

Who Was Harry Houdini

Who Was Harry Houdini?

Every kid has heard of Harry Houdini, the famous magician who could escape from handcuffs, jail cells, and locked trunks. But do they know that the ever-ambitious and adventurous Houdini was also a famous movie star and the first pilot to fly a plane in Australia? This well-told biography is full of the details of Houdini's life that kids will really want to know about and illustrated throughout with beautiful black-and-white line drawings. Illustrated by John O'Brien.

The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini

Joe Posnanski enters the colorful world of Harry Houdini and his legions of devoted fans to explore the illusionist's impact on global culture—and why his legacy endures to this day. Nearly a century after Harry Houdini died on Halloween in 1926, he feels as modern and alive as ever. The name Houdini still leaps to mind whenever we witness a daring escape. The baby who frees herself from her crib? Houdini. The dog who vanishes and reappears in the neighbor's garden? Houdini. Every generation produces new disciples of the magician, from household names in magic like David Copperfield and David Blaine to countless other followers whose lives have been transformed by the power of Houdini. In rural Pennsylvania, a thirteen-year-old girl finds the courage to leave a violent home after learning that Houdini ran away to join the circus; she eventually becomes the first female magician to saw a man in half on television. In Australia, an eight-year-old boy with a learning impediment feels worthless until he sees an old poster of Houdini advertising “Nothing on earth can hold Houdini prisoner,” and begins his path to becoming that nation's most popular magician. In California, an actor and Vietnam War veteran finds purpose in his life by uncovering the secrets of his hero. But the unique phenomenon of Houdini was always more than his death-defying stunts or his ability to escape handcuffs and straitjackets. It is also about the power of imagination and self-invention. His incredible transformation from Ehrich Weiss, humble Hungarian immigrant and rabbi's son, into the self-named Harry Houdini has won him a slice of immortality. No one has withstood the test of time quite like Houdini. Fueled by Posnanski's personal obsession with the magician—and magic itself—*The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini* is a poignant odyssey of discovery, blending biography, memoir, and first-person reporting to trace Houdini's metamorphosis into an iconic figure who has inspired millions.

Harry Houdini (The First Names Series)

Discover the man behind the magic and see how Houdini pulled off his most daring escapes Before Harry Houdini (1874–1926) became the greatest magician in the world, he was just little Ehrich Weisz, a Hungarian-born immigrant who moved to America with his family and performed stage tricks for a little extra cash. He started off with card tricks and then eventually began performing the escape acts that would make him famous. Known for his daring and death-defying illusions, he would do some of the greatest tricks ever: escaping from a milk can, being buried alive, and being locked inside a crate and thrown into a river. He conquered each of these seemingly impossible feats and showed the world the power of a little magic. Fun, fast-paced, and highly illustrated, *Harry Houdini* tells the story of the curious boy who became the world's greatest magician and reveals how Houdini did some of his most stunning escapes. It includes a timeline, glossary, and index.

Harry Houdini for Kids

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star, aviator, and spy—Harry Houdini was all these and an international celebrity and the world’s most famous magician. This fascinating biography looks at all the facets of Houdini’s amazing life and includes 21 magic tricks and illusions for a hands-on learning experience. Children will be inspired by this Jewish immigrant who grew up in poverty and, through perseverance and hard work, went on to become one of the most popular and successful entertainers of all time. Houdini was an artist who created his acts carefully, practicing them for years in some cases. He performed such seemingly impossible stunts as escaping several sets of handcuffs and ropes after jumping off a bridge into a flowing river. Kids will learn how he devised his most legendary stunts and will also learn the science and logic behind many of Houdini’s acts including his famous milk can escape. Kids can amaze their family and friends with these simple, entertaining, and fun tricks and illusions: Stepping through an index card Performing an odd number trick Making a coin appear Mind reading with a secret code Making a magic box Lifting a person with one hand Making a talking board And much more

Houdini

From the prizewinning Jewish Lives series, an exuberant biography of the world’s greatest escape artist In 1916, the war in Europe having prevented a tour abroad, Harry Houdini wrote a film treatment for a rollicking motion picture. Though the movie was never made, its title, “The Marvelous Adventures of Houdini: The Justly Celebrated Elusive American,” provides a succinct summary of the Master Mystifier’s life. Born Erik Weisz in Budapest in 1874, Houdini grew up an impoverished Jewish immigrant in the Midwest and became world-famous thanks to talent, industry, and ferocious determination. He concealed as a matter of temperament and professional ethics the secrets of his sensational success. Nobody knows how Houdini performed some of his dazzling, death-defying tricks, and nobody knows, finally, why he felt compelled to punish and imprison himself over and over again. Must a self-liberator also be a self-torturer? Tracking the restless Houdini’s wide-ranging exploits, acclaimed biographer Adam Begley asks the essential question: What kind of man was this?

