Dress a Paper Doll of Your Favourite Author

Oscar Wilde, the most renowned of all dandies, once said “you can never be overdressed or overeducated” and Dorothy Parker wondered “where is the man who can ease a heart like a satin gown?”

Beat hero Jack Kerouac went casual in a lumberjack shirt and jeans, while Tom Wolfe chose flamboyant elegance in a white three-piece suit, fedora and spats.

Existentialist Albert Camus was always beautifully dapper in a well-cut suit and Crombie coat with the collar popped. On his first trip to New York, he fell in love with the city, but despaired of Americans’ garish neckties, saying: “You have to see it to believe it. So much bad taste hardly seems imaginable.”

So for your Book Holiday, perhaps walk around in your favorite author’s outer layers and further escape into a world of fantasy in the comfort of your armchair, at your book group, or even at a costume party. Search Etsy or vintage shops for chic items to complete your look.

Today’s craft riffs on this clothing theme, with a paper-doll of your favourite author to dress up, using the template provided.

Tools

*Scalpel or craft knife
*Scissors
*Stick or PVA glue
*18” x 12” cutting mat
*Thin card, or a cereal packet

*Coloured paper
*Pencil

Method

Photocopy or trace the body template on to paper the same colour as your author's skin. Once you've done this, adapt the body shape to be more in keeping with your author's, then cut round the outline using scalpel or scissors. Cut the line of the chin with your scalpel.

Cut out all the other elements, in the paper colour of your choice, and glue the appropriate clothes and hair directly to the body, except the coat, which can be taken on and off.

Cut the stand from a piece of thin card. If you're using a cereal packet, cover with white paper. Score the dotted line with the back of your blade and bend backwards at 45 degrees.

Glue the bottom half of the body to the longest part of the stand.

Take the coat and fit it over the body, folding the tabs back along the dotted lines.

You can give your author a bigger choice of clothes by making your own, using the existing templates as a guide. As an alternative to the stand, you can glue the figure to backing paper and mount it as a picture.

Here are some examples of famous authors to make as paper dolls:

1. **Gloria Steinem (above)**

Black polo neck
Beige palazzo pants
Over-sized tinted aviators
Bare feet

2. **Maya Angelou**

Yellow and blue flower-print turban
Matching loose-fitting shift dress
Three strings of pearls

3. Oscar Wilde

Velvet blazer trimmed in satin
Silk cravat tied in a bow
Pantaloons
Silk stockings
Patent pumps topped with a grosgrain bow
Green carnation

*Which author did you make into a paper doll? Did you dress up as a different author or host a real or virtual costume party? I'd love to see the results, so please post your pictures on @thebookholiday on Instagram.

Literary Holidays

Whether you're poised to book a plane ticket or eyeing your favorite armchair, the following books will transport you to a different place.

1. Edinburgh, Scotland—*Confessions of a Justified Sinner* by James Hogg and *Jekyll and Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson, Robert Burns, J.K. Rowling, Walter Scott

2. Prague, Czech Republic—Kundera, Kafka and *Prague Tales* by Jan Neruda

3.Mexico City—*The Savage Detectives* by Roberto Bolano

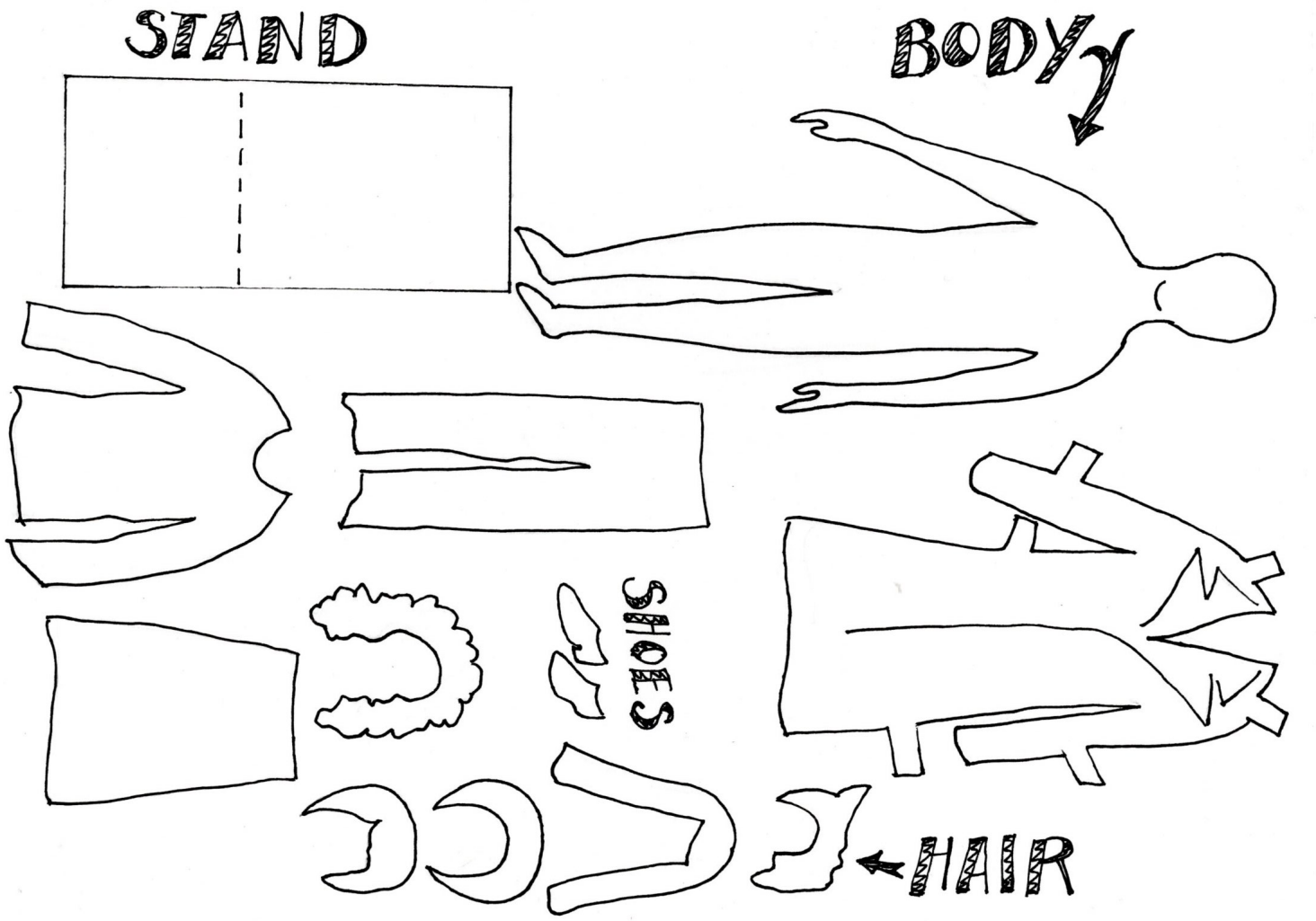
6. Dublin, Ireland—James Joyce, Oscar Wilde, Roddy Doyle, Samuel Beckett

7. Wellington, New Zealand—*Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien

8. Tokyo, Japan—Haruki Murakami

9. Yorkshire, England—Bronte sisters, *Dracula* by Bram Stoker, *Nicholas Nickleby* by Charles Dickens

10. Alaska—*Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer


STAND
BODY
SHOES
HAIR