

How to Host Your Own Magical

ISADORA MOON

Party!



Oxford
Children's
Books

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Welcome to the Isadora Moon Party guide!

Isadora Moon loves spending time with her friends, and there's no better excuse to get everyone together than a party! You can read all about Isadora's extraordinary birthday party in *Isadora Moon has a Birthday*.

After you've seen how Isadora's family throw a party, why not give your own Isadora Moon party a go?

In this pack you'll find ideas for food, games, decorations and more to make your party really sparkle. Treat the Isadora Moon fan in your life to a day they'll always remember, and don't forget to share pictures of your party and preparations using [#IsadoraMoonParty](#).

Happy partying!
Harriet Muncaster x



Contents

Party Food	1
Games	5
Costume Ideas	7
Decorations	11
Shopping List	12
Print-outs for Games	13
Printable Decorations	16
Invitation Templates	20



Party Food

Laying out a spread of scrumptious themed foods is one of the best ways to make your party memorable. It's also the best way to make sure the children have enough fuel for all the fun they're going to have! All recipes make enough for 12 children, and there is a handy shopping list if you want to make everything on page 15.

Savouries

No Isadora Moon party would be complete without Isadora's favourite breakfast, lunch and second-breakfast treat, **Isadora's Peanut Butter Sandwiches**. So straightforward, they barely need explanation: get a sliced loaf of your favourite bread, spread with butter (or don't) and whack on generous portions of peanut butter. Add to the flavour with extra ingredients such as avocado or bacon, and make sure to check none of the guests have a nut allergy.



Mischievous Mirabelle would approve of these **Dragon-spine cucumber sandwiches**. To make 24, butter 12 slices of bread, and cut these corner to corner to make 4 triangles. Next, take a large cucumber, cut off the ends, and then slice it from end to end, as shown in the diagram. The ends of the cucumber should now be a tall triangle with a rounded base. These will be the 'dragon-spines'. Slice the whole cucumber, including the off-cuts, and lay the slices across half the buttered triangles, arranging some of the triangular slices so they poke out the top of the sandwiches to make a row of 'dragon-spines'.

Create **Cordelia's Woodland Toadstool Garden** with 12 cherry tomatoes, about 70g cheddar and about 50g cream cheese. First up, cut the tomatoes in half – these will be the cap of your 'toadstools'. The cheddar needs cutting into chunks about 1.5 cm x 1 cm x 1 cm. Stand the cheddar chunks on their ends, and balance the tomato halves on top. To add the toadstools' white spots, spoon the cream cheese into a piping bag then dab little blobs of it across each tomato. You can arrange on green felt or cloth to complete the garden effect.



Marina the Mermaid's Sausage squids. These cute little snacks are made with frankfurters. Once the sausages are cooked and cooled, use kitchen scissors to cut each one from its end to its middle. Cut three more times from the same end to split half the sausage into eight 'tentacles'. Serve cold.

Cousin Wilbur's Fluffy pink Clouds. At Isadora's birthday party, her cousin Wilbur magicked up some clouds for the children to bounce on. These clouds won't bounce, but they certainly will fly off the plate. To make about 12, you'll need the whites of 3 eggs, 35g grated parmesan, and natural pink food colouring.

First, pre-heat the oven to 200°C. Once your eggs are separated, pour the egg whites into a large bowl along with the food colouring and whisk until they form stiff peaks. You can do this with a hand whisk, but an electric mixer or magic wand will make the job easier. Once they are firm enough, fold in the parmesan. Line a baking tray with baking parchment, then spoon individual table-spoonfuls of the egg mixture onto it. Don't try to be too neat with these - they are clouds after all! Bake for 5 minutes, keeping a careful eye on your clouds to make sure they don't go too brown.



Oscar's Ghost Bites. When Isadora goes on her school trip, she meets a ghost called Oscar. He seems scary at first, but he's really very nice, and so are these delicious rice snacks! Soak 300g sushi rice in cold water before cooking according to package instructions. Drain the cooked rice and leave to cool for 10 minutes.

