

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."

