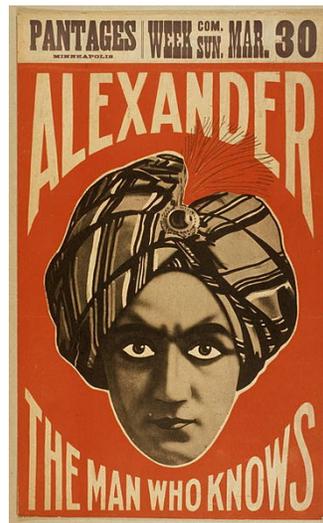


Magic



“A good magician never reveals her secrets,” the Great Morgana had said after the show. Bobby thought about what she said for days. He still couldn’t figure out how she had done any of it. He knew magic wasn’t real, but he was still confused. It sure seemed real.

Finally, Bobby decided to ask his mother how the Great Morgana had done her tricks.

“What don’t you understand?” Bobby’s mother asked.

“Well, first of all, how did she read my mind?” Bobby asked. The Great Morgana had started the show by having Bobby pick a card, put it back in the deck, and then correctly guessing the card he had picked.

“That’s easy,” Bobby’s mother replied. She took out a deck of cards and had him pick one. Then, she flipped the deck over so that the cards were face up. The top one was the Seven of Diamonds. She took just the Seven of Diamonds and flipped it back over so it was face down on top of the deck. This hid that all the rest of the cards were still face up. To Bobby, the whole deck looked like it did when he had picked his card.

“Put your card back,” Bobby’s mother said. Bobby had picked the Four of Spades and put it back in the deck, face down.

“You see,” Bobby’s mother continued. “All the cards are face up except for the top card and the card you just put back. So it’s easy to tell which card you picked.”

“But I didn’t see her do what you did with the deck,” Bobby said, confused.

“Remember how after you picked the card, the Great Morgana set off a smoke bomb? She switched around that deck while you were distracted,” Bobby’s mother replied. “That’s how magicians work.”

“O.K. But what about the moving hat?” Bobby asked. Morgana had made a hat move across the table just by looking at it. “I was staring right at it the whole time.”

Bobby’s mother chuckled. “That was done with magnets,” she said.

“Magnets? I thought they just stuck to the refrigerator,” Bobby said. “How do they make a hat move?”

Bobby’s mother walked Bobby over to the fridge. “See that magnet holding up the coupon for cereal? Flip it over, and try to make it stick to the fridge.”

Bobby took the magnet, flipped it over, and tried to put it back on the fridge. But the magnet wouldn’t stick. In fact, it felt like the fridge was trying to push the magnet away.

“You feel how the fridge is pushing at the magnet when it’s flipped around? That’s because all magnets have two sides. One side is attracted to other magnets; the other side is repelled by them. Think of magnets like Legos – they only stick together one direction.”

Bobby still didn’t understand what this had to do with making a hat move across a table.

“Now hold the magnet an inch away from the fridge,” Bobby’s mother said. “Can you still feel the fridge pushing at the magnet?” Bobby could. “See, you don’t need magnets to actually be touching in order to have them push each other.”

Bobby’s mother took a piece of paper and put it between the fridge and the magnet Bobby was holding. “Do you still feel the fridge pushing?” she asked. Bobby did.

“The magnet in the refrigerator magnet is strong, and the magnet you’re holding is weak. But if you have two strong magnets, they can push against each other through something a lot thicker than that piece of paper. Like, say, a table.”

Bobby started to get it. “So you’re saying the hat was a magnet?”

“It had a magnet in it – a powerful magnet. You remember how the Great Morgana sat down at the table and stared at the hat until it moved across the table toward her?”

“Yes,” Bobby said.

“Did you see her arms?”

Bobby thought about it. “No,” he said. “I think her arms were under the table.” Bobby suddenly got it.

“She held a magnet under the table! And she pushed the magnet in the hat by moving the one under the table! That’s how she made the hat move!”

Bobby’s mother smiled. “A good magician might not reveal her secrets,” she said. “But that doesn’t mean a smart boy can’t figure them out.”

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. What did the Great Morgana use to move the hat?

- A magnets
- B cards
- C a table
- D a smoke bomb

2. The movement of the hat is an effect. What is its cause?

- A The cause is a smoke bomb that the Great Morgana set off.
- B The cause is a magnet that sticks to Bobby's refrigerator.
- C The cause is the use of two strong magnets.
- D The cause is the table where the Great Morgana sat.

3. Magnets have two sides. Depending on which sides are facing each other, they either pull together or push away.

What evidence from the passage supports this conclusion?

- A After Bobby picks a card, Bobby's mother turns the deck over so that the cards are face up. Then she flips over the Seven of Diamonds.
- B When Bobby flips over the magnet holding the coupon on the refrigerator, he feels the refrigerator pushing the magnet away.
- C Bobby thinks for days about what the Great Morgana said after her show, but he cannot figure out how she did any of her tricks.
- D Bobby's mother says that a good magician might not reveal her secrets, but that does not mean that a smart boy cannot figure them out.

4. How can the Great Morgana's magic be described?

- A tricks that always use magnets in one way or another
- B tricks that are too mysterious for anyone to figure out
- C tricks that always use smoke bombs in one way or another
- D tricks that may seem mysterious but can be explained

5. What is this passage mostly about?

- A a mother who teaches her son a card trick
- B a boy who takes a magnet off the refrigerator
- C a magician who does not reveal her secrets
- D the secrets behind two magic tricks

6. Read the following sentence: "He knew **magic** wasn't real, but he was still confused."

What does the word **magic** mean?

- A special power that cannot be explained by natural causes
- B a smoke bomb that goes off after someone picks a card from a deck
- C a force that causes magnets to either pull together or push away
- D an explanation of something that seems mysterious and confusing

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Bobby wonders for days how the Great Morgana did her tricks; _____, he finds out through his mother.

- A on the contrary
- B such as
- C at last
- D moreover

8. What is the first trick Bobby asks his mother about?

9. How does Bobby's mother explain the Great Morgana's card trick?

10. Are the tricks the Great Morgana does really magic? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the story.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 630

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8. What is the first trick Bobby asks his mother about?

Suggested answer: The first trick is identifying a card that he drew and returned to a deck. (Answers may vary in level of detail.)

9. How does Bobby's mother explain the Great Morgana's card trick?

Suggested answer: Bobby's mother explains that the deck of cards can be turned over with all but the top card facing up. That way, when Bobby returns his card to the deck, the only face-down cards are the card on top and the card he drew. That makes his card easy to find.

10. Are the tricks the Great Morgana does really magic? Explain why or why not, using evidence from the story.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary, as long as they are supported by the passage. Students may argue that the tricks are not really magic. They may point out that Bobby's mother has shown how both Morgana's mind-reading card trick and moving hat can be explained by natural causes. On the other hand, students may point out that the explanations that Bobby's mother offered are only possible explanations. She does not know for sure whether, for example, Morgana's hat had a magnet in it.