Once cool enough to handle, shape it into 4cm balls on a clean surface. Use your thumb to make a little well in the centre of each ball, and fill this well with a mix of canned tuna and mayonnaise, or a filling of your choice. Top off with a little more rice, so the top is narrower than the base, forming a 'ghost-shape'. Stick in two currants for eyes.

Mirabelle's Dragon Eggs. Just like Isadora's witch cousin Mirabelle, you'll need a bubbling potion to create these intriguing eggs. The cauldron is optional. You'll need: 6 eggs, 2 tea bags, 1 Tbsp. Soy Sauce, and 1 Tbsp. Chinese Five-Spice Powder.

Hard-boil the eggs in plain water for 8-10 minutes. While the eggs are boil-ing, fill another saucepan with water add the tea bags, soy sauce, and five-spice powder, bring this pan to the boil, then turn off the heat and leave to steep until the eggs are ready. Once the eggs are hardboiled, remove from the pan using a slotted spoon and rinse in cool water.

When the eggs are cool enough to handle, use the back of a metal spoon to crack the shell. You're aiming for a spider web effect, so crack the shell as firmly as you can, without breaking pieces of the shell away. Place all the eggs with the cracked shells into the pan with the tea mixture, bring this to the boil, then turn the heat to low and leave to simmer for one hour. Leaving the eggs in the mixture in the fridge overnight will produce darker lines. When you peel the eggs, you should be left with an intricate pattern of dark lines across their surface.

Cut the eggs into half and serve cold.



Pink Rabbit's Mini Carrot Pies. If you made Wilbur's Fluffy Pink Clouds, you will have some egg yolks left over. Pink Rabbit can help you use these up with his delicious pies made with his favourite food!

For the pastry, sift 100g plain flour and 100g self-raising flour into a food processor, along with 70g cold, chopped butter, and whizz together until the mixture looks like bread crumbs. For a richer crust, whizz in 2 egg yolks. Leave the mixer running and add very cold water a tablespoon at a time until the mixture just begins to come together in a ball. As soon as it does, remove from the food processor, wrap in cling film, and leave to chill in the fridge for at least half an hour.



For the filling, add a tablespoon of oil to a large saucepan over medium heat. Chop 2 carrots into 5mm chunks, then add to the pan to cook in the oil for 5 minutes to soften. Sift 2 tablespoons plain flour over the carrots, and allow the flour to brown slightly before adding 200ml milk. Stir continuously until a smooth sauce is formed, then add 70g frozen peas and 70g grated cheddar. Add a twist of black pepper. Mix until the cheese has melted in, then take off the heat.

Preheat the oven to 200°C and grease a 12-hole shallow bun tin. On a floured surface, roll out the pastry to about 5mm thick. Cut out the pie cases using a 7cm biscuit cutter, and their lids using a 5cm biscuit cutter. Gently press each pie case into the bun tin, and fill with a couple of tablespoons of the filling mixture. If you beat any leftover egg yolks with some milk, you can use this to seal the lids onto the cases. You can also brush the egg yolk and milk (or just milk) over the lid of each pie for an attractive glaze. Bake the pies for

Sweets

Vampire-fairy cakes. Like Isadora herself, these are the perfect balance of vampire and fairy. Preheat the oven to 180°C. In a large mixing bowl, combine 100g margarine with 90g caster sugar. Mix in 2 eggs and 1 teaspoon vanilla essence. Sift in 100g self-raising flour and 1 teaspoon baking powder. Mix until all ingredients are combined, then spoon a tablespoon of the mixture into each of 12 muffin cases.



Before filling up each case, make a well in the batter with a teaspoon or clean finger and fill it with a teaspoon of strawberry jam. Top off with another tablespoon of the cake mixture, then bake the cakes for 8-10 minutes. When they are golden brown, remove the cakes from the oven and cool on a wire rack.

Once cool, spread the top with a blob of strawberry jam. You can make fangs out of white, ready-rolled icing, use gummy sweets or even top with wearable plastic fangs.

Magical fruit wands. Cut your favourite type of melon into 2cm thick slices. Use a star-shaped cutter to create melon stars for the top of the wand. To make the handle of the wand, fill a wooden skewer with alternating colours of grapes. Crown each wand with a melon star.



