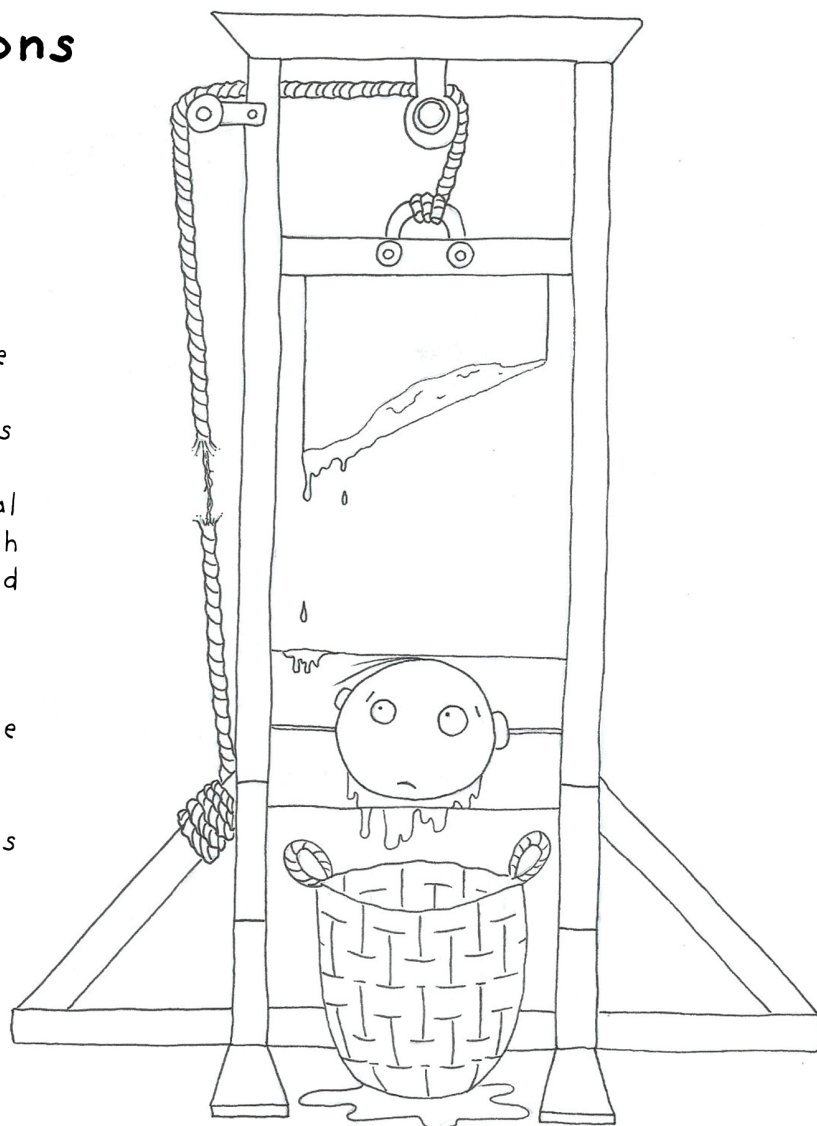


E is for executions

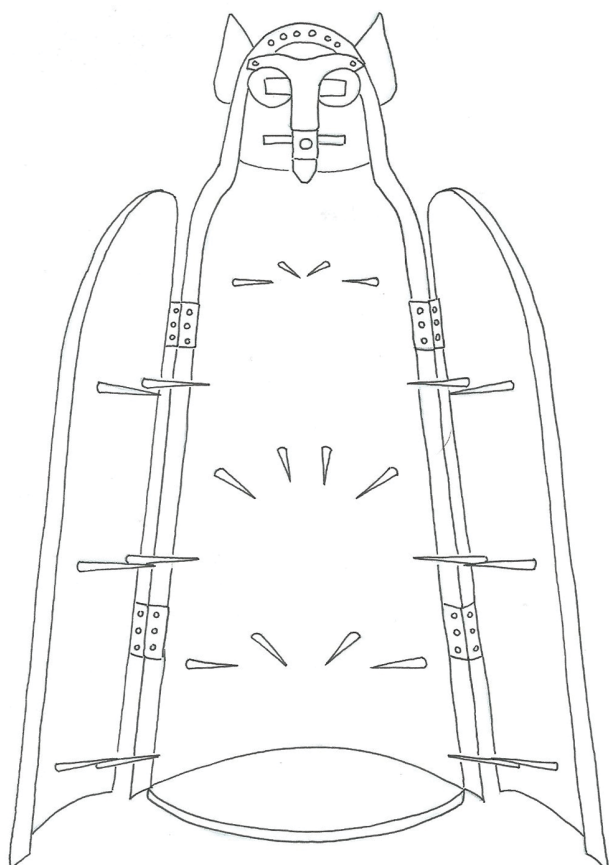
Throughout history men have devised various inventive ways of putting people to death, many of which are far too gruesome to describe here. Execution was generally reserved for criminals and ne'er-do-wells, however, it was not unusual for innocents to meet their demise in such a manner. One particularly popular method of execution was The Guillotine;

Machines similar to the guillotine are thought to have existed as far back as the 13th century, however it was a French doctor by the name of 'Guillotin' who patented the design in 1789. In 1791 it was made law in France that "Every person condemned to death shall have his head severed."

These executions usually took place in full view of the public.



↖ Basket to catch the head



Another particularly horrific execution device was The Iron Maiden. Popular during the 18th century, the iron maiden was a tomb-shaped container made of solid iron. Upon the walls and doors were placed a number of sharp spikes which when the prisoner was placed inside and the doors were closed, would slowly impale their body. The spikes were strategically placed so as to avoid the vital organs, ensuring a slow and painful death.

Victims would often survive for several days as their blood slowly poured onto the ground beneath.