

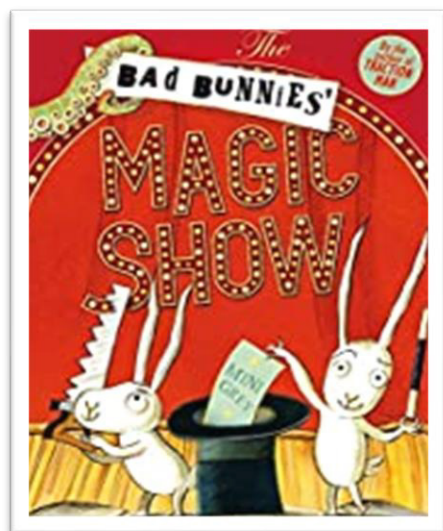
Read for Pleasure

The Bad Bunnies' Magic Show

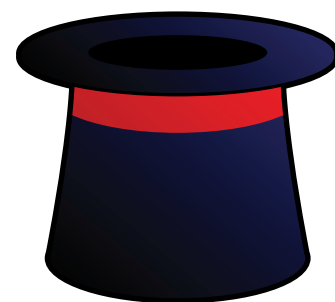
By Mini Grey



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Ladies and Gentlemen,
You are invited to the incredible debut
performance of those masters of
misdirection and surprise...
Mr Abra and Mr Cadabra.
Please, take your seats and keep a tight
hold of your valuables.



Cover Chat

First let's look at the cover of this picture book.

- We see two white rabbits on stage. What are they holding? Why might they be holding them?
- What else appears on stage? Whose hat do you think it belongs to?
- Traditionally, a magician would make a white rabbit disappear after it jumps into their magician's hat. However, in this case it seems to be the magician who has disappeared.

What might this suggest about A] the two rabbits and B] the story we are about to read?

Title Talk

Now let's consider the book's title: *The Bad Bunnies' Magic Show*.

- What kind of show are we about to watch?
- Which part of this title do you think was added later? Why?
- Which of these bad bunnies is trying to destroy the title?



Page 1-2

- What slight change of plan is announced at the start of the book?
- Who do you think makes this announcement? Why do you think they make it?
- We are told the GREAT HYPNO has been detained. Who do you think this might be?
- Can you spot him on page 1? How, exactly, has he been DETAINED?
- Who do you think has detained him? Why do you think this?
- Who do you think will feature in the SURPRISE NEW ACT?
- Might this have been their plan all along? Discuss.



Page 3-4

- This page is very clever. It has been created to look like the curtain of a theatre. A polite introduction begins, and an ellipsis is used as a dramatic drumroll to excite the audience and keep them in suspense.

As with any curtain, what are we eager to do with it?

Pull back the curtain. What (or who) does it reveal?

- Why do you think these two rabbits are named Mr Abra and Mr Caadabra? Do their names remind you of anything? If so, what?
- These two bunnies happily introduce the new show. What do they warn us about and why might they warn us of such things?

Remember: by reading this story, we have become part of the show's audience. In effect, this introduction is being directed towards us.

Page 5-8

- What do you think their first magic trick will be?
- Why do you think the goldfish looks so shocked on page 6?
- One rabbit holds the magician's wand, while the other holds up the words: HEY PRESTO!

When do we usually hear these words?

- Like all magic tricks, the reveal takes a little time and includes a touch of dramatic flair. How do you think this magic trick will be revealed? Discuss.
- What is the goldfish turned into?



- What do you think the term OCTOPRESTO means?
- Look at the faces of the two rabbits. Do you think they expected the revealing of the octopus to be so big?
- Why might this have come as a big shock to them?

Page 9-12

- What trick do the two rabbits perform next?
- Whose knives and axe do they use to do this? How do you know?
- Which of the two rabbits looks most frightened? Why would this be?
- What do you think the term NEAR MISTO means?
- How amusing is this word play? What term used on page 10 does it rhyme with?
- How is this trick illustrated on page 12?
- How lucky a bunny is this? Why might this make us laugh when the danger to this poor bunny is very real? Discuss.