Bartholomew's special red juice smoothie. While you could try making this with tomatoes, like Isadora's dad does, this fruity version is far tastier. To make 10 glasses, blend 300g frozen strawberries, 200g raspberries, 2 bananas, 200g ice and 400ml cold water.

Honeyblossom's pink milkshake. To make 10 glasses of this rich and creamy drink, blend 500g frozen strawberries, 500ml milk, and 8 scoops of vanilla or strawberry ice cream.



Cordelia's nature walk fruit cups. Fill individual cups with sliced fruits, either your favourites or whatever is in season. Apples, strawberries, melon, bananas and grapes make a tasty mix. Adding the juice of 2 large oranges will stop apples, pears, and bananas from turning brown.

Isadora's Chocolate Bat Truffles. These fancy treats are surprisingly easy to put together. Start by splitting the biscuits in two packs of chocolate sandwich biscuits (eg. Oreos). You should be left with about 28 plain round biscuits, and 28 biscuits with a layer of cream filling. Carefully cut the plain biscuits in half and put to one side.

Add the biscuits with the layer of filling to a food processor, along with 200g cream cheese. Blend the biscuits and cream cheese together until smooth. Use a teaspoon to spoon the mixture onto a baking tray covered in baking parchment, then shape each spoonful into 3cm balls. Place the truffles in the freezer for 30 minutes to firm up.

Meanwhile, melt 300g dark chocolate in the microwave. When the truffles are fairly stiff, stick two halves of a set-aside plain biscuits into the sides of each truffle for the bat wings. Once each truffle has a pair of wings, use a metal fork and spoon to dip each one in the melted chocolate so it is completely covered. Press two dark chocolate chips into the top of each truffle for ears, then leave to set in the fridge. When the chocolate has hardened, finish off with two pieces of cake confetti or red icing for the eyes.



Games

The simplest pleasures are usually the best. So when a group of children come together, all you really need to ensure a great time is a few props and a quick explanation of the rules. Here are four straightforward party games that Isadora and the gang love to play.

Vampire, Fairy, Vampire-Fairy

Requires: an open space, a magic wand (optional)

This is a variation on the classic children's game duck, duck, goose. It involves running around, so a large room or garden is ideal. All the children sit in a circle, and one child is nominated to be 'it'. They are given a magic wand and walk around the outside of the circle, pointing to each child with the wand and saying either 'vampire' or 'fairy'. If the person who's 'it' says "vampire-fairy" while passing and pointing to a child, that child has to get up and chase 'it' around the circle. If 'it' reaches the empty place left by the 'vampire-fairy' before being caught, 'it' sits in that place and the 'vampire-fairy' becomes 'it' and is given the wand for the next round. If the 'vampire-fairy' manages to catch 'it' before they reach the empty space, then the child originally chosen as 'it' remains as 'it' for another round. It may be helpful to set a rule that no-one will be 'it' for more than two rounds, so that more people get their chance.



Isadora's Favourite Things

Requires: 5-10 cut-outs of Isadora's favourite things (see page 13) or the same number of actual props

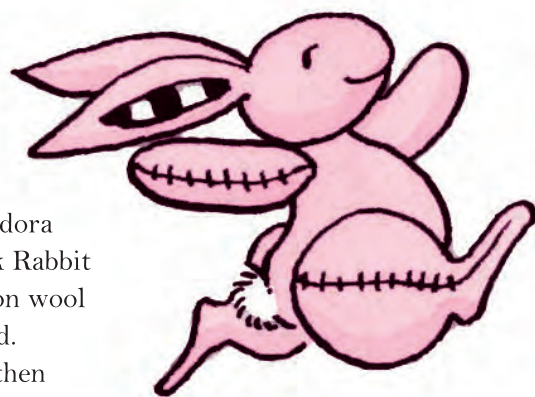
Isadora has lost some of her favourite things, including Pink Rabbit! Can you help her find them? Set up a treasure hunt, either using the cut-out pictures on page 13 or using actual objects if you have them. It's a good idea to encourage children to leave the objects where they are when they find them and to keep it secret, so every child has the opportunity to find the objects for themselves. You could make this a competition, with the first few children or pairs to correctly list all the locations receiving prizes. You could also write out riddles or clues for where the objects are hidden.



