

Journeys in the Spirit

Children



Sheet 7. A Engage The Children of Reading Meeting

A story about a boy, a question and a tapestry.

In a Quaker meeting in Somerset in 1981 there was one child, a boy. He was asked what he would like to do. The room used for the children was a bit cold and empty so he asked if he could do some sewing to decorate it. This led the Quaker who had asked him the question to think about a tapestry about Quakers and now there is one. If he had not said what he did, it is unlikely this beautiful tapestry would exist. Here is a picture of the panel about what happened to some early Quakers and the children of Reading meeting.



Copyright Quaker Tapestry Scheme

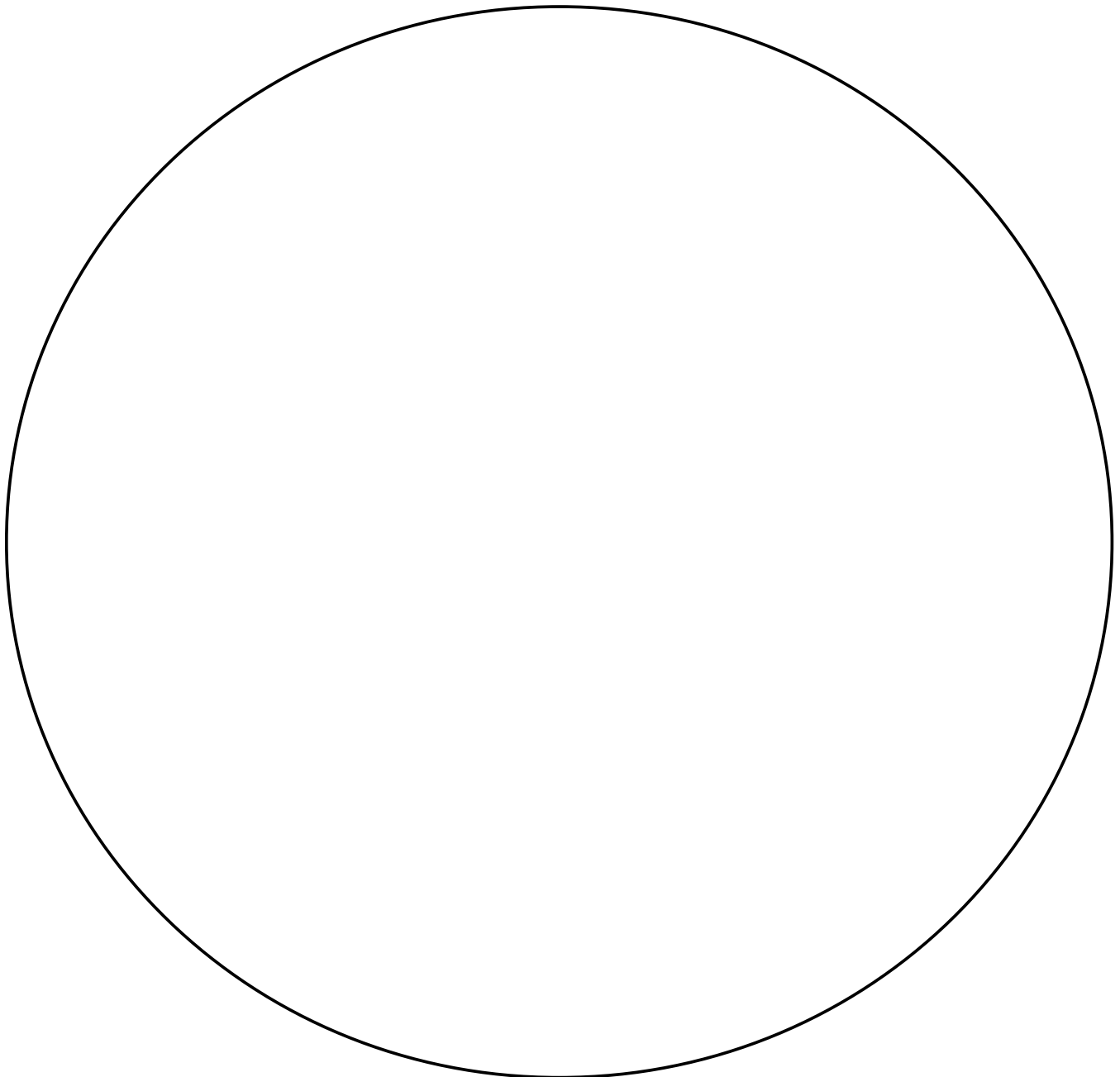
'It may be romantic to believe that early Friends met in secret, but it is not true. The Presbyterian Richard Baxter (no friend to Quakers) wrote that 'many turned Quaker, because the Quakers kept their meetings openly and went to prison for it cheerfully [that is, bravely]'. The Quaker Act of 1662 made it an offence for five or more of them to assemble 'at any onetime, in any place, under the pretence of joining in a religious worship not authorised by the laws of this realm'. The Conventicle Act 1664 stiffened the penalties and extended the provisions to all nonconformists. In the spring and summer of 1664 nearly all the adult Friends in Reading were in prison for attending meeting and thus flouting the law. Not to be defeated, the children kept up the meeting, [bottom of the tapestry panel], *'notwithstanding [the] wicked justice, when he came and found them there, with a staff that he had with a spear in it, would pull them out of the meeting and punch them in the back, till some of them have become black in the face'*. The upper part of the panel shows Friends in Horsleydown, in London, east of Southwark, meeting in the rubble after their meetinghouse was torn down by soldiers caused to do so by Christopher Wren. Soldiers dragged them off and it was six months before they were left in peace. Source: *Quaker Tapestry Handbook*.

