

SEASONS GREETINGS MAGIC SHOW

Study Guide

About the show

This fun filled magic show celebrates the world's seasonal holidays with lots of fast paced colorful magic, a magic elf, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, upbeat music, toy soldiers, and magically appearing snow white doves- all set in a winter wonderland. The elf is full of mischief and during the course of her shenanigans learns the importance of respecting the property, feelings and beliefs of others. This show is presented in two formats. There is a 45 minute version for schools, libraries and other mid-size venues. An expanded one hour theatrical version is available for theaters and performance arts centers.

Vocabulary words

Menorah, belief, prediction, psychic, examine, property, graffiti, escape, gimmicked publicity, stunt, Ramadan, Kwanza.

Learning about respect

During the show, the elf learns that it is important to respect other people's feelings, property and beliefs. Have students match up the tricks to the lessons learned.

Tricks

- 1) ***The Wiz kote Machine.*** This is the trick in which a borrowed shoes gets destroyed and is magically restored.
- 2) ***The Greeting Card.*** A greeting card is ruined by the elf drawing graffiti on it. With the help of a little "forgiveness dust" the graffiti disappears.
- 3) ***The menorah candle trick.*** Disappearing and reappearing candle.

Lessons learned

- A) ***Have respect for what other people believe.***
- B) ***Respect other people's property.***
- C) ***Respect other people feelings.***

Answers: 1-B, 2-C, 3-A.

History

Harry Houdini, whose real name was Ehrich Weiss, was born in Budapest, Hungary on March 24th, 1874. He immigrated to the United States and settled in Appleton, Wisconsin in 1878.

He died in 1926. In addition to being one of the greatest magicians of all time, he was a master showman and an extraordinary escape artist. He used his escapes as publicity stunts to draw attention and sell tickets to his performances in theaters. One of his most famous tricks called the Metamorphosis is featured as the finale of the show.

Suggested activities

Teach students some of the tricks from this study guide and have them perform them for other classmates or classes.

Find a book about magic in your school library and have students learn tricks from it and perform them for the class.

After the students have mastered a trick or two, have a discussion about showmanship and acting skills. Talk about: Speaking clearly and loudly, making eye contact with the audience, using facial expressions and body language

Have students draw a picture of their favorite trick from the show.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

BOOKS

- Blackstone, Harry. **200 Magic Tricks Anyone Can Do**. Citadel Publishers, 1999.
- Borland, Kathryn Kilby. Helen Ross Speicher & Fred Irvin (Illus.) **Harry Houdini : Young Magician(The Childhood of Famous Americans)**. Aladdin Paperbacks, 1991. (Ages 9-12).
- Broekel, Ray . Laurence B. White (Photog.). **Abra-Ca-Dazzle : Easy Magic Tricks**. Albert Whitman& Co., 1982.
- Frederick, Guy. Jason Hurst (Illus.). **101 Classic Magic Tricks**. Sterling Publications, 1995. (Ages 9-12)
- Gordon, Lynn. Susan Synarski (Illus.). **52 Cool Tricks for Kids (52 Deck Series)**. Chronicle Books, 1996. (Ages 4-8).
- Kulling, Monica. Anne Reas (Illus.). **The Great Houdini (Step into Reading : A Step 3 Book)**. Random Library, 1999. (Ages 9-12).
- Longe, Bob. **The Little Giant Encyclopedia of Magic**. Sterling Publications, 1999.