Pink Rabbit's Tail

Requires: print-out of Pink Rabbit stuck on corrugated card, print-out of Pink Rabbit's tail with drawing pin, blind-fold

Oh no! The tail has come off Isadora's favourite magical toy! Help Isadora reattach Pink Rabbit's tail in the correct place. You can print out Pink Rabbit and his tail on page 14. Instead of the printed tail, you could use cotton wool or a pom-pom. A volunteer is given Pink Rabbit's tail and blind-folded. The volunteer is then spun round three times by other children, and then turned round to be facing the Pink Rabbit a few feet in front. The volunteer must then attempt to attach Pink Rabbit's tail in the right place on his body.



The Freezing Spell

Requires: an open space, a magic wand

This is a variation on the classic game 'Grandmother's footsteps', sometimes called 'Statues'. To practise her magic, Isadora has brought all her toys to life just for one day. Now she wants to practise her freezing spell. One child is chosen to be 'Isadora', while the rest are the 'toys'. 'Isadora' is given the magic wand and must stand at the far end of the playing area with her back to the 'toys'. While 'Isadora's' back is turned, the 'toys' must walk towards her or him. At any point, 'Isadora' can spin round, point her magic wand at the 'toys' and shout "freeze!" All the 'toys' must stand perfectly still. Any 'toys' that 'Isadora' sees wobbling or moving are sent back to the starting line. The first 'toy' to reach 'Isadora' and tap her or him on the shoulder gets the magic wand and becomes 'Isadora' for the next round.

Isadora's Storytime Pass-the-Parcel

Requires: wrapping paper, sticky tape, central prize, story prompts (see page 15), smaller prizes (optional)

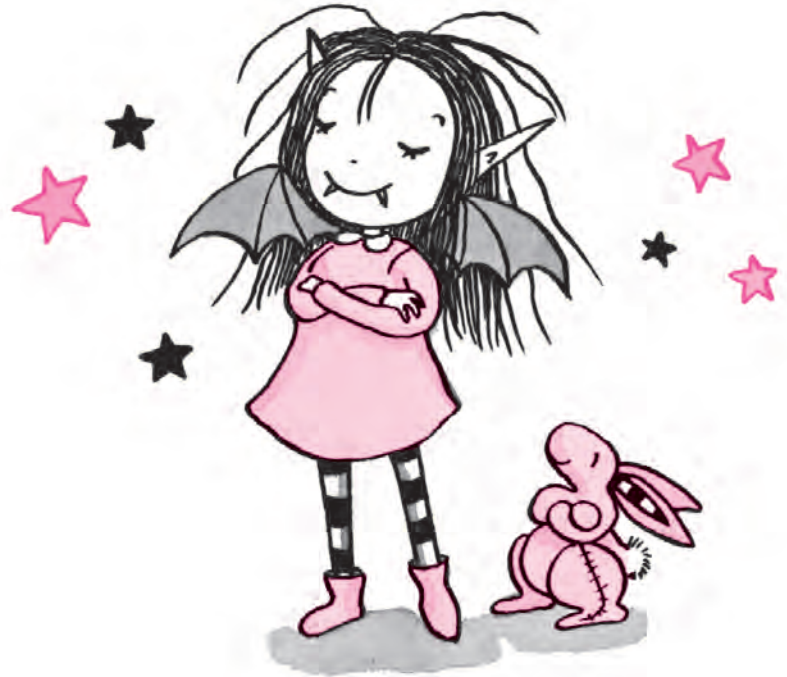
Like standard pass-the-parcel, this game involves a prize such as a large chocolate bar or other gift being wrapped up in multiple layers of paper. The parcel is passed round a circle of children while music is played. When the music stops, the child holding the parcel at that moment opens one layer of paper. The difference here is that the children will be creating their own Isadora Moon story with each layer of paper that is unwrapped. This will be achieved through story prompts included in each layer. You can make up your own, or use the ones on page 18. You will need a helper to write down the story as it is created, but this can be the same person in charge of the music. As each layer is unwrapped, the child will think up their own idea for the prompt, and the helper will add this to the story. The children may need the story reading back to them if they forget what has happened. The final child reveals the reward Isadora Moon gets at the end of the story, and claims the prize for her- or him-self.



