

SECRET AGENT JACK STALWART: TEACHER'S GUIDE

Book Four: The Caper of the Crown Jewels

By Elizabeth Singer Hunt



Meet Jack Stalwart. Code name: **COURAGE**. Jack is an ordinary kid who becomes a secret agent by night, thwarting evil all over the world as he searches for his missing brother, Max. In this exciting adventure Jack must find the Queen's Crown Jewels and capture the crooks that stole them before they vanish in the streets of London.

PRE-READING:

Read the informational section before the story and pick one of the magic tricks to try with a partner. Did it work? Why or why not? With the class, discuss: What is magic? Is there a difference between *magic* and the tricks you performed earlier? What makes you think so?

DISCUSSION GUIDE:

1. How does Jack's latest adventure begin? Why do you think the author chose to include Jack's homework in the story? Is it useful to Jack on his adventure?
2. Jack learns about the ravens of the English Tower. What happens if the birds fly away? Do you believe that this would happen? What precaution have the guards taken to keep the birds from leaving? Do you think this is a good thing or not?
3. The art of magic is also known as the art of *illusion*. Discuss what the term *illusion* means and the different types of illusions you have seen, heard or felt. How many illusions can you find throughout *The Caper of the Crown Jewels*? Now discuss the illusions you created with the magic tricks.
4. Why would a magician make a good thief? List and explain the tricks used by Ivan and Jazz to elude the Yeoman Warders at the Jewel House.
5. How did Jack solve the crime? Discuss the two events that led Jack to realize who the thieves were.
6. How did Jack feel about Ivan the Incredible at the beginning of the story? How did he feel about him at the end? Why do you think his opinion of Ivan changed throughout the adventure?
7. During Ivan's magic show, what makes Jack realize that the Jewels were still in their cases? How do you think he created this illusion? Why do you think he created it?
8. Describe Jack's "Tornado." How does it work? Do you think this was the most useful gadget in his book bag? Discuss why or, if why not, explain which device you think was most useful to Jack's adventure.
9. At the end of the story, the Queen calls Jack a "brave boy." What was Jack's most brave act during this adventure? Discuss why you chose this act amongst his others.
10. List the places that Jack visited in London. Choose one location that you would like to visit. Explain why you would like to visit this place more than the others.



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MATH:

Kings & Presidents



William I (The Conqueror)



George Washington

How much older is the British Monarchy than the United States' Presidency?

To find out, write the current year in the box below. Then, look at the list of Kings and Queens on page 2 to find out when William I (the Conqueror) first ruled Great Britain and write that number in the box below. Now, subtract the first year of the Monarchy from the current year and write your answer in the box on the right.

$$\boxed{} - \boxed{} = \boxed{}$$

Current Year First year of British Monarchy Length of British Monarchy

Now write the current year in the box below, again. Then, write in the first year of the U.S. Presidency in the middle box below. Now, subtract the first year of the Presidency from the current year and write answer in the box on the right.

$$\boxed{} - \boxed{1776} = \boxed{}$$

Current Year First year of U.S. Presidency Length of U.S. Presidency

Now, write your answer for the Length of the British Monarchy in the box on the left below and your answer for the Length of the U.S. Presidency in the box in the middle and subtract the Length of the U.S. Presidency from the Length of the British Monarchy and write you answer in the box below on the right.

$$\boxed{} - \boxed{} = \boxed{}$$

Length of British Monarchy Length of U.S. Presidency Difference in age

What's your final answer? Why do you think Great Britain's Monarchy is so much older than the U.S. Presidency?

SCIENCE:

Did you know that some of the best magicians were actually scientists?

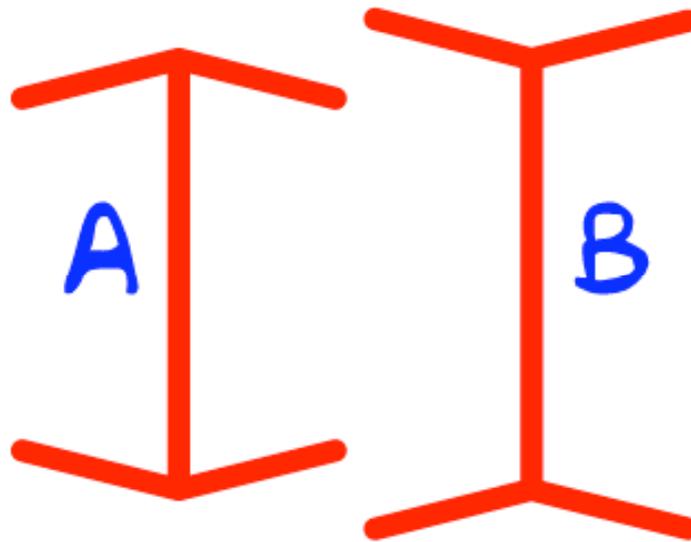
While Ivan the Incredible seemed to defy the laws of science, like gravity and light, in actuality his tricks really just defied the audience's eyes.



The following pictures are called "optical illusions," meaning their appearance will make your eyes think they see something different than what actually exists. With a partner, take a quick glance at the pictures, then read and follow the directions to answer the questions in complete sentences in the space provided below.

Some things appear bigger than others

Look at the two shapes:



1. Which line do you think is longer, A or B?

2. Now, use a ruler to measure the lines. Which is longer?

What do you see?

Take a look at the image below.



3. What do you see?

Answer Key:

1. Your choice.
2. Both lines are the same size. Adding arrows heads (< >) and ends (> <) to the lines tricks the brain into misjudging their size. The arrows heads on line A point outward, letting your eyes know exactly how big the line is. The arrow ends on B point inward, making the line look longer.
3. You may see a face (start at the top of the image and look for the eyes, now look down)...or the word "Liar" (move your head so that your right ear is close to your right shoulder). This drawing is one of many optical illusions in which two images can be seen.

HISTORY:



In small groups, research one of the following magician's lives (including when they lived, what tricks they were famous for, and if they were caught in the act) in an encyclopedia or on an online database like *Encarta* or *Wikipedia* and create a presentation about what you have learned. Be sure to talk about the years during which they lived, what country they are from, and what they are known for.

- David Copperfield
- Harry Houdini
- Merlin

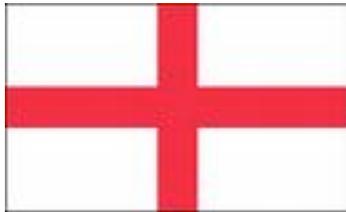
GEOGRAPHY:

Look at the map of London below and mark these places on the map with a big **X**: **Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Buckingham Palace.** Then, discuss where you would like to go and why. Finally, draw your route.



LANGUAGE ARTS:

Write an additional chapter to Jack's adventure based on a London landmark (Big Ben, Westminster Abbey, the Houses of Parliament, the London Eye, Buckingham Palace). Think about what the place is to determine what kind of crime could be committed and there, who could have committed the crime, and what kind of tools Jack will need to solve it.



This guide was created by Emily Wilkinson at Weinstein Books, the publisher of the Secret Agent Jack Stalwart Series and other books for children.

For other Teacher's Guides or to learn more about Jack Stalwart, please visit:
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