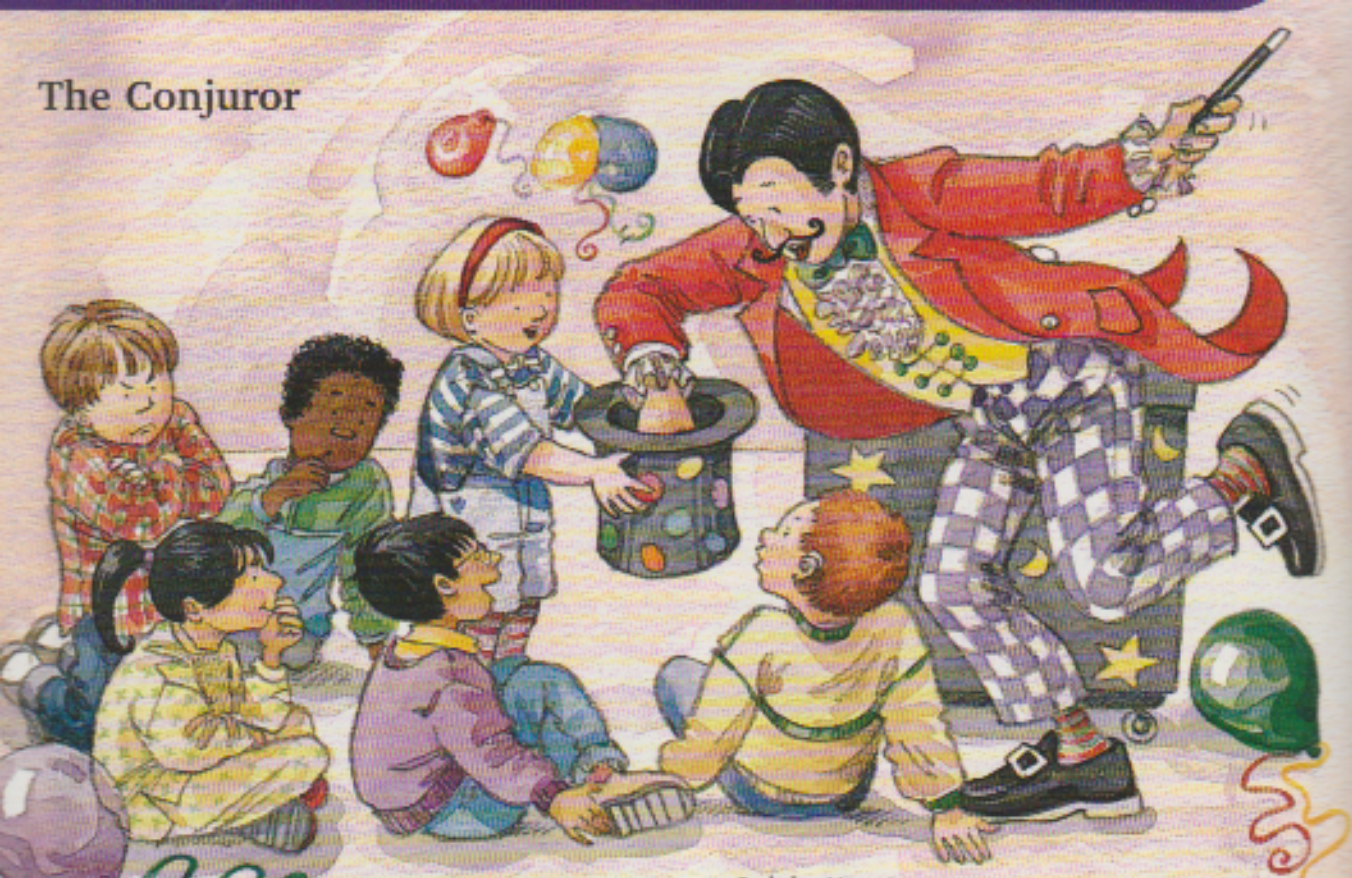


The Conjuror



Conjuror: Good afternoon, my friends.
My name is Mr E.

Stuart: That's a stupid name.

Rachel: What does the E stand for?

Conjuror: Aha, it's a mystery.

Mum: Mystery, Mister E – I see! Now children,
sit and watch Mr E's show and then you
can all have tea.

(Children sit on the floor.)

Conjuror: Now, my friends, my magic wand is telling
me that one of you has a birthday today.

Stuart: I bet it was my mum who told you, not
your wand at all.

Conjuror: It's you, isn't it? You're the one.

Stuart: So what?

Conjuror: I am inviting you to help me perform
Trick One.

Stuart: I don't want to.

Conjuror: Very well, I shall choose again.
What is your name, young friend?

Rachel: Rachel.

Conjuror: Would you like to
help me perform
Trick One?

Rachel: Yes please.

Conjuror: Then step forward and hold this
hat while I wave my wand. Would
our other friends like to help me
say the magic spell?

Children: Yes!

Stuart: No!

Conjuror: *(Tapping the magic hat)* Very well,
repeat after me: Abracadabra and
Postman Pat, what's inside the
magic hat?

Children: Abracadabra and Postman Pat,
what's inside the magic hat?

Conjuror: I'm ready to grab it. I think it's a...
*(He puts his hand into the hat and
pulls out a rabbit.)*

Children: RABBIT!

(They clap.)

Stuart: That's stupid. Anyone could
do that. I bet you couldn't
make a monster
come out of your hat.

Conjuror: We shall see.

*From The Birthday Surprise
by Julia Donaldson*