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Sheet 7.B Respond A picture or pattern about the still small voice.



As Quakers we talk about the voice we hear inside, the still small voice, God's voice. In this circle draw a picture, a pattern or just colours to show what it might be like or is like for you, or, draw a picture or pictures of a story you have heard or told in children's meeting today.

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Sheet 7.C Respond

Making a 'story in a box'



You will need: a selection of boxes - shoeboxes or similar are best, coloured tissue paper; sellotape; PVA glue; thin card; scissors; pens, pencils and crayons etc.

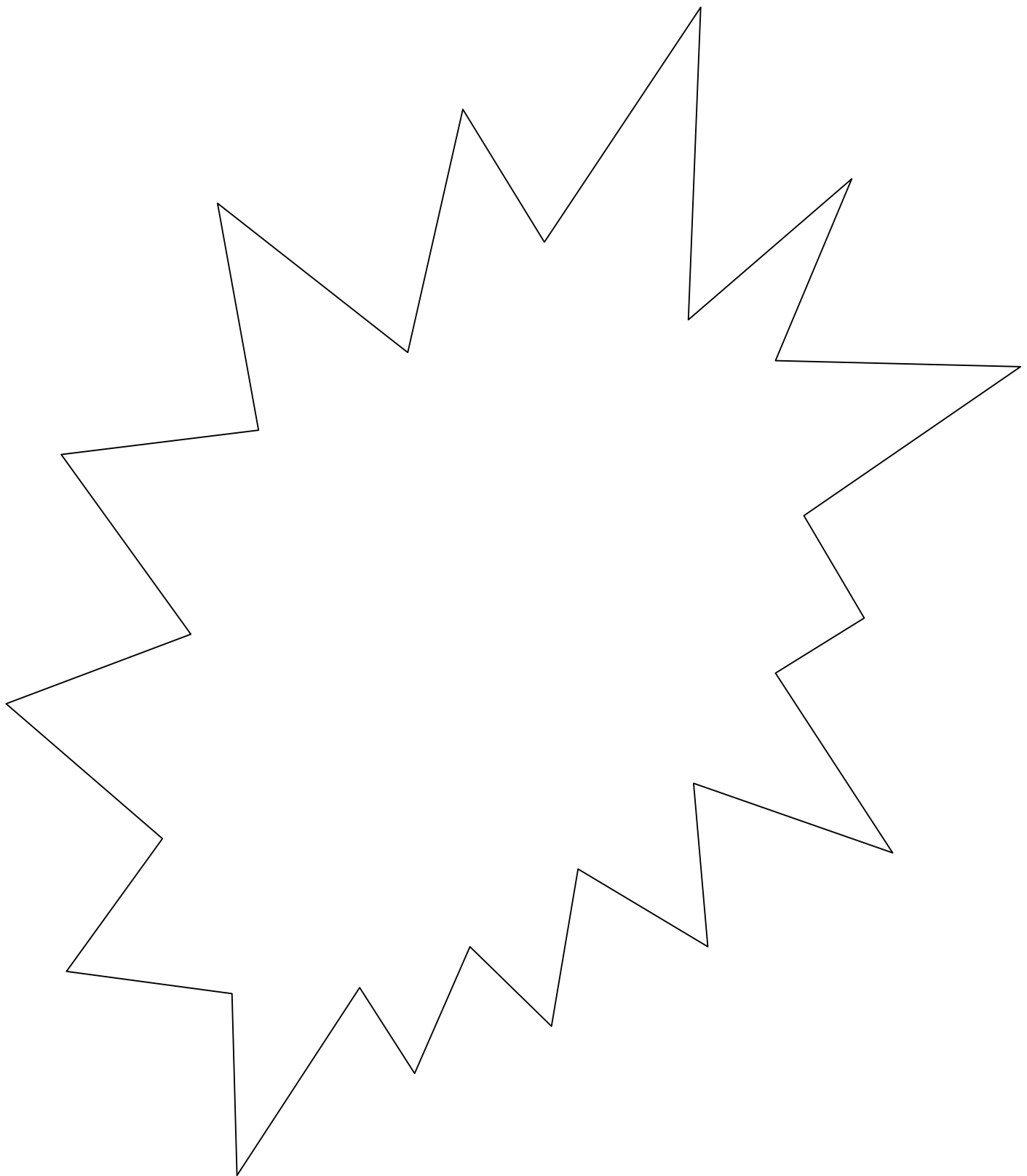
The idea is to make or co-operate in making a 3 dimensional scene or representation of a story or event in a box. The lid of the box is discarded or used for making figures or scenery.