Harry Houdini

From the best-selling Little People, BIG DREAMS series, this book profiles the life of Harry Houdini, from his humble beginnings as a child living in poverty, to his transformation into history's most famous magician and escape artist

Houdini on Magic

This early work by Walter B. Gibson and Morris N. Young was originally published in the early 20th century and we are now republishing it. 'Houdini on Magic' contains a wealth of information on Houdini's approach to magic and the various tricks he performed in front of stunned crowds.

What Is the Story of Doctor Who?

Who HQ brings you the stories behind the most beloved characters of our time. This What Is the Story of? title is out of this universe! Learn the history of the Time Lord, the TARDIS, and the epic battles they've faced across time and space. When Doctor Who began airing on the BBC in 1963, British audiences were introduced to the rogue Time Lord from the planet Gallifrey. Now, viewers from all over the world are glued to their screens for the mysterious Doctor's intergalactic adventures. But how did this time traveler become such a beloved character? Author Gabriel P. Cooper provides readers with the inside scoop on the Doctor's unique time machine, loyal companions, and diabolical foes. This book, just like the show, is sure to intrigue a new generation of fans.

The Life and Many Deaths of Harry Houdini

Gives an account of the life and experiences of magician Harry Houdini.

The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin

In *"The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin,"* Harry Houdini meticulously dissects the mythology surrounding Jean Eugène Robert-Houdin, often hailed as the father of modern magic. Through a blend of biographical narrative and rigorous investigation, Houdini argues against the romanticized legacy of Robert-Houdin, revealing the man behind the illusions. The book melds elements of memoir and critical analysis, employing a direct and engaging prose style that invites readers to question the veracity of established narratives in magical history. With the turn of the 20th century as a backdrop, Houdini's work situates itself within the broader discourse of performance and deception, illuminating the theatricality and secrets inherent in the art of magic. Harry Houdini, born Erik Weisz, was not only a renowned magician and escape artist but also a keen historian of the magical arts. His fascination with magic began in his youth, leading him to scrutinize its historical foundations critically. Houdini's nuanced understanding of illusion and performance, coupled with his personal battles against fraudulent practitioners of magic and spiritualism, directly influenced his pursuit to unveil the truth behind Robert-Houdin's mythos. For readers intrigued by the interplay of history, art, and illusion, *"The Unmasking of Robert-Houdin"* stands as a compelling exposition that challenges established norms and celebrates the craft of magic. Houdini's sharp insights and passionate prose make this work essential for both enthusiasts of magic and scholars seeking to understand the complexities of performance art.

Harry Houdini

Examines the life and career of Harry Houdini, whose dramatic style, skill at staying in the news, and determination to continually invent new escapes made him one of the most famous magicians of all time.

The Secret Life of Houdini

In this groundbreaking book, renowned magic expert Kalush and bestselling writer Sloman team up to expose Harry Houdini's secret life as a spy, and the stunning plot to murder the magician and destroy his legacy. Photos throughout.

Escape!

See:

A Magician Among the Spirits

Harry Houdini's expose of the fraudulent spiritualist, spirit photography, spirit slate writing, ectoplasm, clairvoyance, and other quakery and cons perpetrated on desperate believers. Specific spiritualists covered in the book include Dr. Slade, the Davenport Brothers, Anne O'Delia Diss Debar, the Fox Sisters, Daniel Dunglas Home, Eusapia Palladino, and other con artists of their ilk. The whole nation was excited by Houdini's campaign against fakers. He traveled across the country, offering money for spirit activities he would be unable to duplicate by his use of skilled illusions. It was a heyday not only for Houdini, but for the spiritualists themselves -- and there was an equally famous protagonist who thought the spirits could indeed be contacted, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. A photo at the start of the book records a meeting between Houdini and Doyle, who is given his own chapter in the book. There's also a full section on Daniel Dunglas Home, the English engineer of spectacular paranormal effects. Houdini saves his sharpest arguments for spiritualists who were giving their (usually paying) clients a vision of the hereafter, and shares the methods used to practice "fake" and sensational spiritualism. Houdini was nothing if not unrelenting. As a taste of things to

come, he ends his introduction with the words: \"Up to the present time everything that I have investigated has been the result of deluded brains,\" though Houdini attests to his own open mind on the topic of the afterlife and recounts his personal attempts to communicate with the dead.

