

Activities



LEVEL 1

Tricks

by Cethan Leahy

Genre Humour

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

Chapter 3. Abracadabra

With Colin expected to perform an incredible feat of magic to overpower the evil Grimdok, he looks through his pocket for the perfect trick. But will it work?

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
- Adjectives to describe character
- Present and past tenses

TALK Space for debate



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

- Discuss the options
- Character role play

EXPLORE Creative studio



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

- Compose a song

ANSWERS

Exercise answers and suggestions for the teacher



Guided reading notes

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

1

Recap on the situation at the end of the last chapter. Remember also the voting options from last week. Read the first paragraph. Ask: What do you think the fluffy thing might be? (possibly a rabbit) Why might a magician have a hidden pocket? Speculate on its uses. (to hide things in)

2

Read to ...*he was gone*. Ask: How does Colin persuade Grimdok to open the tin? (He makes out that Grimdok is too scared.) Share a video of a magician opening a tin of snakes. Ask a volunteer to demonstrate a 'dramatic flourish'. Ask: Why does he do this? (to create atmosphere and anticipation)

3

Ask: Why does Grimdok leave after opening the tin? Which phrase tells you this? (*frozen in fear*) What does this mean? (too scared to move) Read to ... *boomed Logan*. Ask: Did Colin really read Grimdok's mind? (No - he was just lucky.) Why is Grimdok scared of snakes? (The venom can defeat him.)

4

Ask: Why does Grimdok wear a snakeskin coat? (to hide the fact that he is frightened of snakes) Ask: What do the villagers think of Colin? Agree that they think that Colin is a real magician who has read Grimdok's mind and found his weakness.

5

Read to the end of the chapter. List ways in which Grimdok is a typical evil magician, for example: he makes a face in the sky, he has an army of the undead, he plans to destroy innocent villagers, he wears a snakeskin coat. Ask: Who has tried and failed to defeat Grimdok? (twelve previous champions)

6

Ask: How can Colin defeat Grimdok? Agree that it will help that the villagers believe in him, but he will have to be very clever as well and make something really happen through trickery. Ponder together what he could do, for example, he could find some real snake venom, perhaps.



Name:

Reading comprehension

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

1 What do you think Colin has in his hidden pocket?

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2 Why does Grimdok leave after opening the tin?

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3 Why is Grimdok frightened of snakes?

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READ

Reading lab

Name:

4 What do the villagers think of Colin?

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5 What happened to the twelve previous champions?

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6 How would you defeat Grimdok if you were a magician?

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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.

distraught

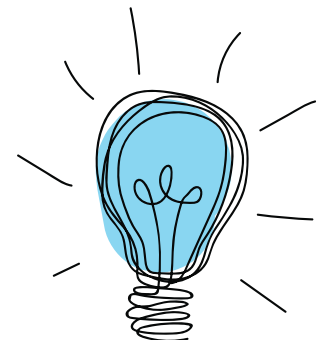
flourish

inflatable

snarled

tense

villain



 **WRITE**
Writing workshop

Name:

Adjectives to describe character

This picture shows an evil wizard. Think of a list of adjectives you could use to describe Grimdok the Devastating, or another character from chapter 3 of *Tricks*. Then write two sentences about this character, using some of the adjectives from your list.

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 **WRITE**
Writing workshop

Name:

Past and present tenses

Put the sentences below into the past tense, by changing the verb from the present tense into the past.

1 Colin pulls a tin of beans out of his pocket.

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2 Grimdok laughs at the sight of it.

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3 The snakes burst out and hit Grimdok in the face.

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4 Grimdok goes away in fear.

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5 Colin is the champion of the village because he defeats Grimdok.

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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 should Colin do?

A

Convince everyone to abandon the village

How can Colin convince them all to leave? Will he tell the truth that he is not really magical, or will he make up a story? Do you think the villagers would agree to leave, and where might they go?

B

Train the villagers in magic

What magic can Colin train the villagers in when he is not really magical himself? Perhaps he could make use of Grimdok's snake venom weakness as part of their training.

C

Try to think of one really good trick to beat Grimdok

We now know about Grimdok's weakness, and perhaps Colin can think up another snake-based trick? Or perhaps he has another trick up his sleeve. What might that be?

Character role play

In pairs or a small group, choose a character each and role play a conversation between you, pretending to be those characters.

You could choose Grimdok and Colin when the snakes leap out of the tin, or Logan and the villagers when Grimdok threatens to return, or any characters of your choice.



 **EXPLORE**
Creative studio

Name:

Compose a song

Imagine you are writing a song to be performed by one of the characters in the story so far. You could use one of the role-play activities in Talk to help you get into character. What kind of song would your chosen character sing? It could be anything you like, from rap to opera! Write your lyrics in the space below.

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ANSWERS

Document for the teacher

Reading comprehension (pp. 4–5)

1. Any suitable fluffy object, or a rabbit to tie in with voting options
2. He is terrified of snakes.
3. The venom will make him weak.
4. They believe he is a real magician who can read minds.
5. They have been put in a building with a skeleton on the outside – they might be dead.
6. Children's own ideas, for example use real snake venom to defeat him.

Past and present tenses (p. 8)

1. Colin pulled a tin of beans out of his pocket.
2. Grimdok laughed at the sight of it.
3. The snakes burst out and hit Grimdok in the face.
4. Grimdok went away in fear.
5. Colin was the champion of the village because he defeated Grimdok.