



The Little Big Clockmaker

by: Evelyn Winters narrated: Guy Veryzer edited: Robin Chambers

About the book

Egan Bagley is a talented clockmaker who is about to create one of the most magnificent clocks the country has ever set its eyes on, but after a visit from a gypsy selling him a bewitched bead, things are about to turn peculiar. With the magical powers of the four faced clock, the little gnome of a man plays havoc with time and is about to become one of the richest men in the city with upsetting consequences.

This story is based on the Eastgate Clock in Chester UK.

Reviews

“The Little Big Clockmaker will, I am certain, prove to be the first of many classics from this supremely talented author. It has some of the best qualities of Oscar Wilde’s The Selfish Giant, but Evelyn Winters is her own person.”

“This extraordinary short story centred around the famous Eastgate clock in Chester is a must read for any person, young or old, who dares to dream a little.”

“This is a delightful fairy tale told in the classical style (Once upon a time...) and replete with much loved characters and themes. It is perfect for reading to your little one at bedtime; and if you live anywhere near Chester it has the added advantage that you can take her / him to stare at the clock which gave rise to the tale. Charming and clever – highly recommended.”



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Audio Sample

Download and listen to the audio sample on the Teachers and Parent page, then read the story sample below.

Story Sample

Once upon a time, many years ago when clocks ticked much louder, there lived a talented clockmaker in an enchanted walled city in the northwest of England. The elf-like man was a master craftsman with an exceptional gift. He had served many a crowned head, but his latest assignment was to be his greatest. Egan Bagley was to create one of the most magnificent clocks the country had ever set eyes on.

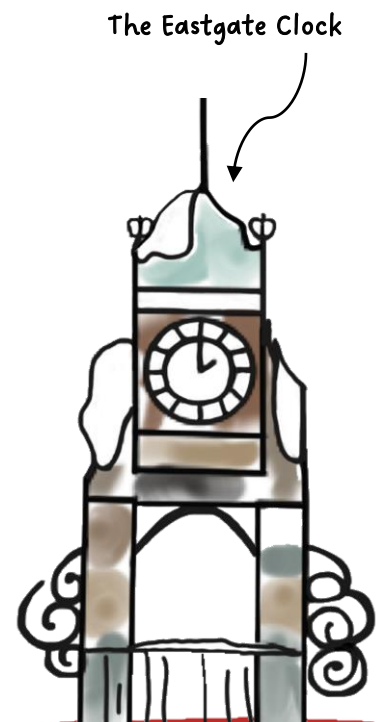
The third Duke of Meadowsville had ordered the clocksmith to create something spectacular: to make the city look more beautiful. For a hundred days and a hundred nights, Egan shut himself away in his dusty workshop, leaving no window uncovered and no door unlocked as he carried out his top-secret work.

One hot night, while tapping, hammering, carving and crafting one of the four intricate faces of the massive clock, he became exhausted. The heat made him feel weak, but he couldn't stop. He feared he would not meet his deadline, and failed to notice a shrunken woman with twisted fingers suddenly standing behind him and clutching a tattered bag. She exhaled - a drawn out rasping sound - which stopped him in his tracks. He spun, nearly losing his balance on his old rickety ladder, and his brass tweezers tinkled to the ground.

"You shouldn't be in here!" he complained.

The peculiar visitor simply observed him and held out her shabby bag. Flummoxed by her presence, Egan raised his eyebrows, peering over his large round glasses. He was sure he had locked his door.

"What do you want?" he snapped.



