

# CATCH a spark!

## Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY



### The Magic Misfits

Written by Neil Patrick Harris

289 pages / Grades 3-6

Runaway magician Carter settles in a new town as he escapes the idea of magic being used for bad behaviors and reasons. While escaping villainous characters, Carter meets a band of new friends who help him realize that magic can be used for good. An adventure ensues with a classic battle of good vs. evil between a group of crooked carnival workers and a moveable gang of "misfits", with the added bonus of learning magic tricks along the way.

### C

#### Context

**Vocabulary** - the book breaks the fourth wall with the audience and speaks directly to the reader, particularly with vocabulary and words that can have double meanings

**"Misfits"** through time - looking at success stories that didn't always start off that way and how their misfit status became celebrated.

### A

#### Arts

**Magic** as an art form. An opportunity to look at slight of hand as a visual art form.

The **history of carnivals** and how their place in society has changed over time, as well as their structure.

### T

#### Themes

Home

Family

Good vs bad

Decisions and consequences

Perspective

Hope

### C

#### Create

Give students a bin of "misfit" paper and materials - the misfits/leftovers. How can they combine them to create a single, connected piece of art?

Stage a magic show

Showcase magicians in your classroom, potentially through research and video with students. Consider what a magician is. It doesn't always have to be about tricks. Is someone who makes something out of nothing also a magician?

### H

#### Heart Words

*"Magic is all around us. We just have to pay attention."*

*"Trust your instincts. They will serve you in ways you've yet to witness..."*

*"Mistakes are part of mastery. Try again."*

*"Families come in all different shapes and sizes...Like a snowflake or a thumbprint, no two look alike."*

*"...magic is about more than stagecraft. It's about happiness. It's about laughter. It's about that feeling you get inside."*

