

4

The Disappearing Act



Max was an amazing magician who lived in a small town and was famous for his magic tricks. Kids from all over the town would come to watch him perform. Max loved magic ever since he was a kid. He would practice his magic tricks every day and would never stop until he perfected them. When he became an adult, he decided to become a professional magician and share his magic with others. One day, Max was practicing a new magic trick that he had learned. It was called the disappearing act. He would ask someone from the audience to step inside a box, and then he would make them disappear. But something strange happened. When he tried the trick, the person inside the box didn't come out! Max was shocked and didn't know what to do. He tried to look inside the box, but he couldn't see anything. Suddenly, a voice came from inside the box. It was the person who had disappeared! They said they were in a different world, and they needed Max's help to get back to their own world. Max didn't believe what he was hearing. He thought it was just part of the trick. But the person inside the box was serious. They begged Max to help them, or they would be stuck in the other world forever. Max knew he had to do something. He went inside the box and found himself in a strange, magical world. There were talking animals, flying broomsticks, and giant mushrooms! Max realized that he had entered the world of magic. He searched for the person who had disappeared, but he couldn't find them anywhere. Suddenly, he heard a loud noise. It was coming from a castle in the distance. Max went to investigate and found that the person who had disappeared was being held captive by an evil magician. Max knew he had to use his magic to defeat the evil magician and save the person who had disappeared. He used all of his magic tricks and finally defeated the evil magician with his disappearing act! The person who had disappeared was free, and Max was hailed as a hero.

1. Read the passage and underline any word or sentence you struggled with.
2. Answer the questions on the following page.

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Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. What was Max famous for:**
 - a. magic tricks
 - b. disappearing acts
 - c. being a magician

- 2. Kids came to see Max from all over the:**
 - a. city
 - b. country
 - c. town

- 3. What was the new magic trick that Max was practicing?**
 - a. the disappearing man
 - b. the disappearing rabbit
 - c. the disappearing act

- 4. What happened when Max went inside the box?**
 - a. he found himself stuck in the magical box
 - b. he found himself in a strange magical world
 - c. he found the person who disappeared

- 5. Who was the person who disappeared being held captive by?**
 - a. the evil magician
 - b. the castle
 - c. the nasty magician

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Open Response Questions

Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Why do you think Max was a famous magician?
2. Were you reminded of anything in your own life as you read the reading passage?
3. In 2-3 sentences, summarize what this passage is about.
4. What did the author make you visualize as you read through this reading passage?

- Could this story be a true story? Explain
- What do you think it takes to become a good magician?
- Is the setting important to the story? Explain.
- Have you ever tried doing a magic trick or seen a magician? Describe.
- What magic tricks have you heard of and how do you think they work?
- Write a different ending for the story.
- Does this author keep you interested? Why or why not?
- Explain why Max was considered a hero.