

TEATIME IN THE BIG HOUSE

WILLOW PATTERN TEAPOT

ATHLONE
CASTLE



Caisleán
Áth Luain

Have a look at this beautiful Willow pattern teapot.

It is the last remaining piece of a *Spode* tea set that was used in the grand Thomastown House near Athlone.

The blue willow pattern was first used to decorate porcelain at the end of 18th Century and has been very popular ever since.

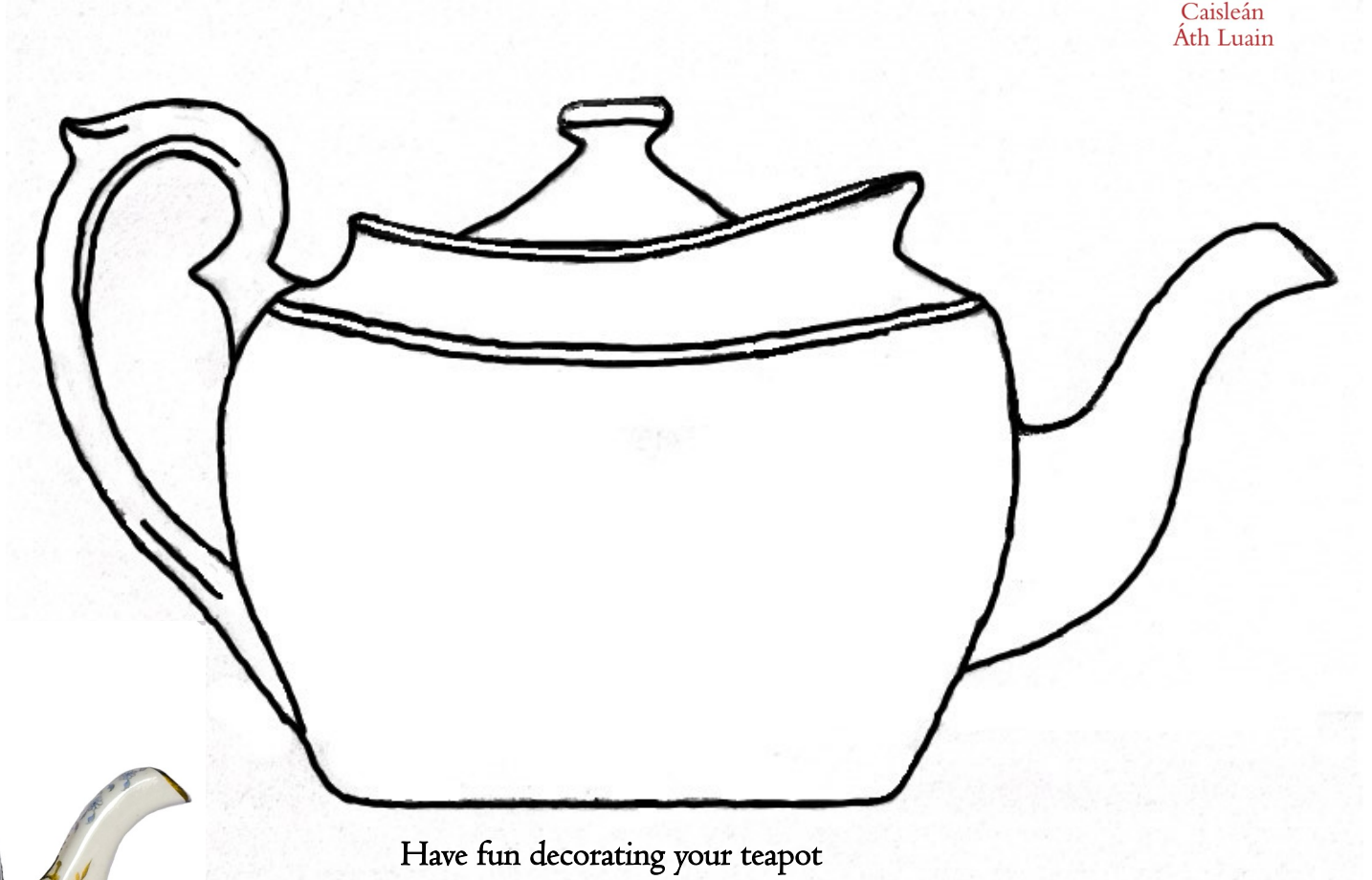
The Blue Willow pattern represents the Chinese story of Koong-see, the beautiful daughter of a wealthy merchant and her father's clerk- Chang.

As Koong-see was promised to marry a rich and powerful Duke, her father tried to separate the young lovers. He dismissed Chang and built a tall fence around his palace to keep Koong-see in. But on the day of the wedding Chang sneaked into the house to rescue his beloved.

They ran away and hid on a faraway island where they lived happily for few years.

The Duke was so angry at losing his bride that he searched for them and eventually discovered their hideaway.

He was going to kill them, when the gods took pity on the young couple and turned them into a pair of turtle doves, so they could be together forever.



Have fun decorating your teapot

HINT: To recreate the Blue Willow pattern try to include the following in your design:

A Chinese tiered palace surrounded by a fence

Some Willow trees

Some figures running across the bridge (that's the Duke chasing his runaway bride)

A ship that carried the lovers to freedom

Koong-see and Chang's cottage on the far away island

And two lovebirds flying high