STRETCHING PAPER

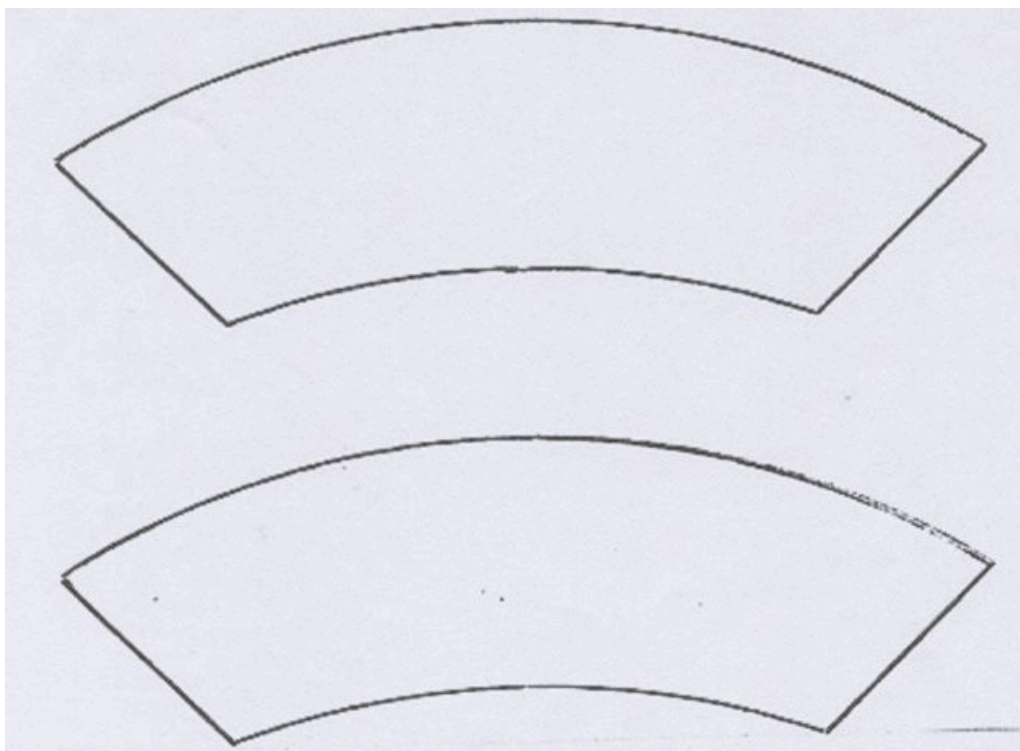
An optical illusion

Here is an optical illusion that's easy to do and is a real fooler!

The effect is that two paper or cardboard semi circles or "collars" are displayed. They are shown to be the exact same size but when one of them is "stretched" it appears to be larger than the other one. The smaller looking one can then be stretched and made to look bigger than the other.

To prepare carefully cut out the two collars below. They may be used as is or you may use one as a pattern and trace it onto a piece of poster board or use cardboard from a cereal or cracker box. (*This is recommended so that the paper collars don't accidentally rip during the performance.*)

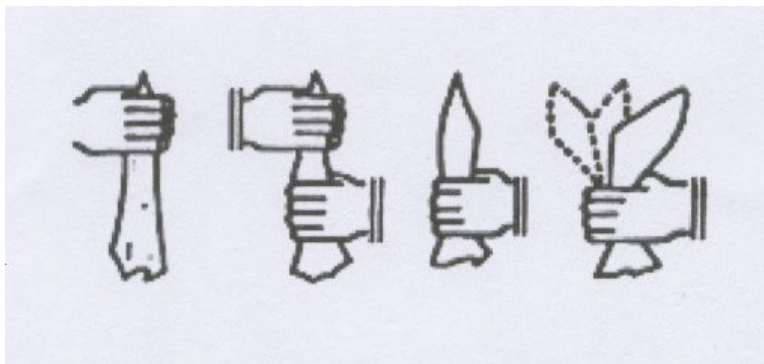
To perform, hold the two collars together and show on both sides so that the audience can see that they are the same size. Next lay one of them on the table. Take the other and pretend to stretch it out. Here is where your acting skills are used. Pretend to strain your muscles and make your face turn red as if you were exerting a lot of effort to stretch it. Of course you do not really pull on or stretch the collar. Just pretend! Place the one that you have apparently stretched on the table just underneath the other one, just like they were before you cut them out, only closer together. The bottom edge of the top collar should be just touching the top edge of the bottom collar. When properly placed, the bottom collar will look larger than the top one. You may then take the top one and pretend to stretch it. Place it under the collar that was left on the table. Now it will appear larger!



HANDKERCHIEF CONTROL

The effect that the audience sees is that you show a handkerchief and pull it up through your hand. The handkerchief stands by itself. You wrap an imaginary hair around the handkerchief and it moves mysteriously back and forth.

To perform hold the handkerchief as in the first sketch, in your right hand. Now pull the handkerchief up through your left hand as in the second picture. Pull the handkerchief up about four inches in your left hand and it will stay when you take away your right hand as in the third picture. Now with your right hand, wrap an imaginary hair around the handkerchief, and then with your left thumb you can move the handkerchief back and forth as you see in the drawing.



STARS AND CIRCLE TRICK

The effect is that a circle and two stars are drawn on a rectangular piece of paper. It is then torn into three pieces and the pieces are placed in a hat or a bag. The magician is blindfolded and is asked by the audience to pull out either a piece with a star or a circle. To the amazement of the audience, the magician gets it right every time.

To prepare note figures A, B, and C. Draw circles and stars in the corresponding positions on a rectangular piece of paper.

To perform show the paper with the drawings on it. Tear it into three pieces and place them in the hat or bag. Have someone blindfold you and request either a circle or a star to be pulled from the bag.

The secret is that the circle will have two ragged edges. The stars will only have one ragged edge. All you have to do is feel for the correct number of ragged edges!