- Figures and scenery are drawn on card and cut out with extra tabs on the bottom for glue.
- The insides of the box can be decorated with scenery or other scenes from the story or event.
- The cut outs are stuck on to the floor of the box. They can be arranged so that when the box is looked through from the end, through cut eyeholes (see below) there is a '3D' landscape. With Elijah, for example, the furthest cut out could be a volcano or earthquake, the next nearest, windblown trees, the next a fire and the nearest Elijah being still or praying.
- All the cut outs need to be angled towards or facing the viewing end.
- Once the sticking and decorating is complete the lidless top of the box is covered with 2 or 3 layers of coloured tissue paper stuck with tape around the outside.
- Cut two eyeholes in one end. When looked through there is a gently illuminated scene.

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Sheet 7.D Respond Speaking truth to power



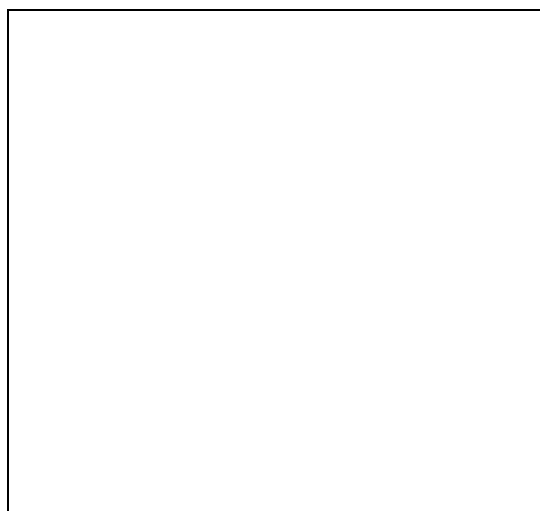
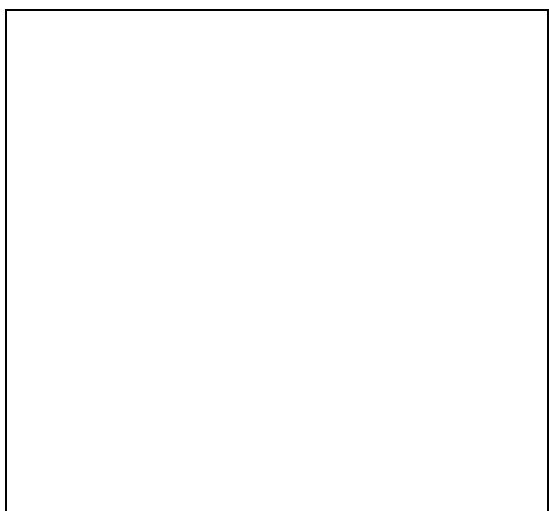
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Sheet 7.E



Ongoing activity. A frame for your abolition patchwork



Please send your picture or pattern by post to Carmel Keogh, Outreach, Quaker Life, Religious Society of Friends, Friends House 173 –177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ or email as an attached picture or document to carmelk@quaker.org.uk