Costume Ideas



Pink Rabbit



Isadora Moon



Fairy



Vampire



Wizard



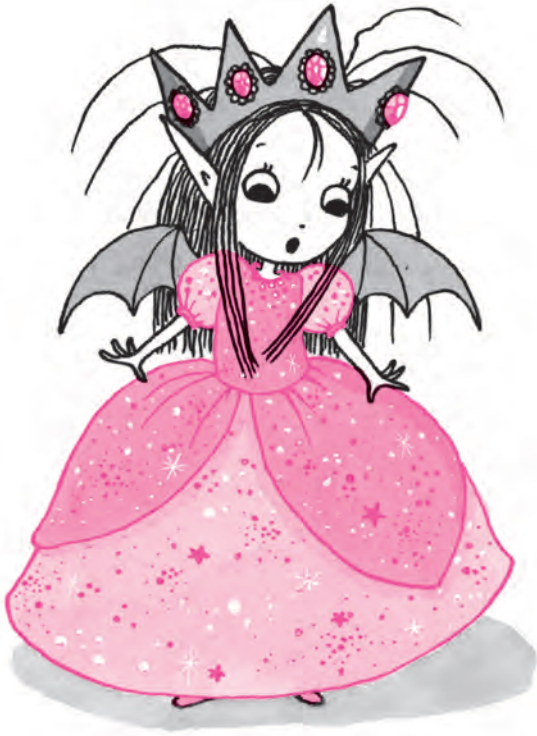
Witch



Cat



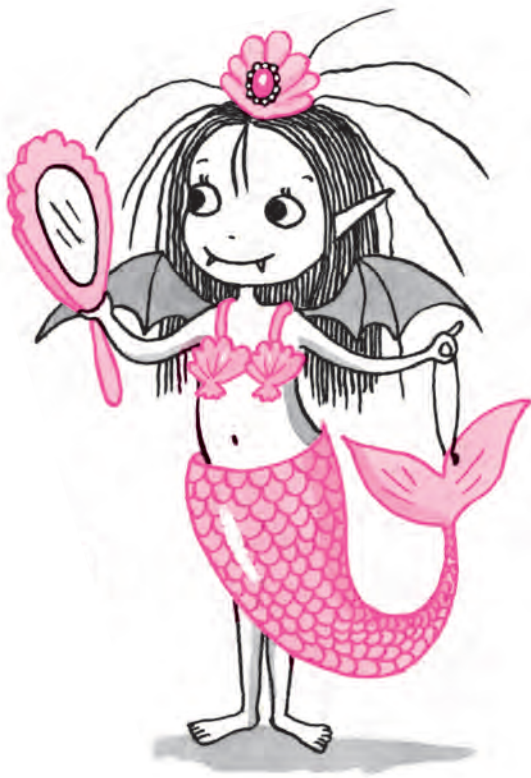
Dragon



Princess



Ballerina



Mermaid



Ice Cream




Ghost



King

Tips for Costumes

- ★ Isadora wears lots of different dresses throughout the stories, including her school uniform, but they're always pink, black or grey, or stripy. To get the Isadora look right, the main three things are fangs, pointy ears and bat wings.
- ★ Vampires find it very important to look slick and tidy. Lots of hair gel or hair spray will help with this.
- ★ Fairies love the beauty of nature, so choose bright colours and floral patterns. Flower crowns are always a great accessory.
- ★ Boys can be fairies or vampire-fairies, and girls can be wizards – just dress up in the way that makes you happiest.







Party!




