Magic and Illusion



Masterful magicians and illusionists share some of their secrets!

Sharon Parsons

Nelson Literacy Directions

MAGIC and Illusion

For teachers' inspection ONLY



Dear Reader

The skill and artistry of magicians and illusionists can suspend our sense of reality, if only for a moment in time. They invite us on a journey of magical wonder and entertainment and, while working on this book, that's exactly what I experienced!

I had the privilege of meeting three of the industry's most talented magicians and illusionists – Lee Cohen, Tim Mason and Simon Coronel. At the time, they were juggling busy performance schedules for Australian and international audiences, yet they graciously carved out time to help me with this book.

> "AT FIRST, I HAD THE WORST STAGE FRIGHT IN THE WORLD!"
>
> LEE COHEN

I hope you enjoy finding out about some of the fastidious planning and rehearsals involved, as the magicians prepare seamless and fascinating performances that thrill and entertain audiences.

My sincere thanks to the following people for their time, information, images and enthusiasm for this book:

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ABC 3 production crew, Melbourne, Australia.

Sharon Parsons

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1 Magician, Lee Cohen

Historically, in the world of magic, men have usually been the magicians and women have been their assistants. Today, the stage lights beam down on a growing number of female magicians.

One of them is Lee Cohen, who performs her magic in Melbourne, Australia, and around the world. If you're lucky enough to see Lee perform on the stage, you'll understand why audiences love her special style of magic.

Lee Cohen holds her rabbit, Muffin. Lee is the current president of the Australian Institute of Magic.



Lee Assisted her Dad

As a young girl of eight, Lee became fascinated with magic when she was an assistant for her magician father. She especially enjoyed watching her father produce a rabbit from inside something, like a cake tin. Lee loved the art of magic so much that she decided to work as a magician from the age of 16.



Lee Explains Magic Terms

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Magic or Illusion?

Q: Some people call themselves "magicians" and others prefer the term "illusionists". What is the difference between magic and illusion?

A: Magic is the overall performance art form and illusion is a genre of magic.

Tricks or Effects?

Q: Do you use the term "magic tricks"?

A: Yes, "magic tricks" is acceptable but we prefer to use the term "magic effects", because we're not trying to trick people but entertain them with magical experiences.

Big-Stage or Close-Up?

Q: What are the main kinds of magic performance?

A: There are many forms of magic performance, but most magicians specialise in either big-stage or close-up magic.

> "MAGIC IS NOT CREEPY, IT'S A CRAFT LIKE ANY OTHER ART FORM."
>
> LEE COHEN