Questions

1. What is the name of the clock?

2. What was his exceptional gift? (please circle your answer)

- a) Painter
- b) Clocksmith
- c) Musician
- d) Chef

3. Where in the world can this clock be found?

4. Why did the Duke of Meadowsville want Egan to make a clock?

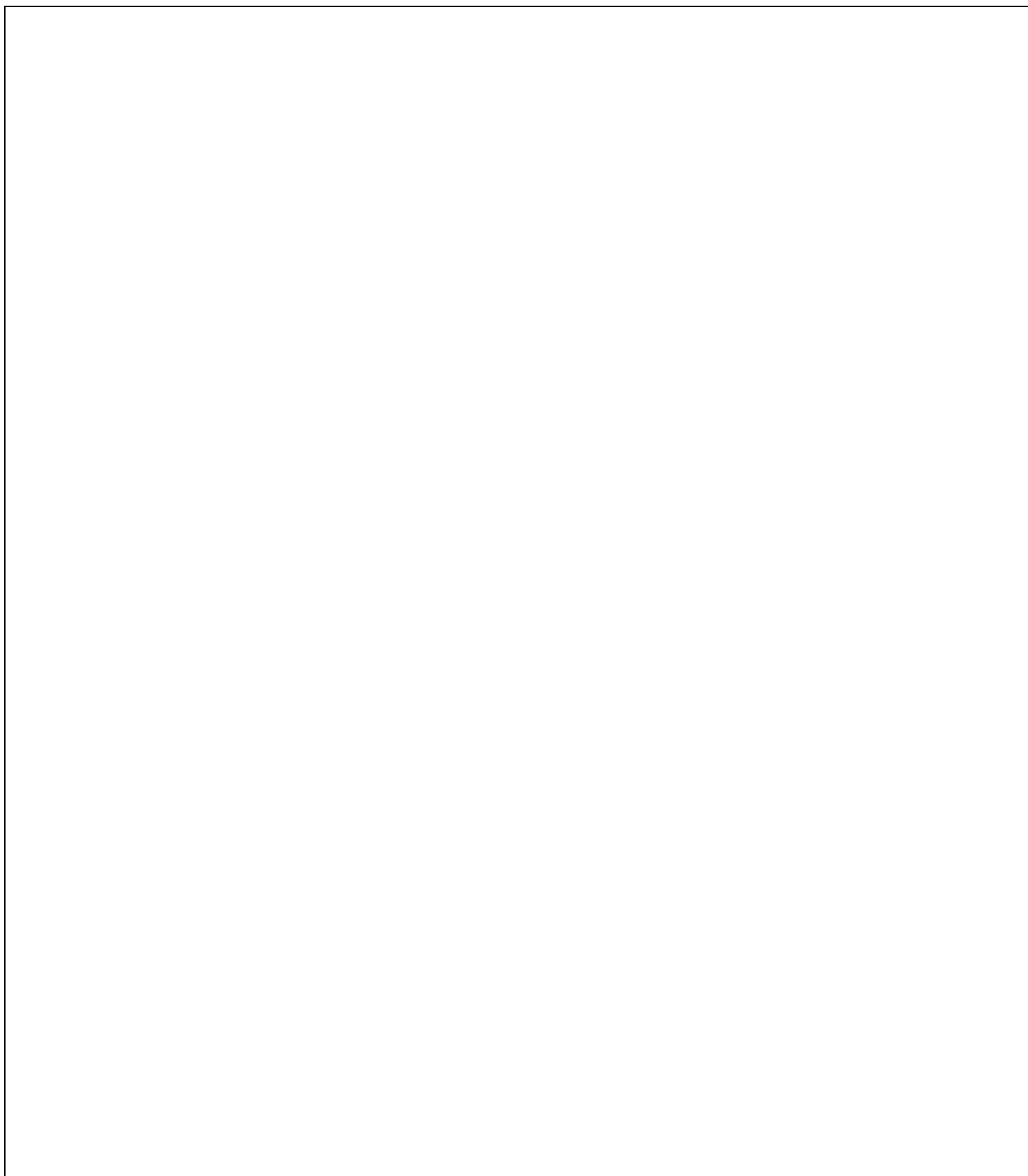
5. Who do you think the shrunken woman was?

6. What was the reason she shouldn't be in there?

7. What do you think the woman wanted?



What do you think the woman looks like? Draw a picture below:



Word Scramble

Can you unscramble these words? Some appear in the story or are about clocks.



cokcl _____

tikincg _____

face _____

iemtiecep _____

dowelmasvile _____

kensruhn _____

glabey _____

klockmaerc _____

plexcetiona _____

dlummoxef _____

teastgae kcolc _____



Question Answers

1. The Eastgate Clock
2. The answer is **B**
A clockmaker is someone whose occupation is making or repairing clocks and watches.
3. The clock is a real clock which can be found in Chester UK.
4. To make the city look more beautiful.
The real history started with the first plan to enhance Eastgate which came following the visit of the Prince of Wales to the city in 1869. Eastgate, Chester is a permanently open gate through the Chester city walls, on the site of the original entrance to the Roman fortress of Deva Victrix in Chester. In 1872 Hugh Grosvenor, who was at that time the 3rd Marquess of Westminster, asked the local architect John Douglas to prepare a number of designs.
5. The story says she is a gypsy, but is she? An opportunity for children to use their imagination.
6. Because it was top-secret work.
7. Free writing opportunity.

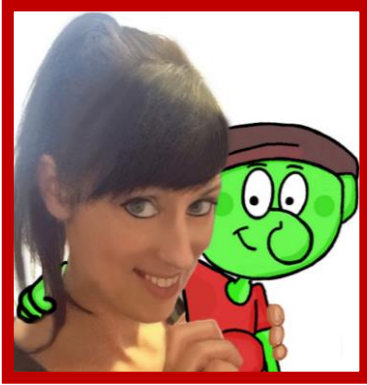
Word Scramble Answers

clock, ticking, face, timepiece, meadowsville, shrunken, bagley, clockmaker, exceptional, flummoxed, eastgate clock

Writing stories is  magic



About the author



Evelyn Winters is highly experienced in shrinking giants and making toy dolls dance! Her whimsical folk tales and myths are centered around the real history of the ancient Roman walled city of Chester in the UK where you will meet ridiculous and wonderful characters (unfortunately, some do not smell so great), teaching history and morals along the way. Evelyn Winters is knowledgeable in the fantasy and magic of Chester because she has the privilege to live in this wondrous city.

About the narrator



As an actor, Guy performed as Santa's Photographer in the Jason Bateman film: His experience also covers: Father of a murder victim on Law and Order, a reporter in Boardwalk Empire, an angry postman tossing a mailbag stuffed with Muppets off a truck. Guy has had the pleasure of LIVE television having been a background player on Saturday Night Live for many years.

About the editor



Robin Chambers is the Editor of A Very Giant Tale. While Head of English at Hackney Downs School, he wrote stories published by Penguin and Granada. His more recent books are "Myrddin's Heir" series about a boy with extraordinary powers.

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