Decorations

Even a small number of well-chosen decorations can really enhance the atmosphere of your Isadora Moon party and transform your venue into somewhere magical. The type of decorations that are best for you will depend on the size of your venue, whether it is indoors or outdoors, your available time, your budget, and the preferences of the guest of honour.

Because there are so many different ways of approaching the decorations, this guide offers general tips for creating an authentic Isadora Moon vibe. Remember to share your decorating ideas using the #IsadoraMoonParty hashtag on social media.



General Tips for Isadora Moon Decorations

- 
- ★ Pink, black and white are the Isadora Moon colours, so sticking to these as much as possible makes for a consistent theme.
 - ★ Isadora loves bats and stars, so include these shapes as much as possible. Her fairy side also loves flowers, so flower garlands would fit well.
 - ★ Stripy designs feature heavily in Isadora Moon, especially black-and-white stripes. You can see black-and-white stripes on Isadora's tights, her tent, Pink Rabbit's ears, and even Isadora's school pencil-case.
 - ★ You can never have too much sparkle.
 - ★ Lots of magical creatures feature in Isadora Moon. Your decorations could relate to mermaids, dragons, witches and ghosts, as well as vampires and fairies. You could even have different areas decorated in different ways.

Shopping List

These are recommended amounts for making all of the recipes for 12 children.

To buy

- ★ 2 loaves bread
- ★ 1 jar Peanut butter
- ★ 1 Cucumbers
- ★ 100g margarine
- ★ 70g Butter + butter or spread for sandwiches
- ★ 120g cheddar
- ★ 35g parmesan
- ★ 250g cherry tomatoes
- ★ 250g cream cheese
- ★ 11 eggs
- ★ 12 frankfurters
- ★ 700ml milk
- ★ 2 Carrots
- ★ Melon (any type)
- ★ 1 jar strawberry jam
- ★ 800g frozen strawberries
- ★ 200g raspberries
- ★ 1 box white grapes
- ★ 1 box red or black grapes
- ★ 2 bananas
- ★ 200g ice
- ★ 200g self-raising flour

- ★ 120g plain flour
- ★ 2 packs chocolate sandwich biscuits (eg. Oreos)
- ★ 300g dark chocolate
- ★ 100g chocolate chips
- ★ 300g sushi rice
- ★ 1 can responsibly-sourced tuna

Ingredients you may already have

- ★ Mayonnaise
- ★ Pink food colouring
- ★ Cake confetti
- ★ 2 tbsp. Currants
- ★ 1 tbsp. Chinese Five-Spice Powder
- ★ 2 tea Bags
- ★ Soy Sauce
- ★ 90g caster sugar
- ★ 1 tsp. vanilla essence
- ★ 1 tsp. baking powder
- ★ Frozen peas
- ★ Vanilla or strawberry ice cream
- ★ White ready-rolled icing/gummy fangsplastic fangs



Isadora's Favourite Things

Instructions: Print out this page and stick it onto cardboard. Cut out each object and hide around the party venue before the children arrive.



