

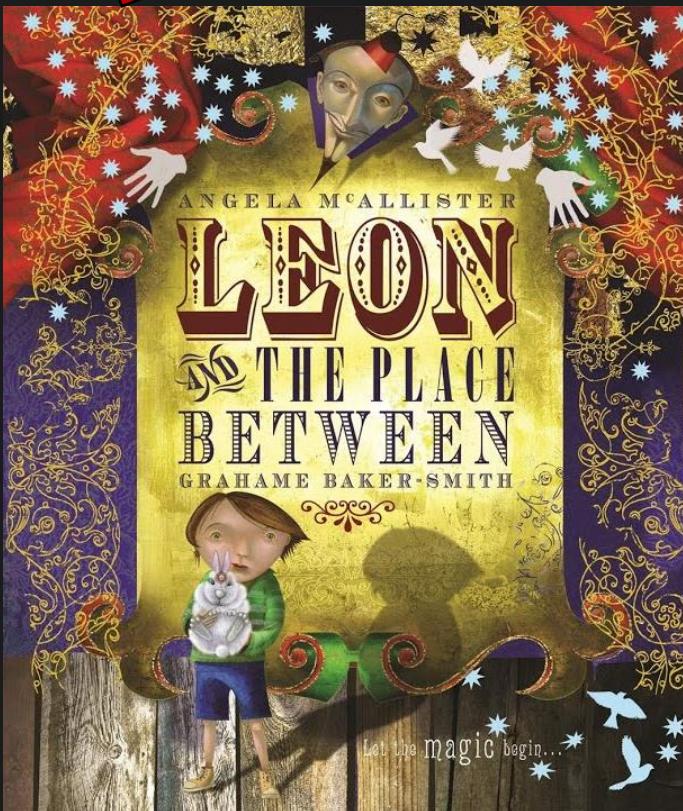


Leon and the place between

LO: To use prepositional phrases to add detail to a description



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"It was a world of astonishment. A world of the unexpected. It was alive with magic."

How does the author create a description that brings it to life for the reader?

The author is adding **prepositional phrases** to develop **nouns** which evoke a sense of detail in the scene.

A preposition is a word that tells you where or when something is in relation to something else.

A noun is the name of things, places of objects.

Now let's picture this in our minds...

"A crocodile snapped. A ballerina turned. Animals paraded and a machine lurched."

Can you visualise each image?

"A red-eyed crocodile snapped. A ballerina turned. Painted animals paraded and a flying machine lurched."

What has been added?

Adjectives have been added. Has this affected the picture in your mind?

Let's try this one...

"A red-eyed crocodile snapped at a running boy's heel. A ballerina turned on her pink satin shoe. Painted animals paraded into the ark and a flying machine lurched through the air, up, up and over the moon."

What do you think the effect is of adding the extra phrases?

They are known as **prepositional phrases** as they are headed by a preposition (the preposition is at the front of the phrase).

Can you see any prepositions in the text we just read?

E.g. at, on, into, through, up, over.

E.g. at, on, into, through, up, over. -> prepositions...where are our prepositional phrases?
Remember the preposition will be at the front.

"He threw his arms **into the air** and the magic began. Paper flowers blossomed **from his sleeves**; silk scarves changed colour **at a whispered word**; water poured **into a hat**, turned **into night air**."

Let's have a go at making this passage more exciting!

"Cards and doves fluttered (...). Coins and rings spun past, flashed and were gone. Ropes, cups and balls danced (...). A magician's assistant stepped (...) as another disappeared (...).

Activity

Today your activity is to create your own description of the Place Between, using the text as a model for your writing. Try and use prepositional phrases, just like the author has to add more information and to help the reader visualise the Place Between.

Prepositions you could use: beneath, surrounding, around, alongside, within, with, under, inside, above, next to, into, at, on, through, over...

Take time to read through your work, and edit it. Check you have added prepositional phrases. **Then** read your passage to someone at home, ask them to visualise the scene and ask them to pick out phrases that were vivid in their mind as well as those that might have been trickier to form a picture. Then go back through and edit your writing.

If you don't have someone to read to at home then have a go at reading aloud and visualising the Place Between. Are you able to visualise it from your writing? Could you add a prepositional phrase to make it more descriptive?

Keep a hold of these because we will be referring back to them over the next couple of weeks.