Harry Houdini

A biography of Harry Houdini, who became famous as America's most famous escape artist and magician.

Harry Houdini

Brief biography of the famous escape artist and magician.

Houdini and Me

Harry has always admired the famous escape artist Houdini. And when Houdini asks for help in coming back to life, it seems like an amazing chance...or could it be Houdini's greatest trick of all? Eleven-year-old Harry Mancini is NOT Harry Houdini--the famous escape artist who died in 1926. But Harry DOES live in Houdini's old New York City home, and he definitely knows everything there is to know about Houdini's life. What is he supposed to do, then, when someone starts texting him claiming that they're Houdini, communicating from beyond the grave? Respond, of course. It's hard for Harry to believe that Houdini is really contacting him, but this Houdini texts the secrets to all of the escape tricks the dead Houdini used to do. What's more, Houdini's offering Harry a chance to go back in time and experience it for himself. Should Harry ignore what must be a hoax? Or should he give it a try and take Houdini up on this death-defying offer? Dan Gutman is the award-winning author of series including *My Weird School*, *The Genius Files*, and the baseball card series, including *Honus & Me*. He uses his writing powers for good once again in this exciting new middle grade novel. Named a New York State Great Read by the Empire State Center for the Book!

The Right Way to Do Wrong

In 1924 the wife of a Boston surgeon came to embody the raging national debate over Spiritualism, a movement devoted to communication with the dead. Reporters dubbed her the blonde Witch of Lime Street, but she was known to her followers simply as Margery. Her most vocal advocate was Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, who believed so thoroughly in Margery's powers that he urged her to enter a controversial contest, sponsored by *Scientific American*. Her supernatural gifts beguiled four of the judges. There was only one left to convince ... the acclaimed escape artist, Harry Houdini. *Jaher* captures their electric public rivalry and the competition that brought them into each other's orbit.

The Witch of Lime Street

Level 2: Reading Independently More complex stories Varied sentence structure Paragraphs and short chapters Find out how a little boy named Ehrich Weiss became Harry Houdini -- the greatest magician the world has ever known!

Harry Houdini

Joe Posnanski enters the colorful world of Harry Houdini and his legions of devoted fans to explore the illusionist's impact on global culture—and why his legacy endures to this day. Nearly a century after Harry Houdini died on Halloween in 1926, he feels as modern and alive as ever. The name Houdini still leaps to mind whenever we witness a daring escape. The baby who frees herself from her crib? Houdini. The dog who vanishes and reappears in the neighbor's garden? Houdini. Every generation produces new disciples of the

magician, from household names in magic like David Copperfield and David Blaine to countless other followers whose lives have been transformed by the power of Houdini. In rural Pennsylvania, a thirteen-year-old girl finds the courage to leave a violent home after learning that Houdini ran away to join the circus; she eventually becomes the first female magician to saw a man in half on television. In Australia, an eight-year-old boy with a learning impediment feels worthless until he sees an old poster of Houdini advertising “Nothing on earth can hold Houdini prisoner,” and begins his path to becoming that nation’s most popular magician. In California, an actor and Vietnam War veteran finds purpose in his life by uncovering the secrets of his hero. But the unique phenomenon of Houdini was always more than his death-defying stunts or his ability to escape handcuffs and straitjackets. It is also about the power of imagination and self-invention. His incredible transformation from Ehrich Weiss, humble Hungarian immigrant and rabbi’s son, into the self-named Harry Houdini has won him a slice of immortality. No one has withstood the test of time quite like Houdini. Fueled by Posnanski’s personal obsession with the magician—and magic itself—*The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini* is a poignant odyssey of discovery, blending biography, memoir, and first-person reporting to trace Houdini’s metamorphosis into an iconic figure who has inspired millions.

The Life and Afterlife of Harry Houdini

Harry Houdini escaped from prison cells, swallowed needles, and made elephants disappear. How did he do such amazing tricks? Some people believed he was actually a wizard with secret powers. But Houdini knew his only “secret powers” were hard work and imagination. This is the story of the poor boy who grew up to be the most famous magician in the world. He was fearless and determined to amaze his audiences, and there seemed to be no limit to the risks that The Great Houdini would take.

The Amazing Harry Houdini

Harry Houdini astounded audiences around the globe with his death-defying acts and illusions. With his wife, Bess, often by his side, he freed himself from ropes, handcuffs, straitjackets, and prison cells. Once he even made a ten-thousand-pound elephant vanish into thin air! Yet Harry's life was not always so glamorous. When he was a boy, he shined shoes and did odd jobs to help make ends meet. But a career in magic was always in the cards for Harry. Readers will be mesmerized by this captivating biography of one of the most celebrated escape artists and magicians in history. For almost thirty years, David Adler’s Picture Book Biography series has profiled famous people who changed the world. Colorful, kid-friendly illustrations combine with Adler’s “expert mixtures of facts and personality” (Booklist) to introduce young readers to history through compelling biographies of presidents, heroes, inventors, explorers, and adventurers. These books are ideal for first and second graders interested in history or who need reliable sources for school book reports.

