

# Activities



LEVEL 1

## Tricks

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Genre Humour

Values autonomy, initiative, ingenuity, self-esteem, overcoming adversity

## Chapter 1. Now You See It

Colin is performing his usual magic show outside his house, and he has just mastered a card trick. Suddenly, a giant of a man appears and whisks him away to a strange village...

### Skills addressed



Language and literacy



Digital skills and behaviour



Critical thinking and resilience



Maths, science  
and technology skills



Cultural awareness  
and understanding



Personal, social and health  
awareness and citizenship



Organisation  
and evaluation skills

# INDEX

You can tick off the activities that you are working on in class



## READ

Reading lab



*Obtain and interpret information within the text*

- Guided reading notes
- Reading comprehension questions



## WRITE

Writing workshop



*Develop the art of creative writing*

- Inspire words
- Noun phrases
- Full stops and question marks



## TALK

Space for debate



*Reflect and construct your opinion, individually and working in a group*

- Discuss the options
- Class debate



## EXPLORE

Creative study



*Dig deeper into the content in a fun way, using different methods of research*

- Acrostic poem

## ANSWERS

Exercise answers and suggestions for the teacher

**READ**

Reading lab

## Guided reading notes

Here you can find some tips to help you in your reading sessions in class.

1

Read the first two paragraphs. Ask: Who usually watches Colin's shows? (Billy and some dogs) Ask: How does Colin introduce his show? Agree that *Ladies and Gentlemen* is a bit grand and that it is unlikely to be *THE most exciting display*. Clarify the word 'exclusive'. Ask: do you think this location is exclusive?

2

Read to the end of the section (up to ... *and off they rode*). Enjoy the joke in *doubled in number*. Ask: What clues tell you that the man and his horse are from a different world? (For example: the man's clothes, the size of the horse.) Look at the book cover. Ask: What sort of book do you think this is going to be?

3

Read up to "...*Colin!*" *the audience chanted*. Ask: How does Colin feel when he first arrives in Normshire? (terrified) Ask: Why? Together, find clues that Colin is no longer in our world. (The houses and villagers look medieval, there is a 'giant', the villagers believe Colin is performing real magic.)

4

Ask: How do we know that the villagers are impressed by Colin's trick? (They gasp and chant his name.) Read to the end. Locate: "*For my next trick, wait what?*" *Colin spluttered*. Discuss the meaning of 'spluttered'. Ask: Why does Colin splutter? (He has just understood what the villagers have said.)

5

Ask the children, in pairs, to work out the meaning of the word 'menaced'. Ask: What is a dark wizard? Together, think of other good names for a bad wizard, such as Bloodwin the Terrible. Together, find phrases that fit with the medieval setting. (For example: *Hail, foretell the card, Logan speaks no lies*.)

6

Ask a volunteer to explain why Logan has brought Colin to Normshire, inferring additional events. Challenge the children to find phrases in the story that will have made Logan think that Colin is a real wizard. Ask: Do you think that Colin will have saved the villagers by the end of the story?



**READ**

Reading lab

Name: .....

## Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions about the chapter and explain your answers.

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1 Who usually watches Colin's show?

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2 How can you tell that the man and his horse are from a fairy-tale world?

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3 What do the villagers think of Colin's trick?

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**READ**

Reading lab

Name: .....

4

*“For my next trick, wait what?” Colin spluttered.*

Why does Colin splutter here?

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5

What does the word ‘menaced’ mean?

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6

Why has Logan the Giant brought Colin to Normshire?

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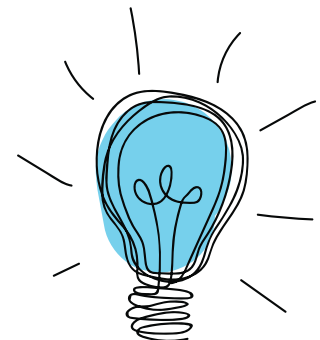
**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name: .....

## Inspire words

Explore some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary in this chapter to improve children's understanding and enhance the quality of their own writing.