Page 13-16

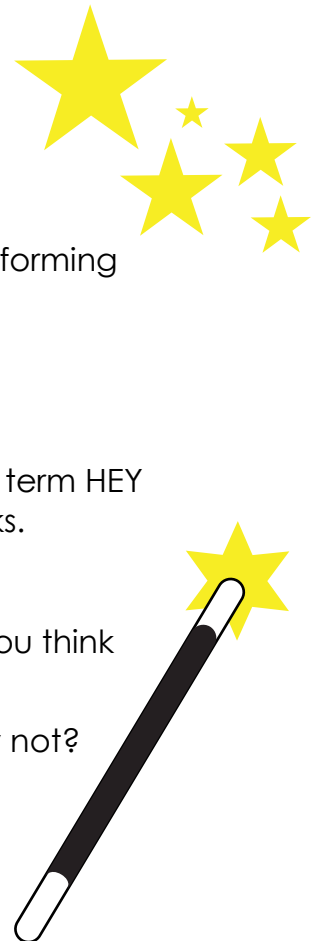
- What is the third trick the rabbits perform?
- Why do you think the two rabbits both look a lot happier performing this trick?
- Does the bird look as happy? Why is this likely to be?
- What do you think the bird will be transformed into?

Remember: it is likely that whatever it is, it will rhyme with the term HEY PREESTO. This would be in keeping with the previous two tricks.

- Turn the page. Was your prediction proved correct?
- What do you notice about the words BIG BEASTO! Why do you think they are revealed in this way?
- Do the two rabbits look calm after performing this trick? Why not?
- Again, why might this make us laugh? Discuss.

Page 17-18

- For their next trick, the rabbits need a saw. What do they need this for?
- Which words do they use to start this magic trick?



- Which words do they use to end it?
- Which letter do they change to enable PRENDA to rhyme with Brenda?
- Who do you think Brenda is: a member of the audience or the Great Hypno's glamorous assistant?
- Who looks more shocked by the fact that this trick has worked: Brenda or the rabbit holding the saw?
- Once again, why does this scene make us laugh? Discuss.

Page 19-20

- For their final trick, the rabbits have changed. What are they wearing?
- What trick are they about to perform?
- Why might they want to perform this trick?
- Who do you notice back stage watching the two bunnies?
- Why do you think they look so worried? What might they be thinking?
- What might they do to try and stop them?

Page 21-22

- We are now stood backstage. What do you notice about how the story is now written? Why do you think it is written in this way?
- Who is it who speaks these words? What does she say?
- Why do you think she asks us to not make a sound?
- Look at the word ESCAPOLOGY. How might it link to the word ESCAPE? Discuss.
- How is this depicted on page 22? Describe what Brenda is doing.
- What is the octopus holding that makes this scene funny? Why is this supposed to make us laugh?

Page 23-24

- The Great Hypno has been set free! Can you see him?
- What do the bunnies ask the audience to do for their GRAND FINALE?
- Why might they ask them to do this?
- What do you think their final DISAPPEARING ACT will be? Discuss.



Page 25-28

- The Great Hypno appears on stage. How and why would he want to finish this "show"?
- Where does he put both bunnies?
- Whose cannon is this? How do you know?
- As we count down from five, which word do you think will be revealed when the CANNON OF DOOM is fired? Why do you think this?

Remember: as with the other tricks, this word is likely to rhyme with DOOM.

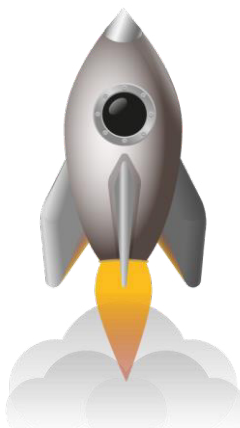
Page 29-30

- How does the Great Hypno want to celebrate saving his show?
- Who does he take with him? Who does he not take with him?
- What punishment does he give to the two bunnies?
- The two bunnies are wrapped in bandages. Why?
- As the magician and the others leave the theatre, what do you notice he has left on the stage? Might this be significant?
- What do you think Mr Abra's plan might be?
- Might this be why the story ends with an ellipsis rather than a full stop?

Think about the story as a whole:

Do you think this is the last we will hear of these two bad bunnies?

How likely is it that they will try their paws at magic once again?



The perfect companion to
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John Murray

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John is a recognised specialist in developing children's reading and comprehension.

The creator of Reading Explorers, Top Class Comprehension and Reading Rocketeers, his seminars and CPD training focus on the teaching, learning and enjoyment of reading.

An independent Literacy consultant, he aims to support schools to improve their performance and secure best practice. Above all, it is to ignite within us a passion for books and a genuine love for the written word.

His enthusiasm and expertise can be seen throughout his work and his resources and training are used in classrooms worldwide.

“Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write.”

Annie Proulx