**The Clocktower**

Ruby danced all day and every day. The villagers watcher her graceful dancing and decided to throw her a surprise party. When the day came they got all the yummy food ready, put in in a cart and set off.

“Surprise!” they shouted loudly to Ruby. “Thank you for keeping our village a happy place to be.” said Charlotte.

“Come and dance with me?” asked Ruby, inviting Charlotte to join her.

Together they had great fun, spinning and twirling about in the clock. The delicious feast went on until midnight. Then the happy villagers went home, but Ruby had to stay all alone in the clocktower. Dancing without Charlotte felt lonely.

When Charlotte got home she couldn’t sleep. “I must help Ruby.” she said. Charlotte scurried off to the wizard’s bright and colourful house.

“I need you to make me a clockwork dress!” begged Charlotte.

The wise old wizard made her a stunning red clockwork dress with a dial for the clock at the bottom of it, just like the dress Ruby wore.

Next Charlotte rushed to the clocktower to switch places with Ruby.

“You can live in my house whilst I dance instead of you.” pleaded Charlotte.

Ruby was overjoyed. She left the clocktower and went to live in Charlotte’s pretty and cosy cottage.

Ruby slept beautifully after all that dancing. The next morning, she went for a short stroll around the village. Then she saw a balloon with a funny shape inside it so ran over to it.

“I wonder what’s in there?” said confused Ruby. She felt she just had to pop the balloon to find out. So she rushed back to the small cottage with the balloon in her hand. She found a small, sharp pin and pricked the balloon. She couldn’t believe her eyes. Inside the balloon was a clock gear just like the one on her dress.

As fast as lightning, Ruby sped off towards the clock tower. When she got there, she exclaimed “Charlotte, I’ve found a clock gear that will keep the clock turning. We don’t have to keep dancing!” Carefully slotting the gear into place, Charlotte and Ruby watched as miraculously the clock kept turning.

 “Yippee!” they screamed, washed over by a sense of joy. The clock now turned all about itself, and so they all lived happily ever after.