A Picture Book of Harry Houdini

Harry Houdini was a great escape artist, but perhaps his greatest trick was becoming the famous magician that we have come to know. As a child, Houdini worked hard--and even quit school--to help support his family. But his dream always was to become a great magician and performer. He practiced day and night, thinking up new tricks and more and more dangerous stunts. His intense ambition paid off, and soon Harry Houdini became known worldwide! This kid-appealing Step 3 traces Houdini's life from his poor beginnings to his eventual success as the most famous mystical magician and escape artist of all time.

Houdini's Book of Magic

REVEALING THE PERSONAL SECRETS OF HARRY HOUDINI WAS HE A CLOSET PSYCHIC? CLAIRVOYANT? OR MEDIUM? HIS LIFE LONG FRIEND SIR AUTHOR CONAN DOYAL INSISTED HE HAD THE EVIDENCE THAT THE WORLD'S GREATEST ESCAPE ARTIST WAS NOT THE SKEPTIC HE MADE HIMSELF OUT TO BE THE CREATOR OF SHERLOCK HOLMES ASKED? --

WAS HOUDINI'S FANATICAL DEBUNKING OF PSYCHICS AND MEDIUMS A SUBTERFUGE TO CONCEAL HIS OWN REMARKABLE PARANORMAL ABILITIES? . . . At his burial some curious and suggestive words were used by the presiding rabbi: -- \"HOUDINI POSSESSED A WONDROUS POWER THAT HE NEVER UNDERSTOOD AND WHICH HE NEVER REVEALED TO ANYONE IN LIFE! . . . The creator of Sherlock Holes, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, and Harry Houdini were strange bedfellows. Doyle was a contemporary of the world's greatest magician and escape artist, who continually battled his friend over the legitimacy of life after death, and the reality of spiritualism. Doyle was a \"true believer,\" while Houdini made it his \"mission\" to denounce just about all things preternatural. . . . -- Doyle was convinced - from what he personally witnessed and what others confided to him - that Houdini could read minds, dematerialize, possessed supernatural strength, and was guided by angelic forces which shielded him from harm even during the most dangerous of escape performances which likely would have caused death to others. . . . Doyle stated that Houdini had once remarked, \"There are some of my feats which my own wife does not know the secret of.\" And a famous Chinese conjurer who had seen Houdini perform added, \"This is not a trick, it is a gift.\" Sadly, many of Houdini's feats died with him, even though they would have been an invaluable asset. \"What can cover all these facts,\" states Doyle, \"save that there was some element in his power which was peculiar to himself, that could only point to a psychic element -- in a word, that he was a medium.\" . . . -- Here is both sides of the story -- in the actual words of the famed Sherlock Holmes originator and Houdini himself, who went out of his way to create the impression that fakes and phonies were afoot everywhere in the \"shady world\" of table tapping, levitating trumpets, spirit photography, slate writing, as well as the materialization of ectoplasmic forms in the darkening shadows of the seance room.

The Great Houdini

This biography recounts the life of Harry Houdini from his boyhood through his years as an escape artist and master showman.

Revealing the Amazing Powers of Harry Houdini Updated

A biography of the famous magician who was also a movie star and a pioneer pilot.

Harry Houdini, Master of Magic

“Noyes makes history accessible and irresistible . . . Excellent.”* A century ago, the curious idea that spirits not only survive death but can be contacted on the “other side” was widespread. Psychic mediums led countless séances, claiming to connect the grieving with their lost relations through everything from frenzied trance writing to sticky expulsions of ectoplasm. The craze caught Harry Houdini’s attention. Well-known by then as most renowned magician and escape artist, he began to investigate these spiritual phenomena. Are ghosts real? Can we communicate with them? Catch them in photographs? Or are all mediums “flim-flammers,” employing tricks and illusions like Houdini himself? Peopled with odd and fascinating characters, Houdini’s gripping quest will excite readers’ universal wonderment with life, death, and the possibility of the Beyond. *School Library Journal, starred review of *Ten Days a Madwoman*

Who was Harry Houdini?

\"In graphic novel format, explores the life of Harry Houdini and describes some of his most daring escapes\"--Provided by publisher.

