak around his victim. He spoke his character's final lines: 'It might be'. They were the final lines he would ever deliver.



*The late Mr. F. Baker (Federici);*

Federici and his fellow actor began to disappear from the stage through the trapdoor, but 'just as their shoulders were on a level with the stage, Mr Federici was seen to put out his hands and clutch the boards'. Federici fell down the trapdoor, taking his fellow performer with him. He died in the green room forty minutes later. The cause of death was a heart attack.

Meanwhile, the audience had no idea that anything was amiss. It was not until the following Monday that Melburnians awoke to the news in [The Argus](#) newspaper. 'Shocking occurrence at the Princess Theatre. Tragic death of Mr Federici.'

It is said that Federici appears at night. Usually, he sits around the centre of the second or third row of the theatre's dress circle. Sometimes he changes seats to watch the faces of the critics. Some say they have observed the Italian 'frowning at the weak performances of inferior actors', taking notes, and brushing his hair back 'with impatient gestures' when he is displeased. [4] Eventually the ghost glides off through the boxes, disappearing down the stairs behind the Royal Box.

Every opening night, a seat in the Dress Circle at the Princess Theatre is left empty for Federici. It is a good luck sign if his ghost appears.



Do you believe in ghosts?



## Superstitions Word Search

N K B S B K V V Z J F N H B R A T M N X  
R E B P U F G C P F N O W X S O T D M B  
S P E L L P W R K Z H O W T G V R S Y V  
C A U T S B E Y W N R M F R F I X R T A  
S I T A R J W R O F W L R E D D A L I F  
J Q L K J I D Y N F C L F V O X O M J M  
U T D E B M H E J A Z U G O H R H P P Z  
Z N G N O M N T V V T F R L L A U O D K  
T A L I S M A N I I G U K C R B L H L F  
Y N U U R F W D Y D L L R V U B T X E H  
Y F G A C Q R P M B E G N A C I A L K H  
H M H Y C K B Y H N B E U G L T R J G U  
P C I N S Y Y D O R U L R W Z S O L R O  
X V O H Y A P B Z F X A O N J F T L I F  
P G N A M W H X R N V P D Z Y O S B P O  
B S Y U K S L D B E D L B B I O O V M R  
Z F L K I M D N Y K W W N W L T P M A T  
I E H W O H X A L V V T U E V Z S W O U  
T Q O D I N R K E W H Z A Y P X E B Q N  
A G P Y J D T A C K C A L B R H K V Z E

AMULET  
BLACKCAT  
CHARM  
CLOVER  
DEVIL  
FORTUNE  
FULLMOON  
GRAVEYARD  
HEX  
LADDER

MIRROR  
RABBITSFOOT  
SALT  
SPELL  
SUPERNATURAL  
TALISMAN  
TAROT  
THIRTEEN  
UNLUCKY  
WISHBONE

**Did you know...?**

**There is a 102-Year-Old Floating Forest in Sydney?**



This is the hull of the SS Ayrfield, a large steamship condemned to dismantling in Homebush Bay, Australia after WWII. When the dismantling yard closed down, however, it and several other ships remained where they were. Now, it is a beautiful and haunting floating forest that serves as an example of nature's capacity for survival.



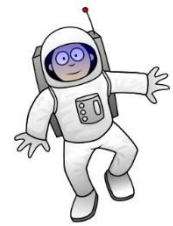
## Weird Facts you never knew you needed to know!!

Forest covers one quarter of Russia.

Muhammad is the world's most common first name.

Siberia used to use solid blocks of tea as currency.

Before going into space astronauts are not permitted to eat beans.



Confucius, at age 16 was a corn inspector.

To keep food from freezing Eskimos use refrigerators.

During World War Two the only elephant in Berlin was killed by the first bomb dropped by the allies.

In the 1830's ketchup was sold as medicine.

Casinos in Las Vegas do not have clocks.

If you refrigerate rubber bands they will last longer.

When leaving a cave bats always turn left.



The number of dimples on a golf ball is 336.

Dogs can get toupees in Tokyo.

In Switzerland it is against the law to slam your car door.

Scissors were invented by Leonardo da Vinci.



The cat is the only domesticated animal not mentioned in the Bible.

The Flintstones were the first prime time couple shown in bed.

In Las Vegas it is a crime to pawn your dentures.



Pillows made of stone were used by the Egyptians.

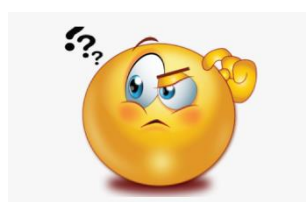
Bruce Springsteen's 'Born in the USA' was the first US CD ever pressed.

In one year Mexico City sinks about an inch.