Isadora's Tiara



Isadora's Sparkly
Black Tutu



Buttons the Bat



Pink
Rabbit



Peanut Butter

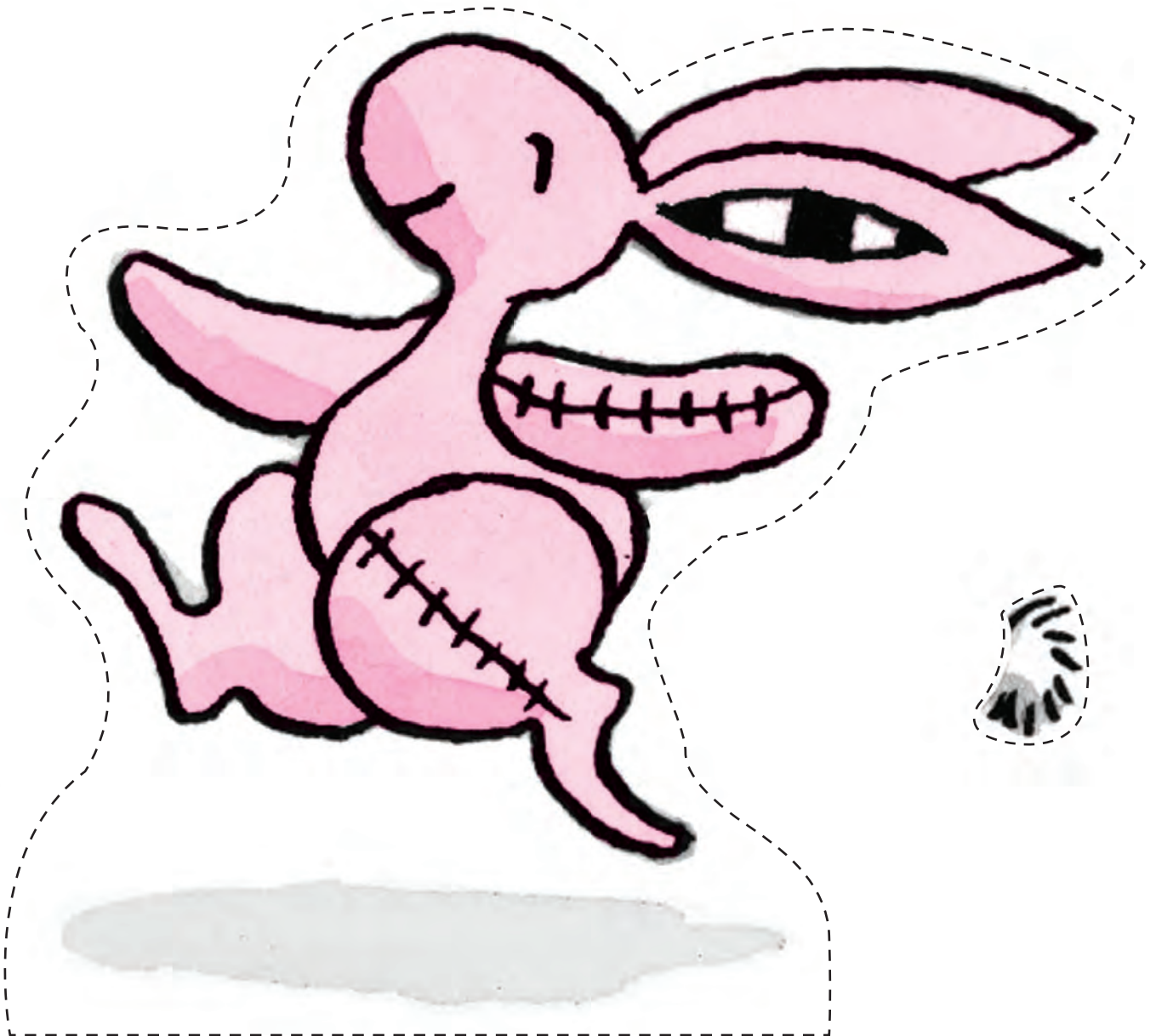
Isadora's
Magic Wand



Pink Rabbit's Tail

Instructions

- 1) Cut out Pink Rabbit's tails
- 2) Cut out Pink Rabbit and stick him on a wall using blue tac
- 3) Add some blue tac to the back of each tail
- 4) Gather the party guests in a line, blind fold the first player, and then take it in turns to try and stick Pink Rabbit's tail back on



Isadora's Storytime Pass-the-Parcel

1. Start with a prize, such as a chocolate bar, bag of sweets, magic wand, or small toy.
2. Wrap the prize in wrapping paper or newspaper, and stick the following prompt to it:

8. Read this out: "Afterwards, Isadora's parents were so proud of her that they gave her..."
Then open the present and say what it is.

