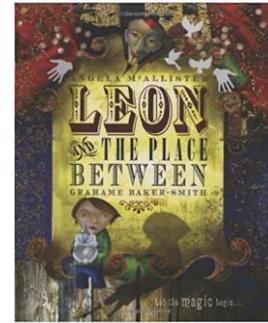


Take 5: Ideas for Independent/Home Learning Leon and the Place Between by Angela McAllister Illustrated by Grahame Baker-Smith (Templar)



1. Explore it

Read the following page of text and spend time looking carefully at the illustration:



- What do you notice about this picture? How does the image make you feel?
- Who is Abdul Kazam? How would you describe him as a character?
- What do you think it would feel like to be watching him perform? What in the words and illustration makes you feel this way?
- What do you already know about magicians? Can you name any famous magicians? Where do magic shows take place? Do you know any well-known magic tricks that magicians commonly do?

2. Illustrate it

Re-read the extract again. Who do you think Abdul Kazam is talking to when he says **“TRUST NOTHING...”** **“BUT BELIEVE EVERYTHING”**? Who do you think is watching the magic? How do you think they feel as they are watching this spectacle? What will their faces look like? Can you picture it in your mind?

When you have thought about this carefully, see if you can draw the faces of the front row of an audience watching Abdul Kazam’s magic show. Will all the audience members look the same? How could you vary their expressions? Does a surprised face look the same as an excited one? Think about the range of

emotions a larger group of people might feel watching this. Maybe someone in the audience is afraid of birds – how would they react when the doves start fluttering?

After you have read this part of the story a few times, take a pen or pencil and some paper. You can use the back of an old envelope, letter or cereal packet; whatever is to hand. Draw the front row of the audience watching the show, carefully sharing how they feel from their facial expressions. If you need some ideas, try pulling some faces that express different emotions in the mirror and copying these. Think about how the reactions could vary between audience members – will smaller children react differently from adults? You could draw these on card and stand them up like a real audience!

Once you have drawn your picture, share your drawings with someone else if you can, or talk about what you have drawn with someone else: what is similar about the drawings? What is different?

3. Talk about it

- Can you identify the verbs the author has used to describe the action happening in each of Abdul Kazam's magic tricks? What is the impact of these verbs on you as a reader?
- How would it feel if you substituted them for different verbs? Read the sentences below, first with the original verbs then with the substituted words in brackets. How does this affect the way you feel about the tricks?

Paper flowers blossomed (appeared) from his sleeves

Silk scarves changed colour at a whispered (spoken) word

Bright white handkerchiefs became fluttering (flying) doves

- Look at the front cover of the text and the way Abdul Kazam is represented here. What does this add to your ideas about him as a character? What does this make you think about his role in the story?

4. Imagine it

Look again at the illustration. What other magical objects can you see in the image? What other tricks do you think Abdul Kazam could perform? You might also have spotted the white rabbit on the cover of the book – how might this be involved in one of his tricks? Think about the way that Angela McAllister, the author has used adjectives and verbs in her descriptions of the tricks to bring these to life for us as readers. Can you think of a new trick for Abdul Kazam to perform and a way of describing this for someone else using rich and descriptive vocabulary in the same way?

5. Create it

If you could do magic, what trick would you want to do? Would you make it rain sweets? Turn a household object into a magical pet? Make your dinner disappear? Draw and write about a fantastical trick you'd like to perform. You could create your own magical persona as part of your drawing. What will you call yourself? Will you have a magical sounding name like Abdul Kazam? Will you wear a costume? What will you need for your act? Will you be on a stage? How will you show the magic happening in your drawing? How will you write about your trick to make it sound exciting and dramatic to someone else?

You could be inspired to learn some real life magic tricks here: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/cbbc/watch/bp-learn-an-awesome-magic-trick> and you might want to use these to put on your own magic show at home! You could make a poster to advertise it or invitations or tickets to give to people in your home.