Chickens outnumber people.



The blood of a lobster is blue.



# Jumbled Monsters

Unscramble the letters to find the monster....

1. Bigot Of \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

2. Arclaud \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

3. Lo Chessmen snort \_\_\_\_\_ (three words)

4. Tanners Knife \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

5. Itye \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

6. Bad Roper \_\_\_\_\_ (two words)

7. Moat Ruin \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

8. My Mum \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

9. Dog Ran \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

10. Rico Nun \_\_\_\_\_ (one word)

Answers:  
1. Bigfoot. 2. Dracula. 3. Loch Ness Monster, 4. Frankenstein, 5. Yeti!  
6. Drop Bear, 7. Minotaur, 8. Mummy, 9. Dragon, 10. Unicorn

## Weirdest Trivia Quiz ?!?!?!?

1. The Emperor Claudius legalized what at banquets?

A: Farting - public health reasons.

B Burping

C. Drinking

2. For \$150 you can become a licensed what in Texas?

A: Texas Ranger

B. Dead animal hunter

C. Squirrel Catcher

3. What is it illegal to duel with in Massachusetts ?

A: Jousting Sticks

B. Ice Cream

C. Water Pistols

4. Fifteen percent of women do what on Valentine's Day?

A: Go on a blind date

B. Send themselves flowers

C. Eat Alone

5. According to the 2000 census, in Australia, what is now considered a religion?

A: Garden Gnome

B. Super Hero

C. Jedi Knight.



6. Abraham Lincoln never does what in any photographs?

- A: Smile
- B. Wave
- C. A Duck Face

7. Most Jelly contains what?

- A: Sugar
- B. Crushed hooves
- C. Beetles

8. There are one trillion germs that live on each what?

- A. Eyeball
- B. Human foot
- C Belly Button

9. Seventy percent of people would stamp barefoot broken glass than watch what for 24 hours?

- A: I Love Lucy
- B. Riverdance
- C. MasterChef

10. What peoples' name means "eaters of raw flesh"?

- A: Japanese
- B. Eskimo
- C. Melburnians

## **ANSWERS TO THE WEIDEST TRIVIA QUIZ**

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## What happened to Amelia Earhart



Amelia Earhart was the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic and the first person – man or woman – to fly solo from Hawaii to the US mainland. Sadly, her plane vanished over the Pacific in 1937; her disappearance became one of the biggest mysteries of the 20th century. Well, the mystery was actually solved almost 80 years ago when searchers found [bones on a remote Pacific Island](#): at the time, experts believed the bones belonged to a man, but modern retesting revealed the remains are most likely Amelia Earhart's.





One of the most famous unsolved mysteries of all time is the identity of Jack the Ripper, a notorious serial killer who terrorised London's East End neighbourhood in 1888. Despite investigations of the five murders, the identity and motive of "Jack" are still unknown. Theories on the real identity of the murderer are just as inventive. Some theorists claim a famous Victorian painter, Walter Sickert, is guilty, while others say it could have been Queen Victoria's grandson. Still, there were more than 100 potential suspects. More recent investigations point to a Polish immigrant as a highly possible suspect, but there are disputes about DNA results, according to Biography.com. That's why so many movies, TV shows, and books on the Ripper always pop up.

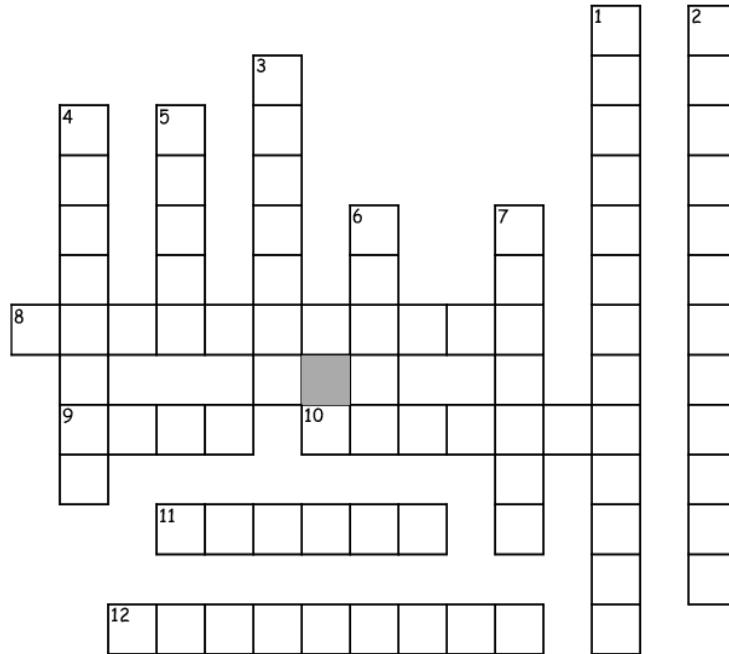


FINDING THE MUTILATED BODY IN MITRE SQUARE





# A Mystery Crossword to Solve



## Across

- 8. False or misleading clues
- 9. A fact or object that gives information
- 10. A person who saw what happened at the state of the crime
- 11. A reason that a person does something
- 12. An investigator