**display****exclusive  
location****foretell****mage****menaced****spluttered**



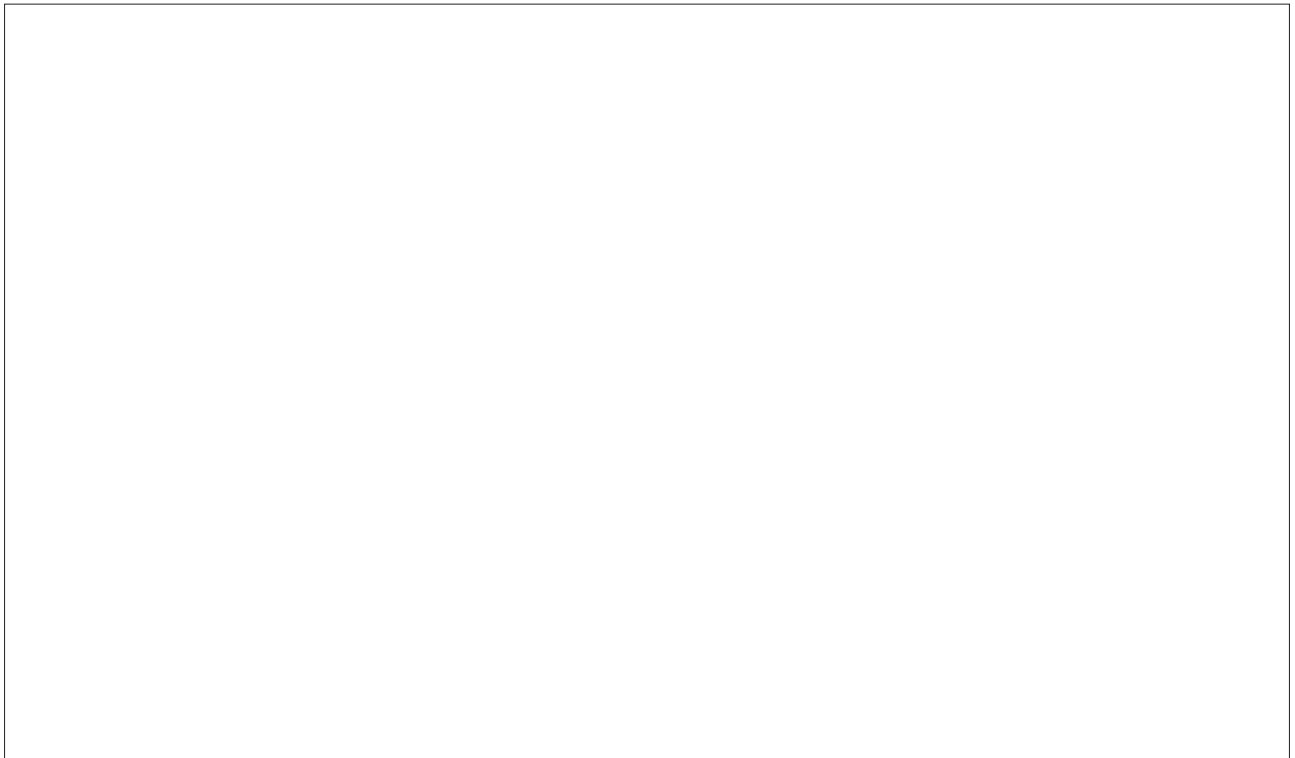
## WRITE

Writing workshop

Name: .....

### Noun phrases

Draw a cartoon picture of the scene in the chapter where Colin is performing his magic show outside his house and Logan appears on the horse. Write five noun phrases to describe what you can see in your picture, for example, *brown wooden fence*.



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 **WRITE**  
Writing workshop

Name: .....

## Full stops and question marks

Rewrite the sentences, correcting the mistakes by adding full stops and / or question marks.

1 Have you ever performed a magic show outside your house

.....  
.....

2 "How does that trick work" the villagers asked Colin

.....  
.....

3 Colin was sure he knew how to do the trick

.....  
.....

4 "Can you guess which card I picked" asked Billy

.....  
.....

5 Grimdok the Devastating will be here soon

.....  
.....



**TALK**

Space for debate

Name: .....

## Discuss the options

Discuss in class which of the three options you find most interesting to continue the story and why. Here's a reminder of the options and some key points for each one:

What does Colin do?

A

Try to convince them  
he has no magic  
powers

The villagers seem convinced that Colin is a wizard, and he has been happy to perform for them. Do you think they will believe he has no magic powers, or will they just think he is scared of Grimdok?

B

Run away

Remember, Colin closed his eyes on the ride to the village, and they rode for over an hour. He might not be able to get home, but perhaps he could run somewhere safer, away from Grimdok?

C

Pretend that he  
is a real wizard to  
Grimdok

We have been told that Grimdok is a menacing dark wizard. But we have only heard this from the villagers, and they also believe Colin is a real wizard! Perhaps Grimdok is not that bad?

## Discussion activity

In pairs or a small group, share descriptions of the settings in chapter one of *Tricks*. You could use your WRITE worksheet to help your discussion.

Do you have the same impression of Colin's neighbourhood and the medieval village? Do you think the two settings work well together? Do you think we might travel between the two settings more as the story goes on, or will we stay in the village?



# EXPLORE

Creative study

Name: .....

## Acrostic poem

Write your own acrostic poem, using as many words to suggest magic as you can, for example *Swoosh* or *Glittering*.

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|---|-------|
| M | ..... |
| A | ..... |
| G | ..... |
| I | ..... |
| C | ..... |

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| S | ..... |
| P | ..... |
| E | ..... |
| L | ..... |
| L | ..... |



**Acrostic:** A poetic composition in which the first letter (or syllable, or word) of each line spells out a word. In this exercise we work with the initials.

# ANSWERS

Document for the teacher

## Reading comprehension (pp. 4–5)

1. Billy from over the road, and some dogs.
2. They are both giant-sized and the man wears clothes from a fairy-tale world.
3. They are amazed by it and think it is real magic.
4. He has realised that the villagers want him to fight a real evil wizard.
5. tormented, bullied
6. He thinks he is a real wizard and can fight Grimdok the Devastating.

## Full stops and question marks (p. 8)

1. Have you ever performed a magic show outside your house?
2. “How does that trick work?” the villagers asked Colin.
3. Colin was sure he knew how to do the trick.
4. “Can you guess which card I picked?” asked Billy.
5. Grimdok the Devastating will be here soon.