

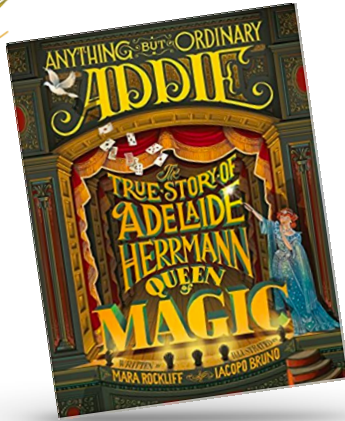
CATCH a spark!

Using children's literature to SPARK CREATIVITY

Anything but Ordinary Addie: The True Story of Adelaide Herrmann, Queen of Magic

Written by Mara Rockliff, Illustrated by Iacopo Bruno
48 pages / Grades K-3

A name you have likely not heard, Adelaide Herrmann, longed for thrills at a time when such excitement was not conventional for young girls. She defied the odds in more ways than one, on her quest to "astonish, shock and dazzle.", becoming the first female magician. With captivating illustrations, readers will be longing to learn more about Adelaide and on the edge of their seats.



C

Context

Gender roles through society and how they have changed over time.

Descriptive and purposeful language choice - filled with colorful, strong adjectives and phrases that lend the reader to the world of magic.

Author's notes as a writing tool. The end of the book has in-depth detailed notes about the real Adelaide and as a bonus, gives readers all the details for one of her most famous tricks.

A

Arts

Bruno's **illustrations** are remarkably intriguing. A combination of pencil and digital coloring with layers of colorful cutouts, they combine to transport readers back in time, popping off the page. Students will want to look at them endlessly and analyze the many layers of depth. Scenes are made to look like paper dolls almost, with the layering of characters and backgrounds.

Words as images - another layer to the illustrations are the visual layout and use of key words.

T

Themes

Gender in society
Determination
Courage
Forging a path
Breaking rules

C

Create

Ask students to create an illustration in Bruno's style. Create separate characters, and layer them into one illustration, with a paper doll feel. For older students, add in digital art by scanning in their original creations.

Research and write a picture book biography of another woman who "broke the rules". How will they use purposeful word choice on the page as they illustrate and write?

H

Heart Words

"Addie never wanted to be ordinary."

"I WILL DO IT MYSELF."