## Down

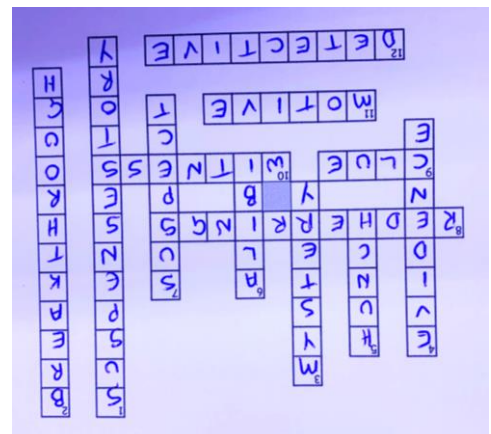
- 1. shows the major events
- 2. A discovery that helps solve the crime
- 3. Can you solve all these mystery words?
- 4. A thing or statement
- 5. A guess or feeling not based on facts
- 6. An excuse that an accused person shows
- 7. Person has a motive of committing the crime

Breakthrough  
Motive  
Mystery

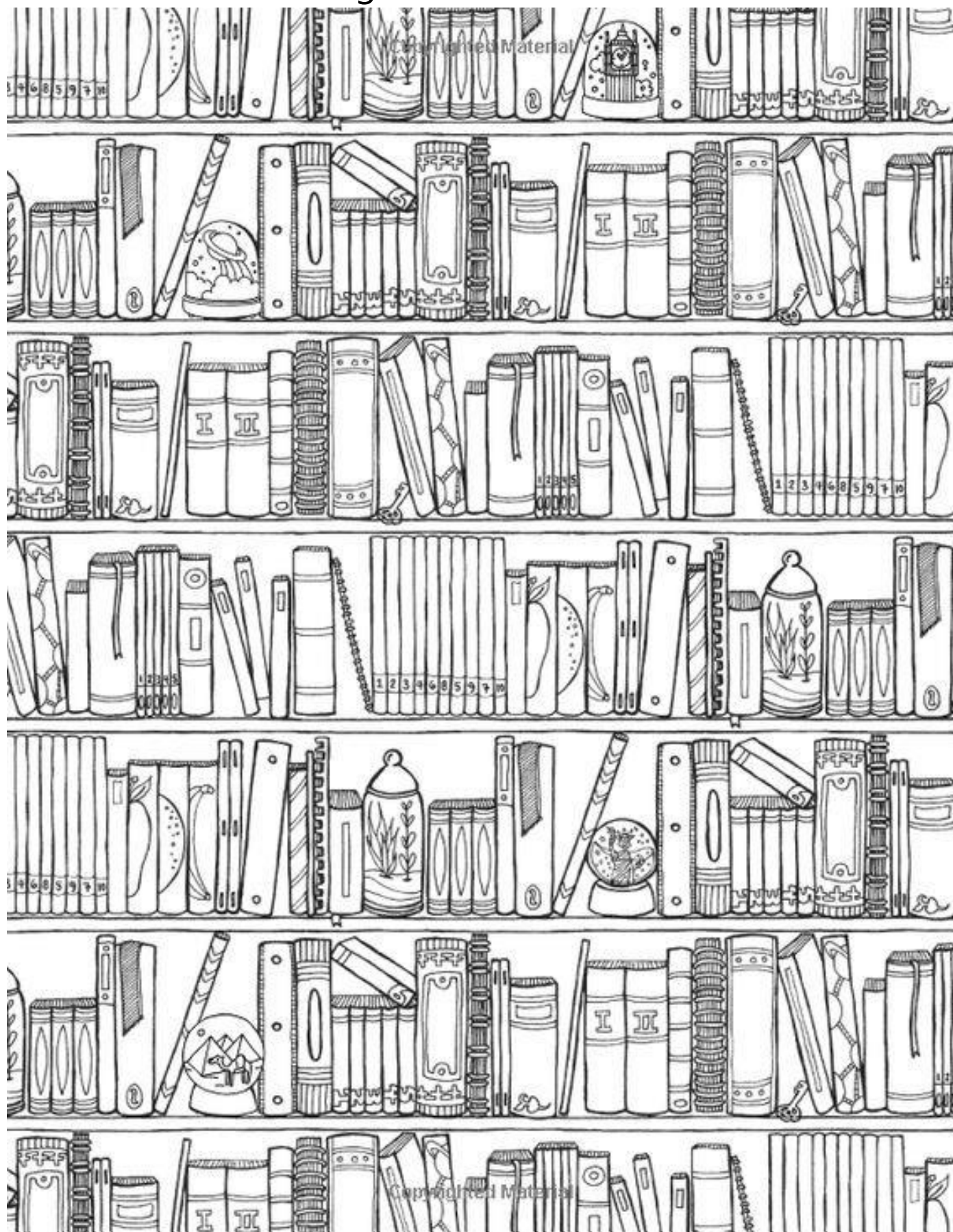
suspense story  
Red herrings  
Alibi!