The Magician and the Spirits

A biography of the famous magician who was also a movie star and a pioneer pilot.

Houdini

Chronicles the life and career of the legendary Harry Houdini

Who was Harry Houdini?

From the back rooms of New York City's age-old magic societies to cutting-edge psychology labs, three-card monte games on Canal Street to glossy Las Vegas casinos, *Fooling Houdini* recounts Alex Stone's quest to join the ranks of master magicians. As he navigates this quirky and occasionally hilarious subculture populated by brilliant eccentrics, Stone pulls back the curtain on a community shrouded in secrecy, fueled by obsession and brilliance, and organized around one overriding need: to prove one's worth by deceiving others. But his journey is more than a tale of tricks, gigs, and geeks. By investing some of the lesser-known corners of psychology, neuroscience, physics, history, and even crime, all through the lens of trickery and illusion, *Fooling Houdini* arrives at a host of startling revelations about how the mind works--and why, sometimes, it doesn't.

Houdini!

Harry Houdini (born Erik Weisz, later Ehrich Weiss or Harry Weiss; March 24, 1874 - October 31, 1926) was an American illusionist and stunt performer, noted for his sensational escape acts. He first attracted notice in vaudeville in the US and then as "Harry Handcuff Houdini" on a tour of Europe, where he challenged police forces to keep him locked up. Soon he extended his repertoire to include chains, ropes slung from skyscrapers, straitjackets under water, and having to escape from and hold his breath inside a sealed milk can. In 1904, thousands watched as he tried to escape from special handcuffs commissioned by London's Daily Mirror, keeping them in suspense for an hour. Another stunt saw him buried alive and only just able to claw himself to the surface, emerging in a state of near-breakdown. While many suspected that these escapes were faked, Houdini presented himself as the scourge of fake spiritualists. As President of the Society of American Magicians, he was keen to uphold professional standards and expose fraudulent artists. He was also quick to sue anyone who imitated his escape stunts. Houdini made several movies, but quit acting when it failed to bring in money. He was also a keen aviator, and aimed to become the first man to fly a plane in Australia.

Fooling Houdini

The "masterpiece" (Michael Herr) of the New York Times bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Road*, *No Country for Old Men*, *The Passenger*, and *Stella Maris* "Cormac McCarthy is the worthy disciple both of Melville and Faulkner. I venture that no other living American novelist, not even Pynchon, has given us a book as strong and memorable."—Harold Bloom, from his Introduction "McCarthy is a writer to be read, to be admired, and quite honestly—envied."—Ralph Ellison One of *The Atlantic's* Great American Novels of the Past 100 Years Widely considered one of the finest novels by a living writer, *Blood Meridian* is an epic tale of the violence and corruption that attended America's westward expansion, brilliantly subverting the conventions of the Western novel and the mythology of the "Wild West." Its wounded hero, the Kid, a fourteen-year-old Tennessean, must confront the extraordinary brutality of the Glanton gang, a murderous cadre on an official mission to scalp Indians. Seeming to preside over this nightmarish world is the diabolical Judge Holden, one of the most unforgettable characters in American fiction. Based on historical events that took place on the Texas-Mexico border in the 1850s, *Blood Meridian* represents a genius vision of the historical West, one whose stature has only grown in the years since its publication.

A Magician Among the Spirits .by

Houdini- Pulp Hero! He began his stage career as a card manipulator. As his popularity grew, Harry Houdini quickly became known as one of the most colorful stage magicians and escape artists of all time. Then the

movies came knocking and the man people had only read about in the newspapers was suddenly starring on the silver screen, captivating audiences with his daring serial exploits. Harry Houdini was no longer just a magician, he was an international superstar. In 1904 he began a world tour starting in London and the adventures grew even more fantastic. From his encounters with Bram Stoker and Arthur Conan Doyle, Houdini then battled an evil cult in the catacombs of Paris before heading to Berlin on the Orient Express where murder reared its ugly head. These amazing tales are chronicled here by Jim Beard, James Palmer, I.A. Watson and Roman Leary and present a new look at an extraordinary man who was indeed larger than life, he was Harry Houdini, Pulp Hero!

Blood Meridian

A biography of Harry Houdini concentrating on his earlier years and the training that made him a master magician and escape artist.

The Amazing Harry Houdini Volume 1

An engaging biography about the famous magicians and escape artist Harry Houdini's personal life and public exploits. Born Ehrich Weiss, Houdini started performing at an early age and followed his ambitions as they led him around the world, performing amazing stunts and illusions that baffled the crowds. The book recounts many of his most famous tricks. Grades 5-9.

Harry Houdini

Spellbinder

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