3. Wrap this package and prompt in another layer of paper. Note that the final child will unwrap twice: first to reveal the prompt, and then to open the prize.
4. Add in the next prompt and then wrap again. You can also add in mini-prizes, such as individual sweets, vampire fangs, or fairy flowers to each layer, if you like.
5. Make sure to wrap the prompts into each layer in the exact order below. Remember, the children will reveal the story in the reverse order of your wrapping:

7. Read this out: "This meant that..."
Then say what happened next.

6. Read this out: "To help her, she got..."
Then say who or what she got.

5. Read this out: "Isadora decided she had to..."
Then say what she did.

4. Read this out: "However, when she got there, she saw..."
Then say what she saw.

3. Read this out: "To get..." [the thing she wanted] "...Isadora went to..."
Then say where Isadora went.

2. Read this out: "Suddenly, she decided she wanted..."
Then say what Isadora wanted.

1. Read this out: "One day, Isadora Moon was..."
Then say what activity Isadora was doing.

Tips

- ★ Have a copy of the prompts to hand in case a child struggles to read, or to maintain the flow of the game.
- ★ Reading the whole story aloud at the end is a fun way to wrap up the game.

Isadora Moon Bunting

Instructions: Print out five colour copies of this page for every two metres of bunting. You will also need ribbon. Cut out each individual triangle and glue, pin, or stitch it onto the ribbon, leaving a 3cm gap between each one. Remember to leave some spare ribbon at the ends to put up the bunting.

You can also use the triangles as templates for children to decorate their own bunting panels.



Isadora Moon Bunting

Reverse side.



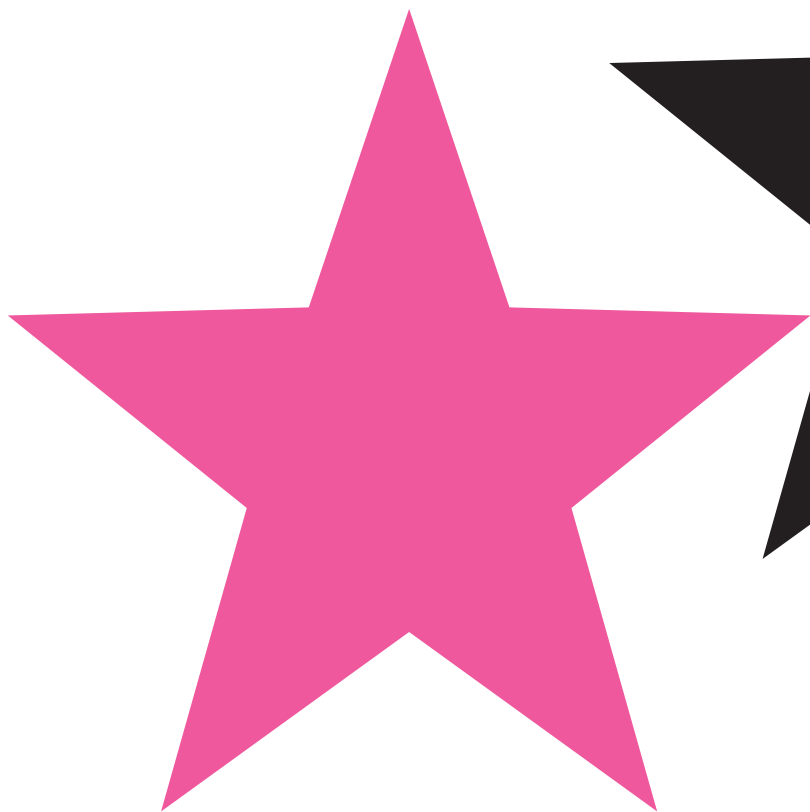
Isadora Moon Dangling Decorations

Instructions: Print out this page and stick onto card. Attach thread or wire to make your dangling decorations. You can use the mirror images on the next page to make double-sided dangles.



Isadora Moon Dangling Decorations

Reverse side.





Dear

Please come to my Isadora Moon birthday party!

Date Time

Place

From

RSVP

☐ I would love to come ☐ Sorry, I can't make it.



Dear

Please come to my Isadora Moon birthday party!

Date Time

Place

From

RSVP

☐ I would love to come ☐ Sorry, I can't make it.

Thanks to Catherine for the use of her kitchen and help
with preparing the food.

You can find out more about Isadora Moon, and her creator,
at www.harrietmuncaster.co.uk

Remember to share your Isadora Moon Party creations
on social media using **#IsadoraMoonParty!**

Happy Partying!

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