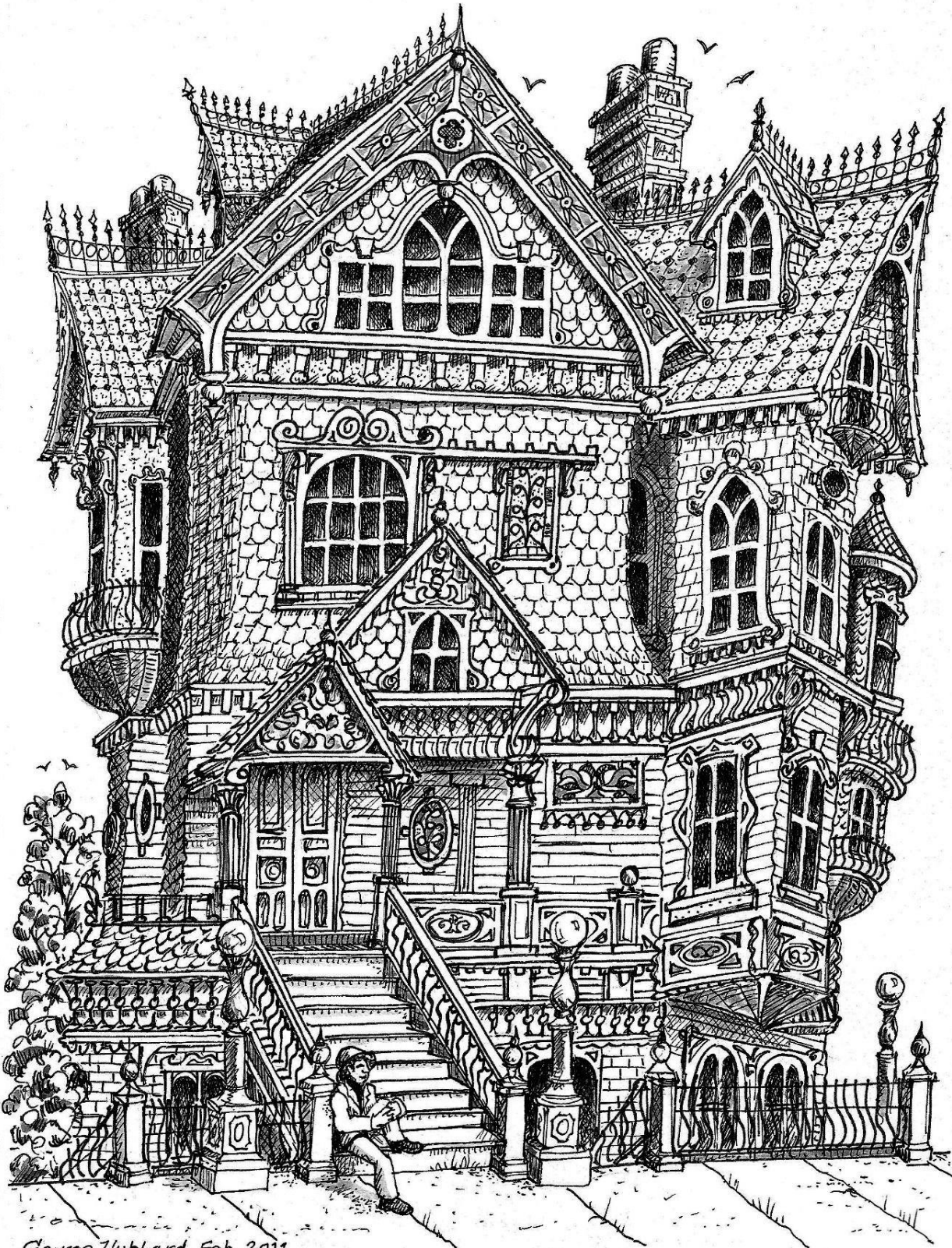
hunch  
Evidence  
Clue

Word Bank  
Suspect  
Witness  
Detective



# Mindfulness through Art





George Hubbard Feb. 2011